

Daily Brief...



Monday 2 December 2024

Non-essential visiting suspended at Dr Gray's Hospital Yesterday (Sunday) we took the unusual step of suspending all non-essential visiting at Dr Gray's Hospital. This follows an outbreak of diarrhoea and vomiting, which has affected more than 50 patients and staff, and seen wards closed to new admissions. The following are examples of where an essential visit **will be supported** for family members:

- When someone is reaching the end of their life
- If someone has dementia/ delirium and needs family support
- Support for someone with a learning disability
- A family member who has caring responsibilities
- Parents of a child in hospital
- Support during pregnancy and childbirth, including outpatient appointments, ante-natal and post-natal care
- Situations where someone is receiving life-changing information

For all other visits, virtual visiting will be used. As a board we are committed to person-centred visiting, and we understand how important seeing family and friends are to an individual's recovery. We have taken this difficult decision to limit further spread of illness and for the safety all those at Dr Gray's.

Critical incident – recovery phase The board level critical incident, declared on Thursday, was stood down on Saturday. We are now in the recovery phase, which will include a full review of events. An update is expected at the next board meeting on Thursday 12 December. During the incident we worked with Scottish Ambulance Service to divert a small number of people to alternative hospitals for their care. We also postponed a small number of procedures; we have undertaken to reschedule these as quickly as possible.

We have to underline our enormous gratitude to everyone involved in this incident. This includes not NHS Grampian teams working both in acute and in the community, but our colleagues in the health and social care partnerships, in our neighbouring health boards, and in the Scottish Ambulance Service. Thank you.

IT service desk – Change to operating hours Due to staffing pressures within the IT service desk, the operating hours will reduce to ensure appropriate cover at peak times. The operating hours from **Monday 9 December** will be:

- Monday to Friday: 8am-8pm
- Saturday & Sunday: 8am – 4pm

Outwith these opening hours colleagues should use the [Employee Service Centre](#) and guidance available via the [IT Service Desk Intranet Page](#). The current emergency on-call will remain in place,

please note this does **not** cover requests such as password resets. Further guidance on this change, including details on the emergency on-call will be issued later this week.

Separate your linens Linen Services are finding a high volume of clean linen being returned in the wrong stream leading to unnecessary rewash. Once in the soiled linen return it must be washed due to cross contamination. This is increasing the workload in an already very busy department. Please remember the following:

- All spare clean linen should be kept and given to linen staff who attend linen count audits and linen distribution, staff attend most sites daily.
- Only soiled linen should be put into soiled linen return

Your cooperation is appreciated.

Recycle plastic, it's fantastic Rosa Holt, a dietitian at ARI and winner of a Green Star award for her work on encouraging recycling, has been working with colleagues to produce videos to highlight how much plastic we can recycle. You can check out the playlist on our You Tube channel here: [\(62\) Recycle Plastic, It's Fantastic! - YouTube](#) and more videos will be added throughout December.

Secret Santa Gleneagles draw – have you entered yet? We have 38 vouchers for an overnight stay for two, including breakfast, to give away. [All the information you need to enter is on the intranet here](#) (networked devices only). This draw is open to NHS Grampian employees with a substantive contract and is limited to one entry per employee. Full terms and conditions are at the page linked above. The draw will close at 11.45pm on Sunday 15 December.

Pause for thought A stitch in time saves nine. What could you prevent from unravelling if you attended to it today?

Tune of the day Romance is clearly in the air, because we have another engagement announcement to share! This time it's Caitlin Swan, a community nurse at Airyhall, who has said yes to her partner Jordan. I've been asked (by Isla) to send special thanks to Rupert the sausage dog for being ring bearer and to play Miss Tina and [The Best](#) for the happy couple (EP)

If you want to request a tune, follow up on items included in this brief, or suggest an item for sharing, drop us an email via gram.communications@nhs.scot