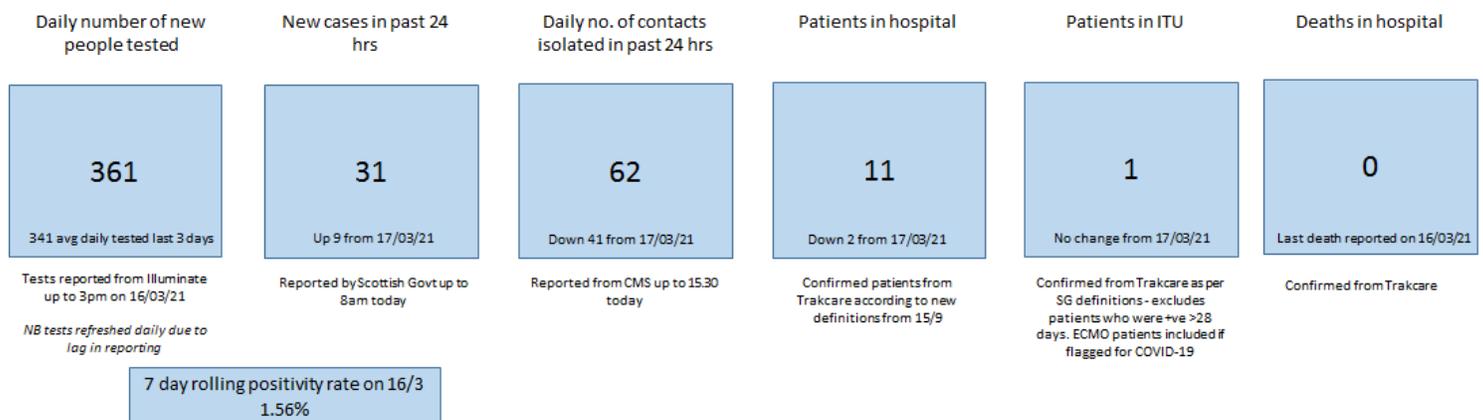


Here is the brief for Thursday 18 March 2021.

**Grampian data** The local figures for today (and over the weekend) 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. If you want to see more detailed information, including cases at neighbourhood level, click [here](#) for the Public Health Scotland daily dashboard.



**AstraZeneca Vaccine** David Pflieger, our director of pharmacy, today provided reassurance about the safety of covid-19 vaccines, and puts recent media reports in context in a video which can watch by [clicking here](#). He has also urged everyone in Grampian to take up their offer of a vaccine.

**Accommodation Request Scheme** We would like to notify colleagues that the Staff Accommodation Request Scheme will cease as of the March 31. Should those who used the scheme still wish to make their own enquiries, the providers under the scheme have advised that they will still offer a reduced rate to NHS staff.

**Critical Care and re-Deployed Nurses: the impact of COVID19 on work-related stress** A multi-centre research study, with the aim of capturing the effects of work-related stress on critical care nurses (CCNs) and those redeployed to critical care across the UK, is under way. The study is looking for registered nurses who work in intensive care or were redeployed there during the pandemic. A spokesperson for the study said: "This is an opportunity to be heard and for us to capture the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on critical care nurses and those redeployed. We also want to find out how to support CCNs and nurses working in critical care in future." To complete the survey [click here](#)

**Macmillan Navigator Service celebrates first birthday** To mark the milestone, we asked them to reflect on an eventful first 12 months operating:

*The Macmillan Navigator service began its journey just as the pandemic hit us in March 2020. We were all anxious about the pandemic but having a cancer diagnosis alongside this made it even harder for patients. The Macmillan Navigator service, in a nutshell, is a human voice at the end of the phone when life looks uncertain and worrying. We support patients and their families where we can, through the often*

hard to navigate journey of having cancer. Checking appointment times, chasing up scans, putting patients in touch with their clinical teams to answer their questions, are just a few examples of what the service does.

At the start of the year, a patient satisfaction survey was rolled out to a total of 350 NHS Grampian cancer patients who had used our service, 210 people answered. The responses were very positive: patient's want to keep this service, getting through to a human voice is reassuring for them and patients felt they have better access to their CNS through this service.

In our first month we took 522 calls, a year later we took 1273 calls. In total the team have taken 12174 calls. This is a huge achievement for the team, and we are delighted that our patients, their families and carers, third sector colleagues and other healthcare professionals have given us excellent feedback. We are looking at ways to expand and improve our service all the time and look forward to exciting times ahead.

### Navigator Team

Top Left to Right - Julie A Russell, Louise Smith, Susan Smith  
Down – Left to Right – Margaret Stuart and Ruth Roadnight  
Project Lead - Anushree Ganguly  
Team Leader- Carol Reid  
Cancer Nurse Consultant – Jinette Mathieson



**Thought for the day** We've been lucky enough over the past few days to have a few dozen of you get in touch to say how much you enjoy the brief - some said it brightens their day, others that they feel it keeps you in the loop with what is going on locally. Some have said they hope it remains in place beyond the pandemic and is ultimately one of the "good changes" that become permanent.

At the end of the day, in producing this, we are just doing our job. It's a small part of what we do each day, but according to many of you it makes a big difference to you – even if it just raises a smile. And that's no difference for everyone in this organisation and the work we all do. Ultimately everything each of us does helps people, helps patients, helps their families and helps each other. From the nurses, to the porters, to the chaplains, to the consultants, estates workers, cleaners to those in finance, catering (without these guys in particular I may not turn up on a daily basis, it's the best macaroni cheese in

Aberdeen is all I'm saying) and everyone else in-between; even on our bad days we all contribute to making today better for our patients and each other. Keep it up, you're all herculean and we love having your support.

That said, reflecting on all your praise today, it was perhaps hard not to conclude that you were just all easily influenced by a picture of two cute dogs. In a shameless effort to curry similar favour and praise from you all, here is their brother, Jackson the rabbit.



As I mentioned yesterday, many of you might have got a new pet in lockdown? Why not send us a picture of your furry, scaly or otherwise enveloped family additions and we'll share some of them at a later date. The address is below.

**Questions to ask? Information to share?** If you have particular questions – or are aware of questions coming from friends and family – please share them with us. We may not be able to answer every question and it may take us time to get a proper answer, but we will endeavour to respond and share the answers. You can get in touch with us via [gram.communications@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.communications@nhs.scot). Please also use that email address if you have items for consideration for future briefs.