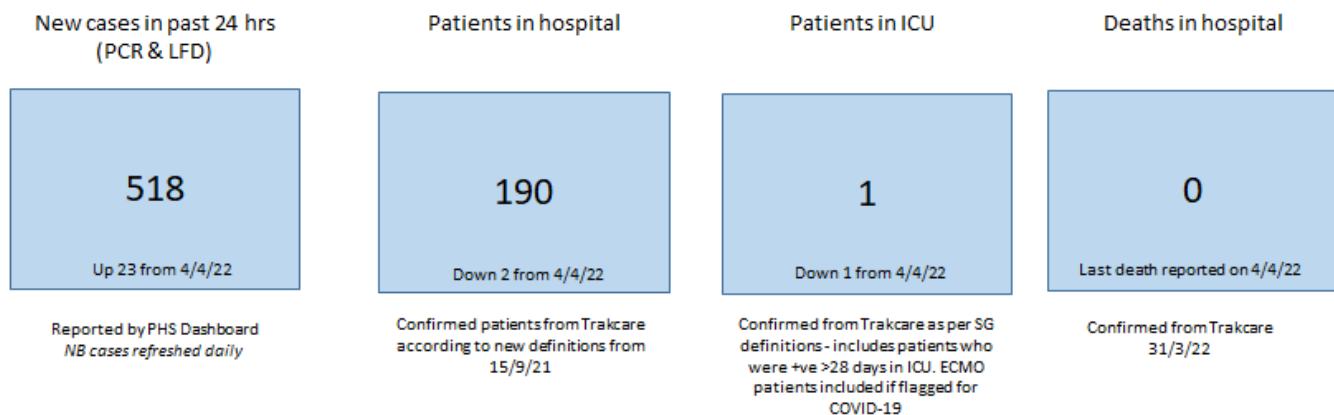


Here is the brief for Tuesday 5 April 2022.

**Use of facemasks in non-clinical areas** We've taken some queries about the future use of face masks in non-clinical areas/buildings, now physical distancing has been withdrawn. Further guidance on this is expected soon and will be shared as soon as possible. In the meantime, the advice from Infection Prevention & Control is we should continue to wear fluid repellent surgical masks in multi occupancy offices or when up and on the move until further notice. You should also continue to use the PPE required for your particular role. Masks play an important role in halting the spread of not only COVID-19, but other highly transmissible infections, and keeping us all safer.

**Grampian data** The local report is shown below; you'll see we have removed another blue box. We'll no longer be reporting on self-isolation of close contacts, reflecting the changes in guidance and the ability to be exempted from self-isolation as a close contact. [The Public Health Scotland daily dashboard can be viewed here](#)



**Pensions update** Here is today's update for members of the NHS Scotland pension scheme:

- **Move to 2015 CARE scheme**

All remaining members of the 1995 and 2008 sections of the pension scheme moved to the 2015 CARE scheme from 1 April 2022. The final salary schemes – 1995 and 2008 sections – closed on 31 March 2022 and all scheme members will build up future pension entitlement in the 2015 CARE scheme. Members do not need to do anything; this will happen automatically.

For scheme members who can access their payroll record online, you may notice your superannuation record will still show your pre-1 April 2022 scheme status. Your payroll record will be amended in due course to show that you are a member of 2015 CARE from 1 April 2022. SPPA have automatically adjusted your record in their system.

For scheme members who have Enhanced, or Fixed Lifetime Allowance protections approved through HMRC, it is important to note that you will lose the protection if you accrue benefits in the 2015 CARE scheme. Such scheme members will need to decide whether or not they want to retain their protections. To avoid losing these protections scheme members may wish to consider opting out of the pension scheme on 1 April 2022. For more information please see [2022-05 - NHS Circular - 2015 Remedy Prospective Changes.pdf \(pensions.gov.scot\)](#).

(We apologise for the date error in yesterday's pensions item; it should have stated that the bandings and appropriate contribution rates would apply from 1 April 2022, not 2012!).

**Self-Discharge Against Advice Policy** This policy is currently out for consultation. The draft version has been attached to the email used to send out this brief; should you wish to comment or provide further feedback, this should be sent to the Public Protection Team at [gram.publicprotection@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.publicprotection@nhs.scot) by Friday 15 April.

**Safe swallowing & texture modified diets** Are you involved in preparing or serving food for people with swallowing difficulties? Come and learn more about the importance of texture modified diets and the IDDSI framework in the management of safe swallowing. We are pleased to be running sessions alongside the Nutricia expert dysphagia chefs, who will provide practical examples of nutritious and appetising modified diets.

- When - Tuesday 10 May 2022, 9.30am - 12noon or 1.30 - 4pm.
- Where - Holiday Inn West, Westhill, AB32 6TT.

These sessions are free but should be booked in advance no later than 29 April. Bookings can be made by emailing Lynn Christie (Catering Manager) via [lynn.christie@nhs.scot](mailto:lynn.christie@nhs.scot)

**Discounted coffee** Now we have your attention, you'll recall that, pre-pandemic, our retail catering outlets proudly offered a discount to any customer providing an NHS branded clean, reusable, cup for their beverage of choice. Although this was paused for a time, we're delighted to say this offer is back and you can use **any** reusable cup! Not only do you get a cheaper coffee, but you also get to play your part in helping us reduce waste. During March, our outlets served 37,015 hot drinks; just 3.5% were in reusable cups. Help us make a difference by getting to 10% (or more!), enjoy a great coffee, and save a little money all at the same time. A polite reminder - your cups must be clean.

**Tune of the day** Thanks to Marie Reid for requesting Modern Romance with '[Best Years of our Life](#)' as our tune of the day. Marie is dedicating this to all the members of the HR team who graduated from Robert Gordon University today. RGU are holding a series of ceremonies this week for those who had to miss out on in-person graduation events in 2020 and 2021. Our warmest congratulations to everyone celebrating this week – well done!

If you want to request a song for tune of the day, follow up on items included in this brief, or suggest an item for sharing, drop us an email via [gram.communications@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.communications@nhs.scot)