

Briefing for Elected Representatives

A newsletter from Belfast Health & Social Care Trust

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8 January 2021

Happy New Year

We want to wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year, especially our tireless staff who worked through the Christmas break to ensure our patients had the best care possible.

There is still a lot to be done in the fight against Covid, but with vaccines currently being rolled out, we hope 2021 will move on to be a much brighter year for everyone.



Covid-19 Update by Chief Executive



[Watch](#) Dr Cathy Jack, Chief Executive update us on our continued response to Covid-19. We have seen an 80% increase in patients admitted with Covid-19 since Christmas Day and this figure is expected to rise.

She explains the robust action we need to take to ensure we maintain capacity to provide care to the patients who need it.

Precautionary Patient Review

We are carrying out a precautionary review and contacting 752 women who have had a contraceptive implant inserted or replaced in our Sexual & Reproductive Health Service between October 2017 and August 2020.



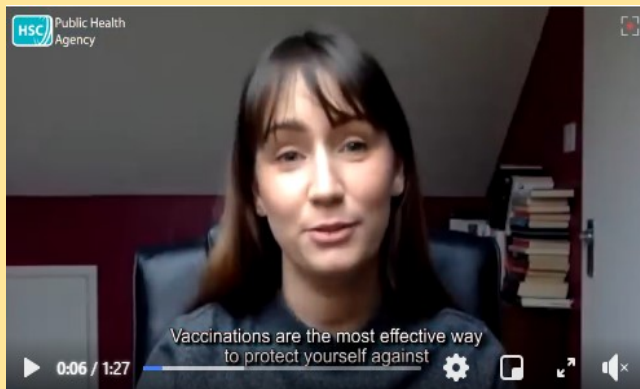
It has come to our attention that some implants were not correctly inserted or replaced. If you have Constituents that are affected, we will be in contact with them soon, if not already.

The Sexual and Reproductive Health Team can be contacted on (028) 9504 5500.

Vaccine Safety & Effectiveness

There continues to be many debates about the safety and effectiveness of vaccines, but did you know, vaccines have saved many millions of lives?

Watch this [video](#) where Dr Naomh Gallagher, Research & Development Programme Manager at the PHA talks through the vaccination approval process.



Virtual Hospital



In order to ease the pressure that comes with a COVID-19 diagnosis, we have set up virtual COVID-19 wards for patients who can be safely discharged.

The Virtual Hospital aims to provide an excellent standard of care beyond the hospital walls and into patients' homes during these unprecedented times.

[Watch](#) the video to find out more about this new service.

SCAM ALERT!

Hoax Texts from HSC re: Covid Vaccine



SCAM ALERT: We are aware of texts claiming to be from HSC about the Covid19 vaccine which asks for bank account details via a link.

You will **NEVER** be asked for bank details by anyone in HSC.

Please check on any vulnerable or elderly Constituents who may be an easy target for this type of scam.

If you would like to speak to a member of the Public Liaison Team please:-

Tel: (028) 9504 5888 or Email: publicliaison@belfasttrust.hscni.net

Wash your hands regularly



Keep your distance



Wear a face covering



Download the app StopCOVID NI

