

Here is the brief for Tuesday 6 July 2021.

**Chief Executive's update** [We start today's brief with a short video message from Prof Caroline Hiscox, reflecting on the current pressures across the healthcare system.](#) As Caroline notes in the video, it's not the most polished update she has ever presented, but she was keen to get a message out to as many of you as possible. If you want to raise issues or ask questions, you can contact Caroline at any time via [gram.grampianchiefexecutive@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.grampianchiefexecutive@nhs.scot)

**Staff use of Fluid Repellent Face Masks (FRSMs)** You'll already be aware we are now advising all hospital visitors to use FRSMs instead of their own fabric face coverings. Staff working in clinical areas are already required to use FRSMs at all times, in line with the current Scottish Government guidance. **NHS Grampian is now advising all staff working on-site to use FRSMs, whether they are in a clinical setting or not, in preference to a fabric face covering.**

This goes above and beyond the Scottish Government guidance, but it recognises the high level of community spread of COVID-19 at present. This change should be implemented as quickly as possible, recognising some areas may need to order additional/new supplies.

The FRSM is a business-as-usual stock item and must be ordered from the NDC via your Ward Product Specialist or on PECOS using SKU code 249824.

Disposal of FRSMs is via the orange waste stream. Where an area does not have orange waste then disposal should be via the black waste stream. The lidded bin is a business-as-usual stock item and must be ordered from Linton (Environmental Hygiene) on PECOS using SKU code 1010STSC.

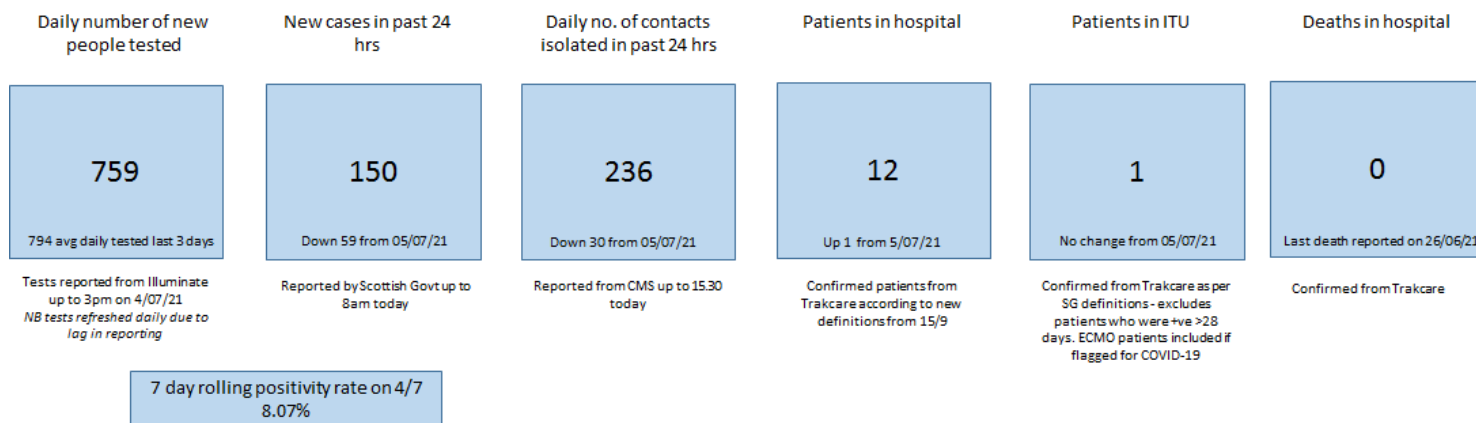
[The FAQ on the Use of Face Masks in Health & Social Care Settings has been updated to reflect these changes and is available on the Staff pages of the COVID-19 website.](#) Wherever possible, we should all continue to work at home and only attend the workplace when absolutely necessary.

**Inpatient use of Fluid Repellent Face Masks (FRSMs)** A recent sprint audit carried out in ARI and DGH found a significant increase in compliance by inpatients, with appropriate mandatory wearing of FRSMs. This is thanks to staff encouraging patients to wear FRSMs where possible and clear communication of the need for this to colleagues and patients in innovative ways. Thank you and well done to all for this improvement to reduce the risk of infection transmission in in-patient settings!

