

NHS staff praised for Covid-19 readiness

Dr Catherine Calderwood Scotland's Chief Medical Officer has praised NHS staff for their response during the global outbreak of coronavirus (COVID-19).

She also thanked members of the public for following the guidelines on self-isolating and playing their part in keeping both themselves and others safe.

Two testing facilities for possible cases of novel coronavirus are now in operation in Scotland, one in Glasgow and one in Edinburgh.

Health boards are also exploring the ability to undertake community-based testing where this is appropriate rather than require people to travel to a clinical setting.

Chief Medical Officer Dr Catherine Calderwood said : "Although we have yet to see a positive case in Scotland the NHS has been preparing for the possibility ever since the beginning of this outbreak.

"Our staff across the NHS in Scotland have put in extraordinary work and I want to thank all health staff for their continued hard work and dedication during this rapidly evolving situation.

"I would also like to thank the number of people who have listened to advice and self-isolated – you're playing an important part in keeping both yourselves and others safe and reducing the virus's spread.

“It is vital that people continue to follow the guidance given. Don’t attend your GP practice or Emergency Department in person.

“If you have symptoms within 14 days of travelling to the affected areas, phone your GP or NHS 24 (111) immediately for urgent health advice.”