

Here is the brief for Wednesday 19 May 2021.

Working at home - agreement of arrangements Guidance from the Scottish Government (which can be read in full [here](#)) says working at home arrangements should be agreed in writing. The GAPF Terms & Conditions Sub-group has drafted a template letter, attached to the email used to send out this brief. It is intended as a guide for line managers and individual arrangements can be added as required. However, no sections should be removed, as it outlines the minimum requirements. Following the decision by NHS Grampian that all of us who can work at home should continue to do until the end of 2021, this is a timely request for managers to document the agreements in place with their staff working at home.

COVID-19 vaccination – outreach clinics Work to make vaccination available to as many people as possible continued to bear fruit today. Working in partnership with the Fishermen’s Mission, crewmembers were vaccinated in Peterhead, with clinics also to take place in Fraserburgh and Macduff. STV were in attendance in Peterhead earlier and we expect this to feature in tonight’s 6pm bulletin. Meanwhile, in Aberdeen City, the vaccination team set up shop in the Tillydrone Hub. Further clinics will take place in the Seaton and George Street areas this week – well done to everyone involved for their hard work.

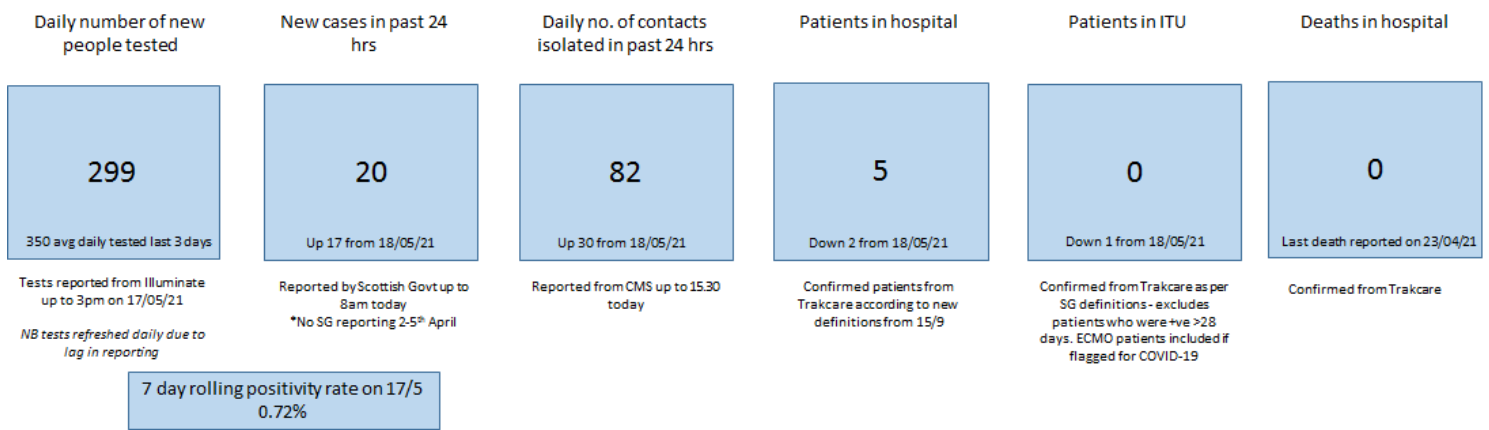
Vaccination status scheme launched A service that allows people travelling abroad to access their record of vaccination status themselves has launched. Only those planning to travel to a country or territory where a record of vaccination status is needed as an entry requirement should download the record or request it. While there are no countries currently requiring vaccination status to travel, international travel restrictions can change quickly requiring such measures to be in place. The measures are intended to ease the burden on the NHS by removing the need for people to ask their GP for a status record.

As Scotland’s vaccination programme progresses, vaccination status will be replaced by digital COVID Status Certificates, which will include vaccination and testing data to be used for outbound international travel. People will be able access their COVID-19 Vaccine Status online, by logging on to www.nhsinform.scot/covid19status. A Freephone Covid Status Helpline will allow people to get the record posted to them. It can be contacted on 0808 196 8565.

