

Here is the brief for Thursday 17 December 2020.

## COVID-19 vaccine update

Clinics are for booked appointments only. You must not attend any clinic without an appointment. Clinic teams are not able to fit staff in and arriving at a clinic without an appointment will cause congestion, interfere with the physical distancing measures put in place and make additional work for the administrative staff running the clinic.

**Message from our Chief Executive, Caroline Hiscox** Our system is being intermittently overwhelmed and the expectation is this will become sustained. We need to do more to support you and your teams at this incredibly difficult time. Late yesterday my executive team and I took the difficult decision that within the next three weeks, we will move level four of operation snowdrop across NHS Grampian. Operation Snowdrop is about five things:

- Staff health & well-being
- Flu and Covid-19 vaccinations
- Test and Protect
- Managing surge and flow
- Maintaining emergency and critical services

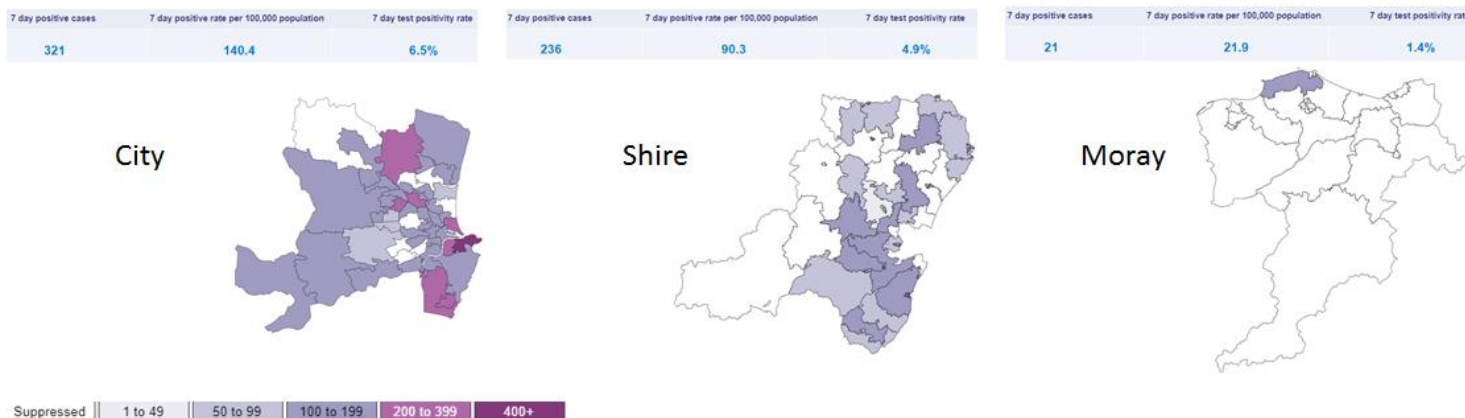
The only way to create any capacity and protect Grampian's population is to focus all our efforts on Operation Snowdrop and step back from services that we have started to remobilise. There is no action for you to take at the moment and more information will be shared in the daily briefs. If you are concerned please speak to your line manager or contact me directly.

To view Caroline's full video message [click here](#)

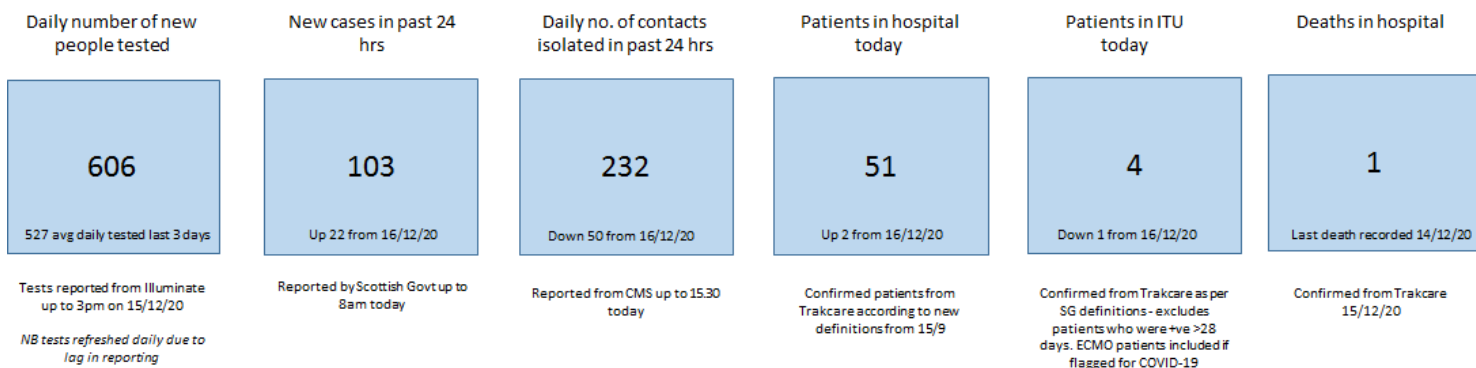
**Infection prevention is everyone's business!** Remember, regardless of whether you work in a clinical or non-clinical environment, we all have a duty to keep each other safe in the workplace. This means wearing the appropriate PPE to the area we work in, observing physical distancing, and washing hands frequently, ideally with water and soap. Each team is a key part of the overall 'jigsaw' of health & social care provision in the north-east and if we drop our guard and allow the virus to take hold that care provision will be disrupted.

