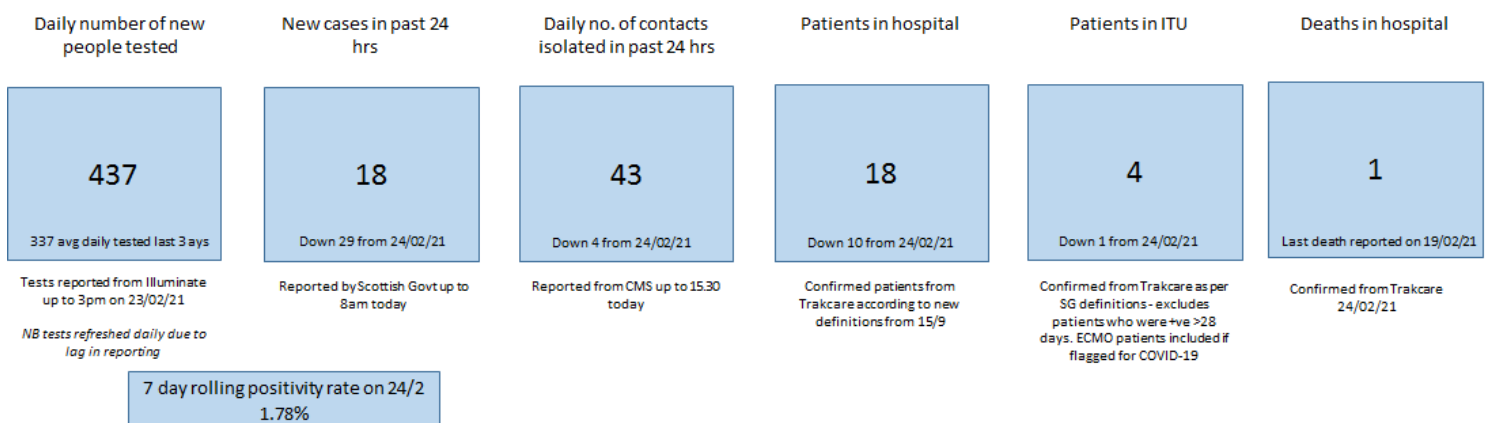


Here is the brief for Thursday 25 February 2021.

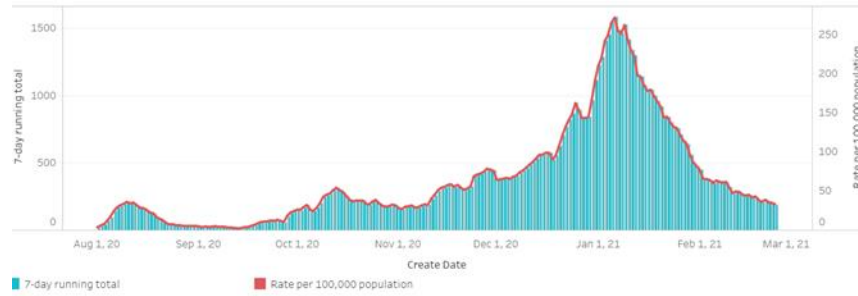
COVID-19 vaccination programme – staffing We know some staff who have offered to help with the programme have not yet been contacted or offered shifts and are feeling frustrated. We are sorry about this, but there have been so many offers of help we have not required everyone who wished to assist. We are extremely grateful to everyone who has offered support and undertaken the appropriate training. The programme is running at a slower pace at present, due to a slowdown in supply. However, over the next few months as vaccine supply increases, we may need additional support. Clearly, we will rely on the team recruited directly into the programme first, but after that the staff bank and the wider system, if required, will be offered the opportunity to support the programme. We sincerely hope you will be able to participate. We would like to thank everyone who has stepped up and supported us throughout the programme. Your patience and flexibility is greatly appreciated and the professionalism with which you have taken up this challenge has made us incredibly proud. We know it is difficult and that there are frequent changes made at the last minute but as you know, we are working to incredibly short timescales and we are just a small part of a much larger picture.

