

Here is the brief for Tuesday 21 December 2021.

LFD testing for staff Firstly, we want to say a massive thank you to everyone who has taken the opportunity to test daily. We have been amazed at the huge uptake in staff choosing to test, and that more and more of you are taking a few extra moments to record your results. This is so important, because it helps keep us all informed about what is going on with the virus in the community, especially with the Omicron variant. Continued testing remains critical, as vaccinated people are more likely to be asymptomatic or have very mild symptoms and can therefore pass on the virus unknowingly.

We also want to keep you informed about some upcoming changes to the LFD testing scheme. As some may already know, we will soon be moving over to a new type of lateral flow test, called Orient Gene 20s. The key difference between Innova (the current kit provider) and Orient Gene kits is that results will be available in 15 minutes. These will start to be issued soon, as replacement kits are provided. Please ensure all the Innova tests you have are used, before switching to the new supply.

You will get clear instructions with each box - these are to be used instead of the manufacturer's instructions, just as you have done with the Innova kits. In addition, training materials, including electronic instructions for use (eIFU) for Orient Gene are available on TURAS. We'd encourage you to take a look and familiarise yourself with the new procedure. What won't change is the recording of results – [please continue to log every result on the dedicated website](#).

If you haven't joined the staff LFD testing programme, it is not too late! Everyone is eligible, whether your role is patient/client facing or not. [To register, just click here and complete the appropriate form](#).

If you need additional kits to keep up with increased testing, these are available – but please bear in mind they are for staff only. Relatives/other household members who don't work in health & social care should order kits on the UK Government website or collect from a participating pharmacy. If you're not sure where your test pick up point is, please email gram.staffcovidtestingservicemanagers@nhs.scot Acute Sector staff can collect from the ARI Boardroom (next to the General Office) Monday to Friday, between 10am and 2pm.

Remember, if you experience the classic COVID-19 symptoms, do not use a Lateral Flow Device. Book a PCR test, [using the staff testing programme request form](#). This service can also be used for members of your household. If you are an asymptomatic member of staff who has been identified as a contact of a confirmed case and you require an urgent PCR test due to extreme pressure on your service please indicate this on the request form. The team will contact you to organise the test and inform your line manager a test has been booked. The service is open 7 days a week, 8am-7pm, you will be contacted to arrange your test during those hours.

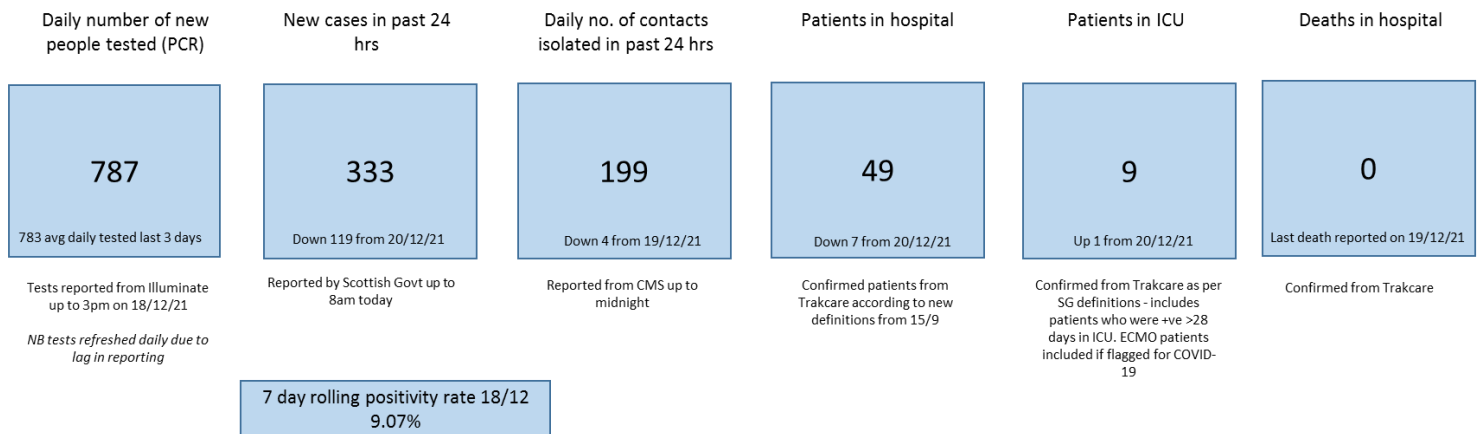
New protective measures The Scottish Government have outlined further protective measures, which will come into effect, for three weeks, as follows:

- 26 December – limits on crowds for public events. Indoor standing – 100, indoor seated – 200. Outdoor (seated or standing) – 500. 1m physical distancing will be required. These limits do not apply to private events such as weddings.
- 26 December – no non-professional, indoor, contact sports for adults to take place.

