

Here is the brief for Tuesday 16 November 2021.

Winter (21/22), Respiratory Infections in Health & Care settings New guidance for the management of respiratory infections is set to come into effect across health & care settings in Scotland at the end of November. This will replace the COVID-19 guidance which was published last October. We are preparing for this now. This is not a major change, just an evolution on the good practice we are carrying out currently. We will stop using the terms RED, AMBER and GREEN pathways and instead have a RESPIRATORY and NON-RESPIRATORY pathway. All respiratory illnesses including COVID will be managed in the respiratory pathway. Staff already have the skills to implement this, but to support understanding, there will be a series of Question & Answer sessions (see dates and times below) that can be booked by emailing gram.saferworkplaces@nhs.scot

- Winter Respiratory Guidance Session 2 17/11/21 @ 9.45
- Winter Respiratory Guidance Session 3 17/11/21 @ 15.00
- Winter Respiratory Guidance Session 4 18/11/21 @ 10.00
- Winter Respiratory Guidance Session 5 19/11/21 @ 11.00

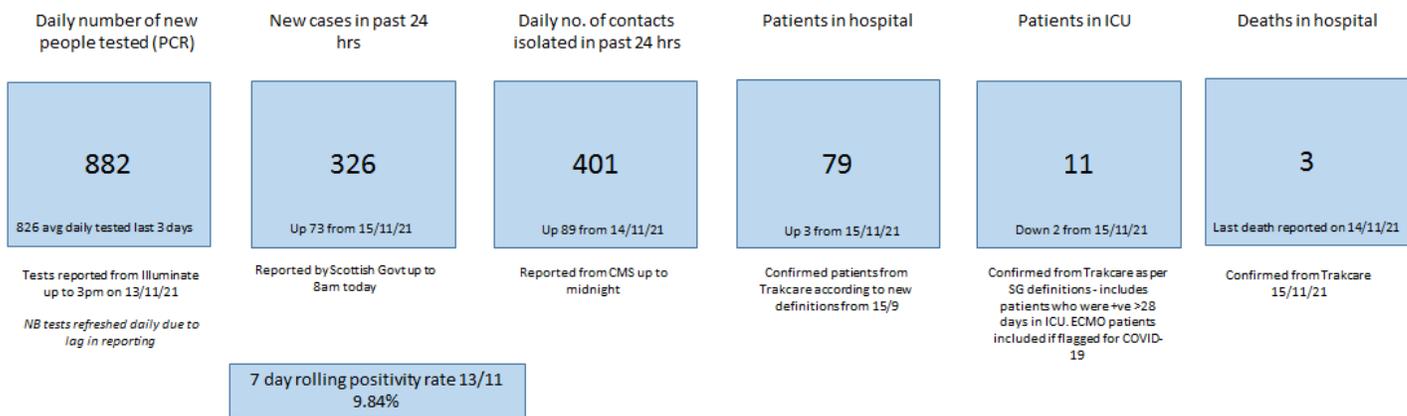
Operation Iris – what is it? In her recent video updates, Professor Caroline Hiscox has highlighted Operation Iris. Put simply, this is the name which has been given to our plan for the next six months, meeting the combined challenges of COVID-19 and Winter pressures. There has always been a coordinated effort to respond to the particular challenges we face at this time of year. Following on from Operation Rainbow and Operation Snowdrop, which represented our response to different phases of the pandemic, it was felt helpful to give the plan for the coming months a collective name that everyone could identify with. Operation Iris is now underway and will run for six months, with a review in March 2022 to decide whether the operation should be extended or concluded.

UK Threat Level Following the terror incident at Liverpool Women's Hospital at the weekend, the UK Threat Level has now been raised from Substantial to Severe. This is a precautionary measure and not based on any specific threat. There is no intelligence to date which suggests hospitals are at any increased risk. We should all remain alert but not alarmed and continue to go about our business as usual. [Staff are encouraged to access the recently updated training resources on the Security Intranet pages](#) (networked devices only)

Optimising Patient Flow The latest one page overview of the Optimising Patient Flow, 90 Day Improvement Collaborative features the work being undertaken to reduce the number of 'Waiting for a Bed' breaches is attached to the email used to send out this brief.

