

COVID-19 Brief

coronavirus



Here is the brief for Tuesday 21 September 2021.

Autumn/Winter vaccination – self booking portal [The booking system for health & social care staff is now open](#). There were some initial issues with venue availability, but these have been resolved, and at time of writing, more than 2,000 appointments have been booked in Grampian today.

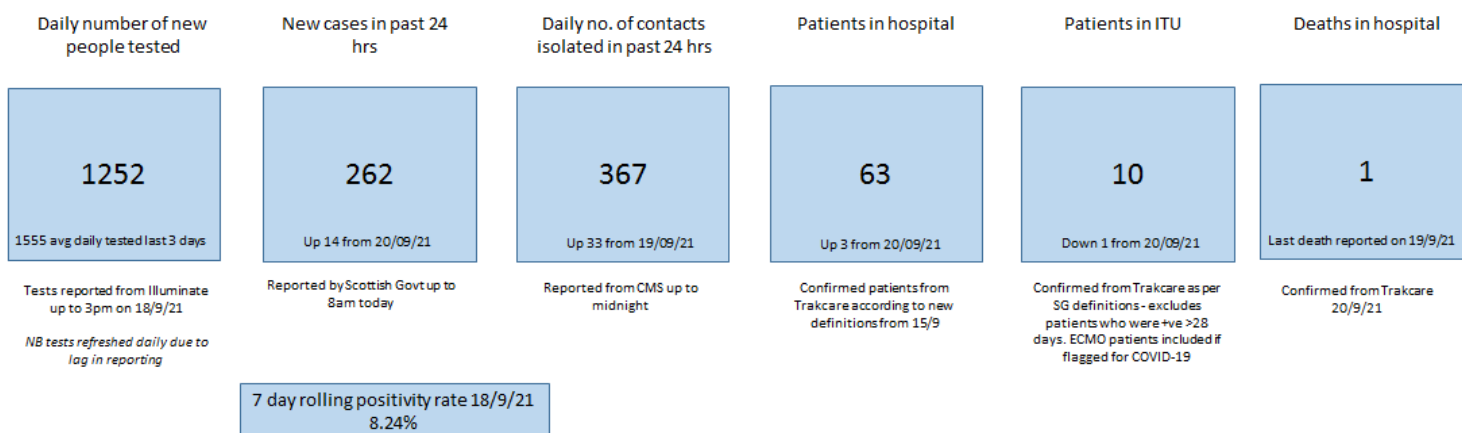
If you are having issues recovering your account details, you should call the national COVID-19 Status Helpline on **0808 196 8565**. The helpline is open every day from 10am to 6pm. If you missed yesterday's brief, we have again attached the presentation on the booking system and the COVID-19 booster programme for your information.

Safer Workplaces – support for staff There have been significant changes to our workplaces recently, not least the new guidance on physical distancing. To help you get to grips with these changes, the Safer Workplaces team are hosting an online session next Thursday (30 September) between 12.30-1.30pm. To book your place on the session, which will be held on Teams, please email gram.saferworkplaces@nhs.scot by 8pm on Tuesday 28 September. If you have a specific question, please include it in your email so that any information gathering needed can be done prior to the session. If you are not able to attend the session you may still send your query to the above address.

Showing face - and why it isn't necessary Many of you may have friends or relatives working in other industries or public sector bodies who have been asked to return to their office - or are at least in discussion about it. Perhaps you've heard conversations about 'showing face' in the workplace. Please be reassured there has been no change in the NHS Grampian position - everyone who can work at home, should continue to work at home, and you should plan on that basis until the end of the year. [Remember the HR Q&As are an invaluable source of information on a range of workplace matters](#).

Nearly 900 of you shared your experiences via the recent Smarter Workplace survey and those results are being analysed. We will share the findings with you soon, along with more information about the shape of our workplaces in the coming months and years.

Grampian data The local update for today is shown below.



