

Here is the brief for Wednesday 3 February 2021.

COVID-19 vaccination programme – public clinics As you may already be aware, clinics in Alford and Ellon are being paused. This is to allow vaccination staff and supplies to be concentrated in fewer centres, enabling the programme to run as effectively and efficient as possible. This news will be disappointing to people living in those areas and is no reflection on the support provided by the two venues. We know there may be some anxiety about travel to clinic appointments and it is really important to remember that vaccine appointments are classed as essential journeys. It is possible to get a lift from someone, provided you follow the safe car sharing guidance. We are also working really closely with [THInC \(Transport to Healthcare Information Centre\)](#) and our Third Sector partners to ensure a full range of community transport options are on offer, if public transport is not feasible.

COVID-19 vaccination programme – recruitment Thank you to everyone who has responded already to the request for additional staffing support for the COVID-19 vaccination programme. Please note that the correct email address for staff within Facilities & Estates to offer support is: gram.facilitiescontrolrm@nhs.scot

COVID-19 vaccination programme – Public Health Scotland data A weekly report on COVID-19 is published every Wednesday by Public Health Scotland. This includes data on the vaccination programme. In Grampian, between 8 December and 31 January, **58,277** people received their first dose of vaccine. You can read the full report [here](#). In addition, the Scottish Government's daily briefing also includes information on vaccinations. As of 8.30am this morning, **649,262** people have received their first dose of vaccine across Scotland.

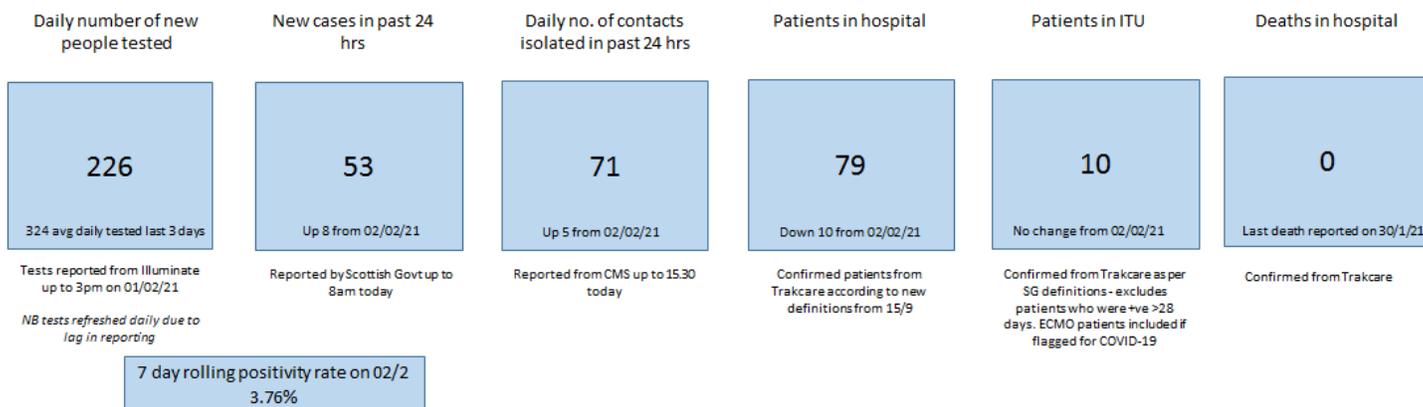
Schools and safety – Dr Derek Cox (Consultant in Public Health) All children can catch COVID-19, although the majority will have mild symptoms or be asymptomatic. A very small number across the UK have developed severe complications requiring hospital admission. Older children and young people start to behave as adults in terms of symptoms. Infected children can pass the infection to others including family members and teachers but passing the infection to others is more likely from children with symptoms. However, especially in primary schools, child to child transmission is surprisingly unusual. It is more common in secondary schools in the older age groups. Most school transmission is amongst staff, so teacher to teacher transmission is common.

So, what is the answer to the question 'should schools re-open?' If we are interested in the number of cases in the community the answer is probably 'yes' because the increase in cases is likely to be relatively small. If we are interested in avoiding large numbers of people being told to self-isolate because they are a contact of a case the answer is probably 'no' because one case in a classroom/school can result in large numbers of contacts (we have examples of having to isolate 80 children because of one case). If we are interested in the wellbeing of children, particularly children in poor socio-economic circumstances, the answer is definitely 'yes'. If you are interested in keeping the maximum numbers of adults at work the answer is also 'yes'. So, taking all things in to account the balance seems to favour 'yes'.

When they do open however, teachers and other staff should be careful to use PPE properly, especially (but not only) during breaks and in the staff room, should follow the physical distancing guidance, and should perform hand hygiene at frequent appropriate intervals. They should also avoid going to work with symptoms.

Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine New research suggests the vaccine developed by Oxford University and AstraZeneca could reduce transmission of the virus, as well as offering protection to the vaccinated individual. The findings – which are preliminary and have not yet been subject to peer review – also suggest vaccine efficacy after a single standard dose was 76% from day 22 to day 90. You can read the paper in full [here](#).

Grampian data The local figures for today and the 7 day rolling positivity rate are shown below. If you click [here](#) you can visit the Public Health Scotland website, which includes neighbourhood figures for all local authority areas in Scotland.



Baird & ANCHOR project Preparatory work in advance of the main construction phase to create the new Baird Family Hospital and The ANCHOR Centre have been ongoing since the end of 2018. Demolition and enabling works are completed and the main construction work is underway. The risk assessments associated with these works have been refreshed ensuring all measures are in place to keep our staff, patients, and visitors safe. The ANCHOR Centre construction phase involves the closure of the temporary entrance to the Radiotherapy Centre effective from **Monday 8 February 2021**. Access to the Centre, from Monday, will be via the main entrance or the East End entrance of Aberdeen Royal Infirmary (ARI) the list below outlines the main options for parking/drop off:

- Parking in the Lady Helen Centre Car Park and walking to the Centre via ARI
- Patient drop off at the East End entrance where the driver can either park in the Lady Helen Centre, or in any appropriate car parking space on the campus.

As part of the risk assessment, patients should **not** use the dedicated parking spaces adjacent to the Radiotherapy Centre, or the patient car park outside of Foresterhill Lea.

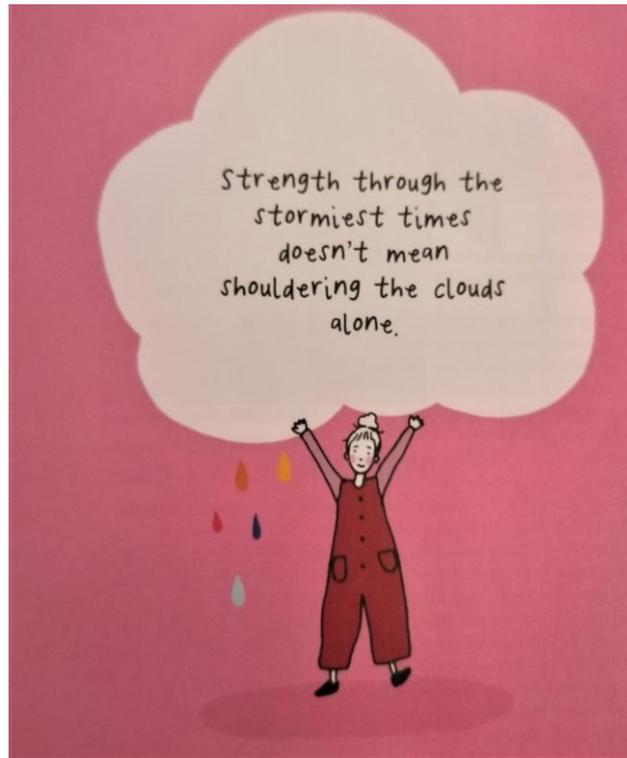
Cyber Security Awareness As we continue to deal with the COVID-19 crisis, our contacts at Police Scotland have advised that cyber-attacks on major organisations are still on the increase with hospitals and medical centres high on the list. It is vital that we all remain vigilant at all times and take account of Cyber Security best practice. Our strongest weapon against these attacks is our staff and any weakness in our defences can put at risk patient and staff data as well compromise our IT systems as a whole. Some very simple best practice:

- Guard against Phishing attacks – if an email looks suspicious it probably is; if in any doubt delete it and contact the IT service Desk
- Do not share your password with anyone
- Do not leave passwords with your computer or mobile device
- Do not write passwords down and leave for others to see

Further best practice & guidance can be found [here](#).

Thought for the day Today we're handing 'the thought' over to Natalie Christie (a Charge Midwife at AMH):

I came across this image (below) and thought it would be a nice inclusion for the thought of the day. Throughout the pandemic and particularly over the last couple of weeks, I personally have been humbled by the strength of teams within our service. Colleagues have held each other up, comforted, praised, reassured and without that inherent togetherness our current reality would be so bleak. We can't always make it better and we won't always have the solution, but a kind heart or understanding ear cannot be underestimated! So thank you to my team and all teams throughout NHSG for weathering these storms together.



The image is by illustrator Stacie Swift. You can find out more about her [here](#).

Questions to ask? Information to share? If you have particular questions – or are aware of questions coming from friends and family – please share them with us. We may not be able to answer every question and it may take us time to get a proper answer, but we will endeavour to respond and share the answers. You can get in touch with us via gram.communications@nhs.scot. Please also use that email address if you have items for consideration for future briefs.