

Wednesday 4 December 2024

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**Sickness outbreak at Dr Gray's Hospital** We are continuing to see new cases of diarrhoea and vomiting among both patients and staff at Dr Gray's Hospital. Work to investigate the outbreak is ongoing and the tactical and strategic groups are meeting regularly to monitor the situation. Non-essential visiting remains suspended across the hospital.

We want to stress again how easily these illnesses are spread and remind everyone reading that, if they are suffering from diarrhoea and/or vomiting, they should recover at home and only return to work when they are free of symptoms for 48 hours. We also want to underline our enormous thanks to everyone at DGH for their hard work, and to all teams currently supporting them.

**Winter vaccinations for staff** Drop-in vaccination clinics are taking place across Grampian for all NHS staff from next Monday (9 December). All NHS staff are eligible for flu vaccinations, and staff who come into direct contact with patients are eligible for both COVID-19 and flu vaccinations. Information about which vaccinations you are eligible for is available on the NHS inform website [Winter vaccines | NHS inform](#) Further details on times and locations [for drop-in clinics is available here](#) (intranet link, networked devices only).

**Safe management of the ARI helipad** At the end of September NHS Assure issued a safety action note for all hospital helipads in Scotland, following updated guidance from the Civil Aviation Authority. In light of that note, landings by certain aircraft at the ARI helipad have been temporarily suspended. They are instead landing at Aberdeen Airport and transferring by road. Scottish Ambulance Service and Scottish Charity Air Ambulance continue to use the ARI helipad.

To restore as many landings as we can, and to make other improvements to the helipad, a working group has been set up. We have also appointed Helideck Certification Agency Ltd as our 'competent person' to assist us with this work. They are an Aberdeen based firm, with global experience in assessing helicopter landing sites, and we are very pleased to be working with them. There will be further updates shared via this brief as the work progresses.

**Revised infection prevention & control protocol** We want to remind everyone the revised 'NHS Grampian Staff Protocol for the Isolation of Patients who are at Risk of a Transmissible Infection within NHS Healthcare Settings v4' is now live on the IPC intranet page [and can be accessed via this link](#) (networked devices only). Please ensure you are using the correct version of this protocol and destroy previous versions.

**Technical issues – SSTS, eExpenses, ePayroll** HR Service Centre (HRSC) is aware of a recurrence of the issues faced last month by users of the SSTS, eExpenses or ePayroll applications where automatic emails (for example, password resets) are not sent to users when requested. You may find there is a delay in receiving a password reset email. The service provider is aware of the issue and is investigating and working on a resolution. If you have requested a password reset when attempting to

log in to view ePayslips, SSTS, or eExpenses and have not received an email, please wait 24 hours before contacting HRSC teams. HRSC apologises for any inconvenience caused.

**Adult Support & Protection (ASP) training update** The Grampian ASP Learning & Development Group are pleased to announce the first issue of their quarterly newsletter - GrASP Insights. The newsletter provides up to date information about ASP developments, locally and nationally, and includes the Grampian ASP Training Catalogue as well as lots of useful links, updates and learning opportunities. [The newsletter can be accessed here](#) (networked devices only) but to get it direct to your inbox, just fill in this short form: [Subscribe to GrASP Insights](#)

**NHS Grampian 2025 Step Count Challenge – coming soon!** Our annual step count challenge will get underway on Monday 20 January. Courtesy of Paths for All, Scotland's national walking charity, one lucky participant of this competition will win £500 of hotel vouchers. [There's more information here](#); for the early birds among you, teams who sign up before Christmas will receive tote bags and water bottles (while stocks last). To sign up or for more information please email [gram.activetravel@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.activetravel@nhs.scot)

**Wellbeing, Culture, and Development Wednesday** Invest in your leadership & management practice in 2025 with one of these opportunities:

- **Coaching Skills for Managers** 4 new cohorts of this popular course are now open for applications. Managers keen to develop and use coaching skills as a way of leading their teams can apply via this link: [Application Form 2025](#). Applications close on 12 January, [for more details click here](#).
- **Action Learning Sets (ALS):** A series of six facilitated meetings on Teams, in a group of 6 peer managers, offer an opportunity to explore a current management challenge in a safe space and support each other to find ways forward. [Register your interest here for the January cohort](#) (starting 22 January, 9.30-11am) or future cohorts.
- **Leading an Empowered Organisation programme:** [Cohorts for managers in non-clinical roles](#) will take place in March and June 2025. This 3-day in-person course will help you transform your leadership practice. [Apply now to guarantee your place](#).

To contact Wellbeing, Culture and Development please email [gram.wcd@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.wcd@nhs.scot)

**Tune of the day** It is my pleasure to wish the happiest of birthdays to Ayesha, an FY1 at Dr Gray's, who is celebrating today. I hear she reads the brief every day (doesn't guarantee a request but certainly doesn't hurt!), Emma Wilson has asked us to play [Birthday by Anne-Marie](#) (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](mailto:gram.communications@nhs.scot)