

Here is the brief for Monday 8 November 2021.

**The times they are a-changing** We hope you have all had an opportunity to read the open letter from Professor Caroline Hiscox (Chief Executive) and John Tomlinson (Interim Chair), shared in Friday's brief and again first thing today. Many of you working 'on the shop floor' will already be seeing some changes in the way you work. Some of these will be tests of change, some of these will be permanent. All will be driven by the need to provide the best care we possibly can, whether this is in acute hospitals or in community settings. As ever, we are committed to sharing information with you all via this brief, as quickly as we can. In the meantime, please keep doing what you are doing. Your efforts, amid enormous pressure, are seen and valued.

**Staff vaccinations – ARI clinic** A reminder to everyone based at Foresterhill that the vaccination clinic in ARI (Eye outpatients, Level 3, Yellow Zone) will only operate on Wednesday and Friday this week. These will be the final clinics in this location. There is limited capacity for drop-ins, at the times below, however priority will be given to those with appointments. Vaccinations should be pre-booked whenever possible, [using the online portal](#).

- Wednesday 10 November, 1.30-7pm
- Friday 12 November, 9.15am – 4pm

The Occupational Health Service will continue to offer clinics in the Suttie Centre and at Foresterhill Lea throughout this month, appointments can be booked using the link above.

**Buy back of annual leave** The Scottish Government has offered the opportunity for NHS Scotland staff, on a voluntary basis and under certain conditions, to have up 10 days annual leave bought back at enhanced rates and/or transfer annual leave into the 2022/23 annual leave year. Local implementation is under consideration by the Grampian Area Partnership Forum and more information will be shared in due course. In the meantime, you should continue to arrange annual leave as normal.

**IT Performance Issues – Update** Following on from the communication last week, eHealth has been working on a resolution to the reported IT performance issues. This requires eHealth to implement a new web filtering solution alongside doubling the capacity of our SWAN connection. Once the new web filtering solution is in place you may experience the following:

- Inability to access websites or web-based applications you could normally access.

Please report any issues being experienced by following the guidance on the page presented to you when trying to access the website/application. These changes will significantly improve the performance issues being experienced. This change will take place between 7.30-7.45am on Thursday (11 November).

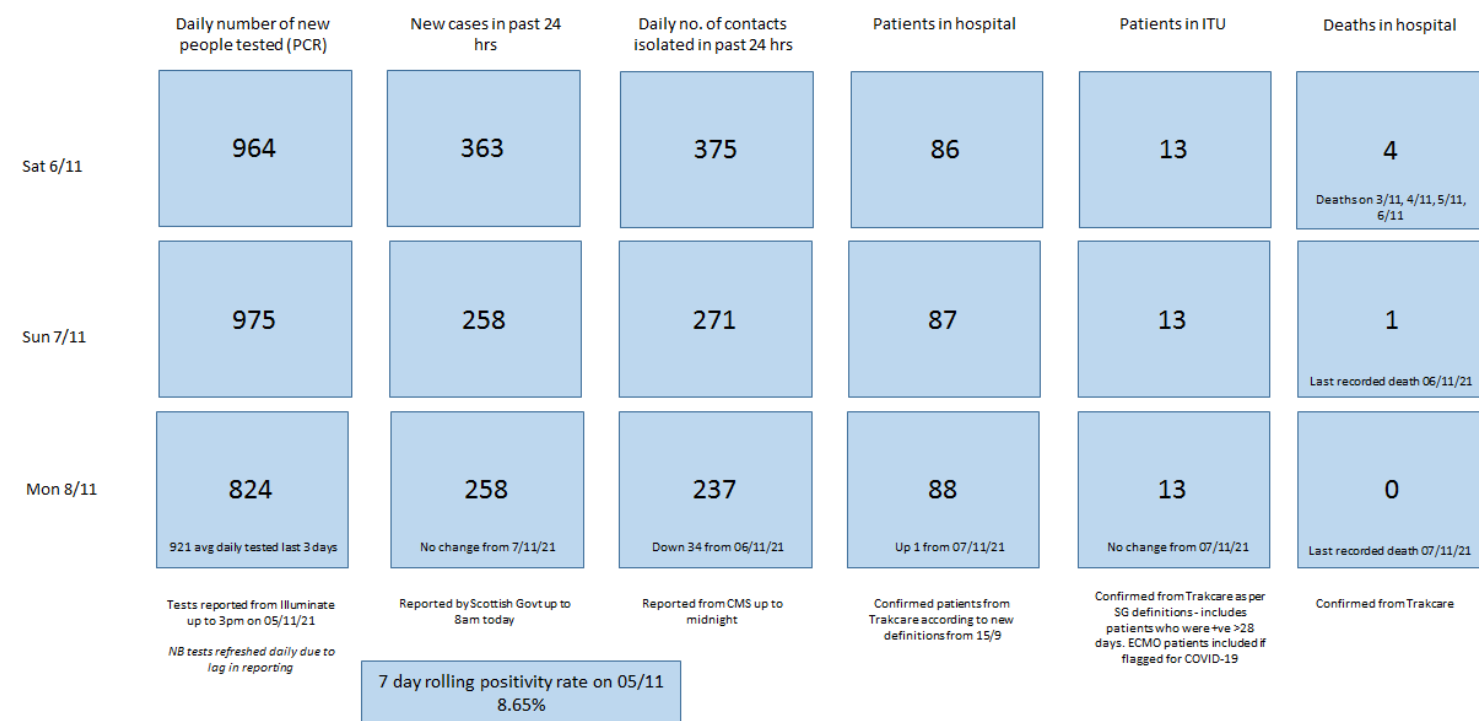
**Optimising Patient Flow** A one page overview of the Optimising Patient Flow, 90 Day Improvement Collaborative has been attached to the email used to send out this brief. This is the first of an ongoing series of communication updates which will report on the progress of the workstreams contributing to this improvement project, which we'll share regularly via this brief.

