

Here is the brief for Tuesday 26 April 2022.

**Temporary Increase to NHS Scotland Mileage Rates** The Scottish Terms and Conditions Committee (STAC) Secretariat has agreed a temporary increase to NHS Scotland standard business mileage rates. The increase – 5p per mile, with motorcycles and reserve rates being 3p per mile – is a temporary measure, effective for business mileage incurred from 1 April 2022. This change will initially be put in place for the first 4 months of 2022/23 i.e., April – July 2023.

Mileage rates are set in accordance with national terms and conditions, and the UK Staff Council retains general oversight of the Agenda for Change mileage system. NHS Scotland is committed to the UK Staff Council position, and in the interim STAC will assess on a 4 monthly basis the need for any variation to the UK Staff Council position on mileage rates and will provide a minimum of 2 months' notice of reverting to the UK position.

Full details of this temporary increase, including mileage rates, are available [DL\(2022\)11 - Temporary increase to NHS Scotland mileage rates](#),

**Extended use of fluid repellent surgical masks** Following notice of the de-escalation of COVID-19 infection prevention & control measures – and consideration of all the associated guidance - here is the updated guidance for NHS Grampian. This should be implemented **no later than Tuesday 3 May**:

Staff should continue to use fluid repellent surgical masks (FRSMs) in all clinical areas. All visitors, patients, and attendees mobilising within clinical/hospital sites are strongly encouraged to wear an FRSM to prevent infection transmission. Donning and doffing stations will remain at all appropriate entry and egress points to enable this. FRSMs are single use and should be disposed of in the appropriate bin if they become damp or dirty. FRSMs should always cover the mouth and nose. They should not be pulled under the chin or hanging from the ear.

Taking regular breaks and socialising with colleagues is important from a wellbeing point of view. The relaxation of physical distancing means more staff can now gather in canteens, changing rooms, and communal break areas. We encourage the full use of these facilities and staff should continue to wear face masks in these spaces when not eating or drinking, and to be respectful of colleagues who may require additional space.

If you work solely in a non-clinical area/building, where patient care is not provided, you can exercise professional judgement and personal choice regarding the use of FRSMs or fabric face coverings. If you go into a clinical building/area at any point, you should don an FRSM upon entry and dispose of correctly when you exit.

**ARI Discharge Lounge** This facility is based on Level 4 of the Yellow Zone at ARI, offering a space for patients to wait in the run-up to discharge, for example if they are awaiting medication or transport. The lounge is open Monday-Friday, 8.30am-6.30pm. The team make contact with wards each morning to understand which patients may be ready for discharge and make arrangements to bring them to the lounge. [A short video, explaining more about the discharge lounge, is available to watch here.](#)

**Selective (non-routine) vaccination** From 1 April 2022, responsibility for the delivery of all vaccinations transferred to NHS Grampian and the City, Aberdeenshire, and Moray Health & Social Care Partnerships.

One of the important elements of this transition is ensuring we have a robust process in place to allow clinicians to easily refer patients who, for whatever reason, have either missed vaccinations or require vaccinations again due to clinical treatment. If you need to refer an individual, please visit the Grampian Guidance page. (The relevant link sits under 'useful resources' on the front page) This will take you to the Grampian Vaccination Home page where you will find a link to the Green Book (this provides the most up to date guidance on all vaccinations). Please then complete the form and send it by email to the appropriate H&SCP. It will then be reviewed by a senior vaccinator and a discussion will take place with the individual referred. If appropriate, the individual will be invited to attend a local centre for vaccination. If not appropriate (based on Green Book recommendations) then the individual will be informed and the referring clinician will be advised.

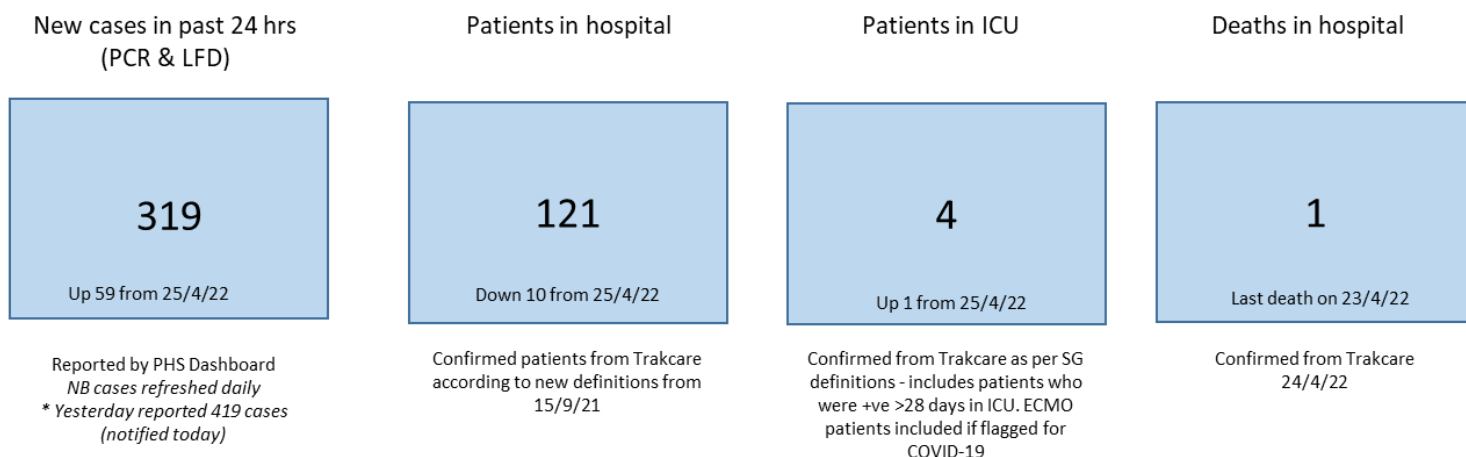
We continue to develop and improve our vaccination web site and in a few weeks' time it will be updated to cover all vaccinations that are available to the Grampian population.

