

Monday 29 July 2024

Respiratory illness - symptomatic staff: Staff members are no longer required to test for COVID-19 unless you have a health condition which means you are eligible for coronavirus treatments. If you are experiencing symptoms of respiratory infections such as COVID-19, you should follow the NHS Inform guidance available here: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) | NHS inform](#). For further advice, contact Occupational Health Services (OHS).

If you are absent from work please follow the NHS Scotland attendance management policy, available here: [Attendance Policy Overview | NHS Scotland](#) as COVID special leave has ended.

World Hepatitis Day – testing and treating Yesterday was World Hepatitis Day. Viral hepatitis is a global health crisis, causing over a million deaths worldwide each year, yet we have the means to prevent and treat these diseases. An estimated 39,000 people across Scotland are chronically affected by hepatitis C – with just under half not yet aware of their infection. Available data suggests hepatitis B affects approximately 9000 people in Scotland, with more than half unaware of their infection. In Grampian, our aim is to find and treat people affected by viral hepatitis and to spread the word about how to prevent infection. We need to do this as quickly as possible - people living with untreated chronic hepatitis can't wait any longer for life-saving treatment.

All blood borne viruses are treatable, but if left untreated can lead to serious illness and death. Hepatitis C can be treated and cured with a short course of tablets and Hepatitis B can be treated to ensure the person affected can stay healthy. There is also a vaccine that can prevent Hep B. Testing for and treating blood borne viruses also prevents others from becoming infected. You can get a test at your GP practice, at Grampian Sexual Health Services, or by ordering a postal testing kit. These are available by emailing gram.bbvppostaltesting@nhs.scot or calling 08085 202030.

[This online leaflet has information about prevention, testing, and treatment.](#)

Infection Prevention Society - Scotland branch conference The Scottish branch of the Infection Prevention Society is bringing their annual conference to P&J Live in Aberdeen on 29 August. This free event is open to all healthcare professionals, whether IPS members or not.

For more information and to register, simply follow this link: [IPS Scotland 2024 \(eventsair.com\)](#)

Car crime Unfortunately car crime does happen and if your car is broken into or stolen, it is likely that the thief will take any bags they find. If you have left notes or devices like your laptop in your car, they will be taken and information about you, your patients and your colleagues will be in the hands of criminals. Please do not leave notes or devices in cars or other vehicles when they are unattended.

Joint Commissioning Academy – reminder The health & social care partnerships for Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire, and Moray are continuing to host the Commissioning Academy on the last Tuesday of each month from 12pm - 1.30pm. This is open to anyone providing social care or who supports any such services e.g., practitioners, AHPs, social care providers such as care homes and care at home organisations, members of the Integrated Joint Boards, Senior Leadership and Management teams, GPs and third sector organisations. Tomorrow (30 July) we will host a reflective session to gather feedback from the past few months to improve the Academy going forward. If you would like to join tomorrow's academy or any future dates, please email Sandra Borthwick saborthwick@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Pause for thought Today, if you had all the time in the world what would you do for you? And if could you bring a small part of that into the time you do have, what would it be?

Tune of the day Today's request is for Linda Gray, clinical nurse specialist for looked after children, from everyone in the wider child protection team at RACH. Linda has been with the team since 2012 and has always been an asset, both professionally and personally, making a difference in young people's lives. She retires this week after a total of 30 years in the NHS and will be much missed. For Linda, [Celebration](#) by Kool & The Gang (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