[The Public Health Scotland daily dashboard is available to view via this link.](#)

COVID-19 vaccination – student clinics Dedicated clinics for students arriving in, or returning to, Aberdeen are on offer at Robert Gordon University and University of Aberdeen this week and next. [Full details on location and opening times are available here.](#)

eESS project – urgent update for managers At the NHS Grampian eESS Project Board meeting this morning, it was agreed to **postpone the rollout of eESS Manager Self -Service (MSS) with immediate effect.** The eESS national team are supportive of this decision, which has been taken due to recognised pressure on managers' capacity to attend MSS training and to subsequently implement a change in process during what continues to be a challenging time for all across the NHS Grampian system. **All Manager Self-Service Training will be suspended until further notice.** Thank you to all those that have already attended this training. Please see the attached update from the eESS project team for further information.

iMatter survey – initial results Thank you to everyone who completed their iMatter survey, whether online or on paper. Those areas which only have electronic questionnaires will receive an interim report today (21 September). A full report will be published on 4th October. The paper copy questionnaire deadline is 27th September with the reports being published 2 weeks later.

Please note that until the reports have been published you will **not** be able to progress with your Team's Action Plan. If you have any queries, please contact gram.imatter@nhs.scot

Sustainable projects Thank you to everyone who has already taken part in the poll on which sustainability projects the organisation should focus on – [if you've not taken part yet, there is still time!](#)

A few of you have asked questions about the projects and we wanted to share the answers here, to keep everyone informed:

- Why is active travel not included?

There are plans already underway to improve active travel facilities in NHS Grampian and also to encourage more of us to travel to site by bike or foot. It's because this topic was already very much on our agenda, and work is already in progress towards improving facilities for active travel, that we decided to focus on some other aspects of sustainability. To give you some idea of what is going on:

A travel survey will be published (October 2021) in order to get baseline data on current travel habits to the site. This will give us an idea of areas to focus on.

The SUSTRANS Project Officer is working on draft active travel plans for our major hospital sites.

We are working on applications for active travel funding opportunities - particularly capital funding to provide new/improved bike storage facilities and possibly pool eBikes.

Awareness events will be held to encourage active travel to the sites. There was recently a Bike Security event held at Ashgrove House which was successful - looking to have more of these and similar events at other sites.

Green pathways around the sites are being planned - though they were planned to originally accommodate walkers we are also looking at whether these can be made cycle-friendly.

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- Where does the biomass for the boiler originate from?

The biomass boiler at the Energy Centre at Foresterhill Health Campus runs on wood chips rather than wood pellets. These are sourced from local forestry/sawmills in Aberdeenshire (predominantly Aboyne), this is transferred to our supplier in Inch, where the woodchip is mechanically dried to biomass specifications.

We are quite stringent with our woodchip specification as it must comply with the UK Government's [Biomass Supplier \(BSL\)](#) accreditation in order to ensure Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) and UK Emissions Trading Scheme are achieved. Additionally, our woodchip supplier is certified by the [Forestry Stewardship Council \(FSC\)](#) which promotes environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial and economically viable management of forests. The CO₂ emitted when the woodchip is burned is the same amount that was absorbed over the months/years that the plant was growing. This process is sustainable as long as new plants continue to grow in place of those used for fuel. There are some carbon emissions caused by the cultivation, manufacture, and transportation of the fuel, however these are much lower than emissions from fossil fuels.

New Basic Noise Awareness Online Module The Corporate Health and Safety Team have recently developed a brand new Basic Noise Awareness Module. The module is designed to provide a basic understanding of the risks from exposure to harmful levels of noise and how these can be controlled in the workplace. [Further information on the module, including links to the training, is available on the intranet](#) (networked devices only)

Tune of the day Sally Nicholson takes us in a completely different direction today, with a tune from Bollywood stars Farhan Akhtar, Hrithik Roshan, and Abhay Deol. [Senorita features in the film Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara \(Life Will Never Come Again\)](#) and is one of those songs that will worm its way into your brain!

We're always on the look-out for your suggestions of a great song to end the day (or start it, depending on when you read this brief) so just drop us a line via gram.communications@nhs.scot That's also your first port of call if you've got any queries or an item to share.