Tie back Fluid Repellent Surgical Masks There are now good stocks available from the National Distribution Centre (NDC) of fluid repellent surgical masks (FRSM) that tie back, rather than ear loop. These can be ordered through PECOS or via your Ward Product Management Service (WPM) using product code 251438. Some staff who wear glasses have reported a reduction in fogging of their glasses when wearing a tie back FRSM.

Grampian data The local update for today is shown below. [The Public Health Scotland daily dashboard is available to view via this link.](#)



Near Me – what support do you need? Near Me is a free online video appointment service for health and care. Although in use in Grampian since 2016, the number of appointments conducted using Near Me has dramatically increased as a result of the pandemic and more than one million appointments have been delivered on Near Me across Scotland. [An independent evaluation, published earlier this year, recommended ongoing peer support and training.](#) Therefore, the team want to identify the learning needs of clinicians and care staff working in health and social care across Scotland. This will allow us to work with professional bodies and others to develop and deliver appropriate support. The Near Me Team would be grateful if you would consider [completing the Learning Needs Survey](#) which should take about five to ten minutes to complete. Please share this with colleagues as appropriate.

Child Healthy Weight Pathway The Child Healthy Weight service in NHS Grampian is currently being redesigned to fall in line with national standards. As part of the redesign, we have updated our referral guidance and supporting information for referrers and families. We hope the patient leaflet will help guide conversations and provide a summary of our service and what we can offer. The service will now accept referrals for children and young people and their families in Grampian who are:

- Aged 0-18
- Been identified by a health professional as having a weight over the 99.6th centile
- Or over the 91st centile with other health difficulties.

We will be running Child Healthy Weight case discussion drop ins on the first Tuesday of each month at 2pm. This can be accessed via the open Teams group “Gram Child Healthy Weight Drop In”- for the access code please email the address below. These sessions will offer the opportunity to discuss any potential referrals, and for advice in supporting young people who would be eligible for a Tier 2 service whilst services are in development. No pre booking is required. For information on the service, including its referral system, [click here](#). The service can be contacted by phoning 01224 556 556 or by emailing gram.childhealthyweight@nhs.scot.

World Prematurity Day Tomorrow (17 November) is World Prematurity Day, raising awareness of the challenges faced by pre-term babies and their families. It is estimated that 1 in 10 babies are born prematurely. The neonatal unit in Aberdeen provides specialist care, not only for babies born prematurely in Grampian, but from across Scotland. They cared for 835 babies in 2020 and, while some may only stay for a few days, some babies spend many weeks in the unit. The unit is focused on Family Integrated Care, putting parents at the heart of their infant's care from the very beginning. Last year, 75% of parents were present at ward rounds, discussing and planning their baby's care directly with the clinical team. [More information on World Prematurity Day is available via this link.](#)

Aberdeenshire multi-agency team talk A big thank you to those who gave up their time yesterday to attend the first multi-agency Team Talk that Aberdeenshire Council has hosted. This first event considered public protection; [more information on what was discussed and how to feedback is available on the intranet](#) (networked devices only)

Suttie Arts Space At the beginning of the pandemic, tables and chairs were placed in the Suttie Art Space in ARI to provide additional staff rest areas. To allow this space to return to its intended purpose, we now need these items to be removed. If you own, or know who owns, this furniture please contact tamsin.greenlaw@nhs.scot by Wednesday 24 November. After this date, the items will be removed and redistributed.

Tune of the day I've been reflecting on the speed with which time is passing (how are we halfway through November??), particularly with conversations about a certain event which takes place in December that I refuse to name right now. So, today's tune is [Who Knows Where The Time Goes?](#) Lots of lovely versions of this exist, I've plumped for Fairport Convention.

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