**Developing NHS Grampian’s Plan for the Future 2022-2028** From our survey and earlier discussions with you during July and August, we asked what you liked and appreciated about health & care services and if you had any concerns or disappointments about these before and during COVID-19. The main areas we have heard that are important to people include quality of care, access to services, use of digital technology, and what helps you to stay healthy and well. We want to find out what would make the most difference to people as we plan improvements to these areas and are inviting members of the public to take part in informal discussions this week. You can register to join one of the following sessions by emailing [gram.involve@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.involve@nhs.scot)

Tuesday 9 November 6pm-7pm/ Wednesday 10 November 1pm-2pm/Thursday 11 November 11.30am - 12.30pm

There will be dedicated staff sessions too, but you are welcome to attend these sessions as a member of the public, if convenient.

**Grampian data** The local update for today (and across the weekend) is shown below.



[The Public Health Scotland daily dashboard is available to view via this link.](#)

**Occupational Health Service – pilot of new referral form** NHS Grampian Occupational Health Service will shortly be rolling out an updated Management Referral Form via their new online OHS Portal. This new online form will replace the old word document that is currently in use. This new online form will be easier to complete and help managers tailor their referral and ask specific questions. It also keeps an electronic confidential record of all referrals submitted.

We are currently conducting a pilot of the new referral form and are looking for managers to take part. If you are interested, please contact Chris Lawrie at [chris.lawrie@nhs.scot](mailto:chris.lawrie@nhs.scot) by 12 November 2021. Those who volunteer will be provided system access and training information. All you need is an NHSG networked device to access the OHS Portal and make a referral.

**Monday reflection** Guided Journaling sessions are offered as part of the We Care Programme – [you can find more information about that here](#). We aim to use one of the questions from the previous week’s sessions each Monday, to give you an opportunity to pause for reflection:

*We often hear that we should bring our true authentic self to work. That’s not always easy. What mask do you wear, and what does it conceal?*

**Tune for the day** A big thank you to Heather Binns for kicking off the working week with her suggestion: [Rhythm of Life by Fron Male Voice Choir](#). This tune is (of course) from the musical 'Sweet Charity', so we've thrown in the [Sammy Davis Jr version](#) as a Monday bonus.

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)