- 27 December – indoor hospitality venues which sell alcohol will move to table service, 1m physical distancing is required between groups, groups should be made up of no more than 3 households.

[The full statement from the First Minister can be read here.](#)

Grampian data The local update for today is shown below.



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

Fleet Marketing project We're marking the launch of a new Fleet Marketing project that will help promote important messages to communities across Grampian. [As Marketing Director Stuart Humphreys explains in this short film](#), it's an exciting collaboration between Corporate Communications and the Transport team, providing an additional and very visible way of engaging with audiences who may not otherwise see them.

Deletion of Teams Chat messages We wanted to give you advance notice of a change coming to Teams in 2022. As part of ongoing enhancements to the NHS Scotland M365 environment, "Chat Deletion Policy" settings are being enabled. **This change will be implemented in March 2022 and will mean any chat messages that were created on or before 31 March 2021 will be deleted.** (Please note this has been delayed from the 31 January cut off some of you may have seen) All subsequent chat messages will be automatically deleted on the first anniversary of their creation.

What type of chats does this apply to?

- One-to-one chats
- Group chats
- Meeting chats (Meetings within a channel will not be deleted as they are not classed as Teams chats)

Teams Channel conversations/posts and chats from a Channel meeting do not have any deletion policies applied to them and therefore will not be deleted after 1 year.

Once chats are deleted, they are not recoverable.

More information on this, including options to save any chats you would like to keep, can be accessed on the [NHS Scotland M365 Skills Hub](#).

For local guides and resources you also visit Grampians [Microsoft 365 Page](#) and ask questions in our [Digital Champions Team](#)

Stores Cages It has now been a number of days since any cages have been returned to the supply chain team. Cages should not be used to hold stock within a department or solve storage problems. All Stores Cages should be returned to Central Stores as soon as possible. Areas on Foresterhill campus should contact their local porters for collection. If you have cages awaiting collection outwith the Foresterhill Health Campus, please contact the Transport Department gram.transportlogistics@nhs.scot for uplift.

Winter service arrangements for Corporate Graphic Design. The CGD department closes from 24 December and fully reopens on 10 January 2022. A reduced team will be available on the 5,6,7 January but please be aware this limited resource will be focussed on organisational priorities only. With a high volume of jobs already received for the first quarter of 2022, if you have a graphic requirement for a project, please notify CGD as soon as possible.

Young Person's Advocacy Group This group brings together young people, aged 11-18, and supports them to act as advocates for children in research. This can involve reviewing patient documentation, study design, the consent and assent process, and generally advocating for children's rights. The group are keen to recruit new members and are hosting an open day at Curl Aberdeen on Sunday 9 January 2022. A flyer with more information and contact details is attached to the email used to send out this brief.

Advent Achievements Yesterday we spotlighted Protect (the contact tracers), today it's all about Test. Since it was set up in April 2020, initially for health and social care staff testing and then expanded to conduct pre-operative testing, the NHS Grampian COVID-19 Testing Team based in Public Health has undertaken **443,110 staff** and **439,750 pre-operative** PCR tests across our sites in Aberdeen, Huntly, and Elgin.

The team of booking co-ordinators, testers, team leads, and managers offer this daily service, 365 days a year, and have seen a significant increase in the numbers that we test over the last few months. As the world of COVID-19 changes, the service has had to be flexible to meet demand and respond to rapid changes in testing guidance.

In November 2020 almost the whole team was changed out to allow deployed staff to return to their substantive posts, whilst keeping the service running during the busiest time of 2020. The testing numbers for the last three months of this year are double of this time last year. When the team first started, appointment lists on A3 paper were taped to the walls and tents at the testing sites. Today, there is an efficient booking system and permanent structures at each of the test sites at ARI, Elgin, and Huntly with a new facility being built at Summerfield House to enable the service to meet surges in demand. The team's enthusiasm and dedication to deliver a patient focused service is at the heart of the service! Remember if you have any COVID-19 symptoms, or are identified as a contact, please use the online [request form to book your PCR test](#).

Thought for the day Today is the shortest day of the year. From tomorrow, the light starts to come back. Hold on.

Tune of the day Today's request comes from Jo Raine-Mitchell. This is arguably my most favourite Christmas song – it's [River by Joni Mitchell](#) (no relation, she assures us).

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