

# COVID-19 Brief

coronavirus



Here is the brief for Tuesday 22 February 2022.

**Scotland's Strategic Framework Update** The Scottish Government has today published an updated plan for the management of COVID-19 in the weeks and months ahead. [The full document runs to 82 pages and is available to read here in full should you wish.](#) Broadly speaking, the plan outlines a reduced reliance on legally required protective measures and a move towards individuals and organisations alike taking basic, sensible precautions to limit the harm posed by the virus. It also lays out the potential future responses to COVID-19, based on the threat posed at any given time. The table below is a helpful illustration of this.

Assessed Threat	Potential Response Categories (types of protective measure)	
Low threat	<b>Routine Measures: Vigilance, Preparedness and Resilience (no legal measures)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High immunity sustained through vaccination programme</li> <li>Access to effective treatments in line with clinical advice</li> <li>Behaviours and settings adapted to reduce spread (e.g. improved ventilation, appropriate guidance on face coverings)</li> <li>Hybrid working when possible and appropriate encouraged</li> <li>Effective and responsive local outbreak management</li> <li>Targeted testing and surveillance ongoing</li> <li>Travel measures may apply (e.g. set by other countries)</li> </ul>	Note: Protective measures would not apply in law but may still be good practice and retained in guidance.
Medium threat	<b>Baseline Protective Measures = Routine plus:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Testing guidance in place for people when symptomatic or asymptomatic</li> <li>Guidance to self isolate when positive in place</li> <li>Face coverings required in indoor public places and on public transport</li> <li>Guidance on reasonable measures to reduce risk in premises</li> <li>Travel measures may apply</li> <li>Certification required in a narrow range of settings</li> </ul>	Note: Measures would be selected from this response category that were necessary and proportionate – not all may be required at the same time.
High Threat	<b>Targeted Protective Measures = Baseline measures plus:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requirement to work from home where possible</li> <li>Proportionate restrictions on certain higher risk settings and activities</li> <li>Protective measures in other higher risk settings.</li> <li>Guidance to reduce social contacts and increase physical distancing where possible.</li> <li>International travel requirements and restrictions may apply in relation to some countries.</li> <li>Certification required in a wider range of settings</li> </ul>	Note: Measures would be selected from this response category that were necessary and proportionate – not all may be required at the same time.
(E.g. variant with significant immune escape that increases disease severity)	<b>Extensive Protective Measures = Baseline and targeted measures plus:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential closure (or limited opening) of further non-essential settings and services</li> <li>Legal limits on social gatherings and events.</li> </ul>	Note: 'Extensive protective measures' will only ever be considered as a last resort in the most serious of circumstances

The current assessment is that Omicron – highly transmissible but typically resulting in less severe illness – poses a Medium threat. As such, the Scottish Government have outlined the following planned changes:

- The COVID Certification Scheme ('vaccine passport') will cease to be a legal requirement from **Monday 28 February**. The app will remain operational and any business which wishes to implement a voluntary scheme may do so.
- The legal requirement to wear masks in certain indoor public places and on public transport is scheduled to change to guidance as of **Monday 21 March**. Also on this date, businesses, places of worship and service providers are no longer legally required to have regard to guidance on COVID, to take practical measures set out in the guidance, or to collect and retain contact details for Test & Protect.

The plan also begins to outline a transition in testing policy. More detail on this is expected next month and we will share that with you as it becomes available.

**COVID-19 vaccination update** Children aged 5-11 will be offered COVID-19 vaccination appointments in community clinics from 19 March 2022. Appointment letters will be sent to those with parental responsibility, with appointments scheduled according to age. 11 years olds will be invited first, followed by those aged eight to 10, and then those between five and seven years old. Where there are siblings, efforts will be made to invite them to back-to-back appointments to avoid multiple trips for families.

Details of how to rearrange unsuitable appointments will be included in the letters.

