

Here is the brief for Friday 12 March 2021.

COVID-19 vaccination – performance You may have seen coverage in recent days, raising concerns about NHS Grampian’s performance in the vaccination programme. Firstly, we want to put on record our thanks and gratitude to every person working on this programme. It is a huge enterprise and subject to frequent change due to circumstances outwith our control. Secondly, it must be remembered that the published statistics focus on the percentage of those aged 16 and over who have been vaccinated. In a programme where the vaccination of cohorts is tightly controlled nationally, the percentage of the population vaccinated will largely depend on the relative numbers of patients in each cohort, i.e., how many people in each of those groups live in a particular health board area. Population level uptake reflects our demographics in Grampian, not vaccine rollout efficiency or performance. Once again, well done to everyone working on this programme.

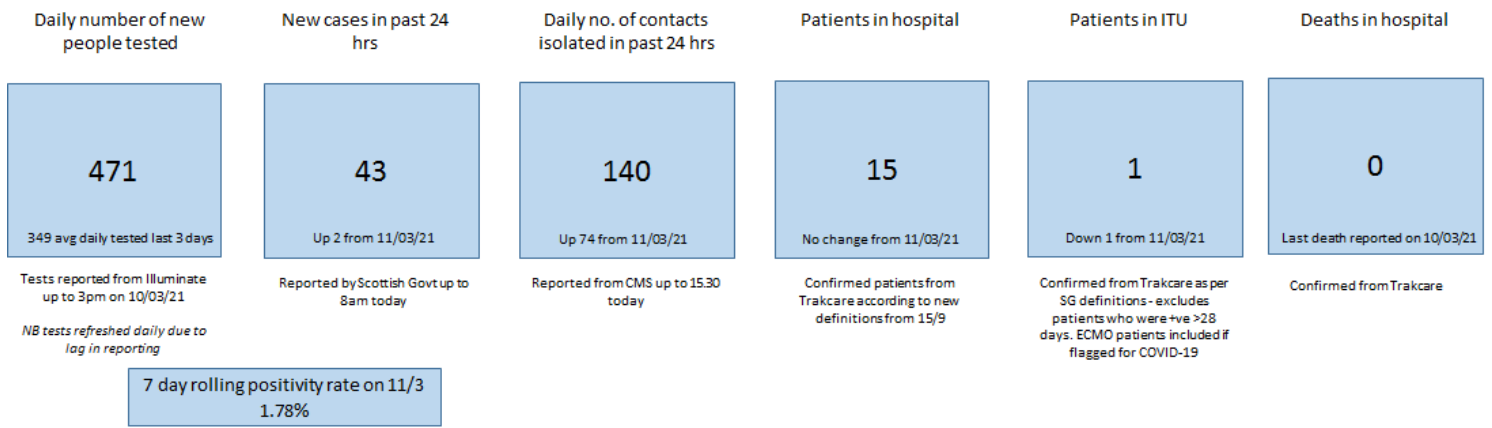
COVID-19 vaccination – staff programme We have had a number of requests for an update on the staff vaccination programme. In line with the other UK nations, Scotland is following the JCVI guidance, which gives priority to health & social care staff (including private providers and Third Sector organisations) whose role brings them into direct contact with patients or clients. Good progress is being made in this, with second doses now being administered. In addition, a new block of first dose appointments is being booked and contact made with those staff.

The programme is subject to constant update and refinement. Which members of health & social care staff should be prioritised has become more tightly defined as part of this process. All boards are expected to follow the priority guidance in order to ensure consistent delivery of the vaccine across Scotland. We know there are still many of you waiting for your first appointment. If you have submitted an appointment request form, please be assured we have received it and are working through these requests, in line with the priority guidance. You do not need to do anything further at present. The staff programme is not independent of the public programme and there is one supply stream for both. If you are called for an appointment through one of the public cohorts – and appointments will shortly be issued for those aged 55-59 and 50-54 – please attend that appointment.

Everyone involved in the programme is grateful for the patience shown by staff. Thank-you.

COVID-19 vaccinations – unpaid carers From 8am on Monday 15 March, a new service will launch to allow unpaid carers to register themselves for vaccinations. Anyone aged between 16 and 64 and providing regular face-to-face care for a family member or friend who may have a disability, physical or mental ill-health, a developmental condition, frailty or substance misuse, is eligible. The service can be accessed at nhsinform.scot/carersregister (please note this website is not currently live). If individuals are unable to get online, they can also phone the Vaccination helpline on 0800 030 8013. When registering they will be asked for some personal details such as name, address and date of birth. They will also be asked for contact preferences.

