

Here is the brief for Wednesday 22 September 2021.

Vaccination call from Intensive Care Society The Intensive Care Society have issued a statement, calling on people still to take up the COVID-19 vaccine to attend their local vaccination centre as quickly as possible. [Their full statement – supported by the ICU team in Aberdeen – is available to read here](#), a short excerpt is below:

Intensive Care Society Chief Executive, Dr Sandy Mather, says: “With more than 80% of the UK’s adult population fully vaccinated, it is now our unvaccinated friends, colleagues and family members who are being admitted to intensive care with coronavirus. As we get used to life without restrictions it is easy to feel we have won the battle against COVID, but for some of us this will never be the case.

“Many patients now requiring treatment have not had a vaccine, and their admission to ICU could have been avoided. Despite the best efforts of specialist staff who work tirelessly to save the lives of those in their care, not every case of COVID-19 is curable. Some of these patients will never return home to the people who love them.

“These preventable hospitalisations also mean staffed beds are not available for others who need them. Patients with COVID require much longer stays on ICU. This means, for each COVID case admitted to intensive care there are 10 people who cannot have cancer surgery, transplants or other life-saving treatments.”

Autumn/Winter vaccinations We’ve been notified that one of the links in the slides shared in the brief yesterday and on Tuesday is not working – we apologise for any inconvenience. For ease, we have shared links to the information leaflets below:

[The leaflet on ‘flu vaccination for healthcare workers is available to view here.](#)

[The leaflet on ‘flu vaccination for social care workers is available to view here.](#)

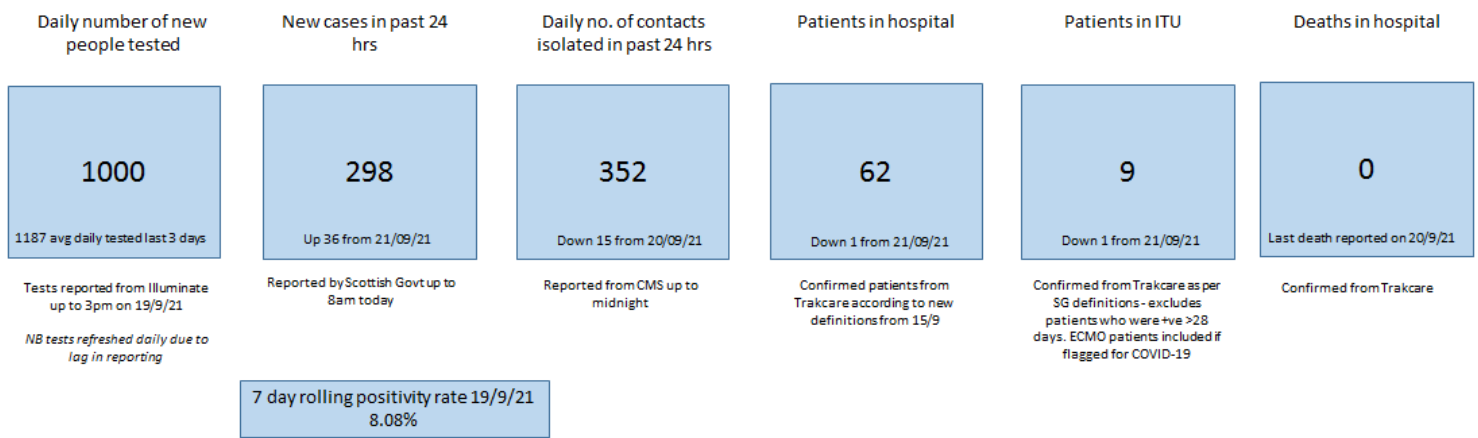
[The leaflet on the COVID-19 booster for adults is available to view here.](#)

[There is now also a dedicated page on the NHS Inform website.](#)

As a reminder, if you are having issues recovering your account details, you should call the national COVID-19 Status Helpline on **0808 196 8565**. The helpline is open every day from 10am to 6pm.

