

Here is the brief for Thursday 4 February 2021.

**Severe weather warnings** You will no doubt be aware of the severe weather warnings in place across Grampian for the coming days. While we need to keep our services running, your safety is of paramount importance. There is national guidance covering disruption to work as a result of adverse weather and we would encourage you to take a look at it to understand what is expected of you, your line manager, and us as an employer. It is available to read [here](#) (intranet link, networked devices only)

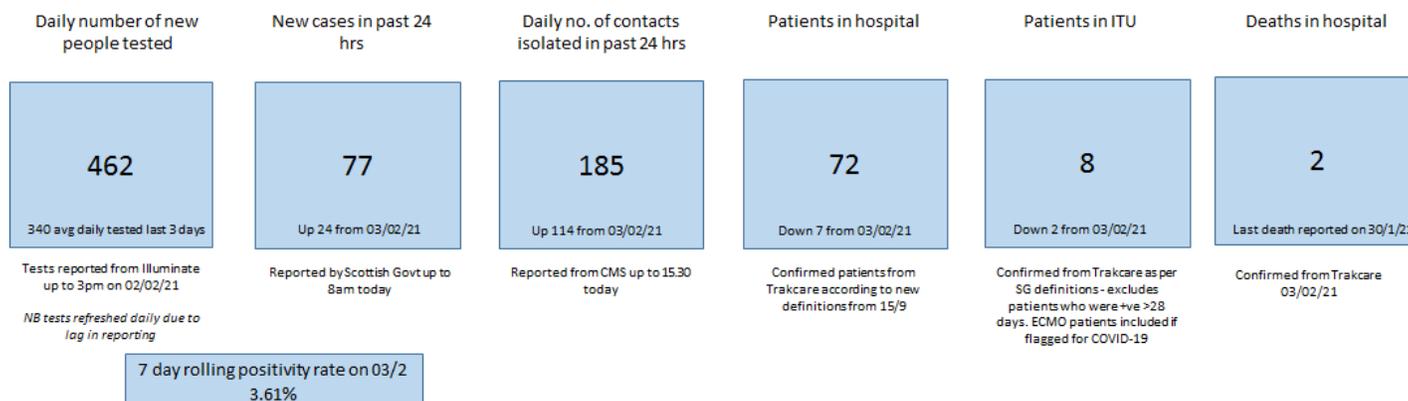
**Deployment during Operation Rainbow** Last week we shared some of the high level findings of the survey we ran on deployment during Operation Rainbow. We are now able to share the full findings in a report attached to the email used to send out this brief. Our sincere thanks once again to everyone who participated in this survey. Early next week we will share further information on the work already underway to support and improve the deployment process.

**COVID-19 vaccination – alternating doses** There has been extensive media coverage today of a new trial, launching in England, examining the effects of using different vaccines for the first and second dose. You can find out more about the trial [here](#), but it is important to be aware this study is separate from the national vaccination programme. **There are no changes planned to the current, same dose, regimen.**

**COVID-19 vaccine – fraud prevention** Posters and information guides have been developed to raise awareness of some of the most common vaccination scams currently in operation. These are available [here](#) and we would encourage you to share these, not only with colleagues but also with friends and family.

**Type IIR face masks – stock change** There will shortly be a change in the manufacturer for Type IIR face masks. There is no change in mask specification, but stock with existing manufacturer is almost exhausted. The SKU code will not change; attached to the email used to send out this brief is further information, including photos of the new product so staff know what to expect.

**Grampian data** The local figures for today and the 7 day rolling positivity rate are shown below. If you click [here](#) you can visit the Public Health Scotland website, which includes neighbourhood figures for all local authority areas in Scotland.



**Security of data/payslips** During periods of flexible working, managers are reminded that it is their responsibility to ensure payslips received for staff who are working at home or from a different location are kept, or forwarded on, securely. We each have a responsibility to ensure our pay advice is received each month.

**Calling all Practice supervisors & Practice assessors** The pandemic has disrupted the traditional approach to clinical placements and the way students are supported in their learning. We are aware some of these challenges could be mitigated by using digital solutions. Feedback from practice has identified that many services would benefit from a better understanding of these options. The Scottish Government Digital Clinical Leads and NES are working together to develop some resources to assist with this which we intend to have with you by the end of February (2021). To help us ensure we are covering all your own challenges, queries and questions in relation to digital solutions, we are asking those who support practice-based learning for students to complete this short survey below and return by **9 February 2021** which will allow us to develop and deliver resources to assist with this issue during March 2021. The survey takes about 10 minutes to complete if you are currently using digital solutions to support student learning, and only a few minutes if you do not currently use such solutions. We are looking for as many replies as possible, so would really appreciate your support in completing this survey. Please [click on this link](#) to commence the survey.

**Learners, students, and supporting staff** We have a dedicated section of the NHS Grampian website, to provide information to learners, students, and the staff who support them. This has been extended to include Allied Health Professions students. You can view that [here](#)

**Watch out for 'use by' dates on your food** Not everything is COVID-19. Cases of food-borne infections are still occurring, and these are sometimes serious. A common source of these infections is food that has gone past its 'use by' date (which is often different from the 'best before' date). Particularly at this time when people are self isolating or shielding, and doing food shopping infrequently, the risk may be greater than in usual circumstances. So please don't eat food that has gone past its 'use by' date. Just because it looks all right, smells all right, and even might taste all right does not mean that it is not contaminated.

**Thought for the day** On 4 February 2020 we shared our first social media post with information about what we come to know as COVID-19. It is safe to say that none of us knew then what the coming months would bring. It has been a year like no other and it is impossible for us to sum up what this has meant for you as individuals (both personally and professionally) in a few sentences. Collectively, there have been significant lows and enormously difficult decisions. We will all carry this experience with us for the rest of our lives. Collectively though, there have also been positives. Working together in health & social care we have shown we are capable of great strength, courage, and adaptability. There has been a tremendous outpouring of support from the communities we serve. Those communities have also come together to support each other. The kindness and generosity shown is profoundly humbling. Globally, the scientific community has banded together like never before in the search for a vaccine. Many thousands of people in north-east Scotland have already received their first immunisation – the fruits of their labour. None of us wished to be tested in this way, and yet our response has demonstrated what we can achieve.

Today is Time To Talk Day. If you need to speak to someone about how you are feeling, remember the [Psychological Resilience Hub](#) remains open. If you prefer, you can call [Breathing Space](#) for free on 0800 83 85 87. They are open 6pm-2am, Monday-Thursday, and from 6pm on Friday right through to 6am on Monday.

**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.