

COVID-19 Brief

coronavirus



Here is the brief for Friday 8 April 2022.

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Further to confirming how NHS Scotland staff will commemorate this event, the Scottish Government has now converted the additional day of leave into an additional Public Holiday for 2022-23 on Friday 3 June 2022. Please disregard previously communicated arrangements.

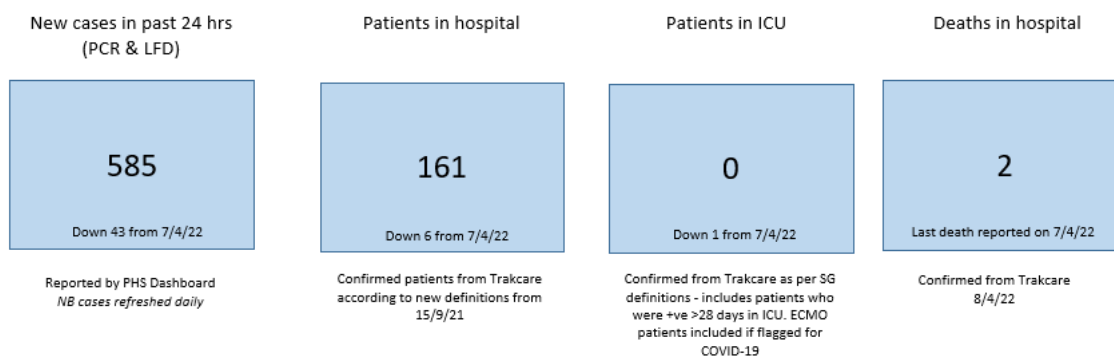
Staff required to work on Friday 3 June 2022 will be eligible for the rates of pay and all other terms and conditions applicable on a designated Public Holiday.

The additional public holiday (defined by an employee's weekly contracted hours divided by 5) will apply to all NHS Grampian staff. The calculation of this entitlement is always proportionate to the number of basic contracted hours worked and

Table 3 in the [Agenda for Change Annual Leave Policy](#) (intranet link, networked devices only) provides the calculation for a range of contracted hours.

The state of the virus There are indications of improvement with a slowing of community infections (according to ONS infection prevalence and cases). In the past week, there has been a slight increase in admissions 'for' COVID-19 but some very early signs of a reduction in hospital onset cases. Daily occupancy was at its highest on 3 April, when we had 198 COVID-19 patients in our hospitals. It has fallen slightly since, but it is too early to say if we have peaked. On a welcome note, ward closures due to outbreaks have halved compared to the same time last week.

Grampian data The local report is shown below. [The Public Health Scotland daily dashboard can be viewed here](#)



SIREN study – what next? NHS Grampian is one of the boards participating in this UK-wide study, which is looking at whether prior infection with COVID-19 prevents against future re-infection, particularly by studying healthcare workers. We are so grateful to all the local volunteers who continue to take part; the Chief Medical Officer, Chief Science Officer, and National Clinical Director recorded this short [message of thanks \(which contains a few faces you may recognise\)](#).

Health & Social Care Strategy for Older People – consultation The Scottish Government has launched a consultation on its Health & Social Care Strategy for Older People. They are seeking views from older people, and those who care for them. Full details on the consultation, including alternate formats, [are available on the Scottish Government website](#).

Tobacco Policy We should all remember that NHS Grampian buildings, premises, vehicles, and sites are smoke free. As staff, we should not smoke in uniform and/or PPE, while wearing NHS Grampian ID badges, or while otherwise identifiable as working for the organisation. There is a Tobacco Policy [which you can read in full here](#) (intranet link, networked devices only).

If you do smoke and want to stop, you can call the Smoking Advice Service on 08085 20 20 30 or email gram.sas@nhs.scot

That was The week That was [All daily briefs are available to view here](#); this is a short round up of the key items we covered this week:

Mon 4 – De-escalation of some COVID-19 infection prevention & control measures, employee pension contribution pay bandings, migration to One Drive

Tues 5 – Use of face masks in non-clinical areas, move to the 2015 CARE pension scheme, discounted coffee offer at Aroma and hospital cafes

Wed 6 – Updates on both LFD testing and (where applicable) weekly PCR testing, survey on impact of COVID-19 on people with disabilities, Creative Comforts art and writing workshop

Thurs 7 – Episode 6 of ‘Ask Caroline’, new COVID-19 vaccine trial, Baird & ANCHOR project update

Tune of the day When you have so many accomplished people working together, it’s no great surprise that graduation ceremonies lead to lots of requests. As noted throughout the week, RGU have been hosting events this week for people who completed their studies in 2020 and 2021. We round off the week with a shout out to the Biomedical Scientists who celebrated today, and with a request from Karen McKessack in the ARI pharmacy team, dedicated to Sophia ,Struan, Holly, Chloe, Gemma, and Samia, who collected their pharmacy degrees today. Karen has gone for [Don’t Stop Me Now by Queen](#).

We wish everyone a safe and restful weekend. If you find yourself on shift, thank-you and take care. The brief will return on Monday.

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