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Chief Executives NHS Scotland
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25 March 2020

Colleagues

In recognition that Infection Prevention Control Teams (IPCTs) have a critical role in providing Infection Prevention Control (IPC) advice to frontline clinicians in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Scottish Government has agreed the following temporary changes to routine surveillance requirements:

- All mandatory and voluntary Surgical Site Infection (SSI) surveillance should be paused until further notice.
- For *Staphylococcus aureus* bacteraemia (SAB), *Escherichia coli* bacteraemia (ECB) and *Clostridioides difficile* infection (CDI), Boards should continue to report case numbers and origin of infection data but are **not** required to report risk factor data as would normally be expected under enhanced/extended surveillance. This will still allow Boards to report on case numbers and to establish whether cases are healthcare or community associated.
- Routine surveillance in ICU will pause in order to prioritise resource for enhanced surveillance of COVID-19 specifically. Any Ventilator Associated Pneumonia (VAP) and other infections associated with COVID-19 will be identified and reported through this enhanced surveillance programme. As part of the COVID-19 response, there will be dedicated enhanced surveillance of COVID-19 infections specifically. It is important to note that extra surveillance resource will be required to support this enhanced COVID-19 surveillance in ICU and Chief Executives should look to resource this appropriately within their own Boards.

The data for CDI, SAB and ECB will continue to be fed into the Quarterly Epidemiological Data Officials Statistics, enabling Boards and HPS to identify trends, exceptions and to take immediate mitigating action where necessary.

Please note that, throughout this period, Boards are still required to implement local surveillance of all mandatory NHS Scotland alert organisms and conditions set out in Appendix 13 of the National Infection Prevention and Control Manual (NIPCM).

With best wishes



Professor Fiona McQueen
Chief Nursing Officer