

COVID-19 Brief

coronavirus



Here is the brief for Tuesday 11 May 2021.

Easing of restrictions The Scottish Government has confirmed that almost all of Scotland will move into Level 2 restrictions from Monday 17 May. Details on what this will mean are covered below.

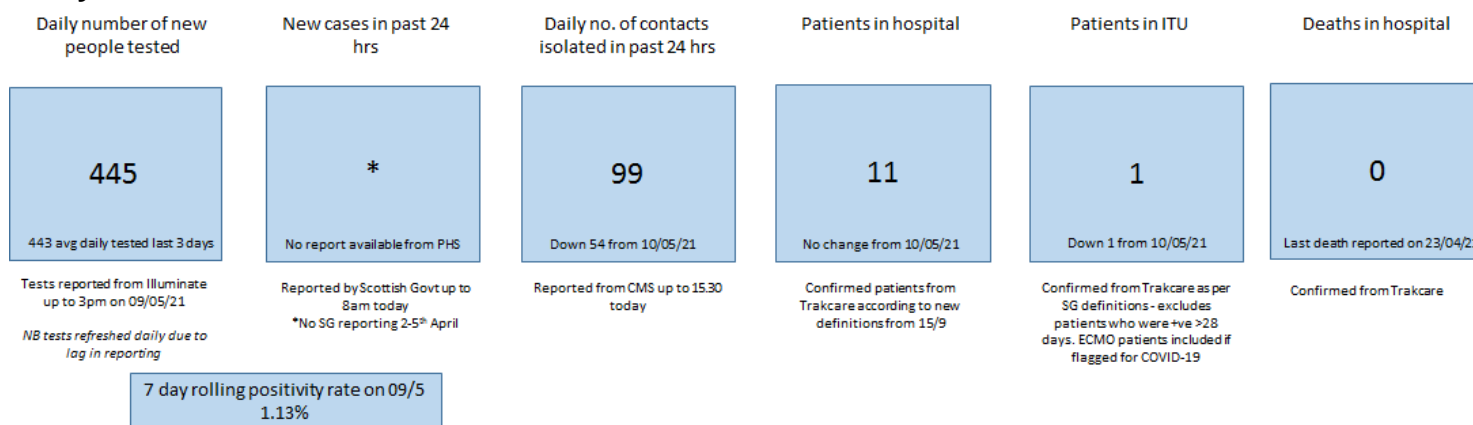
However, they have also indicated that Moray is expected to remain in Level 3, in light of current case numbers in the area. A final decision will be taken on this by the end of the week, but the Scottish Government have indicated remaining in Level 3 **will include reimposing travel restrictions into and out of the area, except for permitted purposes**. Further updates will be shared in this brief as announcements are made.

For most of Scotland, from **Monday 17 May**, the following changes will come into force.

- Six people, from up to 3 households, will be permitted to meet indoors.
- Physical distancing, for groups meeting in private gardens or in private homes only, will be dropped. This means people from different households will be able to hug, but for the time being only in the above locations. The Scottish Government have stressed the need for caution and careful judgement – hug safely and sensibly. The requirement to physically distance in other settings will be reviewed in the coming weeks.
- Licensed premises will be able to sell and serve alcohol indoors, up to 10.30pm, and groups of up to 6 people from 3 households can meet together in pubs, cafes, and restaurants.
- A 'traffic light' system will be introduced for international travel, with countries placed on a Red, Amber or Green list. The guidance is still to avoid international travel where possible, with the Scottish Government advocating a 'staycation summer'.

This is just a selection of the changes outlined by the Scottish Government. More information on these and the full statement from the First Minister can be found [here](#).

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. **Please note that a network outage at Public Health Scotland earlier has delayed their publication of data, which means we can only provide a partial update today.**



Are you due or overdue your cervical screening test? Anyone aged 25 - 64 years with a cervix will be invited for a screening test every 5 years. The Scottish Cervical Screening Programme recently offered funding to boards to help address the backlog in cervical smears because of the pause in screening programmes last year, and to relieve some of the pressure on GP practices. We have secured some of these funds to run a number of weekly smear clinics in the Women's Day Clinic, Level 4, Yellow Zone, ARI. The weekly session for Cervical Screening is now open to all staff working in NHS Grampian who are due or overdue a smear test. The Acute Leadership Team has approved this initiative and is supporting the release of staff during their working day to attend these sessions. If you wish to book an appointment at one of these clinics, please send your name, home address, contact telephone number and date of birth to gram.gynaeadmin@nhs.scot You will only be contacted with an appointment if it is verified that you are due or overdue a smear test. If your test is not yet due, you will receive a reminder when it is due.

Advice for people on how to keep yourself safe at work Helpful [advice from the Scottish Government](#) has been published and gives advice that all members of the public should continue to be cautious in order to help keep ourselves safe. Crucially, wherever possible, people who can work at home should continue to do so.

In March 2021 the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) sent updated advice about going to work to people who are on the shielding list and [DL \(2021\) 12](#) provides updated advice for NHS shielding staff. If a staff member received this letter from the CMO or has been identified as "very high risk" by either the Scottish Government Covid Age Risk Assessment or OHS the following applies:

- Level 4 – staff members in these categories should work at home. If they cannot do their role at home they should not go to work. Full guidance is available in [Section 3 of the HR Q&A](#).
- Level 3 and below – staff members in these categories may be able return to the workplace if they cannot work at home. In order to determine whether it is appropriate for the staff member to return there should be a supportive discussion between the line manager and staff member using the Coronavirus (Covid-19): guidance on individual occupational risk assessment and the Covid Age Calculator to support with a conversation. Full guidance is available in [Section 3 of the HR Q&A](#).
- The advice concerning those who have received at least one dose of vaccination has also been updated to reflect that emerging data on vaccines/immunity. The potential impact of vaccination on a staff member's risk should be considered on an individual basis, and only with input from OHS/medical professionals for those staff who cannot work from home. This assessment can be requested by completing the [Covid Enquiry Form](#) (Intranet link, networked devices only)

Tune of the day Today's suggestion comes from Keith Grassick (Healthpoint Adviser) who is taking us in a distinctly different direction with the [Leningrad Cowboys' version of Delilah](#). They are a Finnish rock band, backed on this occasion by the Russian Army choir. As Keith says, not as bad as it sounds!

Questions to ask? Information to share? If you have particular questions – or are aware of questions coming from friends and family – please share them with us. We may not be able to answer every question and it may take us time to get a proper answer, but we will endeavour to respond and share the answers. You can get in touch with us via gram.communications@nhs.scot. Please also use that email address if you have items for consideration for future briefs.