

Here is the brief for Monday 21 December 2020.

Chief Executive's update This week's video update comes from Adam Coldwells, the deputy chief executive, and explains more about our move to a different phase of Operation Snowdrop. You can watch the video by clicking [here](#). As planning progresses and firm decisions are taken, we will make more information available via this brief.

Remember, you can get in touch with Caroline Hiscox at any time by emailing gram.grampianchiefexecutive@nhs.scot

New restrictions As announced at the weekend, restrictions across Scotland will be significantly tightened in a bid to prevent the spread of the new variant of COVID-19. The planned easing of Christmas restrictions to allow people from different households to gather indoors will now **only apply** on Christmas Day. The Scottish Government have stressed this should only take place where essential. We are all advised to only celebrate indoors with our own household and to arrange to meet other households outdoors, abiding by restrictions on numbers. From Boxing Day, mainland Scotland will move to Level 4 restrictions. Full details on what this will mean in practice are available [here](#). It is important to note that travel between local authority areas will only be legal in very specific circumstances – you can see a full list [here](#). We would encourage everyone to click on the link above to understand what Level 4 will mean for all of us.

One of the most significant announcements made over the weekend covers education; for the majority of school pupils, the holiday will be extended until **11 January 2021** with online learning until at least **18 January 2021**. Arrangements are being put in place to open schools for the children of key workers; your own local authority will be advising what this will mean in practise.

Extension of asymptomatic staff testing – UPDATE As previously highlighted we are now ready to commence the roll-out of twice weekly rapid lateral flow testing for patient facing staff in hospitals. Eligible staff include clinical, non-clinical, agency, bank, students, volunteers, etc, who routinely and regularly interact with patients in hospitals.

In order to do this on a managed basis, the roll out will happen in phases, with the 1st phase being for:

- Vaccinators
- Staff already receiving weekly PCR testing – please note this testing is in addition to, not instead of, that testing.
- Dr Gray's Hospital – patient facing staff
- All hospital outpatients – patient facing staff.

If you are an eligible staff member AND in the group above, please click [here](#) to complete the registration process to access your test kit. Further information will follow detailing when your kit will be available for uplift or advising when it will be delivered to you. Prior to receiving your kit (a box of 25 tests to cover 12 weeks) it is essential that you access and understand the online instructions highlighted in the guidance information. Further updates will be issued in due course regarding how staff can obtain their testing kits.

Grampian figures Here is the data for today and over the weekend. Click [here](#) to see all the data published by Public Health Scotland, which includes neighbourhood figures for all local authority areas in Scotland.

	Daily number of new people tested	New cases in past 24 hrs	Daily no. of contacts isolated in past 24 hrs	Patients in hospital	Patients in ITU	Deaths in hospital
Sat 19/12	603	46	166	53	4	1
Sun 20/12	284	128	254	56	7	2
Mon 21/12	736	144	277	53	8	0

541 avg daily tested last 3 days Up 16 from 20/12/20 Up 23 from 20/12/20 Down 3 from 20/12/20 Up 1 from 20/12/20 Last death recorded 19/12/20

Tests reported from Illuminate up to 3pm on 19/12/20 Reported by Scottish Govt up to 8am today Reported from CMS up to 15:30 today Confirmed patients from Trakcare according to new definitions from 15/9 Confirmed from Trakcare Confirmed from Trakcare

NB tests refreshed daily due to lag in reporting & underreporting at weekends

COVID-19 vaccine update Staff whose job brings them into direct contact with patients are the priority for the first phase of vaccination, but this should not put off those of you working in non-patient facing roles from submitting appointment request forms. Each request is subject to the same prioritisation process. We are working hard to ensure we use our stock of vaccine as effectively as we can and will offer short notice appointments to ensure this is possible. This vaccination programme will continue to run in the coming months and we are committed to offering the opportunity of immunisation to all staff who wish to take it up. More information about the vaccination programme is available [here](#).

Flu vaccination for healthcare workers – It's not too late to get your flu jab! Are you an NHS or frontline social care worker still looking to obtain a flu vaccination? With COVID-19 around it's even more important than ever for healthcare workers to get the free flu vaccine. Community pharmacies have been restocked with vaccines for your administration and can provide this service to you free of charge under the NHS Grampian occupational flu programme. Visit www.fluvaxgrampian.com to find your local pharmacy and arrange an appointment. Please remember to bring your employee ID when you attend. **You should leave seven days between getting your flu vaccine and getting the COVID-19 vaccine (or vice versa). This applies to both the first and second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.**

Bonus Payment for Health and Social Care staff A one-off payment of £500 (pro rata for part time staff) is to be made to all NHS and social care workers. The Cabinet Secretary for Health has undertaken that this payment should be made within this financial year; it had been confirmed the payment will **not** be in the December 2020 pay. We have previously shared information about attempts by scammers to contact health & social care staff regarding this payment, with a view to obtaining their bank details. If you receive any such contact, do NOT provide your details. The payment will be included in your salary through the usual process and you are not required to provide any further information. Please share this information with colleagues.

PPE donning & doffing training The final donning and doffing training session for 2020 will take place tomorrow (22 December) at 11am – there are still spaces available. To book a place please email gram.ipc-donn-doff-training@nhs.scot. Training will resume on Tuesday 5 January and each Tuesday thereafter, with all sessions taking place at 11am. Training is conducted via MS Teams and is open to health and social care staff.

COVID-19 and learning disabilities Public Health England (2020) recently published a report that evidenced people with learning disabilities had a higher death rate from COVID-19. Furthermore, the death rate for people with a learning disability aged 18 to 34 years, was 30 times higher than the rate in the same age group without a learning disability. The summary and full report can be accessed [here](#).

In response to the report, please find attached to the daily brief email key points for clinicians to consider when assessing and treating patients with a learning disability during the COVID-19 pandemic. Please share widely with colleagues and pay particular attention to the signs and symptoms reported in people with a learning disability which has evidenced a different pattern.

Thought for the day To describe the last few days as ‘eventful’ – even with everything we have dealt with this year – feels like an understatement. As ever, we know you will be feeling a broad range of emotions. Some of you will be deeply upset by the changes to the Christmas guidance. Some of you will be worried about the wider impact of the current situation, including the ban on arrivals from the UK to numerous countries and the movement of food and goods. Some of you may be relieved that clear action is being taken. Whatever you are feeling, please be kind to yourself and patient with others. Today is the shortest day. The light will return.

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. 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.