

Here is the brief for Tuesday 8 February 2022.

Operation Iris update We wanted to share an update with you all on the various actions taken as part of Operation Iris. As a reminder, this covers the NHS Grampian response to both winter pressures and COVID-19.

- Wards 303 and 304 at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary were opened as 'surge' wards. The intention is to keep them open until the conclusion of Operation Iris (early April). An exit strategy is being developed, looking at a range of options for concluding the use of these wards in this way.
- Portfolio Leads are considering how and where nursing staff can be deployed to ensure wards 303/304 have a substantive workforce of 50%, while also utilising bank and/or agency staff, along with the military support we currently have in place. Given the current preference to deploy existing nursing staff, the deployment of non-clinical staff into clinical areas is currently no longer under consideration.
- Longer term solutions are being planned which will build on lessons learnt during Operation Iris. The aim is to reduce the reliance on temporary deployment when future surges are experienced.
- A number of you have requested access to hot meals out of hours. We're happy to say vending machines providing 24/7 access to chilled meals which can be reheated will be installed during March/April. These will be sited in ED at ARI, RCH and Woodend. Dr Gray's and AMH already have access to out of hours facilities.

FFP3 Masks & Fit Testing for NHS Grampian Employed Staff Please make sure that your staff are fit tested. For staff who haven't been fit tested yet, and 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.

Staff with fit tests done prior to April 2020, are being recalled via email by the fit testing hub. Staff are encouraged to check their emails to ensure they do not miss important correspondence.

Please note that the 3M 1863 mask was discontinued at the end of March 2021 and must not be used. If you only have a pass on the 3M 1863 mask please book a fit test appointment. The 3M 1863 and the 3M 1863+ masks are different masks and are NOT interchangeable. To be able to wear the 3M 1863+ mask you must have passed a fit test on it.

Additional information about the FFP3 masks used in NHS Grampian [can be found at this link](#) (intranet link, networked devices only).

Free sanitary products for staff, patients and visitors in NHS Grampian In April 2019 Scottish Government gave the instruction to increase access to free sanitary products in all NHS Boards. Patients are catered for using ward supplies, so the task was to ensure good access for both staff and visitors. We have multiple sites, spread out across a wide area, so an apparently simple job became increasingly complex. Our Domestic & Support Services team stepped up and set to work identifying where all toilets are located across our many sites.

One of the first hurdles they encountered is that there was not a suitable dispenser option available. The work was then paused with the onset of the pandemic. However, despite significant additional work, the team got back to work last year, working with SaniStation a UK based firm to design a bespoke dispenser. This needed to be gender-neutral, compliant with all Infection Protection & Control measures, and robust. Here's what they developed:



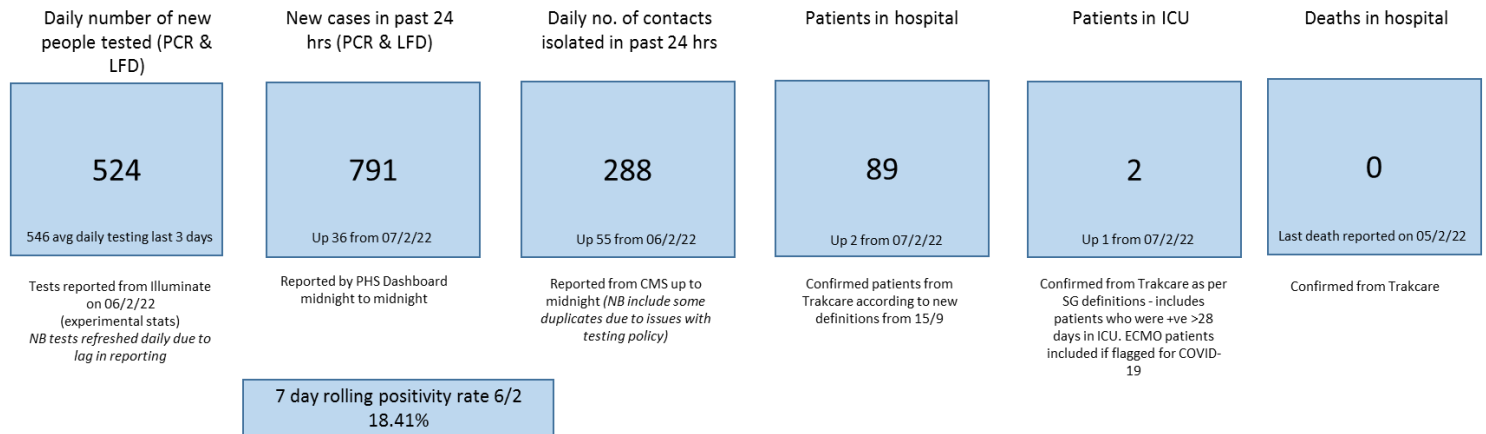
These dispensers have now been installed in just under 200 toilets, with approximately 900 more to come. A list of locations with dispensers installed is available on the [Domestic & Support Services intranet page](#) (networked devices only).

Gillian Poskitt, Head of Domestic & Support Services, said: “This has been a long time coming and I want to pay particular tribute to Pauline Matthews, Donna Duncan, and Cherri Young for their hard work and dedication. They were committed to ensuring we came up with a gender-neutral solution, which can be installed in all toilets, to ensure all those in need can access these products. I am also very grateful to the We Care programme for their funding of the next batch of dispensers. We don't think this is 'job done' either; our next tasks are ensuring greater availability of sustainable products and regrouping with our Public Health colleagues”

If you are working in a clinical area which doesn't have a dispenser installed, you can access the ward/department stocks. If you aren't in a clinical area, you can contact any member of the Domestic & Support Services team to arrange supplies. For any feedback, further information or questions please email: gram.domestic@nhs.scot, or speak to the Assistant Domestic Services Manager for your area (team organisational chart [found here on our intranet page](#))

Reminder - Annual Leave buyback and carry over As communicated in November 2021, all employees are expected, wherever possible, to take all their accumulated leave by the end of the 2021/22 leave year however it is recognised that service demands have meant this has been difficult for some colleagues. The preference remains for managers and staff to work together to ensure all leave is taken where this is feasible. This is to support wellbeing by getting rest and recuperation, which managers should both encourage and facilitate. All requests to take annual leave should still be considered to enable staff to rest and recuperate. A local communication, outlining the options where it is not possible to take the entirety of the accumulated leave due to service demands, is available on the [intranet news pages](#) (networked devices only). Please read it carefully to understand how it affects you.

Grampian data The local update for today is shown below. A complete national report, including the option to view cases at a neighbourhood level, [is available via the Public Health Scotland daily dashboard](#).



The Scottish Government have confirmed today that this weekend coming (12/13 February) will be the final weekend they publish COVID-19 data on their website. Instead they will publish a full round up on Mondays.

Ticket offer Aberdeen Performing Arts have a limited number of free tickets available for Jason Manford at the Music Hall tomorrow (Wednesday 9 February). You can claim a maximum of two tickets, via the link below, using code JASONCOMP. Please note this offer is open to staff only and is first come, first served.

<https://www.aberdeenperformingarts.com/whats-on/jason-manford-like-me/>

Tune of the day Mandy Garden requests today's tune – she's gone for the very uplifting 1984 hit [You Take Me Up](#) by The Thompson Twins.

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