

Here is the brief for Thursday 1 April 2021.

**National Whistleblowing Standards Launch 1 April 2021** National Whistleblowing Standards (the Standards) come into force today for all NHS services across Scotland. The Standards replace local whistleblowing policies that were in place and introduces added protection and support to concern raisers.

A whistleblowing concern is when an action, or lack of action, has created, or may create, a risk of harm or wrong doing, and is 'speaking up' in the public interest. Whistleblowing is greatly valued by organisations because it raises awareness of something that may be illegal, unsafe, fraud, or an abuse of taxpayer funds, so that action can be taken.

We would encourage anyone who is providing NHS services, or working with NHS staff to please get in touch if they believe they have concern of public interest, which includes all:

- NHS Grampian staff.
- Health and Social Care staff.
- Those working in non-private Primary Care Services (including both salaried and independent practices).
- Contracted to provide services for NHS Grampian.
- Agency staff and Locums.
- Students, Trainees and Apprentices.
- Volunteers and Third Sector Organisations.

Anyone raising a whistleblowing concern can expect to have their identity protected and be fully supported by one of our Confidential Contacts.

- Concerns can be raised confidentially by email: [gram.confidentialcontact@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.confidentialcontact@nhs.scot)
- Through an online form: <http://bit.ly/NHSGWhistleblowingConcernReporting>
- Further options and information is available at: [www.nhsgrampian.org/whistleblowing](http://www.nhsgrampian.org/whistleblowing)
- More detailed information on the Standards is available at: [National Whistleblowing Standards](#).

**Investment in robotic surgery** As you will hopefully have seen in local press and online today, we have unveiled three new surgical robots as part of a £3.5 million investment in improving patient care and reducing waiting times in the region. Surgeons here were the first at a territorial board in Scotland to have a robotic-assisted surgical system in 2015 and since then have seen improved and shorter recovery times for those who are operated on using them. Two of the robots are based at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary with the third at Woodend Hospital, to be used on hip and knee replacement patients. More information about this investment is available [here](#).

**Long COVID** You may have seen today's press coverage of the Office for National Statistics report on Long COVID. You can view the full report [here](#). Don't forget that if you are interested in finding the latest literature or evidence on a particular aspect of Covid-19, including "long Covid", or any other topic, our library staff are still here to help. Please contact Clinical Liaison Librarian, Lyn Mair on [lyn.mair@nhs.scot](mailto:lyn.mair@nhs.scot) to discuss your requirements.

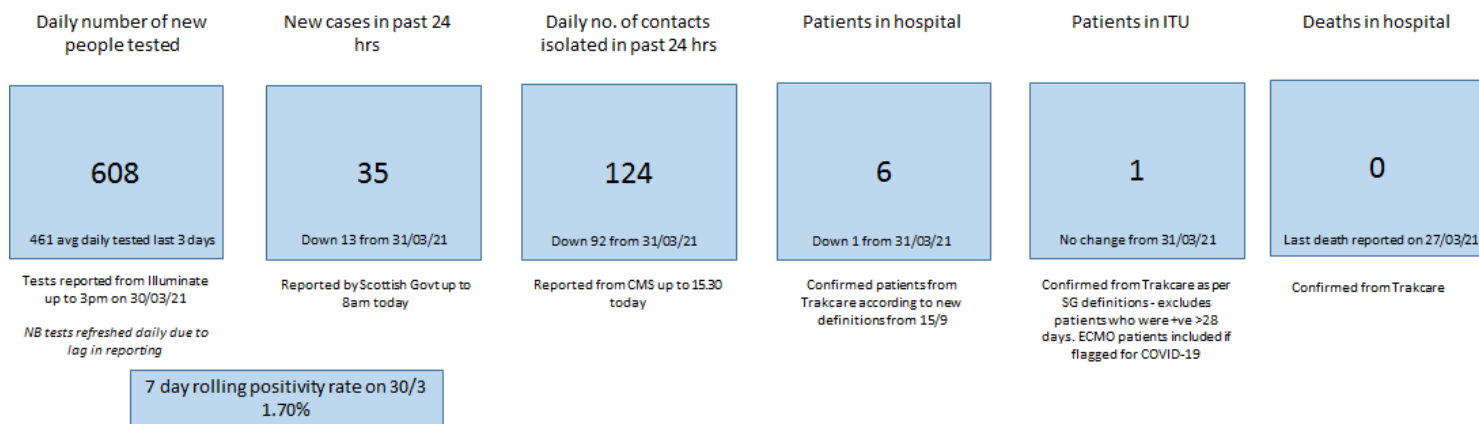
**Use of FRSMs for hospital inpatients** Fluid Repellent Surgical Masks (FRSMs) are mandatory for inpatients, unless they are exempt, or their care is compromised – click [here](#) for further information. This is to maximise patient & staff safety and minimise COVID-19 transmission.

- FRSMs should now have been implemented for all inpatients (including children aged 5 and over), within the amber and red & green pathway, unless it is intolerable or compromises care delivery.
- The use of a surgical facemask is essential (if tolerated), for transfers between all pathways (red, amber and green) to minimise the dispersal of respiratory secretions and reduce environmental contamination.

To support implementation, the Infection Prevention & Control Team recently developed a leaflet entitled “COVID-19 Information for patients, carers and visitors on the mandatory use of face masks / face coverings”. The leaflet is available [here](#) and hard copies have been distributed. Further printed copies are available on request via the Quality Development team, quoting leaflet number 1934. Alternatively you can scan this QR code:



**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.



**Staff professional registration** Remember, if you use your NHS work email address to communicate with your professional body, you must ensure records are updated with your NHS.scot email address. Professional bodies will not automatically be aware and may continue to use NHS.net addresses with regards to your registration. Don't run the risk of your registration lapsing!

**NHS Scotland National Event – poster competition** We've had some fantastic abstracts submitted for this year's NHS Scotland ePoster Event. Entrants should have all received their feedback or instruction to upload to [Online submission for final abstracts | NHS Scotland Events](#).

**The national portal to upload to closes at 5pm on 9th April 2021**

If you have further queries, please email [gram.conference@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.conference@nhs.scot) GOOD LUCK!

**Move of LearnBloodTransfusion (LBT) Training from LearnPro to Turas** Learnpro is no longer available to NHS Grampian staff. Learnbloodtransfusion (LBT) training has moved to Turas Learn. More information on this is available [here](#) (intranet link, networked devices only)

**Thought for the day** Today is Maundy Thursday, a part of Holy Week, the period of time leading up to the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. For many of you this is a week of great significance and we hope you have been able to – and will continue to – observe this period in a way that is meaningful for you. Although tomorrow is not a Public Holiday for us in NHS Grampian (though Monday is!) we know many of you will be taking time for yourself to enjoy a long weekend. We hope you have a restful few days, whether you are marking Easter or not.

**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.