

Here is the brief for Thursday 25 March 2021.

Pay offer – Agenda for Change staff As you will have seen in local and national media today, a national pay offer for Agenda for Change staff has been made for the financial year 2021/22 but with additional backdating to 1 December 2020. A consultation process, which can take up to 6 weeks, has started and once agreement has been reached final approval will be required. Any agreed pay offer will be shared with staff in due course, including timescales for payment.

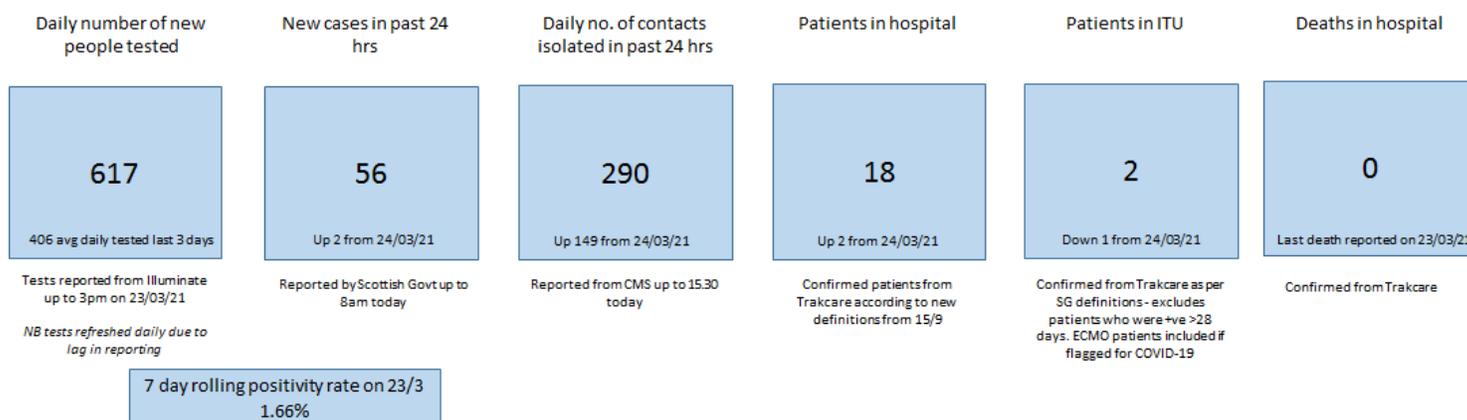
COVID-19 vaccination – staff programme Staff vaccination clinics at **RCH/Woodend/ARI** will close on Wednesday 31 March. After this any Aberdeen staff who require a first or second dose will be allocated appointments at P&J Live.

Regrettably, there have been a small number of instances where members of staff calling to book appointments have been rude to the admin staff. Please bear in mind that these are your colleagues and remember the importance of treating everyone with respect. The booking team staff will attempt to contact everyone on more than one occasion to book second doses but beyond that you must take personal responsibility for arranging your appointment.

Working at home Since the start of the pandemic, it has been the position of the organisation that those of you who can work at home, should work at home. Although we expect easing of lockdown restrictions in the coming weeks, along with the resumption of full-time schooling for secondary pupils, there is no change to this position. Please continue to work at home if you are able to.

Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS) inspection A team from HIS have completed a two-day visit to ARI, meeting staff and patients in a number of areas throughout the hospital. The Acute Sector management team want to record their thanks to all the teams who participated in this. The professionalism and openness of staff was commented on by the inspection team. Feedback and a formal report will follow in due course; this will be shared with all those involved.

Grampian data The local figures for today and the 7 day rolling positivity rate are shown below. 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, whereas the figures we show here only record new tests. If you want to see more detailed information, including cases at neighbourhood level, click [here](#) for the Public Health Scotland daily dashboard.



Decontamination of reusable, non-invasive equipment during COVID-19 As per the current Scottish COVID-19 addendum, decontamination of reusable, non-invasive, care equipment within the amber and red COVID-19 pathways requires to be carried out with a combined detergent & chlorine releasing agent. Non-invasive care equipment should also be rinsed with water, following the elapse of the appropriate contact time, to avoid pitting or excoriation of certain surfaces.

