

Here is the brief for Tuesday 25 May 2021.

Twice weekly asymptomatic staff testing Please take a moment to complete [this short survey](#) on Lateral Flow Testing – whether you are taking part in the programme or not.

Testing is a vital tool in our Test & Protect programme and is available to all staff. It has prevented ward closures and outbreaks at work and has helped keep each other, and our patients safe. It is important that we continue to test even when vaccinated as you are more likely to be asymptomatic if you have COVID-19.

We would also remind everyone who is testing that it is equally important that you record your results, even if negative. The new improved ePortal should make it much easier for you to do this. Without this data we cannot get a clear picture of Covid-19 rates in the community. Thank you for choosing to test.

COVID-19 testing – video guides The Public Health team have produced a short video which covers the basics of PCR and lateral flow COVID-19 testing. It is currently available in the following languages via the links below. Please share these links with colleagues and patients/clients as appropriate.

English - <https://youtu.be/jgguSJo76nk>

Polish - <https://youtu.be/ivLkbluMZ4o>

Russian - <https://youtu.be/Rt-i-kRiZW0>

Lithuanian - <https://youtu.be/1ZOSbqejKiE>

Latvian - <https://youtu.be/rCx9uPzTtfQ>

SIREN update: The Public Health England SIREN study is ongoing and the team want to extend their thanks to all 700 staff who are giving up their time to this invaluable research. As of the end of last week, approximately 3700 PCR swabs had been undertaken for the study! Some fantastic preliminary work has already been published from the data collected in England (see [Antibody Status and Incidence of SARS-CoV-2 Infection in Health Care Workers | NEJM](#) and here [SARS-CoV-2 infection rates of antibody-positive compared with antibody-negative health-care workers in England: a large, multicentre, prospective cohort study \(SIREN\) - The Lancet](#)) which is helping us understand the role of antibodies and vaccines in reducing infection.

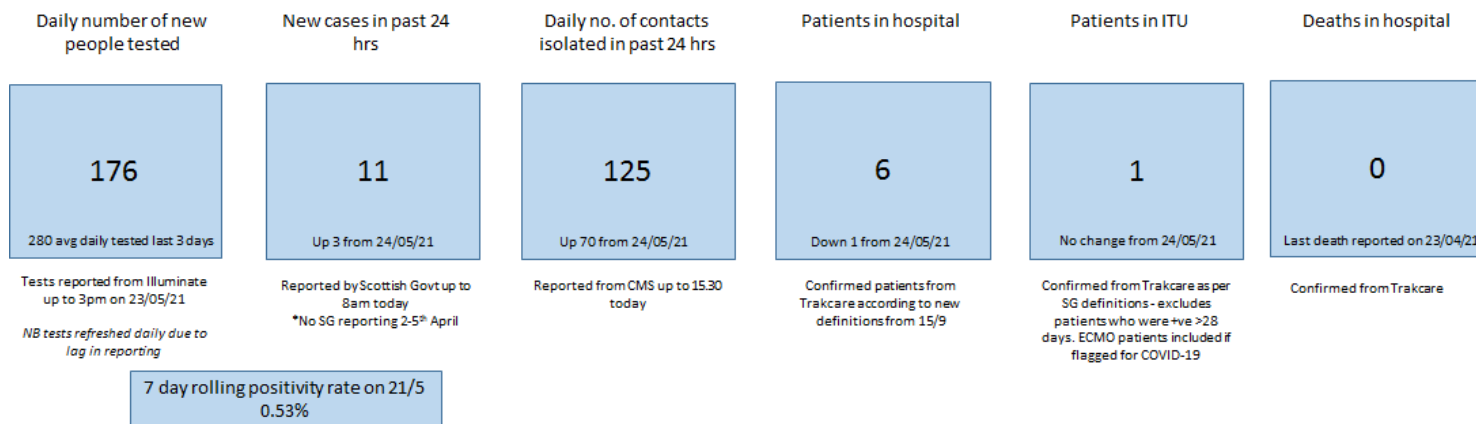
Thank you again and we look forward to seeing our volunteers in the SIREN hub soon!

We Care Wellbeing Pulse Survey Thank you to the 1205 people who completed the "We Care" pulse survey on staff wellbeing. It is really encouraging to see that well over half of you who responded feel that positive action is being taken by NHS Grampian and the HSCPs to support your well-being. We recognise that there are areas for improvement and want to reflect properly on this data to plan actions that will help to address some of the challenges the survey results identify. Your feedback informs us on improvements that enable people to thrive at work.

