

Here is the brief for Monday 19 April 2021.

**Chief Executive's update** This week's update focuses on another group of 'hidden heroes' – the sewing room team at Foresterhill. Paul Allen (Director of Facilities & eHealth) introduces supervisor Angela Ross – you can watch the video [here](#). Remember, you can contact Caroline Hiscox at any time by emailing [gram.grampianchiefexecutive@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.grampianchiefexecutive@nhs.scot)

**COVID-19 deaths in care homes** You will likely have seen media coverage today of the number of COVID-19 deaths recorded in care homes in Scotland. From early on in the pandemic, NHS Grampian and Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire, and Moray Health & Social Care Partnerships have provided oversight, support and assurance regarding care in Care Homes across Grampian. Each of the HSCPs, along with NHS Grampian, has established an 'Oversight Group' to work in partnership with Care Homes to pick up any concerns early and work to ensure that should a Care Home have an outbreak it is supported to manage it.

Care home staff have worked tirelessly in difficult circumstances to care for some of the most vulnerable people in our communities and we must not lose sight of the dedication they have shown over the last year. COVID-19 has caused great suffering and loss and we must never forget that behind the numbers are individuals who are greatly missed by those who loved and cared for them.

**Twice weekly asymptomatic staff testing – Q&A** A few weeks ago we asked you to send in your questions on this programme. We now have a video ready to share, with Dr Emma Davies (Registrar in Public Health Medicine) answering your questions. You can view the video [here](#); topics covered include what symptoms should prompt staff to seek a PCR test instead, the effectiveness of LFD tests, and what to do if you've been signed off work due to other illness or injury.

As a reminder, these tests should always be undertaken at home, and prior to coming into your workplace. Any positive LFD test should result in the individual not coming into the workplace, and self-isolating with their other household members, to reduce the risk of infecting others, and minimise transmission opportunities. The relevant line manager should be informed of your positive result.

Recently some testing kits have been discovered within our orange stream clinical waste, within healthcare settings, which indicates some individuals are undertaking these tests at work. A negative test should be discarded into your normal household waste. A positive test should be placed in a plastic bag and kept for 72 hours, prior to being discarded into your household waste.

**New COVID-19 vaccine trial launched** Aberdeen is to play host to a second COVID-19 vaccine trial, this time overseen by Medicago, a biopharmaceutical company based in Canada, and GlaxoSmithKline (GSK). The study is the first to test a plant-derived COVID-19 vaccine candidate and will evaluate the efficacy and safety of the Coronavirus-Like Particle COVID-19 Vaccine (CoVLP). Healthy adults between the age of 18 to 39-year-old will be asked to take part in the study, which will look to recruit over the course of the next four to six weeks.

**Maintaining adequate protection from airborne risks & aerosols means FFP3 masks and facial hair don't mix** When staff wear FFP3 masks the seal of the mask to the face is vital; if the mask doesn't seal to the face, then contaminants can get into the breathing zone. One of the things that affects the seal of the mask to the face is facial hair or stubble. All staff are clean shaven for their fit

test. It is vitally important that staff are clean shaven at work so that they can wear the FFP3 mask and get a good seal to the face. Being clean shaven is the safest way ensure an effective seal.

If a staff member choses to have facial hair, they must ensure that for any style of facial hair, the hair does not cross the seal of the mask or block or touch the valve. The seal must only touch skin and not have contact with any hair or stubble. Managers are reminded that if they see staff with facial hair, which disrupts the seal or blocks or touches the valve, wearing FFP3 masks they must stop them and make sure they know they cannot be in with patients, when FFP3 masks are required, until their facial hair has been trimmed or shaved appropriately.



**Grampian data** The local figures for today (and over the weekend) 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.

