

Tuesday 26 July 2022

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**Free period products - update** Back in February, we shared news about the installation of dispensers for free period products in NHS Grampian facilities. Work on this has been continuing apace, with all hospitals and other NHS Grampian buildings in Aberdeen to be completed by the end of next week. Community facilities will also see their dispensers installed from next week, with the aim of completing work by the end of August. Dispensers will not be installed in every toilet/bathroom - those without will have a notice advising of the nearest supply - but there will be over 1,000 dispensers in place by the time work is complete. This has been a mammoth task and credit must go to the very dedicated team in Domestic Services who have worked on this alongside all their usual responsibilities.

Supplies for the dispensers will be ordered centrally and replenished by the domestic team. We are experiencing some supplier issues, so please be patient if you are awaiting a top-up. If you have any further queries, please contact [gram.domestic@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.domestic@nhs.scot)

**Anti-racism poster campaign** Earlier this year the Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Working Group invited you to suggest ideas for anti-racism posters. We received 20 excellent entries and are now looking for your views on which ideas should be professionally designed. The successful posters will feature across NHS Grampian in wards and departments, including social media and on our digital display screens. [The closing date for completing this survey is Friday 19 August.](#)

**Fire safety training** There has been a reduction in the number of people completing the general fire safety training eLearning module. This should be completed annually. We each have a responsibility to refresh our knowledge on the steps to take in case of a fire in the workplace.

Managers, please encourage your teams to complete this training every 12 months, especially those who may not have regular access to a computer. It is also important to have regular discussions – and drills – in your team so you can test your local fire plan. Extra fire safety training eLearning modules for Senior Nurses and Managers are available to supplement your knowledge of dealing with a fire incident. A Fire Warden eLearning module is also available to support local fire plans where a simultaneous fire evacuation strategy is employed. Further information including how often this training should be completed can be found [on the Fire Safety training home page](#) (Intranet link, networked devices only). Further fire safety support is also available by contacting [gram.firesafety@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.firesafety@nhs.scot)

**COVID-19 update:** The latest ONS data estimated 1 in 15 people in Scotland had the virus in the 7 days to 14 July, compared to 1 in 16 the week before. Whilst infections remain stubbornly high, it is reasonable to believe prevalence is beginning to slow. Hospital admissions in Grampian are showing signs of a plateau although are still higher than in May and early June. Hospital occupancy remains high but stable, on average 107 patients each day in Grampian hospitals. Approximately 13% of patients were admitted because of COVID-19; 56% had the virus but it was not their reason for admission, and 31% were hospital onset cases. There continues to be a general decrease in staff COVID-19 absences, however even reduced sickness absence when combined with annual leave is straining our workforce capacity.

Many people want to know about new strains of the virus. Omicron and its sub-lineages remain the variants of concern under surveillance at present. Omicron sub-lineage BA.2.75 was identified at the start of July. As of 18 July, there were 24 cases in the UK (3 in Scotland). It contains a relatively large number of extra mutations relative to BA.2 from which it is has likely evolved. It has not so far been designated a variant of concern, but it is being monitored.

[Finally, you may be interested in this article from The Washington Post, which explores the \(admittedly dwindling\) number of people who have yet to catch COVID-19.](#) Are they super humans or just super lucky?

**Changing room/locker room availability** Thank you to everyone who fed back on the facilities available on Foresterhill Health Campus. We are running the survey again, this time for those of you working at all other NHS Grampian facilities. [It's just three brief questions, you can answer them here.](#)

**Learning from Feedback** Has your area undertaken improvements from patient feedback over the last 12 months – not linked to a national project or a formal complaint? We are looking for some examples, big or small, to feature in the NHS Grampian Annual feedback report and would love to hear from you! We have had some fantastic examples over the last couple of years (you can read two of those in the links below) and know there are lots more out there.

[Supplying daily newspapers to reduce isolation – What matters to you?](#)

[Virtual Visiting with a beloved pet – What matters to you?](#)

If you have something to share – please get in touch with [kirsten.dickson@nhs.scot](mailto:kirsten.dickson@nhs.scot) or telephone 07885720267 by the end of the day on Wednesday 3 August.

**Non-medical prescribing virtual conference** This event will take place on 21 & 22 September with a range of sessions to choose from. [Registration is now open – just click here.](#)

**Tune of the day** Dr Angus Cooper, a stalwart of the Emergency Department at ARI, is working his final day today. David Connor has been in touch on behalf of the ED consultants with a request to mark more than 20 years with the team: [Lip Up Fatty by Bad Manners](#) – David is keen to stress the title does not reflect the team's opinion of Angus! (EP).

If you want to request a tune, 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)