

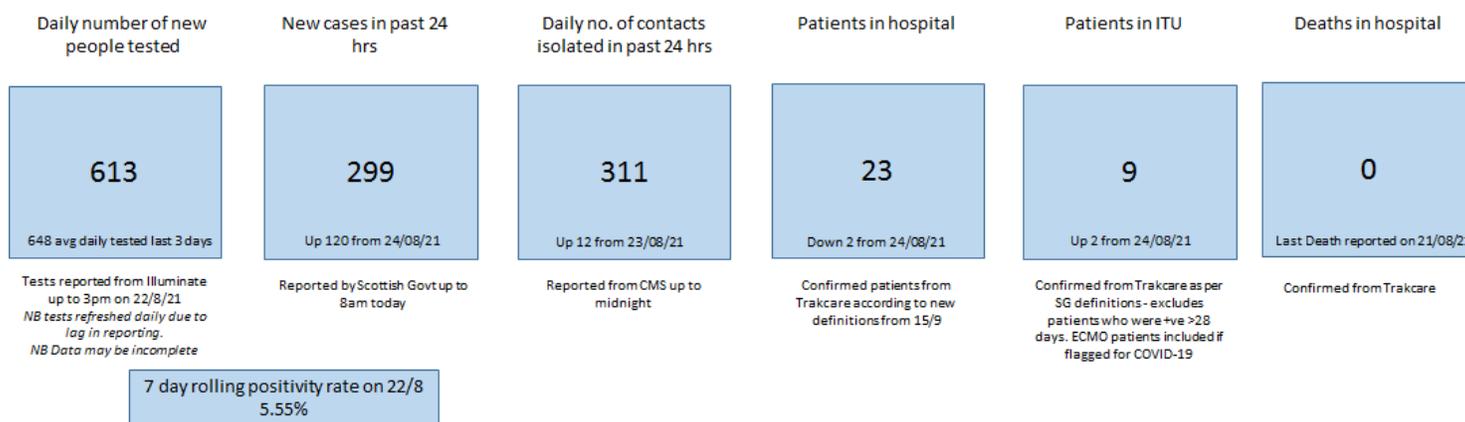
# COVID-19 Brief

coronavirus



Here is the brief for Wednesday 25 August 2021.

**Grampian data** The local update for today is shown below. This is the highest number of daily cases recorded in Grampian since the start of the pandemic. Please note that the daily testing numbers and test positivity figures are the same as yesterday, due to issues with reporting. We apologise for any inconvenience.



A national update is available on the [Public Health Scotland daily dashboard](#).

**COVID-19 vaccination and the protection it offers** Many of you will have seen the widespread media coverage today of the latest research into the level of protection offered by the COVID-19 vaccines. The emerging evidence of the protection from vaccination reducing over time is expected. This is why JCVI have been considering how any booster programme for COVID-19 vaccination should be deployed in terms of both **who** should receive a booster and **when**. We expect further guidance from JCVI on this next month. What is interesting is that the levels of protection still remain high 6 months after full vaccination. Therefore, we continue to encourage everyone who is yet to be vaccinated to take up the offer. All fixed clinics – Aberdeen, Elgin, Huntly, Inverurie, Fraserburgh, Peterhead, Macduff, Banchory, and Stonehaven - are open for drop-ins, and in addition a number of community pop-up clinics are operating. [All the information you need on where to get your COVID-19 vaccination is available on our dedicated website.](#)

**NHS recovery** A five-year plan, aimed at addressing backlogs across NHS Scotland and increasing capacity by 10%, has been published today. It's a substantial document, covering primary and secondary care, staffing, and innovation to name but a few. It will take time to read and understand what it will mean for us in Grampian, and we'll likely return to it in future briefs. [For now, you can read the plan for yourself via the Scottish Government website.](#)

**Hospital visiting – clarification** Please be aware that two people can only visit a patient in Grampian hospitals at the same time **if they (the visitors) live in the same household as each other**. We apologise that this was not made clear in the examples provided yesterday.

**Agenda for Change Pay Award** The salary uplift from the revised pay award for Agenda for Change staff was processed in June 2021 salaries. Arrears of pay, backdated to 1 December 2020, will be processed in August salaries. On receipt of your payslip please remember that a 1% “payment on account” pay uplift was applied in March 2021 salaries with arrears, backdated to 1 December 2020, having been paid in April 2021. Arrears of pay for the revised pay award will take account of such arrears already processed.

