

Here is the brief for Tuesday 30 November 2021.

Further temporary MS Teams video restrictions - Web Filter Change/Connectivity Issues The eHealth team is currently working with the vendors to identify a solution for these problems and all efforts are being made to resolve this as soon as possible. It is anticipated any change will not occur until **w/c 6 Dec** at the earliest to allow sufficient testing and preparation. All Teams functionality is available, except for participant video (for more than 2 participants) and recording of Teams meetings. Taking these reluctant measures has alleviated pressure on the internet link significantly whilst still providing a Teams function. In response to some urgent business/clinical demand a small number of staff have had video restored and performance is being monitored closely; it is anticipated that the remainder of staff will follow in due course when a resolution is identified. eHealth apologises for any inconvenience caused and appreciate your patience whilst working to resume normal service.

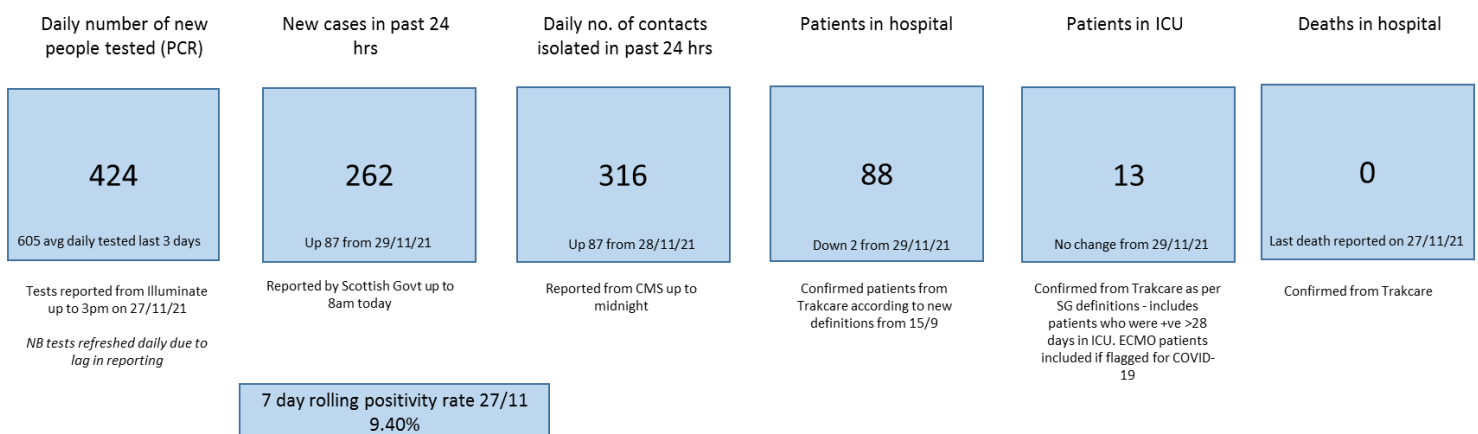
Annual Leave buyback and carry over A separate Global was issued earlier today, regarding the buyback and carry over of annual leave for NHS Scotland staff. [The information is also available on the intranet news pages, please read it carefully to understand how it affects you.](#)

Christmas/New Year Pay Arrangements Pay day in December for monthly paid staff is Friday 24 December 2021. National guidance has been received to advise that the designated public holidays during Christmas and New Year are as follows:

- Monday 27 December 2021 and Tuesday 28 December 2021
- Monday 3 January 2022 and Tuesday 4 January 2022.

Where staff are required to work the 25th/26th December and/or 1st/2nd January then different public holiday arrangements may apply. [A guide has been prepared which sets out examples of working patterns over the Christmas period](#) (intranet link, networked devices only). These examples, which apply to staff employed under Agenda for Change terms and conditions, equally apply to the New Year period. Managers and staff are encouraged to look at the example which covers the particular shift pattern appropriate to the situation; there is no need to look at every example.

Grampian data The local update for today is shown below.



[The Public Health Scotland daily dashboard is available to view via this link.](#)

Scottish Winter Respiratory Guidance 2021/22 addendum We want to start by correcting one point in yesterday's item about this guidance – it WILL apply in the dental sector. We apologise for any confusion caused.

