

Thursday 19 October 2023

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**Storm Babet** Firstly, thank you to all of you for your various efforts today to keep services running during the challenging weather. Above all else, keep yourself and your colleagues safe.

The Met Office are regularly updating their forecasts, with the most serious Red weather warning set to take effect from 6pm this evening and covering south Aberdeenshire (Stonehaven, Inverbervie, and Laurencekirk amongst others). [Please check the Met Office website](#), or their social media accounts, for the latest information. Our council colleagues are also providing updates, please consult the relevant website or social media accounts for your local area. This will be particularly useful for road closures. You may also wish to look at the Traffic Scotland website: [Storm Babet | Traffic Scotland](#)

We shared the NHS Scotland interim national arrangements for adverse weather yesterday; in case you missed it, [it is available here \(intranet link\), with the relevant guidance starting on page 3](#). If for any reason you cannot access the network, it is also attached to the email used to send out this brief.

SSEN are reminding all customers to call 105 to report any loss of supply or damage to power lines. You may also wish to download their Power Track app, which will give you details of power outages and restoration times.

**Pensions update** Earlier this month we shared an FAQ about changes to the pension scheme which came into effect on 1 October. In case you missed it, it is attached to the email used to send this brief. Please read it carefully, remember the pay received at the end of October (for those paid monthly) will reflect these pension changes.

**Server maintenance – POSTPONED** The scheduled server maintenance and downtime which was originally planned for Tuesday 24 October between 5-10am has been **postponed**. All systems will be available as normal. A new date will be confirmed and sent out in advance so you can action accordingly.

**International infection prevention & control week – personal protective equipment.** Our weeklong series of articles to mark this global safety campaign today focuses on personal protective equipment (PPE). You should use PPE whenever there is an expectation of possible exposure to infectious material. Make sure you know the sequence of putting on (donning) and taking off (doffing) PPE to reduce the risk of contamination. The Infection Prevention & Control team offer regular refreshers on donning and doffing. Upcoming dates as follows, all sessions start at 11am and are delivered on Teams:

- Wednesday 8 November
- Tuesday 12 December

Simply email [gram.ipc-donn-doff-training@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.ipc-donn-doff-training@nhs.scot) to book your place. Finally, remember gloves are not a substitute for hand hygiene.

**Patient Christmas Presents** Each year NHS Grampian Charity (formerly Endowment Funds) invites staff to apply for funding to buy a small Christmas gift for patients who will be spending the festive period in hospital without their loved ones. You can apply for up to £10 per patient, and all applications must be approved, and an approval number issued, before any purchases are made. The charity is not able to reimburse anyone who purchase items without an approval number.

The deadline to submit applications for Christmas gifts is **Friday 17 November**, to allow charity staff time to process and issue approvals in time for Christmas. We are unfortunately unable to process any Christmas present applications received after this date. Visit the charity's intranet site to download the relevant application forms: [Pages - default \(scot.nhs.uk\)](#)

**Support for practice supervisors/assessors** Are you a Practice Supervisor or Assessor supporting pre-registration students in practice? Have you attended an update recently? Courses are available to book on Turas, covering a wide variety of topics including:

- Incivility in the Workplace
- Student Orientation and Induction
- Gaining Student Feedback on QMPLE
- Students and Medicine Management
- Managing Student Attendance on PLE's
- Supporting a student who is presenting as disinterested/disengaged
- Supporting staff with a PLSP

Dates for 2024 coming soon. Please contact [gram.practiceeducation@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.practiceeducation@nhs.scot) with any queries.

**Tune of the day** We're saying another farewell today – Grace Ball is stepping down from her role with radiology to join Aberdeenshire HSCP. Grace, your colleagues wanted to let you know you will be missed, and they wish you all the best in your new job. They've asked for [Riding My Scooter](#); an unusual choice, but those who know, know (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](mailto:gram.communications@nhs.scot)