

Here is the brief for Wednesday 31 March 2021.

COVID-19 vaccination programme - 250,000 vaccinated! We are delighted to say that the number of people in Grampian who have received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine has passed 250,000 today. The progress we have made in this vaccination programme continues to be phenomenal and the product of an enormous ongoing team effort. We would like to thank all staff involved and the people of Grampian who continue to show great willingness to roll up their sleeve and get vaccinated.

We are hoping to be able to start phase 2 of our vaccination programme soon. Subject to supply, we are on track to have offered first doses to the remainder of the adult population who were not included in the 9 JCVI priority groups by the end of July, rather than September as we previously planned.

The JCVI has advised that phase 2 of the programme should be age based, starting with the oldest adults first and continuing in the following order:

- all those aged 40 to 49 years
- all those aged 30 to 39 years
- all those aged 18 to 29 years

How can the public help us?

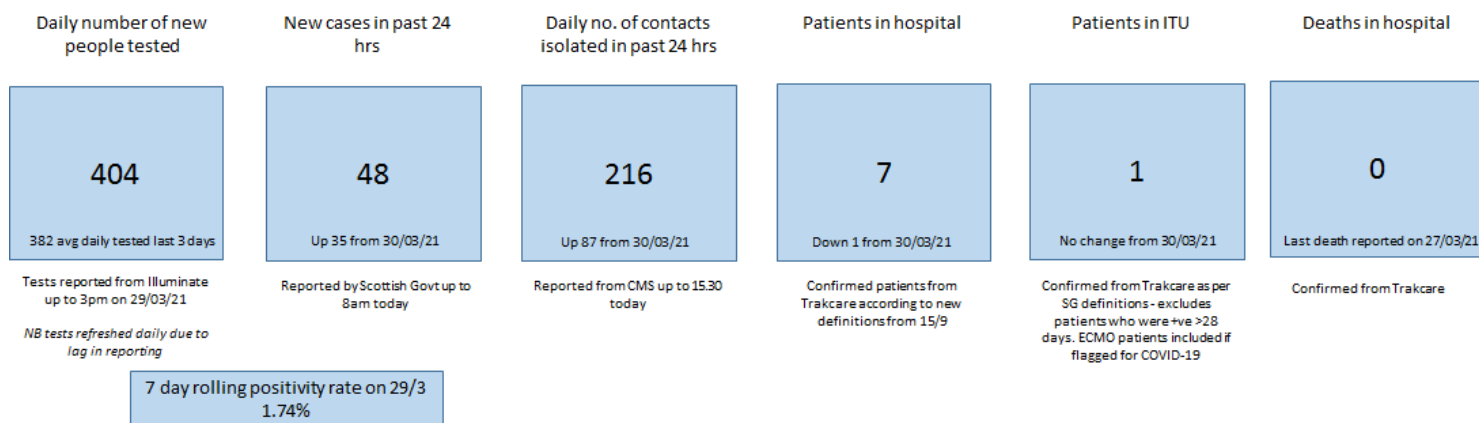
- If you are unable to attend your appointment, please cancel and rearrange to enable us to allocate the time and vaccine to someone else.
- Please remember to drink and eat prior to your appointment and ensure you stay hydrated afterwards to reduce the risk of a headache.
- Please take any medication with you that may be required, example GTN spray, reliever inhaler.
- Please do not ask our staff for a specific vaccine. We are unable to offer a non-medical needs choice and encourage you to accept the vaccine offered. If anyone refuses the vaccine available, they will not be offered an alternative brand. Requesting an alternative venue will not change this outcome.
- Please be kind to our wonderful staff as they are working above and beyond to deliver this programme.

We are unable to give specific start dates for phase 2 or for all second doses from phase 1, although we will try our best to continue to keep you up to date as we move through the cohorts. As communicated yesterday, all in priority groups 1-9 should have received an appointment and we are shortly commencing second doses for all over aged 75. As soon as we have an official national start date for phase 2 we will share this with you. Further information on the importance of the COVID-19 vaccine can be found on <https://www.nhsinform.scot/covid-19-vaccine>

Shielding You will likely have seen significant media coverage of the end of shielding today; please bear in mind that change covers England and Wales **only**. As shared in yesterday's brief, the Chief Medical Officer is writing to everyone on the shielding list in Scotland, advising them that they can return to school, college, or work (if they are unable to work at home) from **26 April**. This is when Scotland is expected to move to Level 3 restrictions. Further information is available here:

<https://www.mygov.scot/support-shielding/>

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.



