

# COVID-19 Brief

coronavirus



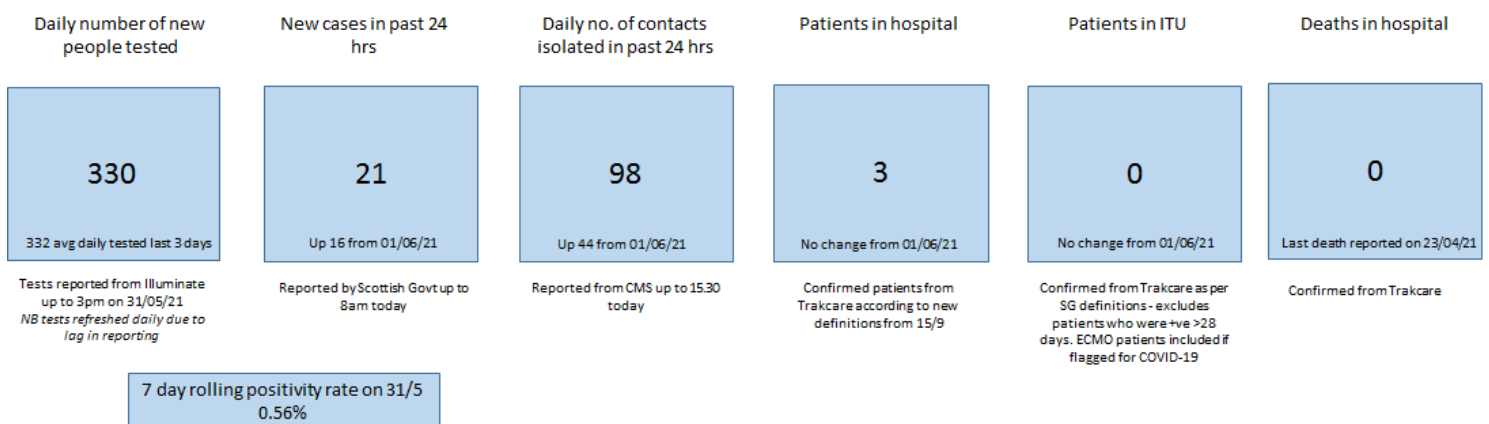
Here is the brief for Wednesday 2 June 2021.

**COVID-19 variants – new naming convention** You may have noticed in recent days that variants of COVID-19 have been given new names. This is because the World Health Organisation (WHO) has assigned simple, easy to say and remember labels for key variants of SARS-CoV-2, using letters of the Greek alphabet. These labels do not replace existing scientific names which convey important information and will continue to be used in research. While they have their advantages, these scientific names can be difficult to say and recall, and are prone to misreporting. As a result, people often resort to calling variants by the places where they are detected, which is stigmatizing and discriminatory. To avoid this and to simplify public communications, WHO encourages national authorities, media outlets and others to adopt these new labels. Information about variants of concern and variants of interest is logged by WHO on their website. [This page shows the current list and will be updated as new variants are detected.](#)

**Which test - and when?** We wanted to provide a reminder on what type of test you should be using/booking and when. Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests should be used by people without any symptoms, as part of regular asymptomatic testing. Healthcare staff can get a kit by participating in the staff programme – more information on this [is available on the staff LFD testing webpage](#). Remember to log your results as required and if you do test positive, you'll need to arrange a confirmatory PCR test.

If you develop any symptoms - and remember, if you're working in health & social care, you should be looking out for sore throats, diarrhoea, vomiting, as well as a new cough, fever, or loss/change in smell/taste - you must arrange a PCR test. It may be tempting - and seem quicker - to use an LFD test, especially if they are readily available at home, but only a PCR test will do if you're displaying symptoms. This is because the LFD test does not detect all cases of COVID-19 and so should not be performed if you have any symptoms, however mild, that are suggestive of COVID-19. Anyone working in health & social care can book a test via the [NHS Grampian staff PCR testing request site](#).

**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.



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

**REMINDER – Virtual NHS Scotland event 2021** Registration is now open for the virtual NHS Scotland Event 2021, which will take place online from 22 – 24 June. This year's Event programme will provide opportunities to reflect on what we can achieve when we work together to **Re-mobilise, Recover and Re-design**. Once registered, delegates will have the opportunity to build a personal profile within the platform in advance of the live Event to network, engage and establish new connections.

Visit [www.nhsscotlandevents.com](http://www.nhsscotlandevents.com) to find out more about the programme and how to register.

**The Anti-vax conspiracy** This documentary was broadcast on Channel 4 last night and may be of interest. It is available to watch, for free, [via All4, Channel 4's catch-up service](#). NHS Grampian was not involved in the production of this programme and as such we are not responsible for the content.

**Tune of the day** Mandy Garden (Radiographer Helper, Turriff Hospital) is in charge of the tunes today, and it's a beautiful suggestion! Hawaiian musician Israel Kamakawiwo'ole brought together Judy Garland and Louis Armstrong in his rendition of [Somewhere Over the Rainbow/What a Wonderful World](#). Enjoy!

**Get in touch!** If you've got a question, an item to share with people working in health & social care, or just want to suggest a tune of the day, we want to hear from you! Drop us a line via [gram.communications@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.communications@nhs.scot).