

Here is the brief for Tuesday 8 March 2022.

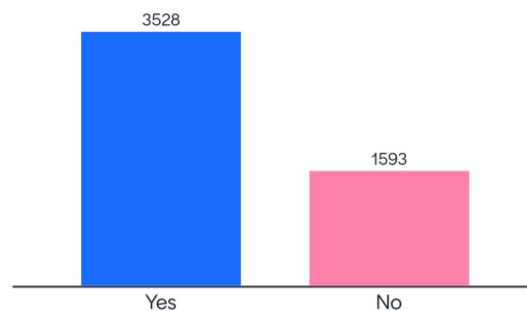
Crisis in Ukraine NHS Grampian is keen to support our staff who have been personally affected by family circumstances or wish to assist with the crisis in Ukraine. In order to discuss the support available Line Managers should call the HR Hub on ext 52888/01224 552888 to discuss the individual situation.

Last week we shared details of fundraising appeals by British Red Cross and UNICEF. Since then the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC), an umbrella body bringing together 15 UK aid charities, have launched their collective appeal. [Details on this, should you wish to donate, are available here.](#)

The future of mask wearing We are delighted to say 5121 people took part in our question on face covering usage. With the legal requirement to wear them in certain settings expected to be lifted on 21 March, we were keen to test the mood, not just among you as health & social staff, but also among the wider public. The results are below:

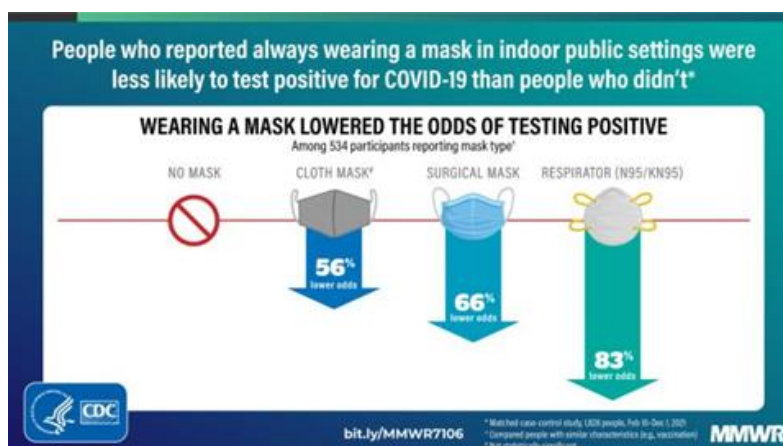
The legal requirement to wear face coverings in certain settings* will end on 21 March 2022. Do you plan to continue wearing them after 21 March 2022?

Mentimeter



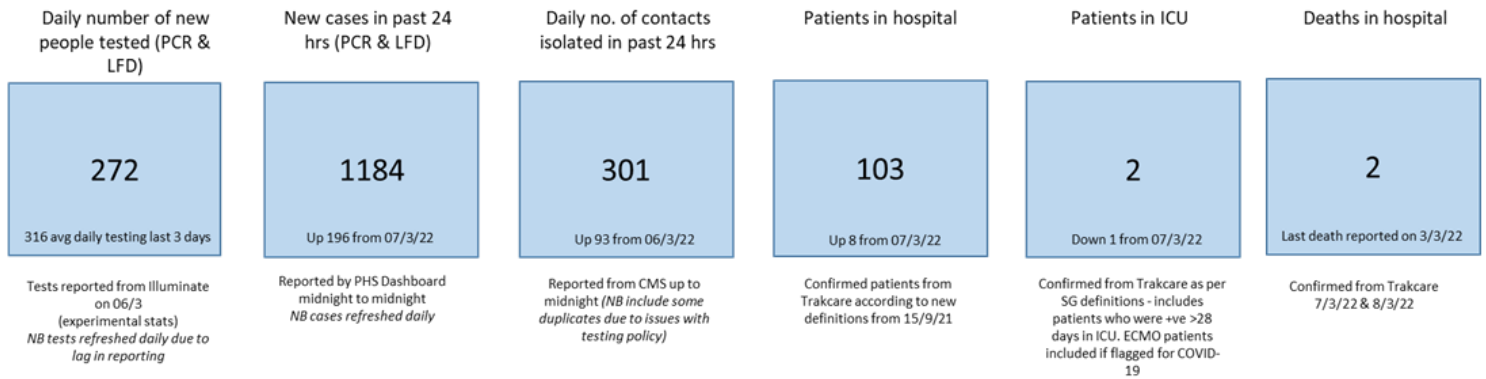
5121

It's hugely heartening to see how many people plan to continue to wear face coverings. It will remain a strong recommendation to do so and as a health board we absolutely support continued face covering usage. We've shared this graphic in the brief before, but think it's worth a repeat; research by the Centre for Disease Control [demonstrating the effectiveness of various types of mask](#):



