

Here is the brief for Tuesday 15 March 2022.

**Scottish Government update** The future of COVID-19 protective measures and the Test & Protect programme were the focus of today's update. The government have confirmed the following:

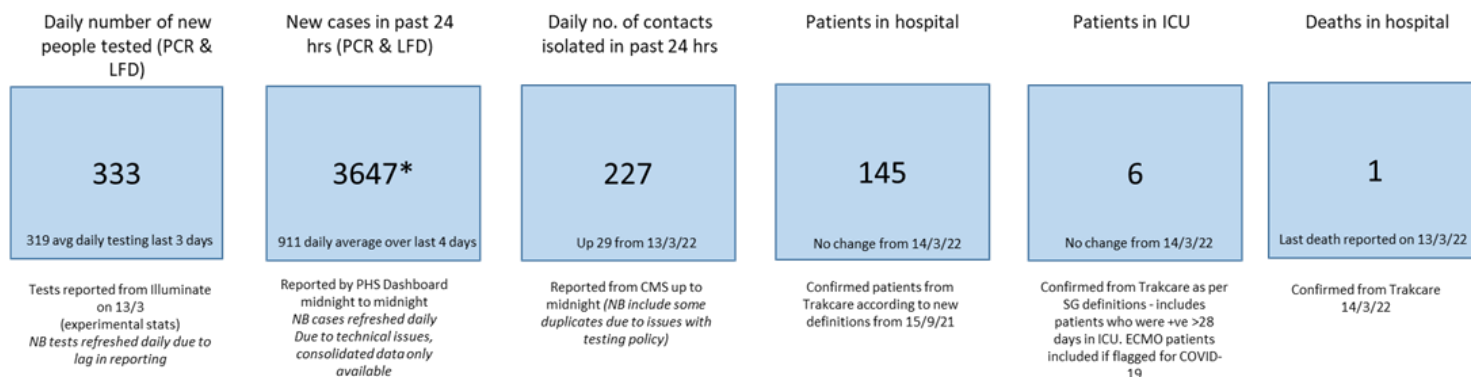
- In light of current case numbers, the legal requirement to wear face coverings in certain public settings and on public transport will **not** be lifted on Monday 21 March. It will be subject to a two-week extension, with a further update expected on 29 March.
- All other legal protective measures – such as the requirement for hospitality businesses to collect contact details from customers – will be lifted on Monday 21 March.

[A Test & Protect Transition Plan has also been published](#). You can read it in full by clicking on the link; the key points are as follows:

- For the next month - until Easter - there will be no change to the testing advice to the general public, or to ourselves as healthcare staff. If you don't have symptoms, you should continue to use a lateral flow test twice weekly. When you do this is up to you. We're suggesting you 'flow to know', so consider testing before work, social gatherings, or before visiting friends or relatives in hospitals/care homes. **Social care staff should continue to test before each shift.**
- From 18 April the general public will no longer be advised to carry out twice weekly asymptomatic testing. Workplace testing, and in early learning and childcare settings, mainstream and special schools, and universities and colleges will also conclude. **Health and social care settings will be the exception to this, with regular testing to continue, alongside other infection prevention & control measures, such as PPE.**
- If you do have symptoms, you should arrange a PCR test without delay. The dedicated staff testing service has sites in Aberdeen, Elgin, and Huntly. You can book a test for yourself, as a member of health & social care staff, or for a household member [by completing this form](#).
- From the start of May, testing (both PCR and LFD) will become more focused on surveillance, outbreak management, and as part of clinical care and risk reduction.

There will be further updates as the role of Test & Protect evolves in the coming weeks.

**Grampian data** The local report is shown below. Please note, the number of new cases covers the last four days, due to technical issues at Public Health Scotland. [Their daily dashboard can be viewed here](#).



**Smarter Workplaces – a period of transition** We wanted to provide a further update on the future of our workplaces, but firstly, we want to acknowledge those of you reading who have never had the option to work at home due to the nature of your job. Your support of colleagues as we embed new ways of working will be invaluable.

