

Here is the brief for Thursday 2 September 2021.

**IMPORTANT - Physical distancing** Updated guidance to the National Infection Prevention and Control Manual (NIPCM) on physical distancing was shared by the Scottish Government yesterday (1 September 2021) **with a move from 2m to 1m in specific health and care settings with immediate effect.**

Whilst physical distancing is no longer required in the general community - as a result of the successful vaccination programme, expansion of testing and use of face coverings - health and care settings must maintain specific control measures to minimise transmission and keep patients, staff, and visitors safe. Nosocomial transmission remains low within health and care settings, however the community transmission rates remain high, so we must work to ensure our most clinically vulnerable patients are protected. It is important we continue to follow IPC measures; extended use of facemasks and face coverings, twice weekly LFD testing, continued admission screening for COVID-19 and optimising ventilation across health and social care setting.

The new guidance on physical distancing in healthcare settings is as follows:

1. Physical distancing of 2m must remain for:
  - all inpatient areas (low, medium, and high-risk pathways)
  - the high-risk pathway across all settings
  - Outpatient Departments which deliver treatments for extended periods of time throughout the day e.g., oncology units, renal dialysis units, recovery areas, day surgery
  - All staff when Fluid Repellent Surgical Masks (FRSMs) are removed
2. Physical distancing may be reduced across all other areas not described above, to 1 metre or more. This could include, but not be limited to, office space, corridors, and lifts.
3. Physical distancing may be reduced amongst staff to 1 metre or more when FRSMs are in use. If FRSMs are removed for any reason e.g., eating or drinking, it is advised that 2 metres or more be maintained to avoid high numbers of staff being identified as contacts should a positive case arise. **We continue to advise 2 metre physical distancing in staff break rooms, canteens etc.**
4. Physical distancing may be reduced for visitors to 1 metre or more (see NIPCM addendum for exceptions)
5. These changes to physical distancing do NOT mean a return to pre-pandemic practices.
6. NHS Boards must continue to adapt processes to ensure risk of transmission is minimised.

The IPC team have prepared a document to support application of the update for acute settings, community hospitals and GP practices. This, along with a further summary document from the Scottish Government for all other settings is attached to the email used to send out this brief. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Safer Workplaces team on:

[gram.saferworkplaces@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.saferworkplaces@nhs.scot) Please note, updated care and residential care settings guidance to follow.

**COVID-19 vaccination certification** If you require proof of your COVID-19 vaccination status this can be obtained either online or by phoning the COVID-19 Status Helpline on 0808 196 8565. The helpline is open every day from 10.00am to 6.00pm. [All the information you need to obtain proof online is available on the NHS Inform website](#). If you were vaccinated as part of the staff programme, or no longer have your 'blue envelope' letter, which contained your username, you will need to follow the instructions on 'recovering your username' at the above link.

Please note the letter produced is a record of the COVID-19 vaccinations received in Scotland. The online option is available to those aged 16 and over. If you require proof of COVID-19 vaccination for someone aged 12-15 you will need to call the helpline.

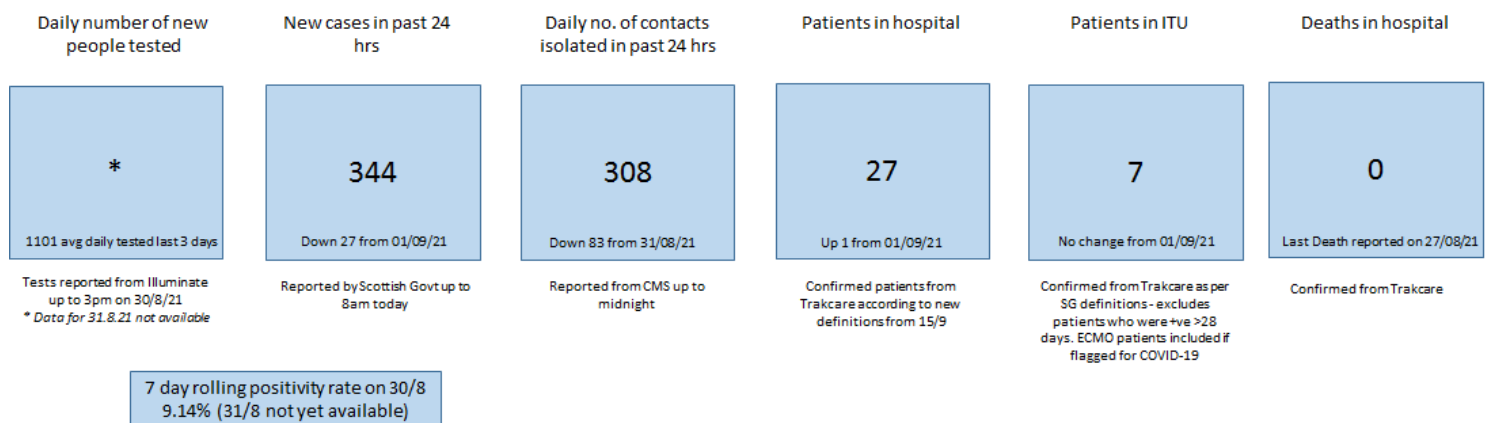
From tomorrow (3 September) QR codes will be added to all records of vaccination.