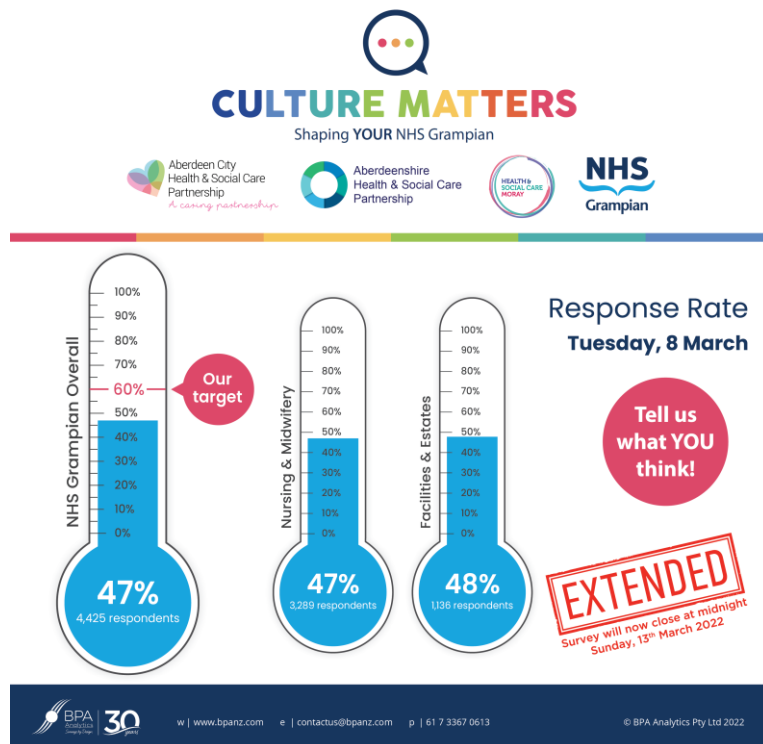
As we have highlighted, we will continue to use Fluid Repellent Surgical Masks in healthcare settings, as part of the wider national infection prevention & control guidance.

Grampian data The local report is shown below. For those of you who keep an eye on these blue boxes, you will have noticed increasing cases in the community over recent weeks. This is mainly affecting young children (4-12) and people over 50. Admissions to hospital have increased slightly (101 in the last 7 days compared to 90 in the previous week) and the number of possible or definite hospital onset cases has increased a little too. This has meant our daily hospital occupancy remains high. National modelling indicates that we should expect continued fluctuation and pressure for a number of weeks yet.



A complete national report, including the option to view cases at a neighbourhood level, [is available via the Public Health Scotland daily dashboard](#).

Culture Matters survey – deadline approaching The survey will close this Sunday (13 March), so time is running out to have your say! The survey is open to everyone working in Nursing & Midwifery and Facilities & Estates, with a target response rate of 60%. You can see the current progress below; a huge thank you to everyone who has had their say already. Once completed, keep your password slip safe, as this also acts as your ticket for a prize draw. Winners will be selected from those who complete and submit the survey.



Scottish Apprenticeship Week This annual event, celebrating the vital role apprenticeships play for individuals, employers, and the economy, runs until Friday. Throughout this week, we are sharing videos of some of our current apprentices on the NHS Grampian social media accounts – be sure to check them out! This year also marks FIFTY years since the North-Eastern Regional Hospitals Board (as we were then) first hired apprentices. Two 16-year-olds – Jim and Norman – were paid the princely sum of £21 a week and after 12 months continual service were entitled to 15 days of annual leave. Terms and conditions have changed a fair bit since then, but our commitment to developing the young workforce has not. Thank you to all our apprentices and to all the teams who support them.

International Women's Day We have two snippets of healthcare history to share with you on IWD2022 (with thanks to Fiona Musk, NHS Grampian Archivist):

The North-Eastern Regional Hospitals Board (mentioned above) came into being in 1947. The first chair, until her retirement in 1960, was Lady May Baird – the first woman to hold such a position on a regional hospital board. She was a qualified doctor, who variously served as a councillor in Aberdeen, as a governor of the BBC, and as a member of a Royal Commission on marriage and divorce. The Baird Family Hospital is named in honour of her and her family.

Myra McKenzie was the first female medical graduate at the University of Aberdeen, completing her studies in 1900. She was appointed as House Physician & Surgeon at Royal Aberdeen Hospital for Sick Children later that year and is – we believe – the first qualified female doctor appointed in Aberdeen, though there are records of women running hospitals locally prior to this.

Tune of the day Else Smaaskjaer comes in with a very topical suggestion for International Women's Day – [Helen Reddy with I am Woman](#). Here's to strong women – may we know them, may we raise them, may we be them.

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