

Here is the brief for Thursday 16 December 2021.

Boosters – have you had yours? If you work in health & social care and have still to arrange your COVID booster, you can go about this in the following ways:

- Book an appointment either by calling 0800 030 8013 or visiting the [online booking portal](#). Please note, all the dedicated staff clinics have concluded, so you will be booking an appointment at one of the main vaccination centres. If you've never used the portal before and aren't sure what to do, [Public Health Scotland have produced a 'walk-through' video to guide you](#).
- All clinics in Aberdeenshire, along with the Fiona Elcock Vaccination Centre and Aberdeen City Vaccination Centre, are offering walk-ins. Details of these are regularly advertised on the NHS Grampian social media accounts. Please note frontline staff, of any age, can attend these clinics but you must identify yourself as a member of health & social care staff. Otherwise walk-ins are currently reserved for those aged 40+.
- Community pharmacy clinics – see advert below for details of this weekend's clinics:

Community pharmacy booster clinics

The following pharmacies are offering booster clinics this weekend (18/19 Dec), for anyone aged 18+, and at least 12 weeks past their second dose:

Baird's Fraserburgh (Sat & Sun)
Webster's Peterhead (Sat & Sun)
Rowlands Ellon (Sat only)
Buchanhaven (Sun only)
Aberchirder (Sat AM)
Baird's Banff (Sat & Sun)
Michies Laurencekirk (Sat)

Webster's Hilton (Sat PM & Sun AM)
Kingswells (Sun)

Cullen (Sat & Sun)

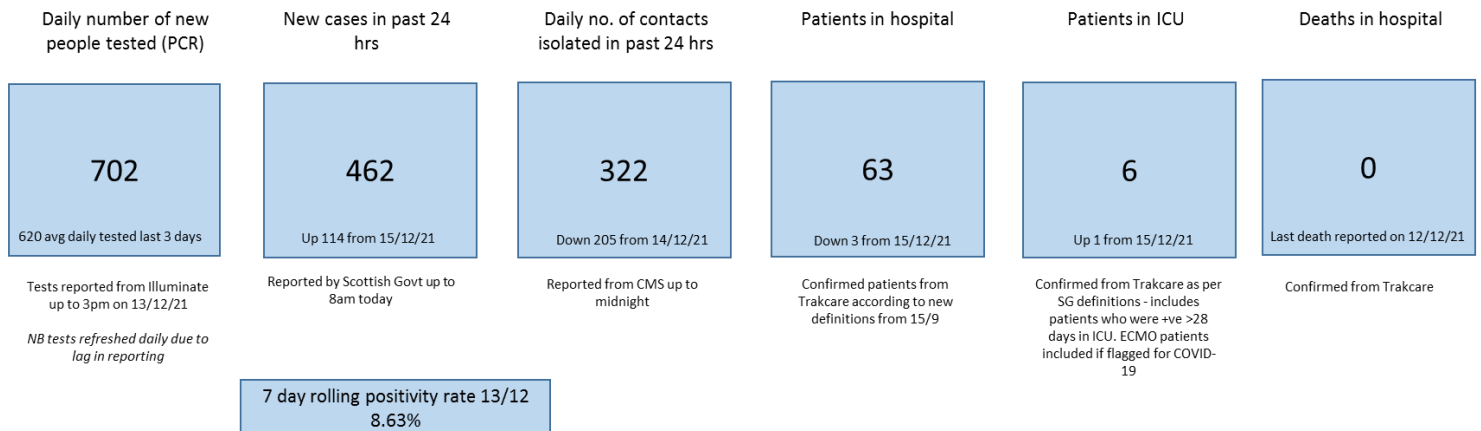
Please contact pharmacies directly to book.

Hospital visiting Following review of new guidance from the CMO/CNO/National Clinical Director, we can confirm hospital visiting will continue 'as is' in Grampian. In practice, this means each patient may have a maximum of two visitors per day, and arrangements must be made in advance with ward teams. Individual areas continue to be supported to arrange visits in a way that best suits the needs of all patients and the clinical environment you are working in e.g., you may only be able to support one visitor per patient at a time.

Visitors will continue to be advised to use a Fluid Repellent Surgical Mask, not a fabric face covering. In addition, we are underlining to the public the importance of taking an LFD test before each visit, and to not attend if it is positive or they are otherwise unwell. Ward staff are not expected to verify these results but should be very clear with relatives about the organisation's expectations around LFD testing. There will, of course, be occasions where visits are essential, or emergencies, and it may not be possible or practical for visitors to test beforehand. In these circumstances we support teams using professional judgement in a compassionate and clinical way.

