

Tuesday 31 May 2022

Phased return to person-centred visiting From tomorrow (1 June), we are removing the need to make a pre-arranged appointment in many of our clinical settings. Some clinical areas are still operating an appointment system. Patients, relatives, or friends are being advised to discuss visiting with the Senior Charge Nurse/ Senior Charge Midwife during admission to the clinical area. Briefings for both staff and the public have been attached to the email used to send out this brief.

De-escalation of COVID-19 infection prevention & control measures On 31 March all health boards were given instructions on the stepping down of IPC measures, introduced due to the pandemic. Since then, an enormous amount of work has been undertaken to ensure we implement those instructions. This work has now concluded, and we wanted to share a complete list of the new policies and procedures:

[New template risk assessment for managers to support staff with health conditions](#) (intranet link, networked devices only)

[Standard Operating Procedure for respiratory & non-respiratory pathway allocation, testing, and reporting](#) (intranet link, networked devices only)

[New staff asymptomatic COVID-19 testing flow chart](#)

There will always be a need to update documents, so please ensure you consult the Occupational Health and/or IPCT intranet pages to ensure you are using the most up to date versions. In addition, several clinical areas helped to pilot changes in pre-operative testing. Those pilots have gone well and this is now being rolled out to the appropriate areas. Thank you to everyone who supported this work; it was a significant undertaking coming alongside all usual duties. The group plan to meet again at the end of June to finalise any further tasks and to close the working group.

COVID-19 facts & figures In previous weeks, we have shared detailed updates on the state of the virus in Grampian, along with a video presentation. This is being discontinued, instead we will now share some bullet points on a weekly basis. Here is the current picture:

- 1 in 40 people had COVID in the 7 days to 21 May, an increase from 1 in 45 the week before. It is not yet clear whether this represents a plateau or even the start of a rise in prevalence.
- 34 COVID admissions in last 7 days, which is the same number seen a week earlier. It is unclear yet whether this represents the slow downward trend in cases reaching a plateau or whether it represents normal fluctuation
- COVID hospital occupancy may also have plateaued, after previously showing a long-term slow downward trend. Currently 58 occupied beds (vs 63 a week previously).

- Omicron sub-lineages BA.4 and BA.5 have been classified as variants of concern and have driven a new wave of covid infection in South Africa. These new variants make up a very small proportion of infections, but they are increasing particularly in the south of England and West Midlands. Early international data suggests that both new variants are likely to have a growth advantage over BA.2

Monkeypox Shortly after yesterday’s brief was issued, Public Health Scotland announced a fourth case of monkeypox has been confirmed in Scotland. The risk to the general public remains extremely low; if you are looking for more information, [please consult NHS Inform](#).

NHS Scotland Event 2022 This annual event is back, in-person, and coming to Aberdeen for the first time ever. Colleagues from across the NHS will gather at P&J Live on 21 & 22 June. The programme is [available to view here](#) and we’re encouraging as many of you to register for the event as possible. It is free of charge for NHS, H&SCP, and local authority staff – [you can register here](#).

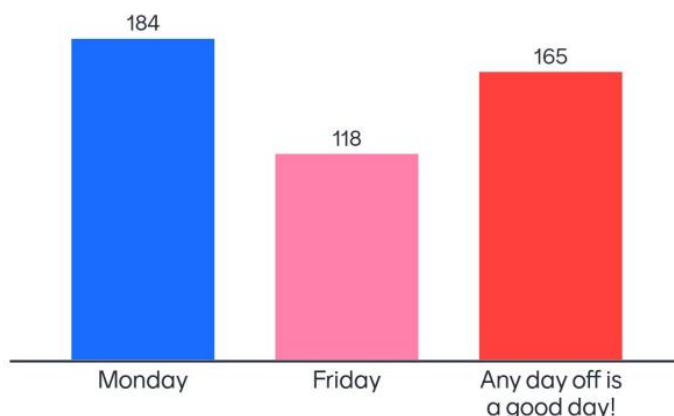
Grampian Guidance newsletter Issue 7 of the Grampian Guidance newsletter, keeping you informed of developments by the Grampian Guidance Team, is now available. Along with all previous newsletters, this one can be found on our resource via this link [Grampian Guidance - Home Page](#) or directly here [Grampian Guidance - Newsletter - Issue 7](#). Thank you for your continued support and any feedback is always gratefully received.

Bike for a Bite To celebrate Bike Week (starting Monday 6 June), we are giving away food and drink gift vouchers as a reward to NHS Grampian staff who cycle to work at any point during bike week. Make sure to get your bike out of the shed and ready for action in time for Bike Week. Pedal to work at least one day of the week and send us a photo of you in action or once you’ve arrived at work or even your Strava map to gram.activetravel@nhs.scot. Participating staff who work at Foresterhill Health Campus, Royal Cornhill Hospital, Woodend Hospital and Dr Gray’s Hospital will be rewarded with a voucher to spend on site for a drink and a sandwich or cake. Staff who work at other sites or from home can still take part but instead of a food voucher, they will be entered into a prize draw for a £20 bike shop voucher. Remember to state where you work when you submit your photo entry. [Please click here to visit My Healthy Workplace](#) to read through the full information and T&Cs on the scheme.

Just for fun The votes are in and when it comes to Public Holidays you definitely prefer a Monday. However, to the 165 of you who said any day off is a good day, you are definitely my people!

When it comes to Public Holidays, do you prefer a Monday or a Friday?

Mentimeter



467

Tune of the day This could be a controversial choice, or maybe it will be right up your street. Julie Stewart (Police custody nurse) is taking us back to 1977, to the Silver Jubilee, and to four punk upstarts who released a record almost immediately banned by the BBC and independent radio stations. Our tune of the day is [God Save The Queen by Sex Pistols](#) (EP).

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