

Here is the brief for Thursday 27 May 2021.

COVID-19 vaccination – Aberdeen City staff programme The form for booking a vaccination via the staff programme will close at 5pm on Friday 4 June. Thereafter, we will not be accepting further requests for vaccination via the Staff Clinics. Team members who wish to be vaccinated and have not submitted a request by 4 June, will receive their offer for vaccination via the public vaccine programme. The form for booking is available [here](#).

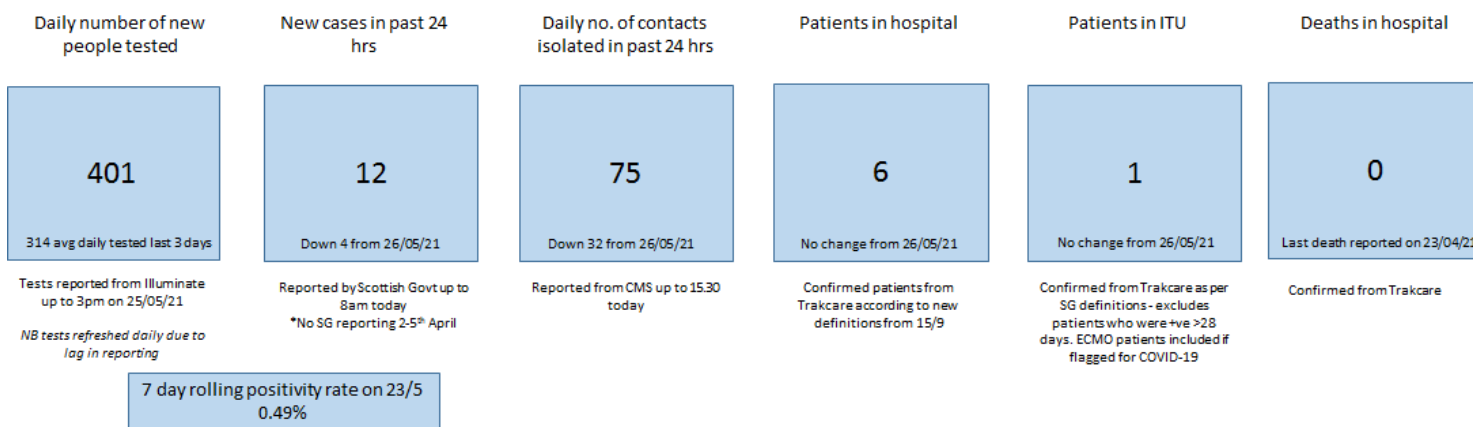
Moray update The incident management team (IMT) overseeing the Moray COVID-19 surge has been closed and testing guidance in the region returned to normal. The decisions were taken following a sustained drop in the level of the virus in Moray over the last two weeks. The area reverted to level two restrictions last week – but extra testing and an expedited vaccine rollout remained in place while the IMT kept a close eye on figures.

The IMT has concluded the situation is well under control and testing will now return to normal, with those showing classic symptoms – a cough, fever or loss of taste or smell – urged to get a PCR test. The expedited vaccination program has already reverted to match the rest of the country.

Deputy director of Public Health, Chris Littlejohn, said: “We saw with this outbreak in Moray, how quickly things can escalate and how quickly it can affect the level system. However, the good news here is that the turnaround we have seen in Moray has been extraordinary and that is wholly down to residents being willing to work with us, come forward for extra testing, vaccinations and follow guidelines. By warning the public early that we were facing a spike, putting extra testing in place and expediting the vaccination programme, we saw the public engage with our professionals to bring levels down to what is deemed acceptable for level two - and that’s the first time a spike like that has been combatted without putting extra restrictions in place.”

NHS Scotland pay deal As you will be aware, a majority of NHS unions voted to accept the proposed 4% pay uplift for Agenda for Change staff. Full details on the pay award are available to [read in this letter](#) issued today. The salary uplift will be in June salaries, with arrears to be paid by the end of August.

Grampian data The local figures for today and the 7-day rolling positivity rate are shown below. 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, whereas the figures we show here only record new tests.



The Public Health Scotland daily dashboard is available to view [here](#). You can use this to see what is happening in local authorities and at neighbourhood level.

FFP3 masks and facial hair – not a winning combination! Maintaining adequate protection from airborne risks & aerosols means FFP3 masks and facial hair don't mix. When staff wear FFP3 masks the seal of the mask to the face is vital; if the mask doesn't seal to the face, then contaminants can get into the breathing zone. One of the things that affects the seal of the mask to the face is facial hair or stubble.

For their initial fit test, all staff must be clean shaven. If a staff member chooses to have facial hair following their initial fit test, they must ensure that for any style of facial hair, the hair does not cross the seal of the mask or block or touch the valve. The seal must only touch skin and not have contact with any hair or stubble. Being clean shaven is the safest way to ensure an effective seal. If protected characteristics apply such as religion/belief or health, which impacts on the correct use of a FFP3 mask, staff will not be able to be in situations where FFP3 masks are required.

It is vitally important that whilst at work staff are either clean shaven or facial hair does not impact on the seal. Managers are reminded that if they see staff with facial hair, which disrupts the seal or blocks or touches the valve, wearing FFP3 masks they must stop them and make sure they know they cannot be in situations, where FFP3 masks are required, until their facial hair has been trimmed or shaved appropriately. This would be achieved by having a supportive conversation with the member of staff about NHS Grampian's Duty of Care to provide safe systems of work and the staff members responsibility to follow these in accordance with the Staff Governance Standard.

Pre-retirement courses The dates below are now available for booking, via Turas. This course is for anyone considering leaving employment on normal, early or ill health retirement, or taking flexible retirement. All courses take place between 1-3pm and are delivered online by Affinity Financial Awareness (AFA), one of the largest providers of independent financial advice to public sector employees. They are registered and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and responsible for any financial advice given.

- **13 July/4 August/15 September/8 October/26 November/8 December**

Warp-it portal The Warp-it reuse website suffered a cyber-attack recently. The site administrators are highly confident that no personal data was released, and the type of Ransomware used is designed to disrupt business operations rather than extract data. Unfortunately, they have had to re-set the website to how it was in August 2020 which means all users will need to sign-in using their nhs.net usernames, where you will then be prompted to change your password. To change your settings to your nhs.scot email, click on Profile then Edit details. Warp-it site apologises for the inconvenience this has caused.

Book Blether The NHS Grampian libraries team hold an online book club every 6 weeks, with the next meeting taking place on Thursday 3 June at 1pm. There is an open invite to everyone working in health & social care to attend, to discuss what they have been reading or listen along for new recommendations. To come along, all you need to do is drop an email to cornhill.library@nhs.scot

Tune of the day Tracey Santis (Clerical Officer, Alcohol Liaison Service) takes the lead today, suggesting [Lovely Day by Bill Withers](#). A superb song and it's always fun to see if you can hold that note as long as Bill managed! At 18 seconds, it's the longest single note held on any song to reach the US Top 40 chart.

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.