

Here is the brief for Monday 25 January 2021.

Chief Executive's update Building on last week's film from Tom Power, which explained the need for temporary deployment, this week we hear from Medical Director, Prof. Nick Fluck. Nick talks about how departments and teams can help keep essential services going and support colleagues in areas which may be under significant pressure. Nick is joined by Dr Daniela Brawley from the Sexual Health team to explain how they went about reviewing what resources they could contribute - an experience that was as useful as it was challenging. You can watch the video [here](#). Remember, you can get in touch with Caroline Hiscox, the Chief Executive, via gram.grampianchiefexecutive@nhs.scot

Update on £500 COVID-19 Payment for employees, in receipt of Universal Credit benefits We have received new additional guidance on this matter. [Circular PCS \(COV\) 2021/1](#) issued on 22 Jan 2021 allows employees to opt out from receiving the bonus in February 2021 pay. This should allow individuals time to establish how the £500 payment may affect their benefit entitlement. Anyone wishing to opt out should complete the opt out form attached to this email and return to the HR Service Centre by 05 Feb 2021. To opt back in to receive payment in March 2021 or by instalments from March 2021 to May 2021 the opt in form (again attached) should be completed and returned to the HR Service Centre by 05 March 2021. **These options only apply to employees in receipt of Universal Credit benefits, all other employees will receive their payment in Feb 2021.** All forms will be added to the NHS Grampian website [here](#).

Acute sector update It has been another significantly challenging day across the sector with bed capacity a particular issue. We still have a high number of COVID-19 patients in hospital, requiring both a significant bed and staff resource, which is combining with the issues usually faced at this time of year.

The Emergency Department was particularly pressured during the weekend and this has continued through today, as we have struggled to admitted patients onto wards due to bed capacity. This position is, unfortunately, likely to remain into the evening.

To improve the situation, we moved from early this morning to identify any additional patients who were suitable for discharge. We also saw more patients leaving through our discharge lounge, allowing us to free up much needed bed capacity earlier and some specialities were able to create extra bed space. The efforts of our staff today have once again been fantastic and as a result have created enough capacity to ensure we can continue to treat our patients safely. Despite a challenging start to the day, and the week, we have ended Monday in a better position than we started, thanks to the efforts of all our acute staff. Thank you once again.

COVID-19 vaccine programme – P&J Live at TECA mass vaccination centre Final preparations are being made to open P&J Live at TECA as mass vaccination centre for Aberdeen as the COVID-19 immunisation programme gathers pace. Work has been ongoing to prepare the venue with the first vaccinations expected to take place from 1 February. As the mass vaccination centre for Aberdeen, it is intended that the majority of immunisations in the city will take place at P&J Live at TECA. Where people are genuinely unable to attend appointments, arrangements will be made for appointments at smaller community facilities. Members of the local media visited the centre earlier today, be sure to watch STV news and BBC Reporting Scotland this evening for more on this.

Expansion of Community Pharmacy Influenza Service Amid all the coverage of the COVID-19 vaccination programme, it is important to remember 'flu is also circulating widely and is capable of causing serious illness. It's still not too late to get immunised – the community pharmacy influenza service in NHS Grampian had now been expanded to include the following eligible patients:

- over 65 years
- over 18 years and at risk
- unpaid carers
- 60-64 years

Community pharmacies also continue to offer the OHS influenza vaccine service to NHS and social care workers as previously. The flu call centre are supporting to direct patients accordingly and the www.fluvaxgrampian.com website has been updated to reflect these changes. Appointments will be managed by the individual pharmacies. Practices may be contacted by their local pharmacies/HSCP pharmacy team if there is a local requirement for influenza vaccine stock to be transferred to community pharmacy to allow provision of this service. A list of current participating pharmacies is on the fluvax website.

Twice weekly Lateral Flow testing If you are participating in this programme, please remember the following:

- A **POSITIVE** test result requires **ISOLATION** and an urgent PCR test.
- A **NEGATIVE** test result **DOES NOT MEAN** that you are free from COVID, simply that the test has **not detected it**. You therefore must continue to apply all precautions including PPE, social distancing, etc.

If you have **SYMPTOMS**, regardless of your test results – **DO NOT ATTEND WORK and BOOK A PCR TEST**

Grampian data The local figures for today (and over the weekend) and the 7 day rolling positivity rate are shown below. The positivity rate is calculated 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 you below only record new tests.

	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 23/01	598	100	168	111	10	3 <small>1 death on 22/01/21; 2 deaths on 23/01/21</small>
Sun 24/01	526	126	151	107	11	0
Mon 25/01	527 <small>550 avg daily tested last 3 days</small>	46 <small>Down 80 from 24/01/21</small>	125 <small>Down 26 from 24/01/21</small>	106 <small>Down 1 from 24/01/21</small>	9 <small>Down 2 from 24/01/21</small>	0 <small>Last recorded death 23/01</small>
	<small>Tests reported from Illuminate up to 3pm on 23/01/21 NB tests refreshed daily due to lag in reporting</small>	<small>Reported by Scottish Govt up to 8am today</small>	<small>Reported from CMS up to 1530 today</small>	<small>Confirmed patients from Trakcare according to new definitions from 15/9</small>	<small>Confirmed from Trakcare as per SG definitions - excludes patients who were +ve >28 days. ECMO patients included if flagged for COVID-19</small>	<small>Confirmed from Trakcare</small>

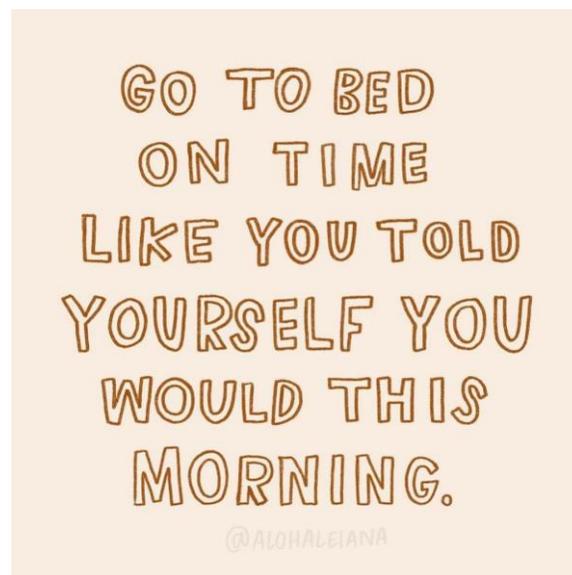
7 day rolling positivity rate on 25/1
6.09%

If you click [here](#) you can visit the Public Health Scotland website, which includes neighbourhood figures for all local authority areas in Scotland.

Bullying and Harassment Confidential Contacts These Confidential Contacts are trained to give informal support to any NHS Grampian staff, or volunteers, who feel they have been bullied or harassed, or who have been accused of demonstrating bullying or harassment behaviours. You can talk to them independently and confidentially about your current situation at work, and they will give you information on the options open to you to resolve a situation. You contact them directly, their contact details can be found on the [intranet page](#) along with further information on the service. (Intranet link, networked devices only)

PPE donning and doffing training This training is available every Tuesday at 11am, via Teams. You can book your space by emailing gram.ipc-donn-doff-training@nhs.scot

Thought for the day



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.