

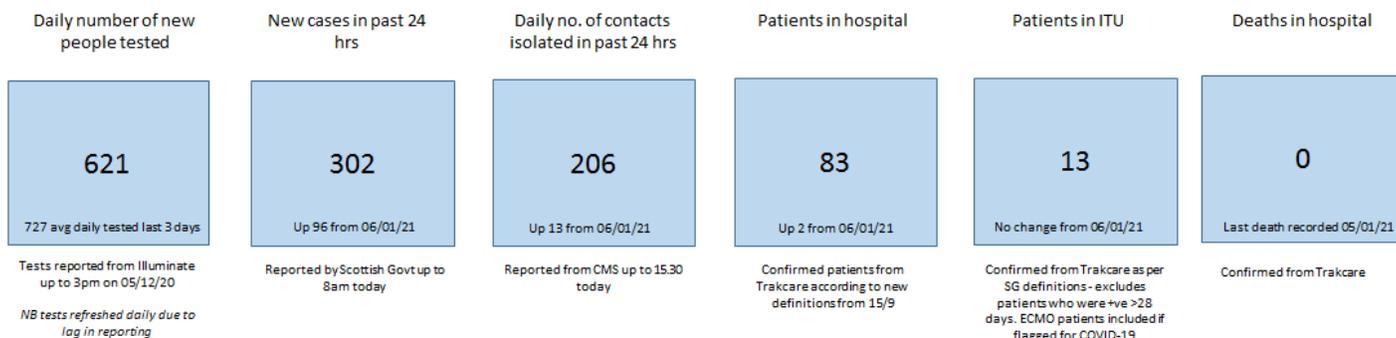
COVID-19 Brief

coronavirus



Here is the brief for Thursday 7 January 2021.

Grampian data The local figures for today are shown below. If you click [here](#) you can visit the Public Health Scotland website, which includes neighbourhood figures for all local authority areas in Scotland.



Today's figures are a stark reminder of how widespread COVID-19 is at present. This number is not solely the product of cases in care homes or workplaces; this virus is circulating widely and we all have to heed the Stay At Home rules. These measures are needed now more than ever. This new strain is highly contagious. If you do have to go out for essential reasons, keep your distance from others and wear a mask or face covering wherever it is required.

Update - Eye protection All healthcare workers providing direct care for patients in the amber pathway should wear eye protection.

COVID-19 vaccination The [latest data from Public Health Scotland](#) shows 113,459 people across Scotland received their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine between 8 December and 3 January. It has been confirmed today that, from Monday next week, vaccination figures will be published nationally each weekday. Also from next week the Public Health Scotland report will include more data by population group and region of the country.

Don't forget about 'flu! 'Flu season is now in full swing and it remains a virus that can have potentially fatal consequences. It is not too late to get immunised and protect yourself, your colleagues, and patients. Community pharmacies have been restocked with vaccines for your administration and can provide this service to you free of charge under the NHS Grampian occupational flu programme. Visit www.fluvaxgrampian.com to find your local pharmacy and arrange an appointment. Please remember to bring your employee ID when you attend. **You should leave seven days between getting your flu vaccine and getting the COVID-19 vaccine (or vice versa). This applies to both the first and second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.**

Twice weekly staff testing As highlighted in previous briefs, we are now ready to commence the next stage of rolling out twice weekly, rapid lateral flow testing for **patient facing staff in hospitals**. Eligible staff include clinical, non-clinical, agency, bank, students, volunteers, etc, who routinely and regularly interact with patients **in hospitals**.

In order to do this on a managed basis, the roll out will happen in phases, with this next phase being for:

Hospital in-patient units – patient facing staff (includes acute and all community hospitals)

If you are an eligible staff member, please go to the following web-page where you should complete the registration process to access your test kit. Prior to arranging to collect your kit (a box of 25 tests to cover 12 weeks) it is essential that you access and understand the online instructions highlighted in the guidance information. For full details and to request your testing kit, please click [here](#).

Reminder - FFP3 masks, stocks, and new face fit testing There are two models of FFP3 mask (3M 1863 and 3M 8833) which are **no longer** being supplied. **Our stock of 8833 has now run out and 1863 stock is dwindling.** Airborne precautions – including the use of FFP3 masks - are required when Aerosol Generating Procedures are being undertaken for medium (amber) and high-risk (red) pathways, as well as for patients who have other infectious agents transmitted via the droplet or airborne route. National Procurement have sourced other models of FFP3 masks which will be supplied going forward (Alpha Solway H and + series; 3M 1863+, 1873V+ and 9332+). **Our records indicate that there remains a significant number of staff who have attended the Fit Test Hub since March 2020 and only have a pass on the 8833, 1863, or have not yet obtained a pass on any mask. If this is you then please make an appointment to be retested as a matter of urgency by emailing gram.face-fit-appointment-hub@nhs.scot.** Please note that no further action is required by staff who have already been tested on the models of masks which are now being supplied but have not yet obtained a pass.

Do you need that test? Health and social care staff who are part of the regular COVID-19 testing programme should be aware that anyone who has had a positive test (either symptomatic or asymptomatic) should **not** have a further test within the **90 days** following their positive test **unless** they develop fresh COVID-like symptoms. If you do develop symptoms – no matter how mild - within this period, then clearly you should stay away from work and arrange a test through the [NHS testing system](#).

Your questions answered Thank you to everyone who has already been in touch with their questions and queries. As we get responses, we will share these here, as well as replying directly.

Q I'd be very grateful if you have the time to explain the differences in the COVID data presented by NHS Grampian compared to that presented by opendata.nhs.scot.

A Essentially, there are differences in the methods used for the Tableau public dashboard (by Local Authority) and the daily Scottish Government COVID-19 update (trends in daily data by Board). Numbers on the Tableau public dashboard are based on date of test whereas Scottish Government numbers are based on date reported. This means there will always be timing differences, but the numbers are fundamentally the same.

Thought for the day – public faces vs private battles Each of us is dealing with the current situation differently and each of us carry different 'baggage' (i.e., concerns about children, relationship worries, bereavements, mental health issues) on top of our work duties. The front we present publicly may be quite different to how we are feeling inside; perhaps we may not even be able to maintain a front anymore. Now, more than ever, we need to practise kindness. A relative, friend, or colleague may be dealing with things you know nothing about. Even if you do know about them, and would deal with them differently yourself, that's not to say you are right and they are wrong. We need to be kind to – and respectful of – each other.

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. Please also use that email address if you have items for consideration for future briefs.