Finally, please bear in mind virtual visiting is still an option supported by the organisation. Equipment was provided to all ward areas to make this possible while visiting was suspended. If you have any queries around this, please contact gram.virtualwardvisit@nhs.scot

Grampian data The local update for today is shown below.



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

Helping you to navigate your Illuminate dashboards With the ever-increasing amount of data and insights available on Illuminate, it can be frustrating when you can't find what you need! There are ways around this, like setting favourites for example. However, we have now launched an A-Z for our Illuminate catalogue, [which can be found here](#).

The initial focus is on Operation Iris, identifying reports that support operational and planning data for winter. These can be found under the 'IRIS' filter. As well as having the option to filter on any combination of tags on the reports, you can also search our full Illuminate catalogue by key words of your choice. Access to Illuminate is granted through a security approval process; [details can be found here](#) (networked devices only). Please keep checking the Illuminate site for details of further developments. In the meantime, if you have any comments or feedback, please contact us at gram.infodata@nhs.scot

Virtual carol service Members of the NHS Grampian Chaplaincy Team have recorded a virtual carol service that will go live at **3pm on Sunday 19 December** and also be available to watch and listen to online thereafter. Chaplains from ARI, RACH, RCH, Woodend Hospital, and Roxburghe House have taken part. The service includes carols, readings, prayers, some short reflections and will last around 35 minutes. Although it was recorded in the Chapel in Aberdeen Royal Infirmary it is meant for all sites in NHS Grampian, in place of the local in-person services or carol singing that would usually take place. It is hoped patients, relatives, staff, and literally anyone who has a connection with NHS Grampian will take the opportunity to access this service. The service will be available via the [Chaplaincy website](#), and on the NHS Grampian YouTube channel and Facebook page. In addition, it will be broadcast on Grampian Hospital Radio. If you need any further information, please contact Gillian Douglas (Lead Chaplain) on ext 53166 or via gillian.douglas@nhs.scot

Gleneagles vouchers A reminder that the draw to win one of 38 vouchers for an overnight stay for two at Gleneagles is open until 22 December. [Entry info and terms & conditions for the draw are available on the intranet \(networked devices only\)](#). If you manage a staff group who do not have active email addresses or access to the intranet please contact gram.staffthanksandrecognition@nhs.scot

Advent Achievements 14,500. 27,288. What do these numbers mean? Well, the first one is the number of LFD test kits distributed to staff through the asymptomatic testing programme this year. The second one is the number of LFD test kits NHS Grampian have directly distributed to citizens from the start of September until the first week of December. That number doesn't include the number of test kits people may have ordered directly or picked up from community pharmacies. The numbers represent a huge amount of work by a very small group of people – well done to them! That hard work is going to be stepped up, as we are all encouraged to test much more frequently – daily, if possible. Remember, LFD tests should only be used if you don't have COVID symptoms. If you do have symptoms, book a PCR test.

Thought for the day I've been thinking a lot about values this week. What matters to me, and why I do what I do. As I wrote on Monday, I love my job, but I do have days where I'm not sure if I like it all that much. Those days have certainly increased significantly since all this madness began. So why not pack it all in or, to be more precise, take myself off to the private sector? Fundamentally, it's because I believe in what we are here to do. Provide care, free at the point of delivery, regardless of an individual's status or financial position. I am also consistently awed and inspired by the work I see going on around me. When the chips are down (they're practically underground these days) we can pull some amazing stuff out of the bag. Yes, we can argue about whether or not we *should have* to do things like that, in extreme circumstances, or whether our ability to consistently pull rabbits out of hats just makes a rod for our own backs. I'll participate enthusiastically in that debate, though it is probably for another day. For today, I will say this: we are here because we care. We are here because we believe in what we are doing, and we believe in each other. We will do this. I am not too sure on the 'how' right now, but I KNOW there is great strength, depth, skill, kindness, empathy, and ability in our ranks.

(Also, there is no way a private sector job would give me the opportunity to ramble on like this. These are my thoughts. I hope you find them helpful.)

Tune of the day One of the (many) things I enjoy about working on the brief is your suggestions for this feature, especially when they mention songs or artists I am less familiar with. We've got one of these today, courtesy of Deborah Hay. Please enjoy Louis Armstrong and Duke Ellington (both in their pomp) with [Don't Get Around Much Anymore](#). It's certainly one of the more upbeat songs I've heard about not going out!

If you want to request a song for tune of the day, follow up on items included in this brief, or suggest an item for sharing, drop us an email via gram.communications@nhs.scot