

Staff News: Take 5

Thursday 3 December 2020

Welcome to this week's Take 5, our all new weekly staff update, designed to bring you our latest news summary in a five minute read.

Your weekly coronavirus update



Following a review of current coronavirus restrictions, the Scottish Government has confirmed there will be no changes to local protection levels at present. This means Renfrewshire will remain in Level 4 until Friday 11 December.

The good news is that the latest data suggests these restrictions are having an impact and estimates continue to place Scotland's R number (rate of infection) slightly below 1 – this indicates the spread is slowing.

However, the First Minister has advised "continued caution" as the rate of spread is still higher than it needs to be to allow an ease on restrictions.

We are at a crucial point in our fight against coronavirus and we are beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel. So, it's vital that we all work together and keep sticking to the rules. For the latest guidance go to the Scottish Government website www.gov.scot

Winter flu vaccination



This year more than ever, we all have a responsibility to protect ourselves and the people around us from flu.

We still have a number of free flu vaccination e-vouchers available through our council programme.

So, if you haven't already, please speak with your line manager to request one as soon as possible.

We'd like to thank everyone who has already used their voucher and got a vaccination.

If you have a voucher but are yet to book your appointment please do so before 31 December. Vouchers will no longer be redeemable after this date.

The flu vaccine can't give you flu, but it can stop you and those you care about from catching it.

For full details go to our website www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/flu-vaccination

Asymptomatic testing in Johnstone



Do you live, work, or have a pupil at school in Johnstone? From Wednesday 2 to Wednesday 9 December you are invited along to Johnstone Town Hall for a quick and easy Covid-19 test.

The test is for people who have no symptoms and will identify if you are carrying the virus despite being asymptomatic.

Just drop into the testing centre any day between 8am and 8pm to get your 'lateral flow' test and you'll have your results in around 45 minutes.

We want to encourage as many of our staff members in the Johnstone area as possible to take part. You'll be helping to build a clearer picture of the prevalence of coronavirus within the Johnstone community.

Full details can be found on our website www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test-johnstone

Our Covid Story



Have you seen the videos from some of our local people sharing their coronavirus stories?

We've been catching up with some of our community champions to find out how the pandemic has affected them and how we can all work together to keep Renfrewshire safe.

Sticking with the rules will help protect the most vulnerable in our communities, safeguard our children's education, preserve local livelihoods and support our NHS and local health and social care services over the winter period.

So far in the #OurCovidStory series we've heard from Emma Speirs at Buddie Beats, Sharon McAulay from the STAR Project and Robert Blair from Mill Magazine.

And we're not done yet! Look out for more Covid stories in the coming weeks.

Check out our YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/renfrewshirecouncil

Help out a local charity this Christmas



Things are different this year but there's still lots you can do to help support a great cause this festive season.

We've pulled together a list of all the charity campaigns we know our staff are supporting this year including:

- The Night Before Christmas Campaign
- A Gift in a Bag Collection for homeless people in temporary accommodation
- The Renfrewshire Foodbank
- St Vincent's Hospice
- Accord Hospice

If you or a colleague you know of are supporting a cause not mentioned here, please get in touch and we'll add it to the list.

Check out the corresponding Christmas Charities poster for full details or find more information on our staff intranet under News & Events > Noticeboard > [Charity](#).



Our Health, Safety and Wellbeing at Work webpage is there to provide you with information and contacts to help you keep well during this time. Visit: www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/health-safety-wellbeing



Don't forget, we'd love to hear from you!

If you have a story to tell or something interesting to share, get in touch with us at: internal.communications@renfrewshire.gov.uk