

# COVID-19 Brief

coronavirus



Here is the brief for Monday 14 December 2020.

**Grampian figures** Local data for the last three days is shown below. What a difference we've seen over the last nine days. The rate per 100,000 in Aberdeen has risen from 59 to 116 and together with a 'blunted' rise in Aberdeenshire, we are rightly concerned about how fragile the situation is in the north east. If you are interested in the situation elsewhere in Scotland, click [here](#) to see all the data published by Public Health Scotland.

	Daily number of new people tested	New cases in past 24 hrs	Daily no. of contacts isolated in past 24 hrs	Patients in hospital	Patients in ITU	Deaths in hospital
Sat 12/12	588	79	279	63	7	2 12/12/20
Sun 13/12	139	80	188	60	5	0
Mon 14/12	114 280 avg daily tested last 3 days	63 Down 17 from 13/12/20	265 Up 77 from 13/12/20	56 Down 4 from 13/12/20	5 No change from 13/12/20	0 Last death recorded 12/12/20
	Tests reported from Illuminate up to 3pm on 12/12/20 NB tests refreshed daily due to lag in reporting & underreporting at weekends	Reported by Scottish Govt up to 8am today	Reported from CMS up to 15:30 today	Confirmed patients from Trakcare according to new definitions from 15/9	Confirmed from Trakcare	Confirmed from Trakcare 06/12/20

**COVID-19 vaccine** Booking forms are now available for clinics in all areas – you can see the links [here](#). More than 4,200 requests have already come in for the ARI clinics. If you have submitted a request for an ARI clinic appointment and then take up peer vaccination, you must let them know, so they can offer the slot to someone else. Please email [gram.aricovidvacc@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.aricovidvacc@nhs.scot).

Whether you are attending a clinic or taking up peer vaccination, you must adhere to the following rules:

- You must wear a face mask to your appointment
- Do not arrive more than 5 minutes before your appointment
- Please ensure you have read the [COVID-19 vaccine healthcare worker leaflet](#) beforehand.
- Please follow physical distancing as instructed by staff. Do not allow queues to build up around any clinic.

**Chief Executive update** A somewhat different update from Caroline Hiscox today; she has written a letter to the young people in your lives. This is attached to the email used to send this brief out; please share this with your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews etc. We know the pandemic has taken a particular toll on our young people and Caroline is keen to acknowledge everything they have been through. We will be sharing this on the NHS Grampian social media accounts tomorrow.

Remember, you can contact Caroline by email at any time – [gram.grampianchiefexecutive@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.grampianchiefexecutive@nhs.scot)

**Extension of asymptomatic staff testing** In common with all other Scottish health boards, we are extending asymptomatic staff testing to all staff in patient facing roles. This won't be limited solely to clinical staff but will be open to anyone who comes into direct contact with patients through their role. This extended testing will use Lateral Flow Devices, which produce rapid results. Final arrangements are still being confirmed and we will share more information in future briefs. In the meantime, you should consult the national training materials. NES have developed [this guide](#), [this poster](#) and also [this video](#) with the Chief Nursing Officer.

**Letter from the Cabinet Secretary** Last week Jeane Freeman, the Cabinet Secretary for Health, wrote to all staff working in health and social care. This letter is attached to the email used to send out today's brief. In it, Ms Freeman particularly addresses those of you who are EU or EEA citizens as we come to the end of the Brexit transition period. The letter is also available to read [here](#) (intranet link, networked devices only).

**Protect Scotland app – now available to all secondary school pupils** The Protect Scotland app is now available to all secondary school pupils. Previously it was only available to those aged 16 or older, but now any secondary school pupil with a compatible smartphone can download the app. It is available, for free, at the App Store and Google Play Store.

**Bonus payment to NHS & social care staff – scam alert** Following the announcement of a one-off bonus to be paid to all health & social care staff in Scotland, Counter Fraud Services have been made aware of emails and telephone calls received by NHS and social care staff within the Glasgow area, requesting bank details from them in order for the payment to be made. This is a scam, and staff are urged not to disclose any bank details to unknown callers. All bonus payments made to NHS Agenda for Change staff will be coordinated through local payroll department. All contractor payments will be coordinated through Practitioner Services where the process for GP Practices, Dental Practices, Optometrists and Pharmacies is yet to be confirmed. Staff will not be required to disclose any personal details or bank account details over the telephone in relation to this payment. Any enquiries should be directed in the first instance to your line manager or your payroll department.

**Thought for the day – Christmas. We can, but should we?** For today's thought, we are taking our cue from none other than the First Minister. At her daily briefing, Nicola Sturgeon spoke at length about the caution we should all show over the festive period. The brief easing of restrictions is in place to support those of us who feel it is essential to meet up with others, indoors, to celebrate Christmas. This is not without risk and none of us should take the decision to gather lightly. The virus is still circulating widely and as the data published in today's brief highlights, we are in a very difficult position, particularly in Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire. If you are planning to take advantage of the easing in restrictions, you should start limiting your contacts now. Postpone any social catch ups (or make them virtual), work at home if you possibly can, and if shopping or running other errands, try to aim for quieter times. This will reduce – though not eliminate – the risk of getting and passing on the virus. Above all, remember there is no obligation to meet other households at all during the easing of restrictions. This has been a hard year for all of us and perhaps the greatest gift we can give ourselves is a few quiet days of rest and celebration with our immediate household.

**Items for the brief?** If you have something you would like to be considered for inclusion in this brief, please send this to [gram.communications@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.communications@nhs.scot). Messages should be clearly marked as 'Daily brief – for consideration'. Please be aware that space is limited, and items are prioritised based on subject matter and relevance to all staff groups.