# COVID-19 Brief

coronavirus

**NHS Grampian**

Here is the brief for Monday 18 October 2021.

**The state of the pandemic** We wanted to share two items, published in the last few days, which may be of interest. Both pieces look at the UK's rates of – and deaths from – COVID-19 compared to the rest of Europe.

[The first article was published in The Guardian on Friday 15 October and asks whether the general public have become desensitised to COVID deaths.](#) (The Guardian does not operate a paywall, but you may be asked to create a free account to view the article in full.)

[This link takes you to a series of tweets, from Financial Times journalist John Burn-Murdoch, looking at the data to understand why rates are so much higher here.](#) (You do not need a Twitter account to read this thread, but please bear in mind Twitter is not generally available on networked devices).

**Autumn/Winter staff vaccinations** As of today nearly 16,000 health & social care staff appointments have been booked, 11,689 flu immunisations have been administered, and 11,487 COVID-19 boosters have been administered. Thank you to all of you for booking your appointments so promptly and to the staff teams working on the vaccination programme across Moray, Aberdeenshire, and Aberdeen City.

**Proof of Vaccination Scheme** The COVID-19 vaccine certification scheme is being legally enforced from today, meaning higher risk venues and events affected must verify customers are fully vaccinated, or otherwise exempt, before entry. [More information is available on the Scottish Government website.](#)

**NHS Grampian Endowment Fund – Staff Social Fund** In 2020/21, the £10 which staff could claim for a social event with colleagues was suspended.  A poll in this brief indicated that you would like it rolled over to this year. You can now claim £20 each towards a social event with colleagues.  To comply with COVID-19 guidance around cash handling and non-essential visits to our hospitals, we are asking that an Event Organiser is appointed for each group of staff and that the claim is paid to their bank account for distribution to colleagues.  The new form includes a statement for staff to sign agreeing to this and also that the £20 will not be used to purchase alcohol or for transport costs. The form is available on the intranet and has also been attached to the email used to send out this brief.
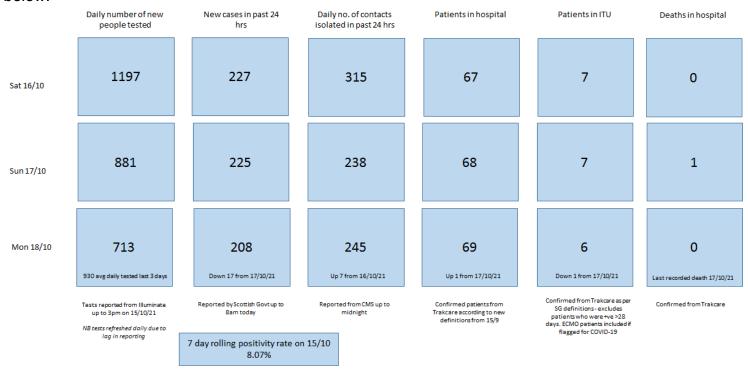
[If organising or attending an event please be mindful of and follow up-to-date Scottish Government Coronavirus (COVID 19) rules and guidance regarding Staying Safe and protecting others](#).

You may also wish to consider limiting the number of attendees at any one event to minimise any potential impact on your department or service. Please consider the business continuity plans which are in place to safeguard your service.

The scheme closes on 31 March 2022 – and we'd love to see photos of your event.  Please send to [gram.charities@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.charities@nhs.scot)

**Scottish Health Awards – Grampian finalists!** We are delighted to announce individuals and teams from NHS Grampian are finalists in the 2021 Scottish Health Awards. Our warmest congratulations to the Psychological Resilience Hub team, nominated in the Care for Mental Health category, and Fiona Mitchellhill and Carole Edwards, both nominated in the Nurse category. Winners will be announced at an event in Edinburgh next month.

**Grampian data** The local update for today, and across the weekend, is shown below.

| | 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 16/10 | 1197 | 227 | 315 | 67 | 7 | 0 |
| Sun 17/10 | 881 | 225 | 238 | 68 | 7 | 1 |
| Mon 18/10 | 713 | 208 | 245 | 69 | 6 | 0 |
| | 930 avg daily tested last 3 days | Down 17 from 17/10/21 | Up 7 from 16/10/21 | Up 1 from 17/10/21 | Down 1 from 17/10/21 | Last recorded death 17/10/21 |
| | Tests reported from Illuminate up to 3pm on 15/10/21 NB tests refreshed daily due to lag in reporting | Reported by Scottish Govt up to 8am today | Reported from CMS up to midnight | Confirmed patients from Trakcare according to new definitions from 15/9 | Confirmed from Trakcare as per SG definitions - excludes patients who were +ve >28 days. ECMO patients included if flagged for COVID-19 | Confirmed from Trakcare |

7 day rolling positivity rate on 15/10
8.07%

[The Public Health Scotland daily dashboard is available to view via this link](#).

**International Infection Prevention Week** This annual event got underway yesterday, with a focus on water safety. Throughout the week, the Infection Prevention & Control team will be sharing water-based information through this brief.

- **Drinking water regularly may:**

Aid weight maintenance.

Improve exercise performance.

Prevent constipation.

Drinking water helps dilute your urine and ensures that you'll urinate more frequently — allowing bacteria to be flushed from your urinary tract before an infection can begin - and can prevent UTIs

Improve memory and mood.

**TrakCare Order Comms Results Preferences** A combination of unsigned laboratory and radiology results should appear in the unacknowledged results screen in TrakCare. If you notice that results you are expecting to see are not coming through, please check your preferences, and if necessary raise a call with the IT service desk: http://ari-touch-web/WebAccess. A step-by-step guide to checking your preferences is available on the intranet. (Please remember, both these links are only available on networked devices)

**Thought for the day** Christmas is coming and the goose is getting fat......and this year surely won't be like last year. So, have you been to see the new Bond film yet? Hallowe'en party plans? Are the panto tickets booked? What about theatre nights, meals out with friends and colleagues, or maybe a club night? All of these things are a wee bit risky, but most of us are going to do some of them. It's less risky for you if you are fully vaccinated (and don't forget about the 'flu and COVID booster if you are eligible), and what about the risk to other people? You could reduce this risk by doing a lateral flow test on the day you are planning to go out, and if it's positive don't go. Doing another lateral flow test two or three days after the event might let you know if you had picked up an asymptomatic infection when you were out and about, then you can self-isolate to protect your friends and colleagues (don't forget about the confirmatory PCR). So, plan on doing some nice things this year, but also plan to reduce the risks to yourself and others.

**Tune of the day** Kay Morgan got in touch to request a tune in advance of Pharmacy Technicians Day (tomorrow!). The theme of this year's event is Soar to New Heights, so we've plumped for Jackie Wilson and (Your Love Keeps Lifting Me) Higher & Higher. A shout-out to all pharmacy technicians and the amazing work they do – thank you!

If you want to request a song for tune of the day, follow up on items included in this brief, or suggest an item for sharing, drop us an email via gram.communications@nhs.scot