	Daily number of new people tested	New cases in past 24 hrs	Daily no. of contacts isolated in past 24 hrs	Patients in hospital	Patients in ITU	Deaths in hospital
Sat 17/04	294	23	72	5	3	1
Sun 18/04	286	18	72	5	3	0
Mon 19/04	326	18	83	6	3	0

302 avg daily tested last 3 days

No change from 18/04/21

Up 11 from 18/04/21

Up 1 from 18/04/21

No change from 18/04/21

Last recorded death 17/04

Tests reported from Illuminate up to 3pm on 17/04/21

Reported by Scottish Govt up to 8am today

Reported from CMS up to 15.30 today

Confirmed patients from Trakcare according to new definitions from 15/9

Confirmed from Trakcare as per SG definitions - excludes patients who were +ve >28 days. ECMO patients included if flagged for COVID-19

Confirmed from Trakcare

NB tests refreshed daily due to lag in reporting

7 day rolling positivity rate on 17/4  
1.1%

If you are interested in seeing what is happening in your area, this information is published daily by Public Health Scotland. All you need to do is click [here](#) and select the appropriate local authority area.

**We Care programme – workshop opportunities** Firstly, details of the resilience workshops were shared in error on Friday; all dates are now full and we apologise for any inconvenience caused.

There are two other workshops coming up which may be of interest:

- **Wellbeing Check-in for Staff – Individuals** An opportunity for staff to share what's going on for them: the good, the bad and the ugly be that practical or emotional, with no judgement, advice or otherwise; hear about wellbeing and other supports; and think about what they need going forward. A series of questions are posed to the participants and then individually they are invited to share their thoughts on each question. Staff can say whatever is on their mind in relation to the questions - there are no right or wrong responses – and there is no compulsion to answer.

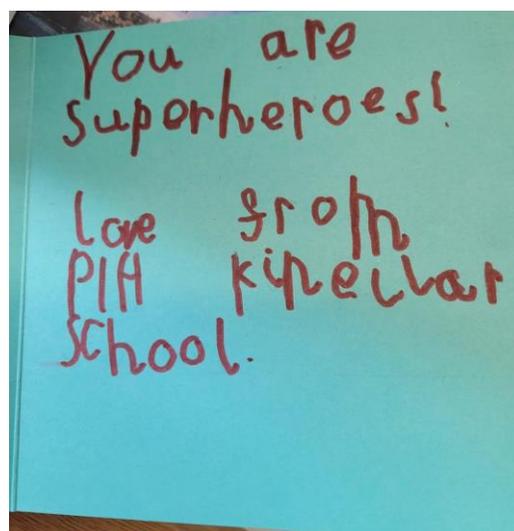
This workshop is available on the following dates: **Thursday 29th April, 1100-1230/Friday 30th April, 1330-1500/Wednesday 26th May, 1100-1230/Thursday 27th May, 1330-1500/Tuesday 22nd June, 1500-1630/Thursday 24th June, 1300-1430**

- **Guided Journaling workshop** Journaling is recognised as being helpful in reducing anxiety through providing clarity; identifying patterns; revealing emotions, and processing decisions. Though the guided journaling takes place in a group setting, your experience will be entirely personal. With this in mind, all microphones will remain muted throughout, and you can leave your camera off if you choose. There will be an opportunity at the end to connect in small groups to share anything you wish from your reflections, however there is never any expectation for you to share what you write, or to contribute to this conversation. Join us in taking 30-minutes to pause and connect with yourself. No prior journaling experience is necessary - all you need is something to write with and some paper. Sessions are taking place as follows:

**26th April 16:30 – 17:00/29th April 08:00 – 08:30/6th May 10:30 – 11:00/13th May 08:00 – 08:30 20th May 14:30 – 15:00**

All workshops are delivered via MS Teams. Please contact [heather.haylett-andrews@nhs.scot](mailto:heather.haylett-andrews@nhs.scot) to book your place. The full list of workshops offered as part of the We Care programme is available to view [here](#).

**Thought for the day** A big thank you to all the children in Primary 1H at Kinellar School; they sent this lovely card for the attention of everyone working in health & social care.



**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.