COVID-19 vaccination programme – support for people with Learning Disabilities [Last week](#) we shared information on the ‘quiet room’ set up at P&J Live, to allow people with Learning Disabilities to receive their jab in a secluded and calm space. This has been a great piece of work by the Aberdeen City team; the teams in Aberdeenshire and Moray have also been hard at work to support people with additional or complex needs to be safely vaccinated. Across the patch our Learning Disability Nurses and Community Mental Health Teams have been reviewing the lists of all those due to be called forward for an appointment to identify those for whom it would be too distressing to attend a vaccination clinics. They will then work with individuals and families to assess the best way to ensure these vital vaccinations take place with the least amount of distress caused. For some this may mean a home visit by one of our LD or Mental Health Nurses, for others this may mean the provision of a smaller clinic in more familiar surroundings. The team have also been working closely with the Vaccination Clinic co-ordinators to ensure that, for what will be the great majority of our ‘extremely vulnerable’ population, the experience at our clinics is as calm and smooth as possible. One simple way to do this is offer appointments at the start of the day when things are generally quieter. The team will always ensure everyone gets the time and space they need to feel comfortable. We also welcome any carers or family members to attend with them as a support.

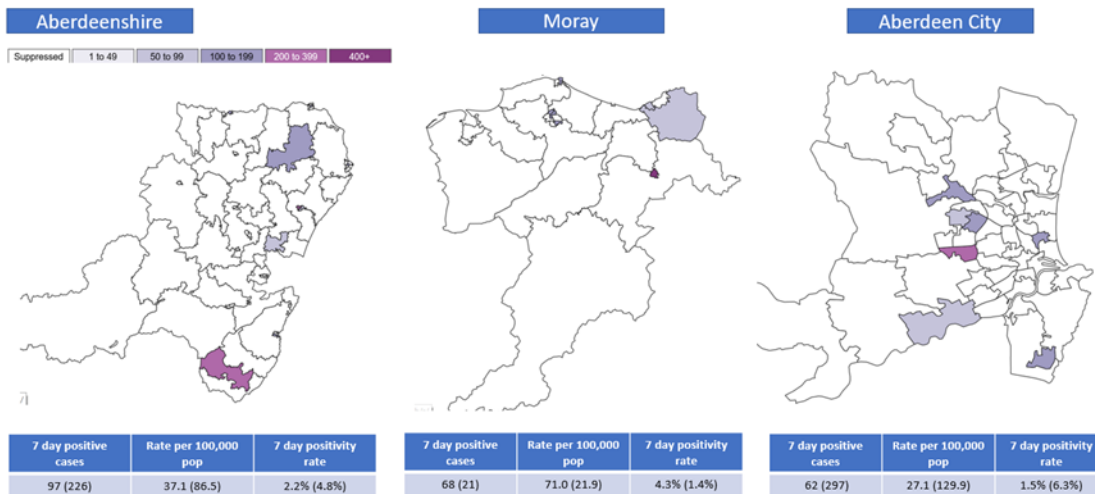
Grampian data The local figures for today and the 7 day rolling positivity rate are shown below.