Staff wellbeing remains central to NHS Grampian's recovery plan, and we will be using your responses to inform the "We Care" programme going forward. We are currently working through the results and will feedback a full report by mid-June.

Changing face of the workplace It is recognised that those of you now working at home are not the only ones who have seen big changes to the workplace. Physical distancing, mask usage, limits on room capacity have changed the face of offices and wards alike. These measures remain in place and should be adhered to. In particular, 2 metre distancing should be observed in all areas, including canteens and break rooms. In addition, we must respect each other's personal space. Remember that, while you may feel confident and comfortable in the workplace, not everyone will share those feelings.

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.

National Distribution Centre deliveries Due to an IT system issue National distribution Centre (NDC) deliveries have been running approximately 24hrs behind schedule to NHS Grampian. This may continue for the rest of the week. If you would like any help regarding NDC orders please contact gram.logscustserv@nhs.scot or your Ward Product Manager.

What Matters to You day – 9 June 2021 Asking ‘What Matters To You?’ helps start a conversation and a relationship between people giving and receiving care. It also helps you understand the person in the context of their own life and the things that are most important to them. There are lots of ways to ask ‘what matters’ including:

- What are the things that are important to you at the moment?
- What can I do to best support you in your care today?
- When you have a good day, what are the things that make it good?
- What are your goals and wishes today and how can I help you achieve them?

But it's not just about asking, it's about listening and doing too. We have a small amount of resources (including posters, stickers, badges and notepads) to share with teams to help encourage What Matters to You conversations. If you would like a small pack to be sent to your team, please get in touch with: kirsten.dickson@nhs.scot before 2 June. Resources will be sent out on a first come first served basis. To find out more or for downloadable resources please visit: [Resources – What matters to you?](#)

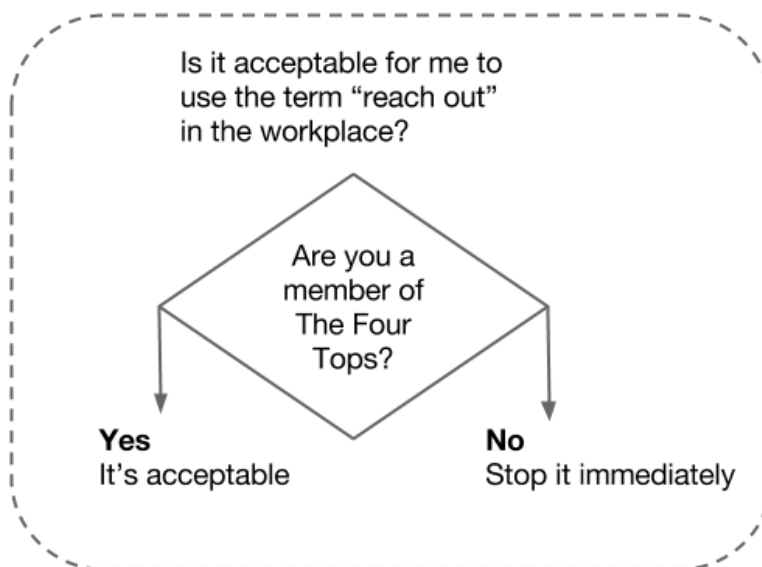
Blood donation eligibility changes As of 14 June 2021, the questions asked before you give blood will change. This is because UK blood services are starting to assess eligibility on a person-by-person basis instead of applying across-the-board restrictions which have previously excluded potential donors including low-risk gay men.

Using a donor's individual experiences to determine whether that person is eligible to donate makes the process fairer for all donors and means more people will be able to give blood than ever before. It also means every donor will be asked the same questions - regardless of age, sex or sexual orientation.

These changes to the way UK blood services assess the risk of transfusion transmitted infections incorporate the key recommendations of the 2020 FAIR (For the Assessment of Individualised Risk) Report. The recommendations were designed by epidemiology, sexual health and infectious disease experts to make sure we keep the blood supply safe while making blood donation fairer and more accessible to all. For more information this, you can visit the SNBTS website [here](#).

Tune of the day Today it's all about Motown, courtesy of [The Four Tops](#). It's a message of hope and a reminder of the support and kindness we can find in each other. There is also (believe it or not) a connection to yesterday's birthday boy Bob Dylan; songwriting team Holland, Dozier & Holland were strongly influenced by Dylan at the time and encouraged Levi Stubbs to 'shout-sing' the lyrics in tribute.

This song also led to one of my favourite memes (please take this in the spirit in which it is intended!)



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.