

Here is the brief for Wednesday 7 July 2021.

Staff use of Fluid Repellent Face Masks (FRSMs) Following on from yesterday’s item, advising all staff working on NHS Grampian sites to use FRSMs, regardless of whether or not they are in a clinical setting, we wanted to offer some further guidance on the best way to put on and wear an FRSM. If you are a member of clinical staff, you will have undergone training on the use of PPE and understand the correct donning and doffing procedure. Please continue to follow these procedures. However, if you are in a non-clinical role, you may not be familiar with the correct process to follow. [In this short video, Dr Derek Cox \(Consultant in Public Health\) demonstrates appropriate use of an FRSM.](#)

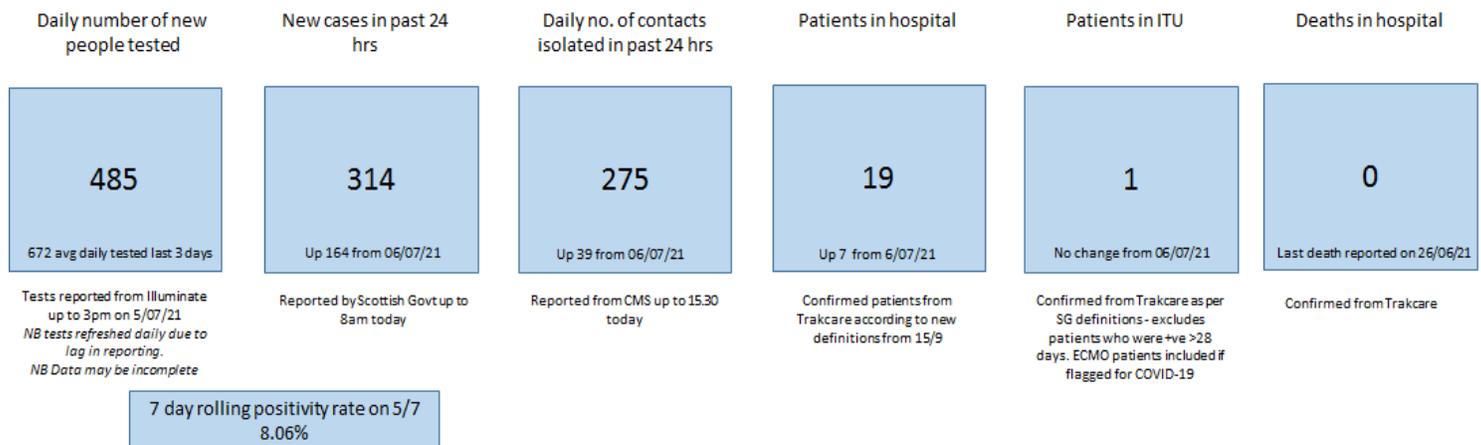
As a reminder, the FRSM is a business-as-usual stock item and must be ordered from the NDC via your Ward Product Specialist or on PECOS using SKU code 249824.

Disposal of FRSMs is via the orange waste stream. Where an area does not have orange waste then disposal should be via the black waste stream. The lidded bin is a business-as-usual stock item and must be ordered from Linton (Environmental Hygiene) on PECOS using SKU code 1010STSC.

[The FAQ on the Use of Face Masks in Health & Social Care Settings has been updated to reflect these changes and is available on the Staff pages of the COVID-19 website.](#) Wherever possible, we should all continue to work at home and only attend the workplace when absolutely necessary.

Easing of restrictions We have raised this point before, but it is one worth making again, in light of the announcements and proposals from the UK government over the last two days. All measures they have described – such as removing the mask mandate or changes to the self-isolation guidance for those fully vaccinated – apply in England ONLY. We await further guidance from the Scottish Government on the steps which will be taken here.

Grampian data Here is the local update for today, including the 7-day rolling positivity rate. 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. The figure for the “daily number of new people tested” is only for the number of tests for people who have not been tested previously. As noted in the diagram below, we have been advised test data may be incomplete.



A national update is available on the [Public Health Scotland daily dashboard.](#)

Annual leave for additional hours worked During the pandemic staff have worked flexibly across departments and services to support the organisational priorities. Where the employee has worked in another service as additional hours, under their substantive contract, they will accrue additional annual leave. As such employees' substantive managers are reminded to calculate this additional leave and discuss with staff on how this can be accommodated within their substantive role, irrespective of where the additional hours were undertaken. For example, if staff have supported the vaccination programme as additional hours their substantive manager will need to calculate and accommodate the leave within their service. Support on calculating additional leave can be accessed at: [Pages - Leave \(scot.nhs.uk\)](https://pages.scot.nhs.uk) (networked devices only)

We Care Programme - Wellbeing Check-In for Shielding Staff This is an opportunity for staff who have been shielding to share what's going on for them - the good, the bad and the ugly, be that practical or emotional - with no judgement, advice or otherwise. They can also hear about wellbeing and other supports; and have a say about what they need going forward. A series of questions are posed to the participants and then individually they are invited to share their thoughts on each question. Staff can say whatever is on their mind in relation to the questions - there are no right or wrong responses – and there is no compulsion to answer. In addition, participants will be shown useful wellbeing resources. These take place via MS Teams, for up to 10 people per session. Upcoming dates are as follows:

- Tuesday 3 August, 1.30-2.45pm
- Thursday 12 August, 9.30-10.45am
- Wednesday 8 September, 11am-12.15pm

You can book a place by emailing heather.haylett-andrews@nhs.scot

CORRECTION – New number for Psychological Medicine (Liaison Psychiatry) The department of Psychological Medicine (Liaison Psychiatry), ARI, are changing the emergency/duty bleep #2691 to Ascom number **52882** (and not the number advised in Monday's brief). The team will continue to carry the #2691 bleep alongside the Ascom phone during the transition phase. All non-urgent calls will continue to be through our dept number on 52094.

Learning in person and digitally There remains a need to create consistency and maintain the principles and criteria to support the system in prioritising learning whilst ensuring that digital opportunities are used, where possible by all learner groups across the system, to ensure health, safety and wellbeing. [A paper, entitled Learning in Person or Digitally, details agreed principles to promote a system using digital learning rather learning in-person and is available to view online.](#)

To date, in person learning has been prioritised for specified statutory and mandatory courses and for those practical skills that need to be delivered face to face, e.g., donning and doffing, resuscitation, violence and aggression and moving and handling practical skills. The managed use of physical learning spaces is to be based on the risk assessed need for any other learning in-person through the GAPF Development Subgroup. If you have queries or feedback about the paper linked to above, please contact gram.partnership@nhs.scot

Digital Ward – information stall Thanks to those who came along to today's information stall in the staff marquee on Foresterhill Health Campus. The team will be back on Friday, between 10am-3pm to discuss the move from paper based to electronic recording. eHealth Application Trainers will be available to discuss the transition and answer your questions. There's no need to book, just pop along.

Tune of the day Another mellow moment today, courtesy of Catherine Bolt, a staff nurse on Ward 216 at ARI – she's suggesting [Don't Hurt Yourself by Marillion](#). As the opening line says: "There will come a time when all of this is over".

Get in touch! If you've got a question, an item to share with people working in health & social care, or just want to suggest a tune of the day, we want to hear from you! Drop us a line via gram.communications@nhs.scot.