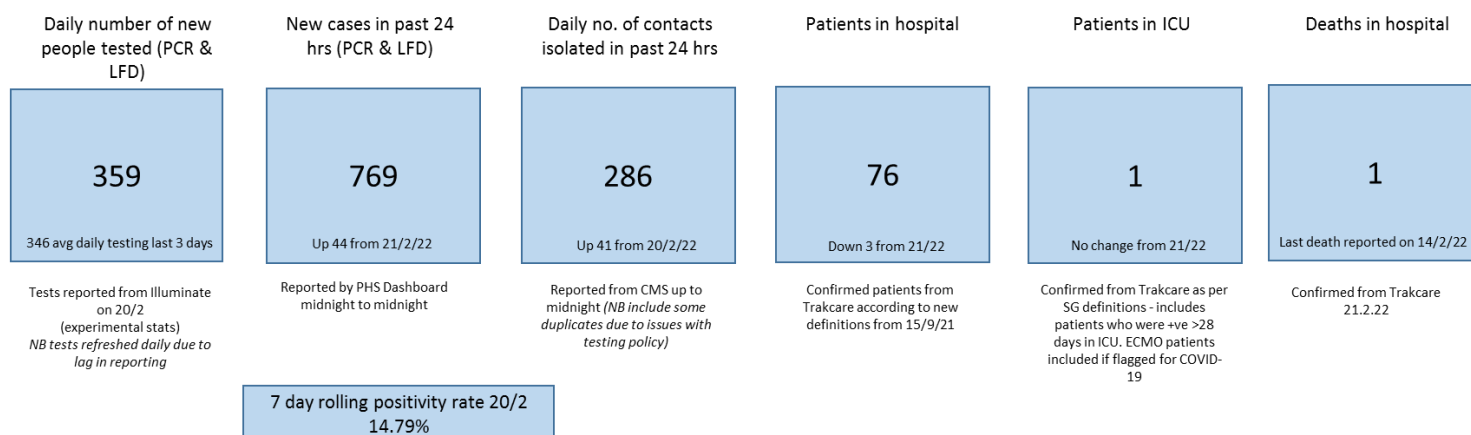
Children in this age group who have specific medical conditions which place them at greater risk from COVID-19 are already being vaccinated and will continue to be prioritised. The universal offer to 5–11-year-olds will be delivered alongside the spring boosters for those aged 75+, or resident in older adult care homes, or those aged 12+ who are immunocompromised (as defined in The Green Book). These individuals will become eligible from 24 weeks after their last booster. The first groups will receive blue envelopes with appointments from the second week in March.

**PPE donning & doffing training** The Infection Prevention & Control team have confirmed training dates for the next three months (below). All sessions take place at 11am, last an hour, and are delivered via Teams. To book a place please email [gram.ipc-donn-doff-training@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.ipc-donn-doff-training@nhs.scot)

- February – Wednesday 23
- March – 2/9/16/23/30 – all Wednesdays
- April – Tuesday 5/Wednesday 6/Wednesday 13/Tuesday 19

Please bear mind these are refresher sessions and should be completed in addition to (not instead of) mandatory training on Turas. Turas training comes in two parts, 1) Droplet precautions and 2) AGP precautions. Both trainings should be completed annually.

**Grampian data** The local report is shown below. A complete national report, including the option to view cases at a neighbourhood level, [is available via the Public Health Scotland daily dashboard](#).



**Cyber Scotland Week** As part of Cyber Scotland Week (starting on Monday 28 February), the eHealth team are reminding us all of the cyber security threats we face and the impact these may have. We have seen an increase of 700% in threats since the start of COVID-19 with hackers targeting citizens, staff, and IT systems by exploiting, for instance, the vulnerability of employees working from home and capitalising on people's interest in COVID-related news (e.g., malicious fake coronavirus related websites). Throughout next week we will share important information with you to stay cyber-safe (useful for family and friends too!) but as an introduction you are invited to attend a Cybercrime Awareness Event on Monday 28 February. This live event, organised by Counter Fraud Services, will start at 1pm, [to register you just need to complete this online form](#).

**Tune of the day** Jodie Gibb (part of the community physiotherapy team in Moray) takes control today, suggesting [Rise Up by Andra Day](#). As Jodie says, looking to the future and remobilising services can be daunting, but we will rise up to the challenge.

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)