

COVID-19 Brief

coronavirus

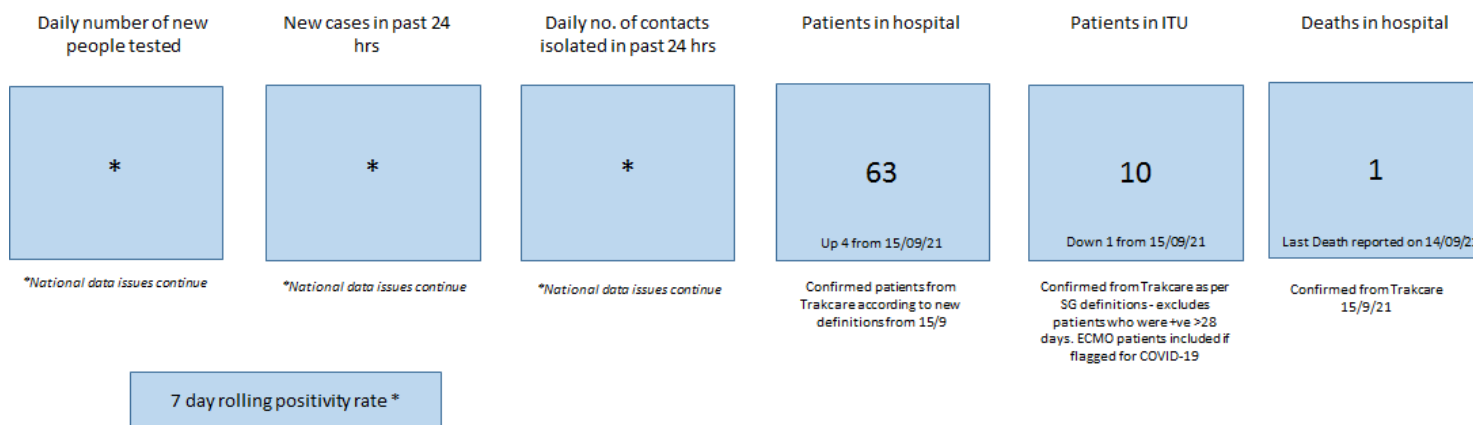


Here is the brief for Thursday 16 September 2021.

Autumn/Winter vaccination appointments As highlighted in Tuesday's brief, we expect the booking system to allow health & social care staff to arrange 'flu and COVID-19 booster jabs to open next week. Please be aware of the following:

- This is a national booking portal – it has not been designed by individual health boards.
- You will be able to book one appointment. At that appointment you will be offered a 'flu jab and – if eligible – a COVID-19 booster. Permission has been given to administer both injections in one appointment. You are not obliged to take two jabs in one appointment. If you wish to have them separately, you will only be able to book your second appointment once your first is complete. It is not possible to book two appointments in advance.
- The programme is operating on a Grampian basis. This means you will be able to book at the location which is most convenient to you. This does not have to be your usual work base.
- Healthcare workers, NHS independent contractors (e.g., GPs, optometry and dental practices), and social care staff who deliver direct personal care are eligible for 'flu immunisation. [A fuller description of the eligible groups is available on the NHS Inform website.](#)

Grampian data Due to ongoing technical issues nationally, we are unable to bring you the latest figures on testing, confirmed cases, or contacts. We have updated the local data where we are able to and this is shown below. Public Health Scotland have advised the figures for today will be carried forward into tomorrow's daily dashboard.



iMatter staff survey – have you done yours? A reminder that the survey window for the annual iMatter staff survey closes on Monday 20 September. All staff should have received an email invitation to take part – or have access to alternatives if they are not on email. The survey takes around 5-10 minutes to complete and all responses are anonymous. Any queries about the survey during this time should be sent to gram.imatter@nhs.scot

Safer Workplaces The opportunity to socialise more – and in larger groups – has been very welcome for many of us. It does, however, increase our, and others, risk of spreading COVID-19 at home and at work if we are not careful. We all need to be mindful of the key steps we need to take – and the measures still in place - to reduce the spread of the virus in the workplace:

- Work at home if your role allows - this will be in place until at least Christmas.
- Wear a Fluid Repellent Surgical Mask and/or other PPE (as per guidance) if less than 2m apart
- When on a break please remember to wear a mask and distance unless eating and drinking
- All inpatient areas (low, medium, and high-risk pathways) **remain at 2m distancing**
- The high-risk pathway across all settings **remains at 2m distancing**
- Outpatient Departments which deliver treatments for extended periods of time throughout the day **remains at 2m distancing**
- When FRSMs are not in use (for example, breaks or mealtimes), we should all **remain at 2m distancing**.

Recent guidance indicated that in specific health and care settings, we can risk assess to see if we can reduce distancing from 2m to 1m or more, to support the remobilisation of services safely. We have attached a detailed table, considering a range of settings, and we would encourage you to look at the requirements for your area. As this can be complex, please contact the Safer Workplace and IPCT teams on gram.saferworkplaces@nhs.scot to arrange support with this.

Update from Linen Services – action required We have two important updates from the Linen Services team, as follows:

1. If you have any items of NHS Scotland uniform – tunics, trousers, fleeces, poloshirts, blouses, etc – that you no longer require, please return promptly to the Sewing Room, Mile End, Foresterhill Health Campus.
2. Please do not put linen in clinical waste bags. All linen can be processed within Linen Services. Not using the correct linen procedures is causing unnecessary financial stress to the organisation. [Information on the policy for laundry segregation is available on the intranet](#) (networked devices only)

Climate Week NHS Grampian was recently successful in bidding for an NHS Workplace Engagement Officer via Sustrans. Katrina Schofield is now in post, and she will be working to increase the active and sustainable travel choices of NHS staff, as part of wider carbon reduction duties and helping promote cleaner air.



Katrina is pictured next to the recently installed bike shelter at Cornhill. The bike shelter can take 20 bikes and is open to all staff using their ID badges, and pin number. If you would like to know more about the Workplace Engagement Project, contact katrina.schofield@sustrans.org.uk or Active Travel options at www.getabout.org.uk

Tune of the day Rebecca Cassie steps up to the jukebox today, suggesting [Some Heroes Don't Wear Capes by Callum Beattie](#). I warn you now, the video is emotional! Incidentally, we should point out that any products/services you see advertised via these YouTube links are NOT endorsed by NHS Grampian.

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 That's also your first port of call if you've got any queries or an item to share.