

Wednesday 7 February 2024

Measles poses a risk to service continuity for hospital and primary care services In our piece on vaccinations in last Tuesday's brief, we highlighted the increase in cases of measles being recorded in England, and across Europe more widely. While just two cases have been confirmed in Scotland since October 2023, we all need to be alert to the risk of further spread. We know travel to and from affected areas will increase the risk of patients presenting locally.

Measles is highly infectious and requires airborne precautions to prevent exposure. This applies to suspected and confirmed cases and requires PPE for airborne precautions which includes face visor or goggles with a fluid resistant FFP3 respirator when caring for symptomatic patients.

Staff exposed to a case of measles will become a contact and risk being legally excluded from work for up to three weeks. This exclusion would apply to those without documented evidence of previously receiving two doses of measles-containing vaccine, or laboratory-confirmed previous infection.

Everyone working in health & social care is strongly recommended to have two doses of MMR vaccine, including anyone who is uncertain of their vaccination status. The only exceptions to this recommendation are where vaccination is clinically contraindicated due to pregnancy or immunosuppression, or for those who can produce documented evidence of previous vaccinations, or documented evidence of laboratory-confirmed previous infection.

A drop-in staff vaccination clinic, open to all NHS staff, will be available at Occupational Health (Foresterhill Lea) on Wednesday 14 February, between 10am-4pm. We would ask managers to support their team members to attend this as required. For queries about staff health/staff contacts, you can contact OHS on gram.ohs@nhs.scot

For clinical queries and patient contacts, you can contact Infection Prevention Control Team (IPCT) via the IPCN allocated to your area, by emailing gram.infectioncontrol@nhs.scot, or by telephoning the clinical advice line on extension 53249 (08.30-16.30hrs Mon - Fri or duty Medical Microbiology outwith these times).

Staff requiring FFP3 face fit (re-)testing should request an appointment from gram.face-fit-appointment-hub@nhs.scot

Further helpful information is available here:

- [NHS Grampian infection prevention & control intranet site](#)
- [Staff immunisation policy](#)
- [Chapter 2 of the National Infection Prevention & Control Manual](#) (please note there is a shortcut to the NIPCM on every NHSG device homescreen)
- [Appendix 11 of the NIPCM contains measles specific information](#)
- [The A-Z of pathogens contains measles specific information](#)

Annual leave As highlighted by Adam Coldwells in yesterday's video update, it is really important for us all to take our annual leave. Firstly, this ensures adequate time away from work, to rest and recharge. Secondly, it has a financial benefit for the organisation, as we are required to account for leave not taken. Leave arrangements vary across the organisation, as follows:

Agenda for Change staff, and Executive & Senior Managers, have an annual leave year which runs from 1 April – 31 March. Unless exempt e.g., due to maternity leave or long-term sick leave, they **must** use their annual leave allocation for 2023/24 by 31 March.

Doctors and Dentists in Training have their leave year starting from their training contract date i.e., August - July.

Consultants, Associate Specialists, Speciality Doctors and Staff Grades have their leave year starting from the date of appointment to their post, or in some cases from 1 April. Using 2023/24 leave year, as an example, it may end as late as 31 December 2024. Career Grade Medical staff should comply with [the Medical Staff Leave Protocol, which can be accessed here](#) (intranet link, networked devices only)

Hand Hygiene module and assessment The Hand Hygiene module and assessment has now been added to the mandatory IPC training on an annual basis. This applies to both clinical and non-clinical staff. Since this has recently been "switched on", having previously been a once-only requirement, if you not undertaken this training and assessment within the last year, you will not be reminded they require completion. Your Turas Learn will now list them as overdue.

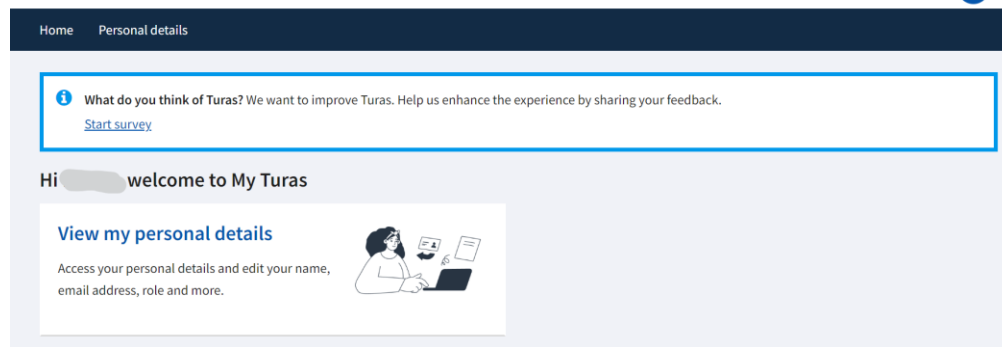
IPC advice is to undertake this module and assessment as soon as you can to be compliant with this training. Once you have done this Turas will remind you when these items are next due to be completed. This module and assessment are in addition to the mandatory IPC training that is currently in place.

[The NHS Grampian Mandatory and Statutory training can be found within this framework](#) (requires Turas log-in)

Personal mail Please do not order personal mail/packages to be delivered to work addresses. Our mail room teams already process and deliver many thousands of work-related items each week and personal deliveries add an unnecessary burden. In addition, we have had reports of couriers leaving items at unstaffed areas or at building front doors, where the safety of packages cannot be guaranteed. If work-related items are being delivered by courier, please ensure the address is as clear as possible, to aid prompt and correct delivery. Some NHS site postcodes default to a particular address; it pays to check this is correct.

NMAHP new graduate welcome event The next NMAHP new graduate welcome event will be in-person on Tuesday 23 April, 9.30am-2pm, in the Suttie Centre (Conference Room, 402). Booking is via Turas: [NMAHP Welcome | Turas | Learn \(nhs.scot\)](#) All NMAHP new graduates are required to attend one of these events.

Turas feedback opportunity The team behind Turas are keen to get your feedback on the site. Simply click on 'Start survey' when you log-in (see image below).



We Care Wellbeing Wednesday

- **Spaces for Listening** Spaces for Listening is a simple and lightly structured process which creates a space for colleagues to come together and share their thoughts and feelings at this time of uncertainty and challenge. It is confidential, there is no hierarchy, and we all participate as people. See the attached poster for information on upcoming sessions and contact details for these.
- **Menopause Awareness in the Workplace** This training aims to raise awareness of the menopause, symptoms and side effects, and how these can affect the way someone work. It is open to anyone, whether you're looking to learn more for yourself or support a colleague. Upcoming dates as follows: 14 March, 9.45am-12pm, 28 March, 9.30am-12pm, 21 May, 1.45-4pm. [Booking is via Turas here](#) (log-in required). Men-only sessions are available, if preferred; these take place on 15 February and 10 September, both starting at 1pm. [Booking is via Turas](#)
- **Guided Journaling** Journaling is recognised as being helpful in reducing anxiety and can help us become more flexible and accepting in our thinking. We offer twice weekly sessions, of 30 minutes, and each session has a wellbeing focus. You don't need to have journaled before; all you need is paper and something to write with. [Booking is via Turas](#) with all currently available dates listed. if you have any questions or want to find out more contact fiona.soutar@nhs.scot

Tune of the day Snow, again? Deep joy. Today's tune is dedicated to everyone who worked so hard to keep the show on the road, despite the white stuff. From our community teams ensuring people get the care they need, to our Estates colleagues for clearing and gritting our roads and paths. Thank you. This gorgeous version of [Simply the Best](#) by Noah Reid (the Schitt's Creek version) goes out to all of you (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