

Here is the brief for Thursday 23 September 2021.

Reminder - Eye protection Only products ordered via gram.covid19supplies@nhs.scot or PECOS meet the required H&S and IPC Standards. This Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is intended to prevent eye exposure to chemicals, blood or bodily fluids by splash or spray (including transmissible infectious agents, such as COVID-19). It is very important that while wearing wear visors or goggles whilst undertaking any aerosol-generating procedures if the FFP3 device used does not have a valve. If the FFP3 device you use has a valve, only a visor can be worn. Please be aware that if you are using FFP3 equipment, you must wear the same model of eye protection that you wore when being fit tested. If you wish to change your eye protection, you will be required to be fit tested again with the appropriate eye protection.

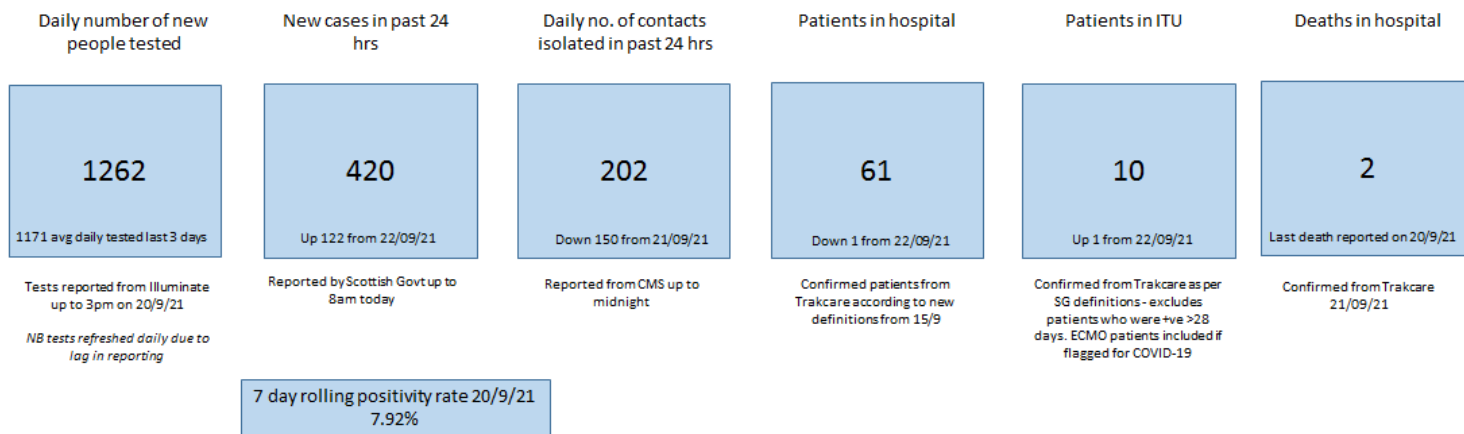
- Eye protection should be removed after providing direct care for patient(s) isolated with suspected or known infectious pathogens such as COVID-19 and whenever departing from the high & medium risk COVID-19 pathways (Red and Amber)
- Staff must not purchase items independently as these may not meet the required safety standards.
- Regular corrective spectacles are not classified as Personal Protective Equipment and do not protect the eyes from exposure risks, therefore those wearing spectacles should also wear goggles. If the goggles available do not fit over the prescription glasses then a visor should be worn.
- Safety glasses are NOT currently considered eye protection under EN standards and therefore not recommended in Scotland at present.
- Eye protection must be changed if damaged, soiled, compromised, or it becomes uncomfortable. There are two types of visor and one type of goggle available, which have recently been reviewed by IPCT colleagues on behalf of the local PPE Cell. Please be aware that single use, disposable visors remain the primary stock item held in NHSG which are suitable for the application of both droplet and airborne precautions. Reusable goggles are also available, for droplet and airborne precautions, where it has been risk assessed that visors are not suitable to undertake care delivery.