Although the new guidance does mean a different approach to managing respiratory illnesses and moving to either respiratory or non-respiratory pathways, many familiar COVID-19 control measures will remain in place, as follows:

- The extended use of Fluid Repellent Surgical Masks (FRSMs)
- Current physical distancing arrangements
- Triage, before presentation to the facility where possible (via telephone, or handover from the Scottish Ambulance Service) will continue in all settings, to enable adequate control measures such as placement decisions and the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) to be considered in advance of arrival and enacted on arrival
- Triage at the facility will continue using the patient placement tool in hospital settings - and the triage question sets elsewhere - to enable adequate control measures such as placement decisions and the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) to be considered and enacted
- Alternative arrangements currently in place, such as NHS Near Me consultations will also continue
- Vehicle sharing controls will continue
- The use of filtering face piece (FFP3) masks during aerosol generating procedures (AGPs)
- The application of adequate fallow times following the conclusion of AGPs
- As currently, AGP hotspots with site wide control measures
- AGP controls, hotspots, and fallow times (acceptable lapse of time between most recent COVID-19 result is under review, to guide the need for full PPE and fallow times (or not) within the non-respiratory pathway)
- Within the non-respiratory pathway where an AGP is going to be undertaken, staff will require to use FFP3 and utilise the appropriate fallow times when a patient who has either been positive for COVID-19 within the previous 90 days, and is exempt from testing, OR for whom there is no evidence of a negative PCR result within the past 48 hours
- Staff can continue to apply a personal risk assessment within the non-respiratory pathway and opt to use FFP3 during all AGPs
- Day 1 and Day 5 COVID-19 testing for all inpatients on either pathway will continue
- The application of SICPs and TBPs as per NIPCM

In tomorrow's brief, we will consider what will change as a result of this new guidance. [You can read the new guidance in full online here.](#)

FFP3 Masks & Fit Testing Please make sure that your staff are fit tested. For staff that haven't been fit tested yet, and who require a fit test, please contact the fit testing hub to book an appointment gram.face-fit-appointment-hub@nhs.scot.

If you have a pass on a FFP3 mask but haven't used it for a while, please make sure you know the FFP3 mask that you can wear (have a pass for) and how to do the fit check for it (to check the seal is good to your face). You can contact the fit testing hub for guidance sheets on how to don, fit check and doff your FFP3 mask. Additional information about the FFP3 masks used in NHS Grampian can be found at this [link](#).

Ordering of FFP3 masks Foresterhill site: PPE store on the Site & Capacity corridor (ARI) or by emailing gram.covid19supplies@nhs.scot

All other sites: by emailing gram.covid19supplies@nhs.scot

If the personal risk assessment indicates an individual should wear a FFP3 mask instead of a FRSM, the individual must be informed that they must only use an un-valved FFP3 mask that they have a pass for.

World AIDS Day 2021 This takes place tomorrow (1 December). This year in Grampian we are marking World AIDS Day by raising awareness of how far we have come in the efforts to treat and prevent HIV. One of the biggest breakthroughs in the past few years has been the discovery that effective treatment for HIV can reduce the viral load to such a low level in the blood that it can't be passed on. This is known as U=U (Undetectable = Untransmittable). Look out for a special article in the Press and Journal tomorrow, focusing on the importance of understanding the U=U campaign and the importance of coming for testing, particularly in light of decreased testing during the pandemic.

Also tomorrow, there will be information stalls at Aberdeen City Vaccination Centre, Aberdeen Health Village, and the Fiona Elcock Vaccination Centre. Anti-stigma U=U badge holders will be made available to NHS Grampian staff, which we hope will help foster an anti-stigma approach in clinical service areas. Our Third Sector partner Four Pillars are running a remembrance service, hosted by the Rev. Scott Rennie, at 6pm at their headquarters on Regent Quay in Aberdeen.

For more information and where to get tested visit:

[NHS Grampian Sexual Health Service](#)

[Local patient forum and peer support service - Our Positive Voice \(Grampian\)](#)

[Up to date information about HIV in Scotland - HIV Scotland](#)

Tune of the day Jimmy Somerville's [Something To Live For](#) is our tune of the day. This is doubly appropriate choice, as the lyrics reference the treatments available now for HIV and AIDS (ahead of World AIDS Day tomorrow) and, as Jimmy was born in Greenock, it means we're featuring a Scottish artist on St Andrew's Day.

If you want to request a song for tune of the day, follow up on items included in this brief, or suggest an item for sharing, drop us an email via gram.communications@nhs.scot