

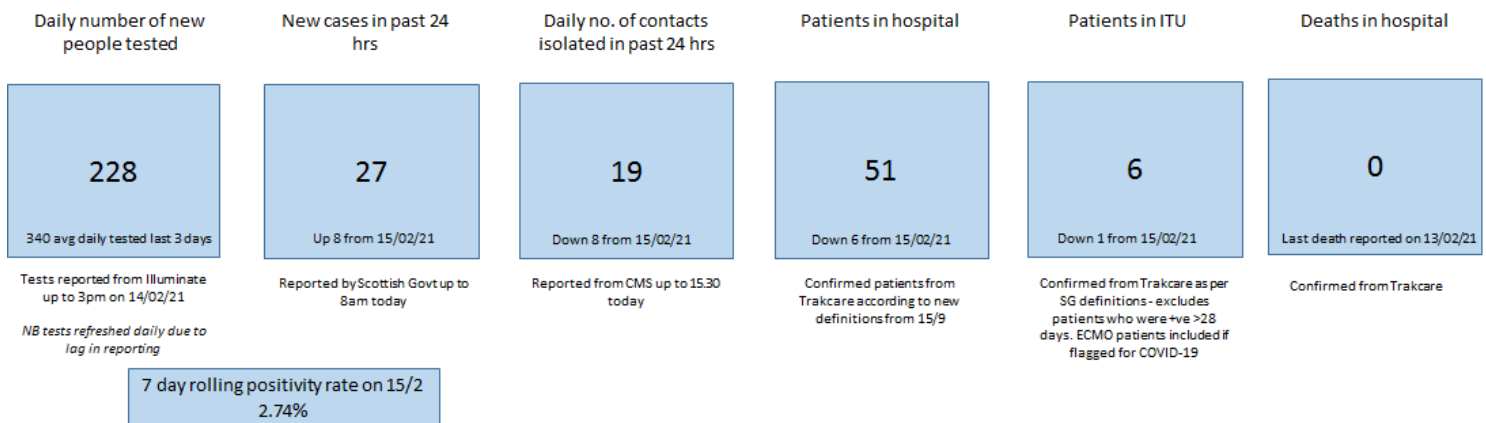
COVID-19 Brief

coronavirus



Here is the brief for Tuesday 16 February 2021.

Grampian data The local figures for today and the 7 day rolling positivity rate are shown below. If you click [here](#) you can visit the Public Health Scotland website, which includes neighbourhood figures for all local authority areas in Scotland.



First Minister's Update The main thrust of today's announcement was that all children in P1 to P3 and those at pre-school will return from Monday 22 February. Other age groups will continue to learn from home, apart from some secondary pupils who need to complete coursework. FM Nicola Sturgeon underlined that it was unlikely that any other pupils would return to school before 15 March at the earliest.

All other existing lockdown measures will all remain in place until at least the end of this month. Next week we will learn what the "revised strategic framework" will set out on how Scotland can exit lockdown and what conditions will need to be met before restrictions can be eased.

Ms Sturgeon said it was unlikely that hotels and holiday accommodation would be open in time for any of us to book any sort of Easter break, but "staycations" may be possible by summer.

Vaccination Team We have been delighted with the response to our advert for Band 5 vaccinators with 207 WTE (537 staff) being appointed. A significant number of these staff are now trained and operational, with the remaining ready to be rostered within the next two weeks.

Some staff who have offered to help have not yet been contacted or offered shifts and are feeling frustrated. We are sorry about this, but there have been so many offers of help we have not required everyone who wished to assist.

Last week and the early part of this week have been full on with 43,000 people being vaccinated. Due to a reduction in the availability of vaccine and the priority for Pfizer being second doses, our clinics will be quieter over the next few weeks, so the staffing requirement will reduce. Clearly, we must utilise our recruited COVID-19 vaccination staff first and this will allow staff who have been supporting us on a temporary basis to return to their clinical areas or get some well-deserved leave.

Over the next few months as vaccine supply increases we may need additional support for a period of time. Our first port of call will be the staff bank but if this is insufficient we will reach out to the wider system again and hope you will be able to support us.

We would like to thank all our colleagues who have stepped up and supported us throughout the programme and over the last two weeks in particular. Your patience and flexibility is greatly appreciated and the professionalism with which you have taken up this challenge has made us incredibly proud. We know it is difficult and that there are frequent changes made at the last minute but as you know, we are working to incredibly short timescales and we are just a small part of a much larger picture.

Thought for the day How are you all doing? This is a question that I have been mulling over with evermore frequency over the last few days. Maybe it is because the anniversary of the first national 'lockdown' (23.3.20) is looming or maybe it is the sense of hope I have with the vaccine roll-out, or maybe it is just following on from a weekend where health and social care staff once more went above and beyond.

But I really do wonder how everyone is. We all have varying degrees of resilience (anyone else fed up hearing that word?) to a vast array of things that might test it, but this has been a long hard slog and I believe we are all suffering in one way or another. For some of us that pressure might be most acutely felt on the home front (can you still employ governesses?) for others in the workplace, but wherever that pressure is coming from I think we can all agree that we are all feeling it.

So, what to do? Take another walk? Bake a cake? Take a bath? For some that might be enough to support our wellbeing, for others not even close. Therein lies the rub, what works for one will not work for another. For most of us the very things we would once have done to keep ourselves well are no longer open to us, so we have to look elsewhere. But where? I'm glad you ask because a very clever colleague has pulled together an absolute goldmine of resources to help support mental health and wellbeing - <https://sway.office.com/p3QWjY4altHviB6o?ref=email&loc=play>