Twice weekly asymptomatic testing Firstly, our thanks to everyone who is participating in this scheme. It offers an important extra level of reassurance around the prevalence of the virus. As previously highlighted, it is important the results from lateral flow testing (including all negative, all inconclusive and all positive) results are uploaded regularly to the www.covidtestingportal.scot website. In response to feedback from a number of NHS Boards (including ourselves), it is now possible to create an account on this site, which means your details will be retained, thereby speeding up the logging of results. Further information on this programme – which is now open to anyone working in health & social care – is available [here](#).

Marking special occasions during COVID-19 The Infection Prevention & Control Team want to enable your celebrations and the marking of events such as milestone birthdays, a well done or retirements, whilst being mindful that we continue to require COVID-19 restrictions. To ensure all staff, patients and visitors to the hospital are kept safe we are advising the following:

- Make video speeches with colleagues, on a phone to share with the recipient
- Organise an e-card online, that you can add messages to
- Teams meetings can be fun! Use the platform to create an event to mark the occasion or say farewell.
- Disposable wall decorations are ok, for the shift/day.
- Put up some temporary pictures or photographs on the wall for the shift/day to mark the occasion.
- Think outside the box, if undertaking collections and gifting – how about vouchers instead?
- Sharing of open foodstuffs, including buffets, should be avoided unless pre-wrapped, pre-plated by the hospital or external catering teams.
- Please remember the 2-metre social distance is imperative during all events, and must be continually applied.
- Close gathering in number should continue to be avoided at present.

The Infection Prevention & Control Team would like to thank you all for the support and commitment shown during the pandemic, and want you to continue to stay safe, in the workplace.

Clinical Photography Images stored by the University of Aberdeen Medical Illustrations department can now be viewed electronically via the Clinical Photography tab of the Electronic Patient Record (EPR) within TrakCare. Any clinical TrakCare user with a legitimate clinical need to view stored images can apply for access via the [Patient Management and Clinical Information System Registration Service \(PM CISRS\)](#), ticking the box for the Clinical Photography System. [A generic guide for applying for access via the PM CISRS is available.](#) [A video guide is available](#), but should you require additional support contact us via the [EPR Training Team Support Channel](#), Monday to Friday 8am to

4pm. Please note these links can only be accessed on networked devices. From today, Medical Illustration should **NOT** be contacted for clinical requests for images. Other processes, including requests for teaching or publication purposes, remain the same.

HealthRoster upgrade NHS Grampian will shortly be upgrading to Version 11 of the HealthRoster system. HealthRoster is currently used in nursing, midwifery and AHP services to request bank cover, and in eRostered areas to plan and manage rosters. Version 11 upgrades the look of the system only – the functionality remains the same. Reviews from other NHS users who have already tried the upgraded system have been very good. In particular, users noted that the upgraded system is clearer and easier to view, and simple to adjust to. Support materials will be released soon to help users in transitioning to HealthRoster Version 11. Further details will be announced soon. In the meantime, the slideshow on the [eRostering intranet site](#) (networked devices only) will give you a taster of what to expect from HealthRoster 11.

Thought for the day – won't get fooled again Tomorrow is, of course, April Fool's Day (and as a sidenote, how is it April already?). The pandemic and the flood of misinformation that has accompanied it has made us all aware of the need to get our information from trusted sources and challenge the myths. From early claims about gargling salt water to keep COVID at bay, to rumours about microchips in vaccines, and everything in between, it seems there is no story too outlandish. We might chuckle at the most extreme examples, but there is evidence around the world that people are listening – and potentially putting their health at risk – because of these claims. So what can you do? The World Health Organisation have created a simple guide to help everyone sort the facts from the fiction. We've shared this below and you can download it for yourself [here](#) if you want to use it at work or at home. Remember most people tend not to share misinformation maliciously – we're all just looking for answers – so if you want to challenge something you've seen, stay calm, measured, and respectful. For all this thought has been inspired by April Fool's Day (and The Who), don't assume people sharing misinformation are fools. Ask why they believe what they've shared to be true and where the information has come from. If you can, guide them towards trusted sources, like NHS Inform. Finally, know where to draw the line. Some minds cannot be changed, and you may be seeking to preserve friendships or family relationships.

Top tips for navigating the infodemic



1. Assess the source:

Who shared the information with you and where did they get it from? Even if it is friends or family, you still need to vet their source.



2. Go beyond headlines:

Headlines may be intentionally sensational or provocative.



3. Identify the author:

Search the author's name online to see if they are real or credible.



4. Check the date:

Is it up to date and relevant to current events? Has a headline, image or statistic been used out of context?



5. Examine the supporting evidence:

Credible stories back up their claims with facts.



6. Check your biases:

Think about whether your own biases could affect your judgment on what is or is not trustworthy.



7. Turn to fact-checkers:

Consult trusted fact-checking organizations, such as the International Fact-Checking Network and global news outlets focused on debunking misinformation.

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.