

Here is the brief for Wednesday 16 December 2020.

## COVID-19 vaccine update

- If you have applied online or through the phone booking number, please be reassured that you will be on the waiting list for an appointment. Over 6,000 staff across Grampian have already applied for the vaccine. Organising these clinics to match with vaccine supply and vaccinators is extremely challenging. The clinics in ARI & the 3 H&SCPs are now up and running. If you have not heard from the booking team, please don't worry - we will get to you. Many areas are also running Peer-Peer sessions, over 600 vaccinations were given to staff yesterday, an amazing achievement! Thank you for your patience.
- If you are at all unwell, please do not attend work, even if you have a vaccine appointment scheduled. Peer and clinic vaccinators have the authorisation to make a clinical judgement and will not immunise staff members if they are unfit to receive the jab. Please respect this decision. In the event of anyone becoming unwell immediately after receiving their immunisation, staff should contact 2222 and follow the usual process.

**Extension of asymptomatic staff testing** As highlighted in Monday's brief, we will shortly be extending the asymptomatic staff testing programme, using Lateral Flow Devices. This will be rolled out in a phased manner, as follows:

- Patient facing staff who are already receiving PCR tests (oncology, Medicine for the Elderly long stay, MH&LD long stay). NOTE this will NOT replace the PCR test but is in addition to it.
- Out-patient patient facing staff
- Dr Gray's Hospital patient facing staff

Over the next few days we will advise **patient facing staff (in the above groups)** how to pre-populate their details on a web-form. Staff will need payroll number and will need to confirm that they have accessed and understand the testing process. In the meantime we would encourage staff to consult the training materials developed by NES, available [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#).

**Legal Change to Visiting at End of Life** Essential visits at the End of Life have always been permitted across in hospitals in Scotland. This includes essential visits from people located in another local authority area in Scotland, no matter which tier their local authority is in. An amendment to the Health Protection (Coronavirus) (International Travel) (Scotland) Regulations 2020, means that from Saturday 12 December 2020 people who are travelling from other countries to visit a loved one in hospital at End of Life, are lawfully able to break quarantine to do so. Please bear in mind the following principles where an individual has been quarantining due to overseas travel:

In a hospital setting, the individual must:

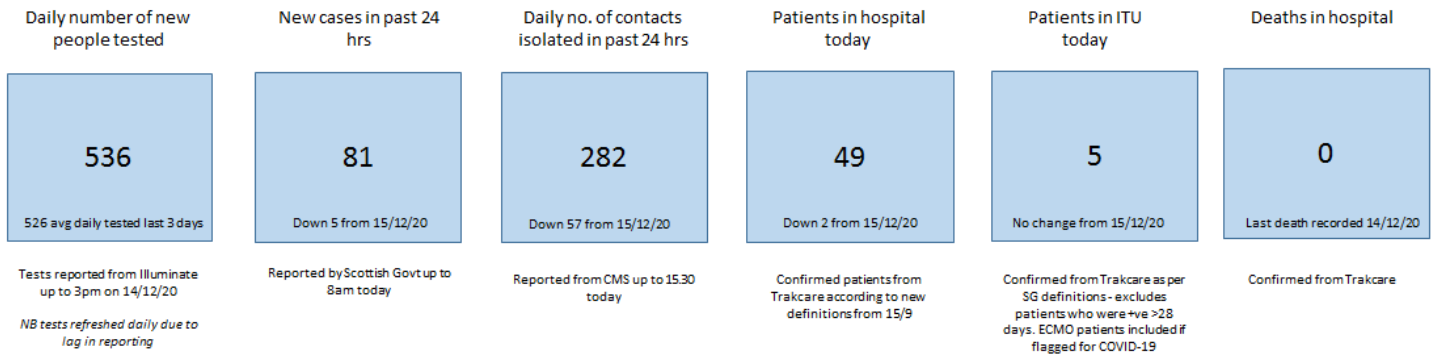
- \* contact the hospital to arrange a visit in advance
- \* wear full PPE equipment as advised by the hospital
- \* observe physical distancing from others, but not from the individual being visited
- \* not visit any other area of the hospital or use facilities such as toilets
- \* observe any other risk measures as required by the hospital
- \* not visit, if unwell and/or exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 - a new, persistent cough and fever or high temperature.