**Do you think you are a close contact?** We are coming across cases where a health or social care worker knows that they have been in close contact with a case of COVID-19, and yet they are concerned that no-one from Test & Protect has been in touch with them. This can happen for a few reasons. In this very busy period, it might simply be due to a delay in telephoning the index case. Sometimes however it is due to the index case not naming you as a close contact, either in a phone call or, more likely, when they are completing the online form. Any health or social care worker who finds themselves in this position should not attend work and should e-mail [gram.contacttracing@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.contacttracing@nhs.scot) advising who the index case is and the date of their last contact with this person. A contact tracer will then be in touch. By doing this you will get confirmation of your need to isolate for showing to your manager, and you may prevent infecting your patients, clients or colleagues.

**Escalating issues out of hours** We shared information in yesterday's brief about the correct process to follow when alerting senior staff on-call/out of hours. The document referred to the arrangements for ARI, when it should have stated Foresterhill Health Campus, as the same arrangements cover ARI/AMH/RACH. We apologise for any confusion caused.

**Grampian data** Here is the local update for today, including the 7-day rolling positivity rate. As a reminder, this rate is arrived at by dividing the number of positive tests in the past 7 days by the number of tests carried out in the past 7 days. Repeat tests are included in both categories. The figure for the "daily number of new people tested" is only for the number of tests for people who have not been tested previously. A national update is available on the [Public Health Scotland daily dashboard](#).



**COVID-19 vaccination programme** All COVID-19 vaccination clinics in Grampian are open for drop-ins for anyone aged 18 and over. This can be for first doses, or for second doses (provided you are at least 8 weeks from your first dose). The Fiona Elcock Vaccination Centre (Elgin) and P&J Live (Aberdeen) are open 7 days a week. The clinics in Stonehaven, Inverurie, Macduff, Fraserburgh, Peterhead, Banchory, and Huntly operate Monday-Friday. [Full addresses for all clinics are available on the dedicated COVID-19 vaccination website](#). In addition, special clinics are taking place in a number of locations across Aberdeen City. These are advertised via the NHS Grampian social media accounts.

**Digital Ward – information stall** Digital working is coming to wards across NHS Grampian soon. This is the start of the transition from paper based to electronic recording. A stall is available in the staff marquee near to the Rotunda Entrance, ARI on the following dates:

**Wednesday 7 July 2021 10am to 3pm/Friday 9 July 2021 10am to 3pm**

eHealth Application Trainers will be available to discuss the transition and answer your questions. There's no need to book, just pop along.

**Launch of the NHSScotland M365 Skills Hub** To help you get the most from Microsoft 365, the [NHSScotland M365 Skills Hub](#) has launched. This online learning resource combines bite-sized learning content from Microsoft with custom guidance on the use of the tools within the NHSScotland setting.

The NHSScotland M365 Skills Hub is available at: <https://scottish.sharepoint.com/sites/M365SkillsHub> and also from a new app which will appear in the main Teams navigation bar over the coming weeks. Content will be updated on a regular basis with both Microsoft and internal resources.

**Thought for the day** At 9.55pm on 6 July 1988 there was a catastrophic explosion on the Piper Alpha oil rig that would lead to the loss of 167 lives – brothers, sons, husbands, friends. It was an event that shook this part of the world to its core and we all probably know someone with a story to tell that connects them to Piper Alpha. The enormous failures on that day were detailed in the Cullen enquiry report which was published two years later and led to 106 recommendations for safety improvements across the oil and gas industry.

Thinking about an event of such awful magnitude, which resonates even now, made me really stop and think about how our many months of COVID will be viewed in the future. Will we tell 'war stories' of fighting the virus on the frontlines? Of gruelling shifts on COVID wards? Will Care Home staff remember the fear of 'bringing the virus in'? Will children remember the months of home schooling? And what recommendations will any future enquiry bring? If a terrible moment in time can leave a psychological imprint on the collective consciousness in our wee corner of Scotland, what will COVID do?



(By Lizzie, CC BY-SA 2.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=1874580>)

**Tune of the day** Huge thanks to Lyn Pirie (Alzheimer's Scotland Dementia Nurse Consultant) for suggesting today's tune – [Strange Boat by The Waterboys](#). A mellow moment to end (or start) your working day.

**Get in touch!** If you've got a question, an item to share with people working in health & social care, or just want to suggest a tune of the day, we want to hear from you! Drop us a line via [gram.communications@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.communications@nhs.scot).