

Here is the brief for Wednesday 24 March 2021.

**Scottish Government Review of Maternity Services for the women and families of Moray** The Scottish Government is commissioning an independent advisory review to describe the best obstetric model that will provide safe, deliverable, sustainable and high quality maternity services for the women and families of Moray, in line with the Scottish Government ambition described in 'The Best Start: A Five Year Plan for Maternity and Neonatal care (2017)'. The review will be carried out in partnership with NHS Grampian, NHS Highland and stakeholders with an interest in local maternity services. It will involve services and staff at DGH, Raigmore Hospital (NHS) and Aberdeen Maternity Hospital (NHS). NHS Grampian welcome the review as a positive move forward for our staff and the population of Moray and the north.

The review will examine the requirements of 2 models:

1. A safe and sustainable consultant led obstetric service at Dr Gray's Hospital.
2. A safe and sustainable midwife led intrapartum service within a fully functional community maternity unit at Dr Gray's Hospital.

The review team will comprise of experts in obstetrics, midwifery, anaesthetics and paediatrics who are independent of the NHS and NHS Boards and follow a recognised structured process. The review will be conducted on a confidential basis in a respectful and sensitive manner. The process will be independent, objective, open, transparent and impartial.

The review will consider rurality, transport and local support whilst aiming to provide services as close to home as possible. The recommended model or options should be deliverable and sustainable in the context of other health and social care services in Moray, with reference to the local healthcare landscape and economy. The review will also examine the chronology of events to stabilise services since July 2018 and offer reflection on what can be learnt from this. We acknowledge that the downgrade at Dr Gray's Hospital has been extremely challenging for maternity staff in Moray and Aberdeen, and the review may heighten existing concerns and anxieties. Staff wellbeing is paramount and support is available for all affected staff regardless of location, grade, role, discipline or service.

The expected outcome of the review will be a report for the consideration by the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport by the end of June 2021. The report will detail the best service model or options that offer deliverable, sustainable, safe and high-quality maternity care for the women and families of Moray, with reference to nationally recognised standards and guidelines. The report will also offer a recommended action plan that takes the service from its current position through a series of safe interim steps before reaching its final configuration.

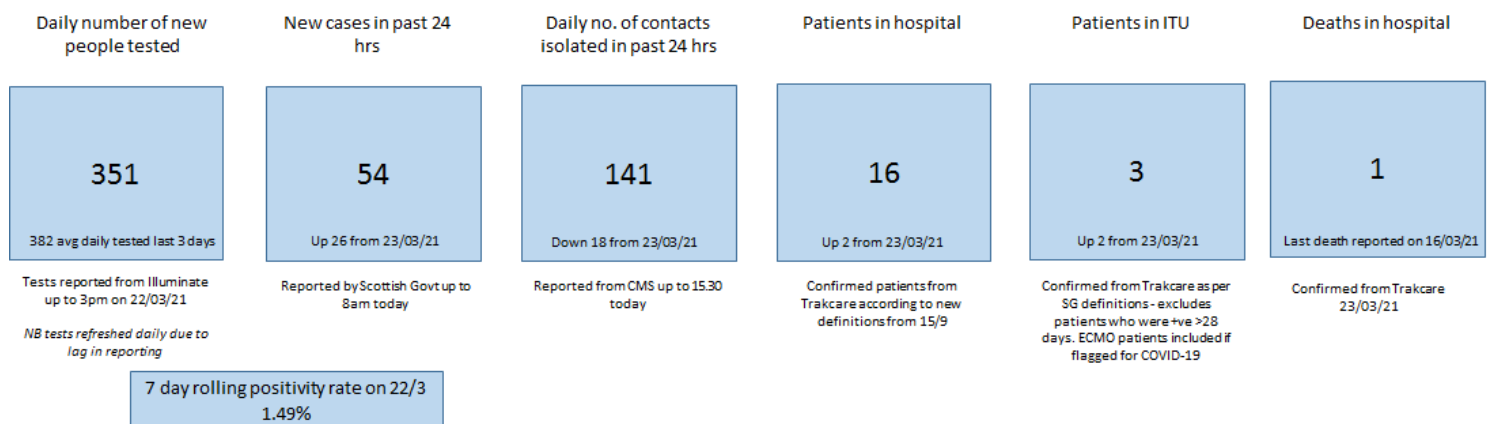
Professor Caroline Hiscox said: "We look forward to working with all of the parties involved over the next couple of months to make sure we put in place a service that is safe, sustainable and meets the needs of people across Moray. The scope of the review, which will take into account the views of local people, healthcare staff and families, as well as explore potential solutions using the resources of both NHS Grampian and NHS Highland, is also hugely welcome. We are eager to explore any options for the service identified by the review team and in particular any solutions that will enable us to deliver consultant care safely and sustainably in Elgin. This is a positive move forward for our staff and population in Moray."

**Staff twice weekly asymptomatic testing – now available to ALL staff** The roll-out of twice weekly rapid lateral flow testing is now extended to all health and social care staff, including non-patient/client facing staff in all areas. In order to obtain a box of LFD test kits please click [here](#) where you should complete the registration process to access your test kit. Prior to arranging to collect 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.

Once you are participating in this programme, please remember the following:

- A Positive result means you should self-isolate immediately and arrange a PCR test.
- A Negative/Not Detected test result does NOT mean that you are free from COVID-19, 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 arranged a PCR test – click [here](#) for the staff testing programme.

**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. If you want to see more detailed information, including cases at neighbourhood level, click [here](#) for the Public Health Scotland daily dashboard.



**Thought for the day** It's been a while since we've used this bit of the brief to check in with you, so how are you? How has your working day been? Good/bad/indifferent? Just starting? Just winding down? Has it been a day of achievements and purpose? Or do you feel a bit like the captain of that cargo ship in the [Suez Canal](#) – well and truly stuck? A colleague remarked to me yesterday that because we worked at such a frenetic pace at the start of the year, they almost felt guilty at the steadier pace we're dealing with at the moment. That's a feeling I recognise – do you? Whatever today has been like for you, I sincerely hope you have been able to take some positives from it. Remember that we are each part of a bigger collective effort, supporting the health and wellbeing of everyone living in north-east Scotland.

**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](mailto:gram.communications@nhs.scot). Please also use that email address if you have items for consideration for future briefs.