The Scottish Government continues to urge a highly cautious approach to international travel, given the risk of new variants.

Scottish Government appointments Humza Yousaf has been appointed as the new Cabinet Secretary for Health & Social Care, with responsibility for the NHS, including ongoing health service remobilisation as we move out of the pandemic. Mr Yousaf’s portfolio will also cover the establishment of the National Care Service.

Grampian data The local figures for today 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.



The Public Health Scotland daily dashboard is available to view [here](#). You can use this to see what is happening in local authorities and at neighbourhood level.

We Care – opportunities for staff:

- Guided Journaling sessions** New dates are available if you are interested in taking part in a short, guided journaling session. Journaling is recognised as being helpful in reducing anxiety through providing clarity; identifying patterns; revealing emotions, and processing decisions. These sessions are delivered via MS Teams, with a facilitator taking you through the process. Microphones are muted, you can keep your camera off if you prefer, and you can share what you write – or not – as you wish. The following dates/times are now open for booking:

Thursday 27 May 8-8.30/Thursday 17 June 8-8.30/Thursday 24 June 8- 8.30/Monday 28 June 4-4.30/Thursday 1 July 8-8.30/Monday 5 July 4-4.30/Thursday 8 July 8-8.30

Please email heather.haylett-andrews@nhs.scot to book your place.

- Grampian Hospitals Art Trust** Would your department like to take part in creative sessions with experienced artists? Sessions are delivered via Teams and tailored to have a short duration of between 15-20 minutes but can be expanded on request. We are accepting groups of a maximum of eight people to ensure everyone gets the most out of the workshop. Materials will be provided in advance. More details are available on the GHAT website [here](#).

Are you a nurse in the Acute Sector? RGU want to hear from you! Researchers within the School of Nursing, Midwifery and Paramedic Practice have been awarded funding by Robert Gordon University to explore the experiences of nurses working in NHS Grampian's Acute Sector during the COVID-19 pandemic. This study aims to explore how working during the pandemic has impacted on these nurses professionally and personally, their experiences of trying to support students and new graduates during this time, and their future career intentions. Participation will involve completing a short questionnaire with the option of taking part in an interview via Microsoft Teams with a RGU researcher, which we expect to last up to 60 minutes. Those who participate in the questionnaire will be entered into a prize draw for a £50 Amazon voucher and those who participate in the interview will be given a £20 for their time. Now recruitment for the study is well underway and we're starting to collect data it's becoming clear **we need as many nurses as possible to complete the questionnaire**, but we particularly need to speak to **staff nurses and nurses who mentor students** in an interview.

This is an appeal for all nurses who work in the acute sector to please complete our questionnaire. It takes less than 5 minutes to complete and you will be entered into a prize draw for a £50 amazon voucher and for staff nurses and those who mentor students to contact Aileen about an interview. If you are interested in finding out more please email Dr Aileen Grant, Senior Research Fellow: a.grant17@rgu.ac.uk for further information.

International Clinical Trials Day Tomorrow (20 May) is International Clinical Trials Day. So far in 2021, NHS Grampian has supported two COVID-19 vaccine trials, and has 452 studies currently active with 884 participants. This year the Research & Development team are sharing videos on clinical research to explain why clinical research is important. These videos include the experience of participant during their COVID-19 vaccine trial appointment and talks from staff who work in research active roles/departments. You can see these via their YouTube Channel [here](#). More information about clinical research is available on the NHS Grampian PPA website - grampianclinicalresearch.com

Tune of the day Today's suggestion comes via Angela Nicoll (Audio Typist, Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery team) and it's [Lou Reed's Perfect Day](#). Not one to boogie to, but poignant when so many of us have been prevented from having those perfect days with the ones we love.

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. Please also use that email address if you have items for consideration for future briefs.