

# Daily Brief...



Monday 23 December 2024

**Programming note** There will be a Daily Brief issued tomorrow (24 December) and then we'll be taking a break until 6 January. Global emails will be issued for **urgent or emergency** situations only.

**'Flu and face mask usage'** 'Flu and other respiratory illnesses are on the increase in the community and in our healthcare settings. Considering this and, in accordance with the National Infection Prevention & Control Manual (NIPCM), there is increased emphasis on the use of fluid repellent surgical masks (FRSMs)

FRSMs **must** be used as follows:

- worn by a patient, known or suspected to be infected with a respiratory illness, if safe to do so and the patient can tolerate it.
- worn by all staff caring for suspected or confirmed 'flu or other respiratory infection illness to protect against secretions or excretions into the respiratory mucosa (nose and mouth).
- staff caring for suspected and confirmed 'flu positive patients should observe droplet precautions and if undertaking aerosol generating procedures, apply airborne precautions as per NIPCM guidance.
- masks must be well fitting and fit for purpose (fully covering the mouth and nose).
- masks must be removed or changed:
  - o at the end of a procedure/task
  - o if the integrity of the mask is breached, e.g. from moisture build-up after prolonged use or from gross contamination
  - o in accordance with specific manufacturers' instructions

In exceptional circumstances, using a risk-based approach, extended use of masks can be implemented to reduce transmission. Please discuss this with infection prevention and control. For further advice on PPE for Flu and respiratory infections, contact your IPCN or refer to the NIPCM (shortcut on all desktops) [National Infection Prevention and Control Manual: Home](#)

**Band 5 nursing review – a reminder** All Band 5 nurses working in NHS Scotland are eligible to request a review of their position and possible regrading of their role. It was agreed as part of the 23/24 Agenda for Change deal, and all Band 5 nurses in Grampian have our support to put themselves forward. It is a nationally agreed process; if you would like to review the application questionnaire to understand what is involved, before making a final decision, it is available here: [NHS Grampian News - Band 5 nursing review – a reminder](#) (intranet link, networked devices only).

**Moray Macmillan Nurse Service** Due to staff shortage/vacancies within the Moray Macmillan Nursing team, referrals may take a little longer than normal to respond to. If you require specialist palliative care symptom advice, this is available from the on-call consultant at Roxburghe - 01224 557057.

Referrals to the Community Team should continue via email to [gram.moraymacmillannurses@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.moraymacmillannurses@nhs.scot) using the electronic referral form. Referrals to the DGH team should be made by calling the Macmillan office on ext 67480/67786.

**Clinical Biochemistry – specialist samples during the festive period** Please be aware results for tests referred to external laboratories may be delayed over the festive period due to disruptions in the postal service. All samples received will be stabilised and stored prior to sending. If sending any samples for non-routine biochemistry tests over the festive period, it would be advisable to check the laboratory information pages to see whether this is a referred test. The test index [can be accessed here](#) (intranet link, networked devices only).

Referred tests required urgently must be discussed with the Duty Biochemist on ext 51122 (option 3) prior to sending as courier transport may need to be organised.

**Staff IT training & support drop-in – festive closure** The staff IT training and support drop-in, held in the training and facilitation room, Level 3, ARI Orange Zone, will close at 4pm tomorrow (Tuesday). The service will return on Tuesday 7 January, open 8.30am-5.30pm as usual.

**Winter support** Our updated winter support guide is now available to download on the NHS Grampian website. It's packed with helpful advice on staying well throughout the winter, as well as many useful contact numbers. Please share, not only with colleagues, but with friends and relatives too: [Winter Support](#)

**From air to care – final test flights for drone project** The final drone flight trials of Project CAELUS have taken place between Dr Gray's and Aberdeen. We have been the lead health board for this exciting project which has explored the use of drones to support healthcare in remote and rural areas. More information will be available on the news section of our public website later today.

**Pause for thought** When you think of 'others' who comes to mind, and what gifts do they bring?

**Tune of the day** A shout out to the team at Ardach Health Centre who raised £384 for the Mission Christmas appeal with a bake sale and Christmas Jumper day – well done! Admin assistant Sarah Revell has requested [It Feels Like Christmas](#) from The Muppets Christmas Carol (EP)

If you want to request a tune, 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)