**Third dose vaccination for the severely immunosuppressed** The JCVI have issued new guidance, advising those with severely weakened immune systems receive a third dose of COVID-19 vaccination, as part of their primary immunisation schedule. This offer is separate from any national booster programme – we still await the JCVI recommendations on this. [If you are interested, you can read the full JCVI announcement on this online](#).

**Staff 'flu vaccination programme – REMINDER** As in previous years, staff will be offered the opportunity to book appointments or to access vaccination via the Peer to Peer scheme, as appropriate. However, this year the Occupational Health Service will **not** be booking appointments. A self-registration portal will be used instead and details on this will be shared soon. Please do not contact OHS for an appointment, as they will not be able to assist you.

'Flu remains a serious illness and we would encourage all those who are eligible to take up the offer of vaccination.

**Grampian data** The local update for today is shown below. A national update is available on the [Public Health Scotland daily dashboard](#).



**NMAHP Welcome Morning – 7 October, 8.30am-1pm** New graduate nurses, midwives, and allied health professionals are invited to attend the NMAHP Welcome Morning on Thursday 7 October. The session allows new graduates to meet some of the senior leadership team whilst finding out more about NHS Grampian support services and the Flying Start Programme.

The event takes place between 8.30am -1pm via MS Teams. You can book your place on TURAS by searching for 'NMAHP Welcome' or [using the following link](#). If you have any additional queries please get in touch with your local education teams, line manager or email [gram.practiceeducation@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.practiceeducation@nhs.scot)

**Top tips for protecting data** Here are today's top tips for keeping data safe at work.

- Don't share or reuse passwords

All staff are issued with computer log-in accounts and passwords on joining the organisation. It is vital that staff do not share these accounts and passwords with anyone else. This increases the risk of an unauthorised person seeing and potentially sharing your personal data. Your NHS password must be unique. You must never reuse your NHS username or password in another system in your personal life or reuse passwords from your personal life at work.

- Send passwords to protected documents separately

If you're sending password-protected electronic documents, make sure the password is communicated separately (e.g., SMS or verbally by telephone to a verified recipient). If you're sending sensitive messages to more than a small number of people (5 or more) consider whether it's appropriate to send this email at all.

If you have any questions or concerns about data protection, please contact Information Governance - [gram.infogovernance@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.infogovernance@nhs.scot) If you think you've had a data incident, please report it via Datix immediately.

**Additional Free Swimming Sessions at RGU Pool** The Sports Committee have been able to double the weekly pool time available to NHS Grampian staff and their families. Starting next Tuesday (7 September) and running through to 14 December, the current Tuesday evening swimming sessions 6-7pm and 7-8pm will now be for lane swimming. All attendees must be able to swim a minimum of 25 metres.

New **Family Swim** sessions for all abilities will start on Sunday 12 September through to Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December. The sessions will be 10am-11am and 11am-12noon. As at present, four sessions will need to be pre-booked via the [RGU Booking System](#) - you're looking for NHS Swim on the appropriate dates.

**Scottish Senior Open - ticket giveaway** The Scottish Senior Open, hosted by Paul Lawrie, will take place at Royal Aberdeen Golf Club on 10-12 September. Organisers have kindly provided a link to free tickets for staff working in health and social care. [Please use this link if you wish to claim tickets for this event.](#)

Complimentary tickets are available on a first-come first-served basis and while there is no limit on the number of tickets individuals may claim, there is a daily ticketing limit. If this is met, tickets will become unavailable, but tickets may still be available for other tournament days.

Additional Tournament information is available at <https://www.legendstour.com/tournament/scottish-senior-open-hosted-by-paul-lawrie>

**Tune of the day** A huge thank-you to Shona Taylor for today's suggestion – [Lovin' is really my game](#) by Brainstorm. I had never heard this one before – and you may not have either – but give it a listen and you will be a convert!

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](mailto:gram.communications@nhs.scot) That's also your first port of call if you've got any queries or an item to share.