

Here is the brief for Thursday 5 August 2021.

**Life 'beyond zero' – hospital visiting** Recognising the upcoming easing of almost all COVID-19 restrictions, hospital visiting arrangements are currently under review. We are working on enhancing the visiting opportunities and would ask you to bear with us as we put plans in place for this. We are so grateful for the ongoing understanding shown by public, patients, and staff. We always want to take a person-centred approach to visiting and also to do so with the safety of everyone in hospital in mind. At present, we continue to only permit one, named, visitor per patient. Special arrangements can be made for those nearing the end of their life or with additional needs. Visitors are advised to discuss their individual requirements in relation to visiting with the Senior Charge Nurse/Senior Charge Midwife to see what can be supported within the clinical environment meantime. Anyone who is a named visitor is encouraged to undertake twice weekly testing, using Lateral Flow Device tests.

**Unscheduled Care – Optimising Patient Flow** It is acknowledged that patient flow for unscheduled care has presented us with challenges across the health & social care system, even prior to the pandemic. With this in mind, an improvement programme, aimed at addressing these challenges, has been approved and will shortly commence. This programme will lead to:

- Improvements in the levels of staff wellbeing and resilience.
- Improvement to the patient journey.
- Reduction in the number of avoidable admissions; and
- Providing the right care, in the right setting, at the right time, by the right person

The key to the success of this programme will be the involvement and engagement of our key stakeholders, for example our staff, the public we serve, and our many partner agencies, and there will be consultation opportunities for all stakeholders available from the outset of the programme. There will be further updates on these opportunities and the wider progress of the programme via this brief.

**Safer and Smarter Workplaces** A huge thank you to the 754 staff who have responded to the short survey from the Safer Workplaces team. We know how busy everybody is and your taking part is much appreciated. Here's what you told us:

**How would you feel if physical distancing was reduced from 2m to 1m in the workplace?**

Not at all concerned - 56% Slightly concerned - 34% Very concerned - 10%

**How would you feel if physical distancing was removed in the workplace?**

Not at all concerned - 34% Slightly concerned - 34% Very concerned - 33%

**How would you feel if people didn't have to wear face masks in non-clinical settings (all normal Infection Control rules apply in appropriate settings)?**

Not at all concerned - 31% Slightly concerned - 40% Very concerned - 29%

**How would you feel if it was decided to return everyone to their workplace as per pre-Covid arrangements?**

Not at all concerned - 34% Slightly concerned - 31% Very concerned - 35%

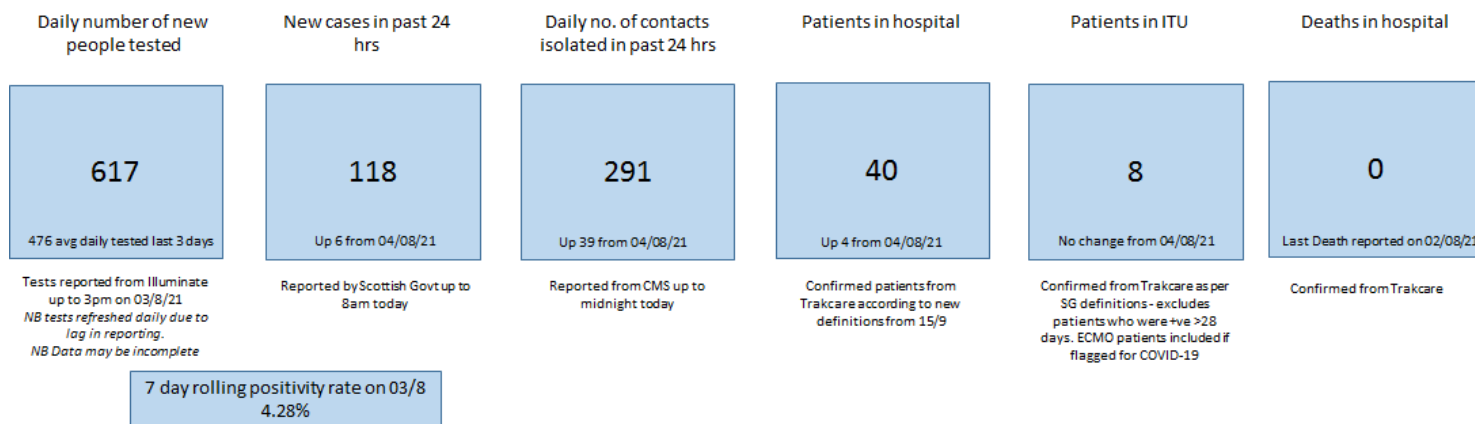
306 people took the time to leave comments and we are busy working through them to group them into themes. We'll share more on that at a later date. These questions were asked to get a sense of how you are feeling at present – please remember that, until we receive further guidance from Scottish Government, physical distancing remains at 2 metres in healthcare settings. We are also continuing with the extended use of fluid repellent face masks at this time.

