



Welcome

Welcome to the September edition of Inverclyde News, as we bring you the latest health and social care news in your community.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, our teams at Inverclyde Royal Hospital and across the community are here to support patients as much as possible. In this edition, you'll hear more of innovations at IRH, a reminder for us all to get our flu jab and a retirement farewell to our Director.

We would like to hear from you about the type of stories you would like to see covered here. Please send any suggestions to public.involvement@ggc.scot.nhs.uk

Best wishes,
The Patient Experience and Public Involvement Team
NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde.

Don't forget your flu jab

Members of the Inverclyde community who are eligible for a free flu vaccination will be starting to receive letters inviting them to an appointment at a local community vaccination centre in the coming weeks.

As a result of COVID-19, we have adapted the way in which we will be carrying out the vaccination programme. This means that instead of attending a drop-in session at your local GP practice, you will be allocated a date and time for you to receive your vaccination.

“The other difference is that you will be contacted by post to give you the details of your vaccination appointment. I would like to ask that you please try to keep to the appointment you have been given, so that we can get everyone seen as quickly as possible.”

For more information about the 2020 flu vaccination programme in the NHSGGC region, including information about who is eligible, where the community vaccination centres are located and what to do if you are unable to attend your assigned appointment, please visit the website at

More people will also be able to receive a free vaccination this year as people aged 55-64 will now also be eligible.

Commenting, Linda de Caestecker Public Health Director at NHSGGC said; “It’s really important that everyone who is eligible to receive a flue vaccination takes the opportunity to do so. Thousands of people ended up in hospital last year with flu, so we hope that by extending the criteria for who is eligible, this will give more people the opportunity to get vaccinated.

“Because of COVID-19 and restrictions around social distancing and stopping the potential spread of infection, we are not able to carry out drop-in session at GP surgeries. Instead we are utilising community vaccination centres across the region, four of which are in Port Glasgow Town Hall, Greenock Town Hall, Gourrock Gamble Hall and Kilmacolm Community Centre.

www.nhs.gov.uk/your-health/healthyliving/seasonal-flu/



Virtual home visits help patients and staff

Inverclyde Royal Hospital’s Occupational Therapy team are now regularly reviewing patient’s homes with the help of tablets or iPads to help with their journey home.

Family members and community staff alike have been helping provide a video tour of a patient’s home so occupational therapists can then take measurements and assess risks for new adjustments such as walkways and wheelchairs.

Previously this would have been achieved

“We can then advise on how new equipment could be installed and advise on potential risks like moving rugs or furniture.

“The other week we were able to help a patient practice negotiating a tricky stair lift in their home by mocking up the same dimensions on the ward. We were able to practice until the patient felt comfortable.”

with visits to patients' homes but with current restrictions, this is no longer possible. This innovation has saved the team a huge amount of time and is safer in the face of COVID-19 as it has helped limit potential contact time in people's homes.

Lynda Williamson, AHP Consultant Older Peoples Services, said: "We've always had this technology but covid has given us the push to use it in different ways. Patients and families have been so supportive and have gone above and beyond to give us video tours and take measurements.



Good luck Marie

During October we will be saying goodbye and good luck to NHSGGC's Clyde Director Marie Farrell as she begins her retirement.

Marie, who oversees the Vale, The Royal Alexandra and Inverclyde Royal Infirmary, has spent her entire career within the NHS having first trained as a Physiotherapist. Working her way up, and after becoming a senior then a superintendent physio, Marie became a Locality Manager in 1994, overseeing two Health Centres and two Clinics. Climbing another few rungs of the ladder, Marie has been Clyde's Director since 2015.

She said: "It's been quite a year to end my career in the NHS. It's been a difficult and

Finally, what is Marie's most proud of about the IRH?

She said: "There are a couple of things.

"What makes the IRH special is the amazing team ethos. Due to Covid we have had lots of staff working there temporarily this year. There have been consultants from the Beatson, others from the Institute and the Queen Elizabeth. Each and every one mentioned how supportive the staff are and that the teamwork is exceptional. That makes me extremely proud.

"The other is the great links with Louise Long and her HSCP team who work with us to support those who live in Inverclyde and use our services."

"As well as looking after our patients, looking

challenging year but seeing how staff have come together during Covid has been amazing. That feeling of being a team has never been greater.

after our staff has never been so important and it's been nice to see how the R&R Hub has provided that place for them to relax."

So after 40 years, what is her lasting memory?

Marie said: "I've been given so many opportunities to develop in different roles and I have worked with loads inspiring and amazing people. I love my job and I love my team and I'm so proud of everything we have achieved in the last five years."

Leaders join forces to urge residents to keep to the COVID-19 rules

Council Leaders have come together to urge residents to keep to the rules, keep their loved ones safe, and keep us all out of lockdown.

With limited restrictions in every part of the region except Inverclyde there is a risk that if people don't follow the rules then far more severe restrictions will be necessary.

Council leaders in the GGC health board area, including Inverclyde Council leader Councillor Stephen McCabe said:

"The virus hasn't gone away and it can get a grip in only a few days. The very limited restrictions we have in place in some parts of the region are hard enough for people but if we don't all stick to the rules the number of cases will keep rising and those restrictions will just get tougher.

"Please do not meet in groups of more than six from more than two households, and if you live anywhere other than Inverclyde then please do not have anyone socialise in your home. Having too many people in our homes is still the main source of infection and we must do everything we can to stop things getting worse."