**Talent Pool for Healthcare Support Workers** We will soon be embarking on a test of change of the way we advertise HCSW vacancies, utilising the functionality of a Talent Pool within JobTrain, the National Recruitment System. A generic HCSW advert will be placed on JobTrain this week and applicants will be shortlisted and interviewed "real" time and if deemed appointable, moved to the Talent Pool. Candidates will be conditionally offered a post with NHS Grampian and pre-employment checks will commence. Once complete, they will be matched to future HCSW roles. This test of change will be trialled initially in acute adult vacancies within Aberdeen City (ARI, Woodend Hospital, and Rosewell House).

To switch processes all new and approved HCSW vacancies will not be advertised for the trial areas but matched to the next available candidate from the Talent Pool. Managers will not be asked to re-interview candidates but merely have an informal discussion to ensure they are satisfied they are a match for their vacancy. It is envisaged the use of a Talent Pool will improve efficiency in the recruitment process by:

- Reducing the recruitment time
- Reduce clinical time interviewing candidates and undertaking recruitment processes
- Remove the requirement for candidates applying and being interviewed for multiple posts.

**Grampian data** The local update is shown below; [the PHS daily dashboard can be viewed here](#).

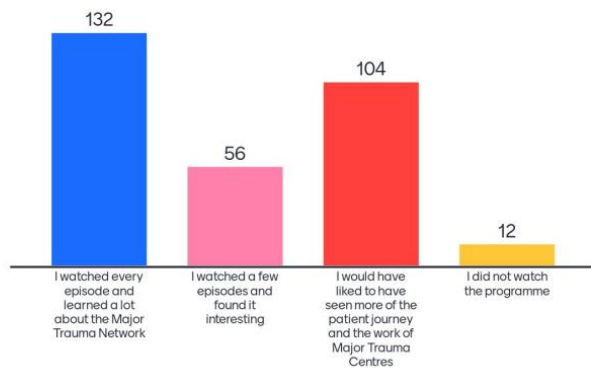


**Hospital at Home – Shire Supported Discharge (H@H-SSD)** Would you like to know more about the Hospital at Home service and what this looks like in Aberdeenshire? Join the team at 9.30am tomorrow (Wednesday 27 April) to learn how to access the service, patient criteria, service processes, and geographical coverage. There will then be 30 minutes for questions and discussion. This session will be delivered on Teams; [please use this link to take part](#). Past sessions have been instrumental, not only in improving understanding of H@H-SSD service and creating links with teams involved at all stages of the Frailty Pathway but also in shaping the service as it develops so we encourage you to come along.

**Foot Health Week** It's day two of this annual campaign to raise awareness of foot health – thanks to the Aberdeen City podiatry team for providing this update: The 2022 campaign focuses on the impact of our working lives on our feet. A recent survey found 79% of retail workers are on their feet for four to ten hours in their working day, something we in health & social can probably relate to. Of those, 30% felt that their mental wellbeing and quality of work was affected after just four hours, rising to 41% by hour eight. Simple changes to footwear and foot health awareness can help reduce the pain. During the campaign we are aiming to educate our colleagues and the public about these issues and help signpost to podiatry services if additional support and advice on their foot health needs is required. Please see attached some foot care information leaflets. You can follow us on Facebook and Twitter for more resources and to follow our campaign - Facebook and Twitter @PodiatryAbzCity

**Rescue Extreme Medics** Thanks to everyone who took part in our quick survey on this documentary series – the results are below, and we've shared them with the Major Trauma Centre team. It's too early to say if there will be a second series, but we will keep you posted.

What did you think of Rescue Extreme Medics? You can select up to 2 options. Mentimeter



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**Aberdeen Sports Village Corporate Games** We're still on the lookout for participants in the fitness challenge (2 female, 1 male) and Touch Rugby (2 male) at the upcoming games. Both events take place next month, but training sessions start this week. If you are interested in taking part, please email [gram.sport@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.sport@nhs.scot)

**Tune of the day** A huge thank you to Adam Cooper for getting in touch to remind me that it is a year today since we first introduced this feature. Over the last 12 months we've had a wonderful and eclectic mix of tunes suggested. I try my best to keep track of all the requests – if I have missed yours, I'm very sorry! Adam had suggested Happy Birthday by Stevie Wonder, but that feels a bit self-congratulatory, so instead I've gone for [Lean On Me by Bill Withers](#) and it's dedicated to all of you, especially (but not exclusively) if you have young people with National 4/5 and Higher exams coming up.

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