

Monday 23 May 2022

Monkeypox – what you need to know There has been growing coverage of this virus in recent weeks and confirmation today that a case has been detected in Scotland. It is really important to keep this in context; the overall risk to the public remains extremely low.

If you are interested in learning more, the [UK Health Security Agency](#) and [Public Health Scotland](#) are a good place to start. In addition, if you use Twitter, there are a number of academics sharing their thoughts, including Prof Helen Ward (Professor of Public Health, Imperial College London - @profhelenward), Conor Bamford (Virologist, Queen's University Belfast - @cggbamford), and Tanja Stadler (ETH Zurich - @TanjaStadler_CH). This list isn't exhaustive, it merely reflects some of the expert opinion currently available.

Culture Matters survey If you are looking for practical tools to help form an action plan based on the results of phase 1 of this survey, there is a wealth of information on the Culture Matters intranet page. This includes guidance on how to read and understand the reports and a template 'Stop, Start, Continue' tool. [This page is also the place to visit if you want to see the high-level results snapshots](#) (networked devices only)

NHS 24 COVID-19 helpline Our colleagues in NHS 24 have been in touch to advise of a further change in opening hours for their COVID-19 helpline – 0800 028 2816. From next Monday (30 May) it will operate 8am-6pm, Monday-Friday only. The reduction recognises a fall in demand following changes to public testing and the Stay at Home advice.

Celebrating Excellence event The 15th Celebrating Excellence Event will take place on Thursday 9 June, at Garioch Heritage Centre, Inverurie. The event brings together nurses, midwives, AHPs and HCSWs to share good practice. To register for this event please [click on this link](#) or email gram.celebratingexcellence@nhs.scot.

We have some poster presentation space so please get in touch if you would like to share and celebrate your work. We would also like to hear from you if you are interested in speaking or presenting your poster at one of our future events, virtually on 8 September or in person on 10 November. These small local events are a great opportunity for both experienced presenters and those staff new to poster presentations and public speaking, we will work with you to help you prepare for sharing your work on the day.

BSc Professional Practice - NMAHP Top-Up Degree Robert Gordon University and NHS Grampian have arranged 2 study skills sessions for candidates who hope to apply for the next cohort of the Top-Up Degree (BSc Professional Practice). These will take place on Friday the **10 June, 9am-12noon** and Thursday the **23 June, 2-5pm**. [Further information can be found on the Practice Education intranet page](#) (networked devices only). Please contact gram.topupdegree@nhs.scot if you wish to attend.

Care of scrubs – message from Linen Services During the last financial year, Linen Services have regrettably received more than 5,000 sets of scrub suits/greens which have had to be condemned due to staining. In all cases ink stains were the culprit – on 474 occasions the scrubs had actually been written on. This has meant the organisation spent approximately £13,000 replacing otherwise functional sets of scrubs. In addition, waste has been sent to landfill unnecessarily. Please help the organisation and the environment by acting responsibly and not carrying pens in scrub pockets. Please also check pockets are empty before placing used greens in the laundry skip and sending to Linen Services.

Hospital at Home - Shire Supported Discharge - Dates for your diary Would you like to know more about the Hospital at Home service and what this looks like in Aberdeenshire? There are a number of sessions coming up, which cover how to access the service, patient criteria, service processes, geographical coverage with the opportunity for discussion. Past sessions have been instrumental not only in improving understanding of H@H-SSD service and creating links with teams involved at all stages of the Frailty Pathway but also in shaping the service as it develops so we encourage you to join. Request a calendar invitation by emailing gram.shirehospitalathome@nhs.scot or join using the following links:

- Tuesday 31 May, 1-2pm. [Join here](#)
- Tuesday 14 June, 1-2pm. [Join here](#)
- Tuesday 28 June, 1-2pm. [Join here](#)

Reminder: Following interest in Just Checking equipment utilised by the H@H-SSD team, sessions will be run in conjunction with Just Checking to provide further information. Just Checking is an assessment tool that uses technology to monitor a person's activities at home and is available for Aberdeenshire staff at no cost to the people we support. The training will enable you to find out how to make the best use of the Just Checking system for facilitating hospital discharges, targeting care in the right place, and supporting people to remain at home. Please contact denise.kerr@aberdeenshire.gov.uk to register for either of the sessions below:

- Wednesday 25 May - 2-3pm
- Thursday 26 May – 9-10am

Ticket offer – Alan Partridge A-ha! The team at P&J Live are offering free tickets to ‘Alan Partridge – Stratagem’, taking place this Friday (27 May) at 8pm. To take advantage of the offer, [just click here](#). The offer is for a pair of tickets, orders of more than 6 tickets (i.e., 3 pairs) will be cancelled.

Tune of the day An anonymous – but very upbeat – request today; [Ordinary Day by Great Big Sea](#) is our tune of the day (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