Working at home, wherever possible, was something which was placed upon us in March 2020. However, we have made huge gains over the last two years. For lots of you, working at home has been a revelation and you have been just as (if not more) productive. There may have been financial benefits, greater flexibility around childcare and/or other caring responsibilities, or an improved work/life balance. Remote working also benefits the environment by reducing (or even eliminating) the daily commute.

What comes next is seeking to embed some of the changes of the last two years, making them part of our standard business, rather than a reaction to a crisis. **In practice, this means 31 March 2022 should not be seen as ‘deadline day’ with a wholesale return to the office immediately afterwards. Instead, as previously highlighted, it is the start of a period of transition as the organisation embeds hybrid working.** We believe this will offer us the best of both worlds, but it will take time. As such, we are treating 1 April – 31 July as a transition period, giving you and your teams time to discuss your future working arrangements. Hybrid working means a mix of working at home and in a work base. How this will work in practice will mean different things to different teams; you may be office based 2-3 days a week or perhaps only for pre-arranged meetings. Your team discussions in the coming weeks will determine what this will look like for you.

A number of areas are going to act as pilots during the transition period and as we learn from their experiences, more information will be shared. However, you don't need to wait for this to start your own local planning. The needs of your team may be very particular, and we are encouraging and empowering everyone to come up with the best solution for them. The 'Your Health & Wellbeing' form can assist with this and [it is available to view here](#).

As an organisation, we firmly believe offering greater flexibility to you will benefit all of us in the long run. We have already taken the first step – proving our teams, departments, services can still function while working at home. Now we need to embed this and together think about our future choices.

Finally, we want to underline a key point: 1 April should not be seen as the day 'everyone comes back'. Rather it is the start of discussions about how hybrid working will work for you, your team, and the organisation as a whole.

**Cyber Security Awareness** It may feel like we are labouring the point, but Phishing emails are an easy route for cyber-criminals to perform a ransomware attack on NHS Grampian with the potential to put at risk personal data, patient data, and clinical systems. As both the Irish Health & Safety Executive (2021) and SEPA (2022) can attest, phishing emails caused their IT systems to be crippled with full recovery still underway. It is vital everyone look out for potentially harmful emails. To help you, why not take the [Phishing Quiz](#), to familiarise yourself with what to look out for? Further best practice & guidance can be found via the link below:

[Cyber Awareness - Please follow this link for useful advice on Staying Safe at Work and at Home](#)

**World Delirium Awareness Day** Thanks to the Ward 102 Quality Improvement Group, and their multidisciplinary team colleagues, for reminding us tomorrow (16 March) is World Delirium Awareness Day. Delirium is a deterioration in mental function and is an extremely common condition amongst patients in hospital. It affects 20-30% of people on medical wards; 10-50% of people having surgery, and 75% of patients in Intensive Care Units. Delirium can be hard to detect. Therefore, it is really important everyone aged 65 and over undergoes screening with the 4AT on admission to hospital. It can affect people in any clinical area and so we should all be familiar with the basics of management, and be aware of the [Think Delirium toolkit](#) on the Healthcare Improvement Scotland website.

**World Social Work Day** Sticking with awareness days, today is World Social Work Day, a day to really shout about how important social workers are. Throughout the last two years colleagues from across the social work spectrum have worked tirelessly to help support and protect the most vulnerable amongst us in very difficult circumstances. Across our organisation and our health & social care partnerships, we have a huge range of social workers doing incredible things: protecting children, supporting families, working within Criminal Justice to help turn people's lives around, working in our Care Management teams, under significant pressure to support older adults get the right community or residential care and then continuing that support, and in our Learning Disability & Mental Health Services.

Across every aspect of health & social care you can bet there is a social worker, supporting, guiding, and protecting. So today we celebrate our magnificent Social Work colleagues, thank you for all you do!

**Tune of the day** Thanks to Simon Thompson for today's suggestion; he's gone for a classic from Pink Floyd, in the shape of [Comfortably Numb](#). I'm probably going to get run out of town by Simon (and other Pink Floyd fans) for this, but I am very partial to [the Scissor Sisters version](#) of this tune.

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)