Face fit testing – action required The face fit testing hub is contacting NHS Grampian employed staff that are due for their retest for FFP3 masks via email. **Please check your NHS.scot email account regularly for invites from the fit testing hub for updates and invitations for retests as required.** Please be aware, if you haven’t received an email, and it’s been 3 years since your last fit test you should email gram.face-fit-appointment-hub@nhs.scot to book a retest.

Grampian data The local update for today is shown below. [The Public Health Scotland daily dashboard is available to view via this link.](#)



Long COVID in Health workers (LoCH) study Robert Gordon University is participating in national research on the impact of Long COVID on healthcare staff. They want to hear from you if you have ongoing symptoms of COVID-19 that have lasted at least 4 weeks after infection, and/or symptoms lasting 12 weeks or longer. As testing for COVID-19 was not available to everyone at the start of the pandemic a positive test is not a requirement to take part in this research.

In particular they are keen to recruit people working in domestic or portering teams; all you need to do is complete a short online survey and indicate whether you would also be willing to be interviewed over the 'phone or Teams. [All the details you need, including a link to the survey, is on the LoCH website.](#)

Are the kids alright? Between June and December 2020 Public Health Scotland (PHS) ran two national surveys to hear directly from the parents and carers of younger children about how the pandemic had affected their families' behaviours, play and learning. These findings informed local and national policy and practice – for example, decisions like the reopening of parks and not restricting the number of young children that could meet outdoors. Since then, we have come through a second, longer lockdown and we continue to live with challenges to our wellbeing.

PHS would like to find out about the experiences of more children, to learn how things are for families now. The survey is running for a third time, and it has been extended to parents/carers of a child from 0–11 years old. Please complete it, even if you have taken PHS' previous surveys. It will help public services best meet the needs of children and protect their learning and healthy development for positive futures for this generation of people. [The survey closes on 30 September – you can access it at this link](#)

We Care Wellbeing Wednesday

- We Care Wellbeing Sessions on Turas – We are pleased to confirm that our wellbeing sessions now sit under a We Care Learning Space on Turas at [We Care | Turas | Learn \(nhs.scot\)](#). Sessions can be booked directly via Turas and added to your calendar. We have brand new dates added running up until the new year. In the coming weeks we will continue to update our Turas Learning Space so please watch this space. Other support options such as Psychological Resilience Hub, GO Health Occupational Health Services, Spiritual Care & Chaplaincy and Value Based Reflective Practice are still available to access and more information on contact points is available on our Website: [We Care \(wellbeing support for health and social care staff across Grampian\) \(nhsgrampian.org\)](#).

Turas Learn is available to all health and care professionals regardless of if you currently access this professionally. To find out how to register check out our Guide on our website: [Turas Learn – How to Register \(nhsgrampian.org\)](#)

- Returning to the workplace - The requirement for individuals at highest risk from COVID-19 to shield came to an end in July 2021. The [HR Q&A](#) was updated at that time to give clear guidance to both managers and staff to ensure that those at highest risk from COVID-19 could return to the workplace in a safe and supported manner. The key message is that staff should be supported,

by their line manager, to return to their substantive roles where the necessary risk assessments indicate that this is appropriate.

The default position for all staff, including pregnant staff more than 28 weeks' gestation, is they should work at home if this is possible. If appropriate work cannot be found for the staff member to do at home, then pregnant staff members may remain in the workplace after 28 weeks' gestation provided, they follow the guidance in [Q4, Section 4 of the HR Q&A](#). Any manager or staff member who is unclear as to how this guidance should be applied should seek guidance and support from HR and OHS.

- Feedback - We have received over 30 responses to our anonymous feedback form last week. These are really helpful for building the We Care programme in a way that is meaningful for staff. We have noted issues raised through your feedback and we aim to address these in the coming weeks. Please continue to submit any feedback to us via our We Care mailbox at gram.wecare@nhs.scot, [via the anonymous form](#), or by using the QR code below:



Tune of the day Thanks to Denise Stirling for today's suggestion – [When You Say Nothing At All by Alison Krause](#). Ronan Keating's version may have got more prominence, thanks to its inclusion in the Notting Hill soundtrack, but for my money this original is the best.

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.