

Here is the brief for Thursday 3 March 2022.

CAROLINE: IN CONVERSATION WITH...



“I’ve never met an unhappy porter...”

Chief Executive Caroline Hiscox [is joined in conversation this week by Portering Team member Alex Campbell](#). Far too often overlooked, Alex and his colleagues are a critical part of the healthcare family, without which no patient facing service could survive.

In this week’s chat, Alex helps raise awareness of the challenges porters face and the difference a little more understanding and cooperation would make in keeping things running more smoothly for everyone. Alex is clearly an inspirational member of the team and it’s obvious to see why during this conversation. He also gives Caroline the honest lowdown on the good and the bad during his first year with NHSG, describes the difficulties porters have faced during the pandemic and how job satisfaction helps he and his colleagues keep a smile on their faces in spite of it all.

"In Conversation with Caroline" is a series of videos designed to hear directly from colleagues in health and social care in Grampian about the challenges they face, raise awareness of their work and, crucially, to get their thoughts on what we need do to make improvements for patients and staff as we move into the future.

In case you missed any of the previous episodes, including Practice Educator Helen Spark, GP Laura Muirhead, or Combat Medic James Baker, catch them all or any of the Ask Caroline videos on our YouTube playlist [Ask Caroline & In Conversation Episode Library](#)

Got symptoms? Book a PCR test A reminder to us all that, if we are experiencing the recognised symptoms of COVID-19 (a fever, a new continuous cough, loss of sense of taste/smell) we should isolate immediately and arrange a PCR test. Please do not use LFD tests; these should only be used for asymptomatic testing. The drive-through staff testing service remains fully operational, with sites in Aberdeen, Elgin, and Huntly. [Tests can be booked by completing this online form](#). This service is also open to care home staff and people who live in the same home as health & social care staff.

Respiratory/non respiratory pathways A reminder that we have now moved away from red/amber/green pathways. The National Infection Prevention & Control Manual has detailed information on what PPE should be used, according to the new respiratory/non respiratory pathways. The includes posters which should be displayed in clinical areas as appropriate. [The guidance and posters can be viewed and downloaded here](#).

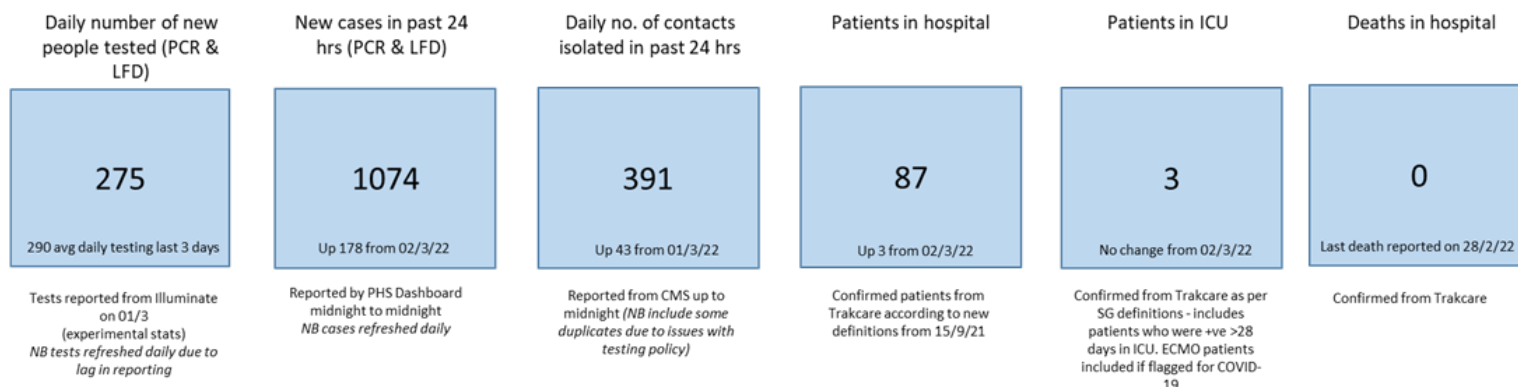
Asymptomatic staff testing – ARI collection point The ARI LFD test distribution point is moving out of the Boardroom. From Monday 7 March, all kits will be issued from the new room in ARI Yellow Zone, Level 4, just off stairwell B from the main corridor. Signage will be displayed to help direct you and details will be included in the invitations issued reminding you how to collect their kits. [More information on asymptomatic testing is available on the NHS Grampian website](#).

Many thanks to focus group members Following our appeal to you to participate in focus groups last month, 28 people volunteered to take part. There was a good spread of roles, bands, and geography, and good Staffside representation. Unfortunately, we were unable to recruit any doctors or those working at Bands 2/3.

There was an emphasis in the discussion on the topics of job control, effort/reward balance, and organisational justice. These are all factors in people's experience of their workplace which are known to have a significant influence on staff wellbeing, and indeed physical health. There were also opportunities for staff to comment on leadership in the organisation and to raise any other items that they wished to discuss or question. Members of the groups were very open in the conversations and brought their own personal experiences to bear on the discussions. In each of the areas of interest there were several issues brought up and lots of positive thinking about the potential to make improvements in practice. The results of the focus group meetings are now being discussed, along with other pieces of work carried out to gauge the 'temperature' of staff experience, at a senior level.

We are really grateful to those members of staff who gave up their time and energy to contribute to this important piece of work, informing us in the communications cell about how we might utilise these views in the daily brief, and being available to senior management in their own discussions. Thank you also to Dr Derek Cox for leading the focus group discussions and members of the Engagement and Public Health teams for their admin support.

Grampian data The local report is shown below. A complete national report, including the option to view cases at a neighbourhood level, [is available via the Public Health Scotland daily dashboard](#).



Cyber Scotland Week – NHS Staff Targeted by Hackers As you may be aware cyber-crime has increased significantly since the start of the pandemic. What you may not be aware of is that You are a target for the hackers; being vigilant when opening emails (at work or at home) is very important to avoid a Phishing scam. As much as eHealth can help protect the organisation through deployment of IT security tools...our staff are the strongest link. Could you spot a Phishing email? Please take the quiz; also don't forget to complete the very short survey, all available via the link below:

[February 28 to March 6 2022 is Cyber Security Week - Please follow this link for useful advice on Staying Safe at Work and at Home](#)

Question of the day The legal requirement to wear face coverings/face masks in certain settings* (supermarkets, public transport) will end on Monday 21 March 2022. Continuing to use face coverings or face masks will still be strongly recommended; we want to understand what people's plans are – will you continue to wear them? [Our question today asks this simple question](#). We want as many people to have their say on this as possible, so we will be sharing this on the NHS Grampian social media accounts. We'd also encourage you to share the link with friends, family, neighbours – anyone you can think of! For ease, here is the full link <https://www.menti.com/dbxsnzrjme>. We'll share the results next Tuesday (8 March)

***Mask usage will continue in healthcare settings, as we follow national infection prevention & control guidelines. Any change to this will be clearly communicated, please continue to use FRSMs and/or other PPE as required.**

Tune of the day It's World Book Day, so we've gone for [Paperback Writer by The Beatles](#). It's dedicated to all the parents/carers among you, who were likely only informed last night that your child could dress up for school and had to rustle up something spectacular out of nothing!

(This is your periodic reminder that the links we use for this feature take you to YouTube. NHS Grampian neither endorses, nor profits from, any products or services advertised)

If you want to request a song for tune of the day, follow up on items included in this brief, or suggest an item for sharing, drop us an email via gram.communications@nhs.scot