The hospital must:

- \* carry out a risk assessment to determine whether a visit can safely take place
- \* make every effort to prevent other staff, visitors or patients from being in the same area as the person being visited.
- \* support the individual to don and doff PPE
- \* enhance cleaning measures in the area visited
- \* safely escort the visitor in and out of the hospital

If you have any questions, please contact [lyn.irvine1@nhs.scot](mailto:lyn.irvine1@nhs.scot).

**Grampian figures** Here is today's data. If you are interested in the situation elsewhere in Scotland, click [here](#) to see all the data published by Public Health Scotland.



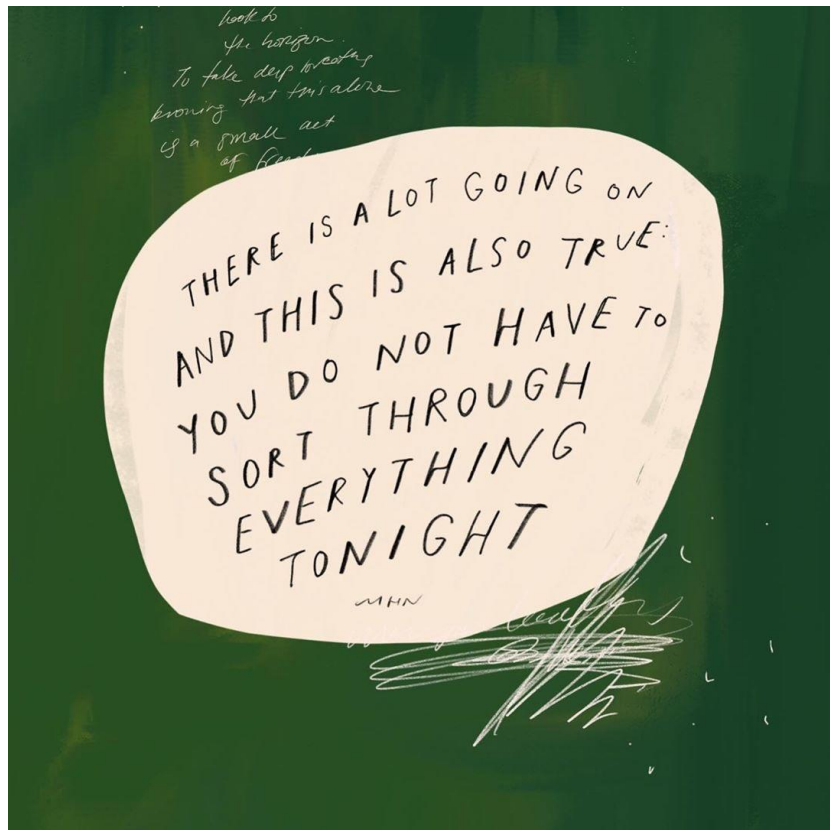
**Christmas guidance from Infection Prevention & Control** Our IPC team have developed a short guide to answer your festive infection prevent and control questions; it is available [here](#) (intranet link, networked devices only)

**Virtual carol service** The Chaplaincy Team have recorded a virtual Carol service that will go live at 3.00pm on Sunday 20 December and be available to watch and listen to online thereafter. The service will feature Chaplains from ARI, RACH, Royal Cornhill Hospital, Woodend Hospital, Dr Gray's Hospital and Roxburghe House. It includes carols, readings, prayers, and a short reflection and lasts for around 30 minutes.

Lead chaplain and NHS Grampian Head of Spiritual Care Mark Rodgers said: "Even though the service was recorded in the Chapel in Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, it is meant for all sites in NHS Grampian, in place of all the local in-person carol services or carol singing that would usually take place at this time of the year. It is meant for patients, relatives and staff; literally anyone who has a connection with NHS Grampian. We cannot mark Christmas in the way we usually would, but we hope this service will provide an alternative opportunity for celebration and reflection."

The service will be available to watch on the NHS Grampian YouTube channel and via our Facebook page.

**Thought for the day** We're keeping it simple today and sharing the image below:



**Items for the brief?** If you have something you would like to be considered for inclusion in this brief, please send this to [gram.communications@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.communications@nhs.scot). Messages should be clearly marked as 'Daily brief – for consideration'. Please be aware that space is limited, and items are prioritised based on subject matter and relevance to all staff groups.