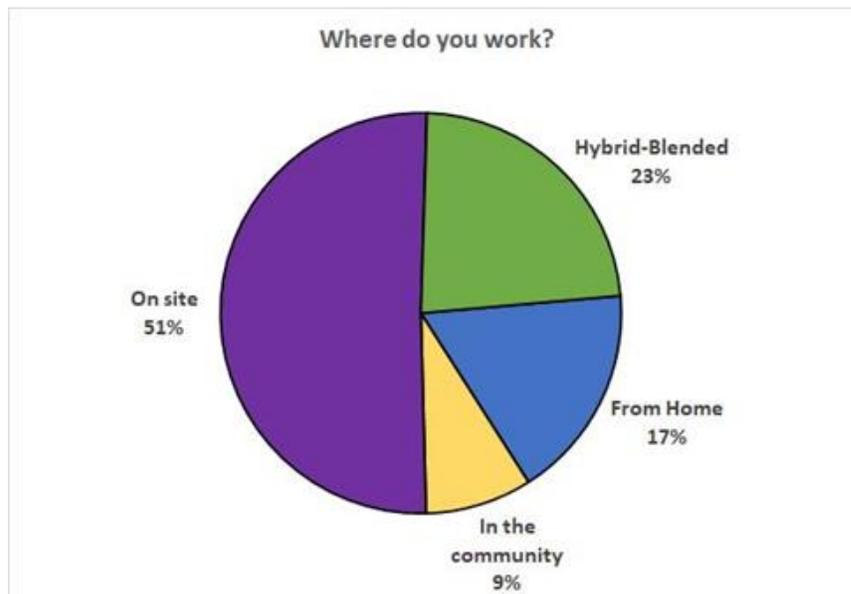
Your arrears payments may be split into various descriptions of arrears; this is required for reporting purposes in terms of which values relate to a previous financial year. Whatever description is used it does not affect the total arrears payments being processed.

**Baird & ANCHOR Project** [The latest edition of the Baird & ANCHOR Project newsletter is out now.](#) This includes a progress report on both developments and introductions to some of the key project team members.

**Scottish Health Awards 2021- nominations close tomorrow!** The Scottish Health Awards recognise the best and the brightest working across healthcare in Scotland. Nominations for the awards close tomorrow (26 August). [There are 16 categories, full details are available on the event website.](#)

### **We Care Wednesday – programme update**

- **We Care Pulse Survey** We have had many responses to our Wellbeing Pulse Survey #2, which captures health and social care staff's wellbeing across Grampian. Our survey is open until midnight on 29 August, and we would really like to hear from you. Here is a snapshot of “Where you work?” so far - make sure you get your voice heard!



The wellbeing survey is anonymous and only takes a few minutes to complete. 1,729 responses have already been submitted – can you help us reach more than 2000? To take part, just click on the link below or scan the QR code.

[We Care Pulse Survey #2 survey link](#)



- **The We Care programme is now on social media!** You can find us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram - just search for We Care and give us a like or follow.
- **Guided Journaling** There are spaces available on this Friday's session ( 27 August, 12-12.30) and a host of dates available during September (see below for details and booking information).

Guided Journaling is recognised as being helpful in reducing anxiety through providing clarity; identifying patterns; revealing emotions, and processing decisions. It can help us become more flexible and accepting in our thinking. Strengthened self-discipline and achievement of goals and are also attributed to journaling. The act of writing involves co-ordination between hand, eye and mind.

These 30-minute guided journaling sessions provide us with an opportunity to pause and reflect and to observe and understand what's happening around us and inside of ourselves

The facilitator will guide you through the journaling process and each session will have a wellbeing focus. All microphones will remain muted throughout and you can leave your camera off if you choose. Why not join us in taking 30-minutes to pause and connect with yourself. No prior journaling experience is necessary - all you need is something to write with and on.

Available dates shown below, to book, just email [sandra.brown9@nhs.scot](mailto:sandra.brown9@nhs.scot)

Friday 27 August 1200 – 1230	Monday 30 August 0830 - 0900
Wednesday 1 September 1730 – 1800	Thursday 2 September 0800 – 0830
Thursday 9 September 0800 - 0830	Thursday 16 September 0800 – 0830
Thursday 23 September 0800 – 0830	

And finally, if you aren't able to make it along to a guided journaling session, we're going to share one of the questions used each week, with the invitation to take some time to reflect on it and jot down your answer: **Wellbeing is a word we hear all around us, what does wellbeing mean for you?**

**Tune of the day** With the announcement that Charlie Watts has died at the age of 80, we really had to pick a Rolling Stones tune today. You could argue from now into the middle of next week about which song to choose, but for me it has to be [Sympathy for the Devil](#). Just over 6 minutes of Afro-Brazilian samba groove, with Charlie leading the rhythm section – perfect! However, this is your brief, far more than it is mine, so we also give you Jason Smith's suggestion of [Gimme Shelter](#) – as Jason rightly says, this track sums up Charlie as a drummer – a solid and unwavering backbeat.

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](mailto:gram.communications@nhs.scot) That's also your first port of call if you've got any queries or an item to share.