Detergent wipes (yellow) remain available within NHSG for use within the green COVID-19 pathway, and general surface cleaning out with the amber and red COVID-19 pathways. Detergent wipes (yellow) are also available for any equipment or surfaces which cannot withstand chlorine releasing agents. These items should be cleaned & then disinfected as per manufacturer's instructions or as per the current A to Z. 70 % alcohol wipes are available to enable disinfection of e.g., shared electrical equipment such as keyboards and for some items which manufacturers state are not able to withstand chlorine releasing agents.

Further information is available at the following links:

[National Infection Prevention and Control Manual: Scottish COVID-19 Infection Prevention and Control Addendum for Acute Settings](#)

[National Infection Prevention and Control Manual: Appendix 7 - Best Practice - Decontamination of reusable non-invasive care equipment \(scot.nhs.uk\)](#)

Recall reminders – FFP3 masks and Type II masks As circulated in previous briefs, certain items of PPE are being recalled, as follows:

FFP3 The revalidation of the 3M FFP3 masks will run out at the end of March 2021. NHS Grampian Fit Testers have continued to work hard to face fit test staff to an alternative mask. The following masks will be withdrawn from 31 March 2021: **1863 & 1873V**. All stocks of 1863 and 1873V masks must be returned w/c 29 March as they must not be used beyond 31 March 2021. To avoid any confusion this update is referring to the **3M 1863** and **not** the **3M 1863+** which is still a valid product. As of 31 March 2021 all masks used must have an in date expiry date on the box. To return, please mark the box with the name of the product and "For Quarantine" and return to Central Stores Warehouse

Type II masks Although they have been removed from the NDC catalogue, we are aware that some stocks of Type II masks (**non-fluid repellent**) may still be in circulation. These include Molnlycke and Medline brand names. These masks are not appropriate PPE and should not be used. The following product codes have been purchased in NHSG in the past – 143665, 217311, and 237913. If you have any of these Type II masks in use or storage, please do not use; instead quarantine them and contact gram.covid19supplies@nhs.scot to arrange a return. Please be reminded that all Personal protective equipment (PPE) should comply with the [National Infection Prevention and Control Manual](#). Staff should be provided with Type IIR fluid repellent masks in accordance with guidance and this is often indicated with an "R" in the product code.

Multi-storey car park, Foresterhill Health Campus The multi storey car park at Foresterhill Health Campus will be closed from **6pm on Friday 26 March** until **6.30am on Monday 29 March**, to allow for maintenance work. The work involves new signage and markings, to improve traffic flow around the facility. There have been issues with congestion in the past; this work will mean an improved experience for all users. Staff will be on hand when the facility reopens to guide motorists as required. From 6pm on Friday 26 March, no new vehicles will be permitted to enter the facility. We would encourage anyone using the multi-storey car park during Friday to ensure their vehicle is moved before 6pm, however exit will still be allowed after 6pm if this is not possible. All other on-site car parking at Foresterhill, including on the core site, will remain open throughout the weekend works. As ever, we would ask those coming to the site to park responsibly and ensure disabled spaces and emergency access are left clear for those who need them. We apologise for any inconvenience these works may cause.

Thought for the day – every day is a school day Thank you to Dr Lambrini Psiouri (consultant neonatologist) who expanded my knowledge by informing me that it is 200 years to the day since the Greek Independence Revolution. Dr Psiouri's thoughts are full of their home country today. This set me thinking about all of us working in health & social care who find ourselves far (or indeed, really far) from home. The past 12 months has made that distance feel all the greater, though the exact number of miles remains the same. I cannot deny I am looking forward to the day when I can set foot on home soil again, but I am also enormously grateful for the home and community I have built here. I hope everyone reading, wherever they are from, is able to say the same.

Questions to ask? Information to share? If you have particular questions – or are aware of questions coming from friends and family – please share them with us. We may not be able to answer every question and it may take us time to get a proper answer, but we will endeavour to respond and share the answers. You can get in touch with us via gram.communications@nhs.scot. Please also use that email address if you have items for consideration for future briefs.