

COVID-19 Brief

coronavirus

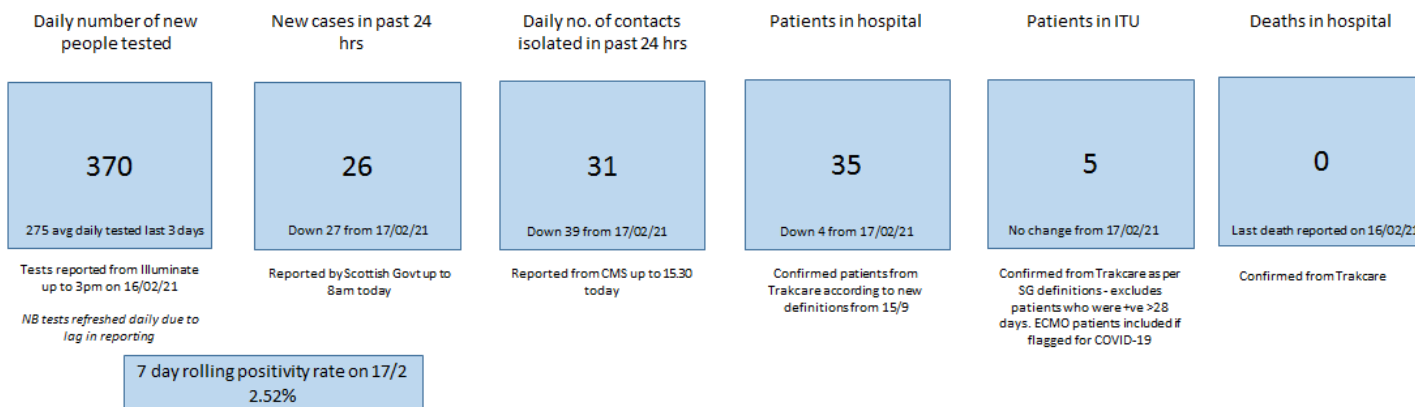


Here is the brief for Thursday 18 February 2021.

COVID-19 staff vaccination programme In the coming week we will be commencing second doses for staff. For Secondary Care Peer vaccination sessions, it is important that you attend the same clinic you attended for your first dose. If you are unable to attend or no longer require the appointment, please remember to cancel it. This avoids vaccine wastage and the loss of vaccinating time. If you are a new member of staff in a patient/client facing role - or a current member of staff in a patient/client facing role who **now** wishes to be vaccinated, please [apply online](#) using the appropriate form. Peer vaccination is now only available for second doses, not new appointments.

SIREN study – update As you will be aware, NHS Grampian is supporting the SIREN study - UK wide research trying to understand if previous COVID-19 infection protects individuals against future re-infection. The team have put together [this short video](#) to explain more about the research and what's involved – we'd encourage you to take a look. If you are interested and want to find out more information or join the study, please contact the research team on: gram.NHSGSiren@nhs.scot

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.



Staff Homeworking Equipment Support Since March 2020 it has been the position of the organisation that everyone who can work at home, should work at home. In the first phase of the pandemic this happened at great speed and we know accessing the proper equipment was a challenge. It was unclear at that stage how long many of us would be working at home. If your home working situation has changed – or you have more recently made the switch to working at home – there is support available. This includes accessing the proper equipment and all the documents developed to support Safer Workplaces. It is important everyone is working safely and appropriately, whichever location they are based in.

More information on the Safer Workplaces project is available [here](#). If essential additional equipment is required to support staff working at home a process and form has been devised. These documents have been attached to the email used to send out this brief. Should you have any queries please contact the Finance Control Centre at gram.financecontrolcentre@nhs.scot

We are, of course, aware there are roles that cannot be performed at home. Where working at home cannot be achieved, the reason should be shared with the employee and, if applicable, their Trade Union/Professional Organisational representative.

Training opportunity On Tuesday 2 March there are two Clinical Moving & Handling Induction courses - one at the Suttie Centre and at the Moray College – running between 8.30am-4pm. At present booking numbers are low and the courses will not be able to proceed without more participants. If you require a Clinical Moving & Handling Induction and are available on 2 March, please book on the course via TURAS by close of play tomorrow (19 February). If you are experiencing any difficulties with booking, please email gram.healthandsafety@nhs.scot

Supporting digital patient information Did you know there are more than 1,900 different patient information leaflets, developed in-house, for use across Grampian? More than 500 of these titles now come with a QR code, meaning people can scan, access, and save the information contained within them to a device of their choice. When a leaflet gets a QR code, it also gets a unique URL. Some areas have already been using the URL in emails. In addition, Grampian Guidance have started using these URLs rather than upload their own copy. As the version at the URL is kept up to date, this means when a leaflet is updated, Grampian Guidance is automatically updated too. If you think the leaflets for your ward/department/service could benefit from this, please contact Quality Development Manager Lynn Thomson for more information – lynn.thomson3@nhs.scot

Thought for the day It will not surprise you to learn that we receive a lot of suggestions for this brief. One of the most common topics comes from those of you who have observed colleagues not sticking to the safety rules, concerned about the risk this could pose, and asking us to include messages in the brief. (As an aside, overcrowding in lifts and corridors or not wearing masks appropriately feature heavily in this correspondence). Now, while our egos would love to believe that we have the power to influence the behaviour of every single person working in health & social care, our common sense tells us this isn't the case. So we're putting this challenge back to you. We're all tired, frustrated, frankly sick of COVID-19 and everything it has changed. We're making great progress with the vaccine roll out, why can't we relax? You don't need me to tell you the answer to this. We have to keep going. Wearing masks (correctly) everywhere they are advised, washing our hands (correctly) at every opportunity, staying left in corridors and on stairs, respecting the limits on lift capacity. These are simple things that any of us can do – and they are the simple things that we must do. This isn't just us 'nagging' you – this is an act of respect and kindness towards yourself, your colleagues, your family, that person walking along a corridor that you don't even know.

Question of the day We are returning to the issue of twice weekly asymptomatic staff testing with today's question, but with a specific audience in mind. We would like you to hear from you if you are in an eligible group and have actively chosen NOT to participate in this. Please note, this does not include anyone who has had a detected result in the previous 90 days, as you are advised against retesting. As ever, all responses are anonymous. To take part just click [here](#) or copy this link into your browser: <https://www.menti.com/f8ieftbnij>

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.