

Tuesday 3 September 2024

‘Flu/COVID-19 vaccinations for health and social care workers In the next few weeks, the 2024 ‘flu and COVID-19 vaccination programme will get underway. The Joint Committee for Vaccinations and Immunisations (JCVI) have recommended ‘flu immunisation is offered to **all** NHS workers, to those social care workers who come into direct contact with patients/clients, and to all staff in care homes for older adults.

The JCVI suggested boards may wish to consider an occupational offer of COVID-19 vaccination for health and social care staff who have direct patient/client contact, whilst removing them from eligible groups of the mass vaccination campaign. This is because the indirect benefits – that is, reducing the risk of severe illness in others – are less evident than in previous years. However, staff will gain personal protection from the vaccination. As such, the Chief Medical Officer has written to all health boards to confirm the COVID-19 vaccination **should** be offered to patient/client facing NHS and social care staff, and to those working in care homes for older adults.

Whether you are eligible for ‘flu only, or both vaccinations, we want to encourage you to take up the offer. You reduce the risk of illness in yourself, in others, and disruption to the health and social care system due to high levels of staff absence. Starting today, text messages or emails (depending on your preference) are being sent to those who used the online booking service in previous years, to remind them of their account details. We will be sharing much more via this brief soon; not all appointments have been loaded into the system yet. Please do not worry if you log on and cannot find a suitable date.

If you need advice on resetting your password for the online booking service, please follow this link: [Rearrange or opt-out of your vaccination appointment | NHS inform](#)

Primary/secondary care shadowing Our local GP and Consultant sub-committees are working together to offer opportunities for shadowing between primary and secondary care. Reconnect is open to colleagues working across Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire, and Moray. We will support and assist clinicians to have the opportunity to shadow and be shadowed by a fellow clinician across the interface and [we invite you to register your interest using this form](#). Questions? Please contact linsay.taylor@nhs.scot

National Transfusion Record Review The Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service are undertaking a review of the national transfusion record. This aims to ensure the record, launched in 2022, is fit for purpose, supports safe transfusion practice, and is user friendly. You can [feedback via this link](#), which will remain open until midnight on Friday 20 September. As well as gathering feedback, the team are seeking stakeholders to join the review group. If you would be interested, please e-mail: nss.snbtransfusioneam@nhs.scot

Aberdeen City paediatric speech and language therapy – now on social media! The paediatric speech and language therapy team for Aberdeen City are now on Instagram and Twitter (X). Their handles are below; they have created this platform to help raise awareness about communication whilst offering advice and activity ideas along the way.

- Instagram: @paeds_aslt
- Twitter (X): @paedsaslt
- Facebook will be coming very soon

Follows and shares welcome!

Paediatric physiotherapy advice line The paediatric physiotherapy service run a children and young person's advice line twice a week. This is available to anyone with questions or concerns about a child's mobility, any recovery from injury, or if the child is not hitting expected milestones. The line is open every Wednesday (1-3pm) and Friday (11am – 1pm) on 01224 559 877

Reminder - digital proof of immigration status The Home Office is currently replacing physical immigration documents with digital proof of immigration status called an eVisa. As part of the move to eVisas, anyone who uses a physical immigration document to evidence their immigration rights in the UK and who does not already have a UK Visas & Immigration (UKVI) account will need to take action to access their eVisa. [There's further information on the intranet here](#) (networked devices only)

Technology Enabled Care (TEC) room opening in Peterhead Tech phobes are being targeted in a bid to get people switched on to a wide range of clever gadgets, which could change their life for the better. The TEC room can be found on King Street in Peterhead and has been launched by Aberdeenshire Health & Social Care Partnership (AHSCP), in a bid to demonstrate how tech and living well can work hand in hand.

From those navigating a dementia diagnosis to adults with a learning disability, it is hoped the concept will enable people to understand how even basic technology can help restore independence. Members of the public will be able to book a monthly slot with demonstrations on offer from occupational therapists from AHSCP, who already routinely prescribe technology when caring for service users within the community. Examples such as activity monitoring, fall sensors and home consumer options including Amazon Alexa can all be tried out, alongside robotic pet companions which can be used by people living with dementia.

The project will officially launch on 16 September, with everyone invited to come along to find out more. To book your space, click here: [Aberdeenshire HSCP TEC Room | Engage Aberdeenshire](#)

Tune of the day Andy McConnell (cardiac physiology department manager) makes today's request. Inspired by the appearance of Jethro Tull t'other week, he's asked for [Sossity; You're A Woman](#) (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