[The Smarter Workplaces survey remains open](#) – thank you to everyone who has provided feedback on this – the survey has been amended to reflect this. Taking part in this will inform the shape and face of our future workplaces. If preferred, you can use the QR code below to access the survey.



**Readiness to remobilise** Following the Chief Executive's message in last Monday's Staff Brief, we shared an introduction last week on what has been done to support teams since we received your readiness to remobilise returns, where Teams were asked to share what they needed and what would help address the challenges they are facing. An Information & Navigation Hub has been established, as part of the wider support system, to take actions forward. Attached to the email used to send out this brief is a little more information about what teams shared and details on how to contact the hub. We will continue to share the work underway in the Daily Brief as it progresses.

**Grampian data** Here is the local update for today, including the 7-day rolling positivity rate. 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. The figure for the "daily number of new people tested" is only for the number of tests for people who have not been tested previously.



A national update is available on the [Public Health Scotland daily dashboard](#).

**Save the date! Quality Event – 26 October 2021** The annual Quality Event will take place on Tuesday 26 October, 9am-12.30pm. The event aims to share knowledge and good practice across health and social care whilst demonstrating the impressive commitment and interest in learning that staff have continued to show despite extreme pressures. The theme this year is "Be Civil, Be Safe" and looks to emphasise that healthcare is a Team Business. Stress impacts negatively on the way we act towards each other. It may result in people being rude, losing their temper, and often leads to errors. How we behave towards each other is the single greatest factor in how well competent teams perform. The model of authority of the 1940s is no longer relevant to modern healthcare and we need to treat each other in a way that inspires excellence. The Quality Event is taking place virtually and all staff are welcome to attend. Details on registration will be shared nearer the time.

**Manual Handling – Key Handler Network** The Manual Handling Team have created a Key Handler Network through Microsoft Teams. This will be a way of keeping communication open between Key Handlers and the Health and Safety department, supporting each other. Could we ask all Key Handlers to ensure they have been invited into the group? If not, or if there are any questions or queries about the Key Handler Network, please contact the Health and Safety department on [gram.healthandsafety@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.healthandsafety@nhs.scot)

**NHS Grampian Sports Committee - Free Swimming at RGU** The free Summer swimming at the RGU Pool is proving to be extremely popular with staff and families. We now have a regular mix of family fun swimmers and some more exercise orientated lane swimmers. RGU have suggested that from Tuesday 17 August until 14 September 2021, we could make the 6-7pm a family swim session without lanes, with lane swimming from 7pm-8pm. The Sports Committee think this is a good idea and we will try this.

As before, places can be booked via the RGU [online booking system](#) – you're looking for NHS Swim, available on Tuesdays.

**Tune of the day** Joanne Grant got in touch to say she had her hopes raised and then dashed with yesterday's tune, as she was expecting the [Scott Brown vs DJ Rab S tune, also called Now Is The Time](#). Since we cannot bear to disappoint you all, this one goes out to everyone who was on the floor at Amadeus and Espionage back in the day!

**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](mailto:gram.communications@nhs.scot).