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.



If you've been tracking the numbers we publish each day, you will know we're not out of the woods yet. Since early January, when the number of COVID-19 cases each day in Grampian was around 250, there has been a fairly steady fall in daily cases. However, since mid-February the numbers steadied and as restrictions ease, we could well begin to see a rise again. The numbers just now are only down to the levels that we experienced in October and are much greater than the three or four cases per day over the summer months last year. There is no single explanation for this. The testing of close contacts has thrown up a few asymptomatic cases, some have been associated with foreign travel and there have been small outbreaks associated with schools, care homes and workplaces. But the clear message is that community spread of the virus is still happening. The oft repeated messages about preventing spread still apply.

Redesign of Urgent Care (RUC) From 1 December 2020 the way the public access urgent care services changed across Scotland. The purpose of this change is to improve patient flow across the unscheduled care service, reduce crowding in A&E/Minor Injury Units and to improve safety for staff and patients. Please find below a Q&A summary to explain these changes.

- **What has changed in the way the public access urgent care?** People who need to access urgent care are now required to call 111 to find out the best place or way for them to receive this care. If, however, a person is seriously ill or injured they would still dial 999 or attend their nearest A&E department immediately. This part of the process has not changed. When someone calls 111 they will be assessed by a call handler who will pass the information to the local Flow Navigation Centre (FNC). The Senior Decision Maker in the Flow Navigation Centre will contact the person and decide the best care and location option for their situation. The person may be given self-care advice, signposted to another service such as a GP or local pharmacy, or they may receive an appointment to attend for treatment.
- **Why change the way urgent care is accessed?** The change to the way the public access urgent care is an initiative led by the Scottish Government. The change has reduced the footfall in A&E departments allowing for social distancing in line with the COVID 19 guidelines.
- **What does this mean for me?** People seeking urgent care will no longer be required to sit for long periods of time in waiting areas. The new process will allow access to the appropriate level of care, delivered in a safe way proving more time effective and avoiding unnecessary travel.
- **As a result of the new process what reductions do you expect to see in A&E departments?** Approximately 40% of patients now no longer need to attend their local A&E department for care. These patients are being signposted to the most appropriate care setting and, as a result of this, the patient experience has improved.

If you have any questions on the changes please feel free to contact Portia Brown, Project Manager, Redesign of Urgent Care Programme, portia.brown@nhs.scot #RightCareRightPlace

PPE 3 week look ahead Stocks levels look good across all items

PPE Summary - Predicted Equipment Remaining at the end of each week

	FFP3 Mask	type IIR mask	Covid Gowns	Theatre Gowns	Visors + Goggles	Aprons	Gloves
March 8, 2021	117,470	390,466	13,026	16,268	91,823	1,233,953	1,978,091
March 15, 2021	116,534	390,545	13,005	16,868	92,010	1,233,953	1,978,091
March 22, 2021	115,597	390,624	12,984	17,469	92,197	1,233,953	1,978,091
March 29, 2021	114,661	390,703	12,964	18,069	92,384	1,233,953	1,978,091

■ Stock < 0 ■ Stock <= 2 Days ■ Stock <= 5 Days ■ Stock > 5 Days

Orange Award This week's winner – or winners? – of the Orange Award has yet to receive their prize, so we will be keeping their identity under wraps for now. If you want to highlight the efforts of a colleague or team, why not nominate them for an Orange Award? You can either send an email with their details and a brief description of why they're worthy of recognition to gram.nmahporangeawards@nhs.scot or click [here](#) to complete the online form.

Thought for the day - Ca' canny ab'dy Restrictions on meeting people from other households ease from today and with the weekend – including Mother's Day on Sunday – looming, many of you will be making plans. If you are going to meet up with others, please remember to stick to the limit of no more than 4 adults from 2 households. Remember as well that we still should not go into each other's homes – it's outdoors only so look out your warm coats just in case! Twice weekly asymptomatic staff testing and the progressing vaccination programme give a degree of reassurance, but as we've highlighted above there are still cases being detected across the region. As Dr Laura Clark's story in Wednesday's brief shows, COVID-19 doesn't have to land you in hospital to have a significant impact on your life. Equally, if you don't yet feel ready to take advantage of the restrictions easing, that's perfectly fine too. Just because we can, doesn't mean we're obliged to.

Finally, there will be those of you for whom circumstance, or geography, means you won't be seeing Mum this weekend. We're thinking of you. We wish a restful weekend to those of you not working and for those on shift, as ever, take care and stay safe.

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.