

	<p>NHS Shetland Board</p> <p>COVID-19 Pandemic Action Minutes</p> <p>Action (A) / Information (I) / Decision (D)</p>
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11 January 2022 at 12:00 via Microsoft Teams

Attendees: Gary Robinson (Chair), Michael Dickson, Malcolm Bell, Colin Campbell, Lincoln Carroll, Jane Haswell, Amanda McDermott, Elizabeth Robinson and Ian Sandilands

Apologies: Dr Kirsty Brightwell, Kathleen Carolan, Brian Chittick, Lorraine Hall, Colin Marsland, Dr Susan Laidlaw and Natasha Cornick.

Mr Dickson represents all Executive and Stakeholder Board Members during the pandemic period who are not in attendance.

Declaration of Interests: None

Action tracker (actions removed once they have been reported as completed)

Date / paper ref	Action	Action Owner	Date closed	Comment
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Agenda / paper ref	A/I/D	Discussion/Rationale	Action Owner	Date closed
No. 4. (2021/22/56)	I	<p>COVID-19 Pandemic Briefing</p> <p>Ms Robinson provided an update on the current position. Of particular note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has been a significant increase in positive cases across Scotland in the last few months (particularly in July, September and late December). • Locally have been testing approx. 250 people per day • Vaccine eligibility - anyone 12 and over for 1st dose, anyone due their 2nd dose particularly 18 and over, anyone 12-17 in a clinical risk group, booster doses • Very good vaccine uptake across all age groups (1st dose) and now working to complete younger age groups as these become eligible • Slightly lower uptake of 2nd dose and booster in 65-69 age group but the team will work on further messaging • A proportion of cases are Omicron but only swabs sent to Lighthouse Lab are analysed for this (nationally Omicron accounts for 90% of new cases) • Guidance changed last week meaning if you have a positive LFT there is no need for a confirmatory PCR • There are new additional treatment options for those at high risk of complications from coronavirus <p>All eligible people in Shetland have been written to and can be offered this treatment if necessary</p>		

Agenda / paper ref	A/I/D	Discussion/Rationale	Action Owner	Date closed
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidance is still to isolate for 10 days but may finish on day 6 or 7 if you record a negative LFT • Fully vaccinated people may be exempt from isolating if recording a negative LFT • H&SC workers require a negative PCR before returning to work • If you are symptomatic you must order a PCR test (unless already recorded a positive LFT) 		
		<p>Mr Sandilands advised that clinically vulnerable groups will receive a 3rd dose and then a booster (or 4th dose) but it was crucial to have the guidance around assessing clinical needs to determine which categories patients come under. Patients can call the vaccination line to seek advice from a clinician. GP practices have contacted and called forward all clinically vulnerable patients.</p>		
		<p>Mr Sandilands emphasised the importance of recording LFT test results (especially where positive) through the online portal to enable contacts to be traced.</p>		
		<p>Mrs McDermott reported that an increasing number of symptomatic patients, staff and visitors coming into GBH are relying on negative LFT results. The message is that if anyone is symptomatic, a negative LFT is not sufficient to avoid isolating and you must book a PCR test.</p>		
		<p>Members praised and extended huge thanks to the staff working in the swabbing and contact tracing teams who had worked extremely hard over the festive period.</p>		
		<p>In answer to a question from Mrs Haswell, Ms Robinson said there had been very high vaccine uptake within NHS and within H&SC there are only a few who are not vaccinated but constant reminders are issued to all staff.</p>		
		<p>Mr Dickson reported that there had been a UK Gov pilot scheme looking at antibody testing, but there was some debate about the value because so many people have now been vaccinated. There is currently no indication that the NHS will be going down the antibody testing route.</p>		
		<p>In response to a question from Mr Campbell, Ms Robinson explained that statistics are taken from an automatic process reported from the national system. Any local decision to stop reporting will depend on SGov or Public Health Scotland deciding to stop reporting on a national basis. Local media can contact NHS Shetland for figures. There is discussion ongoing about how best to meaningfully report these figures.</p>		
		<p>Mr Dickson advised that for those people who access support in relation to isolation, there is still a need at present for them to have a PCR test in order to access that.</p>		
		<p>Date of next meeting The next 'agile' Board meeting will take place on Tuesday 25th January 2022 at 12:00 via MS Teams.</p>		