**Rising cases of Covid-19** These maps published by Public Health Scotland highlight the extent of COVID-19 in our communities. In Aberdeen City, where the rate per 100,000 has doubled in the past seven days, a large number of cases are not linked to a known event or outbreak. Shopping, eating out and gym classes are activities where transmission is occurring according to the information collected by contact tracers. In Aberdeenshire, case numbers remain high but stable, helped by considerable community control measures in the past few weeks. As with Aberdeen however, shopping and hospitality clusters are also appearing. In Moray cases have risen this week although numbers are lower overall.

7 day positive cases in City, Shire and Moray based on people tested between Dec 8<sup>th</sup> and Dec 14<sup>th</sup> 2020



**Grampian figures** Here are today's local figures:



Each day we link to the data shared by [Public Health Scotland](#); once a week we will share the three neighbourhood maps for Grampian. You can see this data at any time, by clicking through the link above.

**Emergency PPE grab bags** All resuscitation trolleys and stand-alone emergency oxygen cylinders across NHS Grampian will be provided with an emergency PPE bag over the coming weeks. We have started rolling these out this week. The bags are blue and should be hung on the drip stand of your resuscitation trolley or from your emergency oxygen cylinder (if you do not have a trolley). The bags will be provided with an emergency PPE Sign, a contents list and a supply of tamper tags. We would ask that you fill these as directed as soon as possible after we deliver them. We will offer further instruction on the content and their use as we deliver them to each area. If you have any queries please contact us on [gram.resustraining@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.resustraining@nhs.scot)

**HealthRoster Update** Unfortunately, the number of users taking action to maintain their HealthRoster access after, Friday, December 18, has remained stubbornly low. There were serious concerns that a significant proportion of users would lose access to HealthRoster, and with it, the ability to request and check bank staffing, and to roster, record absences and finalise pay (in eRostered areas). For the latest information regarding this [click here](#)

**Hospedia Free Services to Patients** In addition to the usual free services provided by Hospedia, the company have confirmed they will also provide Free TV on Christmas Day from 00:01 on 25<sup>th</sup> to 00:01 26<sup>th</sup> December, with a panto available to watch on channel 39.

**We're all in this together** - this has been used many times during the last 10 months, but it continues to ring true. Across NHS Grampian, each and every team and service is critical to getting through this. Whether we work in clinical or non-clinical areas, what we do matters and affects everyone in the organisation as well as our patient population. It is vital that we keep going with our infection prevention measures, regardless of where we work.

We should all be ambassadors of good practice. Please keep using Hands, Face, Space and remember the FACTS.

**Thought for the day** Last Christmas I gave you Covid... doesn't have the same ring to it, does it? Sadly, that's the reality this year for those taking the risk of meeting up at Christmas and with a worsening picture across the city and shire in the past two weeks, it's an increasing risk – and that's without factoring in the risk of those potentially travelling into the north-east from an area of higher prevalence elsewhere in the UK. None of this is news that any of us want to hear at any time, let alone close to Christmas but the current figures paint a quickly deteriorating picture in the north-east. The increase cannot be put down to an increase in testing which has been stable for some time. Community transmission is now widespread.

Our Director of Public Health, Susan Webb warned today the accelerating spread in the north-east will impact on health care services, in the coming weeks, and urged members of the public to carefully consider their plans over the festive season in an effort to avoid a potential “crisis after Christmas” adding “further spread will place further significant pressure on the region's health care staff and facilities. Ultimately it will sadly lead to more deaths... if we don't all pull in the right direction.” So let's make sure we are pulling in that direction, towards the light at the end of the tunnel that is the vaccine. For some Christmas is great religious importance, but for a larger number it is an extravagant Sunday roast, with many of our loved-ones around - why can that not wait a few months to ensure it is safe for everyone? At the end of the day we want next Christmas to be normal – not the first without a loved-one at the table because we just couldn't wait.

**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.