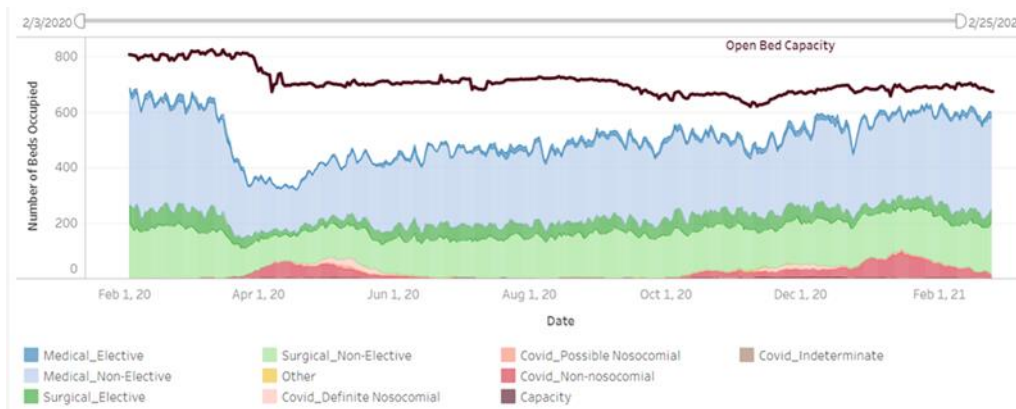
It seems a good time to offer some more context about the progress of the virus, using data regularly shared with the Systems Leadership Team. Throughout Grampian and across Scotland, there has been a significant reduction in infection rates since early January.



There has been a sustained decline in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire, however the rate of reduction has slowed since February and we are now at the levels similar to those at the beginning of December. In the context of very low levels of infection throughout the pandemic, a spike in infections in Moray, during mid-December, resulted in community transmission which is only now beginning to show small signs of reducing. The maps below show COVID-19 prevalence over the past 7 days. The numbers below compare rates now with the same week in December (shown in brackets).



Whilst the number of COVID-19 patients in hospital is falling, the chart below shows how bed occupancy is being used for non COVID care in ARI – and how close we get to full capacity.



Baird & ANCHOR Project site works at Foresterhill Health Campus – update The new zebra crossing on Foresterhill Road is now complete. For updated information about site access for vehicles and pedestrians please see the information booklet [here](#).

New break space – Foresterhill Health Campus Many among you will have by now spotted (and had a chance to try) our newest staff break space - a marquee at the Rotunda entrance of ARI. It is available for all staff to use, day or night, with heating, distancing measures, signage and sanitation in place. (Please note there are no facilities for hot water or heating food.) We listened to your feedback via forums and partnership groups – the marquee is a combined effort to give you and all of our staff improved and enhanced access to safe and plentiful rest space whilst on-site. We encourage all staff to drop in and try the space – if it proves popular, we may be able to expand to other locations. We also welcome suggestions and feedback to guide us on how we can continue to improve the marquee experience; please click [here](#).

Cyber Security Week As you may be aware cyber-crime has increased significantly since the start of the pandemic. What you may not be aware of is that You are a target for the hackers; being vigilant when opening emails (at work or at home) is very important to avoid a Phishing scam. As much as eHealth can help protect the organisation through deployment of IT security tools, we all need to play our part. Could you spot a Phishing email? Please take the quiz available [here](#); also don't forget to complete the very short survey at the bottom of the page.

Thought for the day - Do sweat the small stuff We are incredibly good at delivering on 'the big stuff'; things like cancer care, major traumas and indeed the exceptional work that our Acute teams have done to look after COVID patients in ICU. But we are also incredibly good at the 'small stuff', the things that probably, on a daily basis, make the most difference to our patients, clients, families and friends. Things like the fantastic care that I received last Friday when I decided to play 'Lockdown Hairdresser'... It turns out that Lockdown Hairdresser is very much like a non-lethal game of Russian roulette and I found myself with a rather large dollop of peroxide in my left eye. Clearly not an ideal situation but what it did highlight was how well our community health services work and how good our system is. My first port of call was my local optician where I received fantastic, speedy care (thank you Heather and Lisa!) and then on to A&E, which again went like clockwork, and all of this was free to me at the point of delivery. Our services have never been tested as much as they have over the last year, but we should be proud of how good they really are. It can be all too easy to focus on the negative, or on the things we would like to fix or change, and undoubtedly there are things we could do better as a system, but my goodness we do pretty well! Thank you.

Note – a huge thank you to Jo Raine-Mitchell (Marketing & Communications Officer for Aberdeenshire HSCP) for providing the thought for the day today and yesterday. We're pleased to say her eye is recovering nicely!

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.