

Here is the brief for Monday 19 July 2021.

**Level 0 – so what does it mean?** Scotland as a whole has now moved into Level 0 restrictions. This does not mean all restrictions have been dropped. Face coverings are still required in a range of settings, such as shopping centres, supermarkets, and on public transport.

[As a reminder, the current FAQ on the use of face masks on healthcare premises is available to read here.](#)

The physical distancing requirement now sits at 1 metre in most indoor public settings. **A 2 metre physical distance remains in place across all healthcare settings, including catering outlets.**

In light of the change on physical distancing requirements in many settings, it is important to remember the definition of a close contact (for the purpose of contact tracing) has not changed. This means that if you have been, say, four feet away from someone who is infectious for at least 15 minutes you are still a close contact of that person because you have been closer than two metres. Secondly the close contact definition still includes close contacts who are fully vaccinated. A change in the definition, allowing close contacts who are fully vaccinated not to isolate but to have a single PCR test, is not expected to come into force until sometime in August.

[Full information on what is – and is not – permitted at Level 0 is available on the Scottish Government website.](#)

Finally – and we know we say this a lot – please bear in mind that much of the media coverage on restrictions today covers changes which apply in England **only**.

**In-person hospital visiting** Hospital visiting remains limited to one, named, individual per patient. Where possible, this should be the same person for all visits. Should the named visitor become unwell - with symptoms of COVID-19 or any other illness - they should not visit, and other arrangements can be made.

We continue to take a person-centred approach to visiting, especially where patients are vulnerable, have additional support needs, or are receiving End of Life care. Families are encouraged to have a conversation with the appropriate Senior Nurse or Midwife to understand what is possible in individual clinical areas/services before visiting. Virtual Visiting remains an option across NHS Grampian hospitals.

**Grampian data** The local update for today, and over the weekend, including the 7-day rolling positivity rate is 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. The figure for the “daily number of new people tested” is only for the number of tests for people who have not been tested previously. A national update is available on the [Public Health Scotland daily dashboard](#).

	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 17/7	711	175	264	32	5	0
Sun 18/7	482	131	171	32	4	0
Mon 19/7	584	101	192	32	4	0
	592 avg daily tested last 3 days	Down 30 from 18/7/21	Up 21 from 18/7/21	No Change from 18/7/21	No Change from 18/7/21	Last recorded death 13/07
	Tests reported from Illuminate up to 3pm on 19/7/21 NB tests refreshed daily due to lag in reporting	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 >28 days. ECMO patients included if flagged for COVID-19	Confirmed from Trakcare
	7 day rolling positivity rate on 20/7 6.5%					

**Action required - Labelling of yellow 60ltr WIVA bins** All waste producers have a legal Duty of Care to ensure their healthcare wastes are properly labelled before being collected for disposal. Following a fire at the healthcare waste contractors' plant in Bellshill last week, all bins are being transported to a different location in cages (instead of Eurobins) so it is vital that anyone who comes into contact with these bins knows exactly which waste stream they are.

This is particularly important where sites are using the yellow 60 litre WIVA or Griff Grip bins, as these can be used for multiple waste streams. These bins must be clearly marked as either 'Anatomical Waste' or 'Yellow Stream waste' when used within acute settings, or marked as 'Pharmacy waste' when used in community Pharmacies. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact NHSG Waste Management Officer at [neil.duncan3@nhs.scot](mailto:neil.duncan3@nhs.scot)

**Staff Governance Standard monitoring – thank you!** 185 of you have already contributed, via Mentimeter, to the word cloud we are building as part of wider Staff Governance Standard monitoring. As a reminder, NHS boards are monitored, by the Scottish Government, on performance against the standard. Part of this involves demonstrating staff are well informed. [Please use this link to go to Mentimeter and help us build a word cloud that demonstrates the impact/benefits of the brief.](#) If preferred, you can scan this QR code to go direct to Mentimeter:



If you want to say more than just a few words, please use the email at the end of the brief to send more detailed feedback, all contributions will be anonymised. Whichever method you choose, please have contributions with us by 22 July.

**Thought for the day** A couple of weeks ago, we reflected on a growing feeling that we are swimming against the tide. The weekend just past has been another eventful one on the COVID-19 front. We're strictly neutral here and it isn't for us to opine on the rights and wrongs on any decisions taken. All we can do is offer encouragement and support to all of you. Keep swimming.

**Tune of the day** Craig Wren (Support Manager-Central Services, RCH) steps up to our virtual jukebox today, suggesting [Mr Blue Sky by ELO](#), for reasons that are obvious as soon as you look out a window. Please do take care in the heat, stay hydrated, and remember your high factor sun cream!

**Get in touch!** If you've got a question, an item to share with people working in health & social care, or just want to suggest a tune of the day, we want to hear from you! Drop us a line via [gram.communications@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.communications@nhs.scot).