

Daily Brief...



Friday 7 March 2025

COVID-19 – season of remembrance The national COVID-19 day of reflection is this Sunday. To mark five years since the first lockdown, the Spiritual Care team have [created this video, offering an opportunity for reflection](#) for you to use in teams or individually, as appropriate. There is no fixed time for a minute's silence this Sunday; everyone is supported to observe the event in a way which feels most meaningful for them.

Throughout this month, there are spaces and activities available 24/7 in the chapels at Dr. Gray's, ARI, RACH, RCH, AMH, Woodend, Roxburghe House, and in ARI's Sandpiper Sanctuary. These offer the opportunity to decorate and place a heart on a tree, and to write your own story, expressing whatever you need to express. Members of the Spiritual Care Team will be available to offer a listening ear at the ARI chapel every Friday in March, 10am-12noon, and at the Dr. Gray's chapel every Wednesday in March, 10am-12noon.

Supporting you with public involvement The [Community Empowerment Toolkit](#) launched by Community Planning Aberdeen was developed with support from our Public Involvement team, as well as colleagues in Public Health and the [Grampian Engagement Network](#). It's a great tool which will offer guidance and resources for NHS staff who are looking to do effective engagement with people accessing health care services, as well as with local communities. The toolkit walks you through the engagement cycle recommended in the [Planning with People Engagement and Participation Guidance](#) from Scottish Government. It's very much useful to anyone looking to undertake community engagement as part of their role.

Green Star AND parliamentary motion Well done to our catering team who have not only received the latest Green Star Award but also got a mention in the Scottish Parliament this week. Parliament congratulated the team on being recognised for their work tackling food waste. The team serves more than two million meals to patients every year, as well as more than 300,000 meals in cafes for staff and visitors, and all their hard work – including making pies with surplus ingredients – really adds up.

You can [nominate any colleague, group or team](#) who have undertaken a project or change in process/practice which has helped reduce our impact on the environment.

Parliamentary motions for Gerald Consultant radiologist and clinical director of our breast screening programme, Dr Gerald Lip has been congratulated by the Scottish Parliament for being appointed President of the British Society of Breast Radiology. Gerald, whose work to support the development of new scanning technology alongside the University of Aberdeen was also widely publicised recently, will lead a specialist group of the Royal College of Radiologists, representing up to 700 consultant specialist radiologists in breast cancer across the four nations.

That was the week that was

Monday 3 – AfC programme board update, 'flu vaccination – time is running out, Jane Davies Award

Tuesday 4 – financial year end processes, Public Holidays for 26/27, 27/28, and 28/29

Wednesday 5 – respiratory education events, recycling advice, Aberdeen Sports Village corporate games

Thursday 6 – accessing patient information, TrakCare upgrade & downtime, cryoprotein requesting

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STAR Award Congratulations to Annie Shand-Lovie, Sterile Instrument Coordinator, who has received a STAR Award. She was nominated for keeping sterile instrument stocks going and always finding a solution to problems during a difficult time.

If you want to nominate a colleague or team, please use this form: [STAR Award nomination form](#)

Tune of the day Julie Coutts Stewart makes today's first request, dedicated to the team at Kittybrewster Custody Suite, on her final day with them. She's off to a new role with NHS 24 and says she will miss her incredible colleagues, who have become more like family. For all of them, she's asked for Supergrass and [Caught By The Fuzz](#)

Trying not to get caught by the fuzz (I hope!) is Viv Anderson (secretary, RACH) who is whisking her pal Kelly Watson (sonographer midwife, AMH) off for a surprise hen weekend with family and friends. Viv has asked for [Girls Just Wanna Have Fun](#). I wish you all an excellent Friday and a better weekend (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