Autumn/Winter vaccinations – ARI clinic If you have booked your vaccination appointment in the ARI clinic, (Ophthalmology out-patient department theatres, Level 3, Yellow Zone), **please access this via the staircase directly across from Marks & Spencer in the main concourse**. The route is signposted. Please only use the lift if absolutely necessary, as footfall will be greatly increased in an already busy clinical area. The waiting area for this clinic is small, therefore do not arrive more than 5 minutes in advance. Please ensure you check-in at the desk **before** joining the queue.

If you are having any issues recovering the account details required to book your appointment, you should call the national COVID-19 Status Helpline on **0808 196 8565**. The helpline is open every day from 10am to 6pm.

Text scams We continue to receive reports of various scam text messages, received by staff and the general public alike. These have covered everything from links to book PCR tests to access to proof of vaccine certification. What these scams all have in common is a request for payment. Please remember (and tell friends, family, neighbours, colleagues) that there is **no charge** for any of these services on the NHS. Any message requesting for payment for these services is not genuine and should be deleted.

Grampian data The local update for today is shown below.



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

Let's get quizzical We've designed a short quiz, to test how well you understand vaccine effectiveness, COVID-19 protective measures, and the virus itself. [Six statements are available at this link, you just have to indicate whether you think they are true or false.](#) This hasn't been designed to 'catch people out' – as ever, we're trying to gauge your knowledge and understanding, to see if we need to provide you with more information or explanation. The quiz shouldn't take more than a minute to participate in and we'll share the answers tomorrow!

Temporary Stock of Alcohol Based Hand Sanitisers At the start of the pandemic we had several alternative Alcohol Based Hand Sanitisers provided across the system, where stock of the usual products was very low. Alcohol Based Hand Rub (ABHR) products are now being supplied steadily through the National Distribution Centre (NDC) and can be sourced through PECOS or via your Ward Product Management (WPM) service. As per Infection Control guidance any products sourced outwith this route should no longer be in use and should be disposed of locally (large quantities can be returned to the Central Stores Warehouse).

Assistance with product ordering can be requested via gram.logscustserv@nhs.scot or through your WPM. Further advice can be requested via Infection Control grampian.infectioncontrol@nhs.scot

Unpaid Carers and hospital discharge This week sees the launch of a six-month pilot project to look at how we can better involve and support Unpaid Carers in the discharge process for the person they care for. Staff at three Community Hospitals - Chalmers in Banff, Glen O'Dee in Banchory and Stephen Hospital in Dufftown – will be undertaking a short questionnaire with all unpaid carers to help them be more involved in the discharge process and ensure that they have all the information they need. Anecdotally we know that many carers do not feel as involved as they should be in the process and this pilot will help us to look at how we can embed best practice and fulfil our obligations under the Carers Act (2016) across our organisations.

NMC - Meet the regulator - 6 October, 1pm If you are registered with the NMC, we have an opportunity for you to meet Linda Martin, the Regulation Adviser for Scotland and Anne Trotter, Assistant Director of Education and Standards. This is your chance to find out more about the work of the NMC, learn more about the Fitness to Practice process and hear some case studies, ask questions about registration and revalidation. This event is open to all NMC members and all student nurses/midwives. To book your place, just email catriona.sutherland@nhs.scot

If you are unable to attend you are still welcome to submit a question, the event will be recorded, and a link made available to view afterwards.

Sex, Drugs, and Scotland's Health This virtual conference takes place 19-21 October, jointly organised by HIV Scotland and IReSH (Scottish Interdisciplinary Research in Sexual Health network). [More information on the event, including booking details, is available via this link.](#)

Tune of the day It's over to Sandy Reid for today's choice – and he's gone for a U2 classic. According to Sandy, [I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For](#) holds great memories of seeing the band not once, but twice.

We're always on the look-out for your suggestions of a great song to end the day (or start it, depending on when you read this brief) so just drop us a line via gram.communications@nhs.scot That's also your first port of call if you've got any queries or an item to share.