

COVID-19 Brief

coronavirus

Here is the brief for Tuesday 8 December 2020.

COVID-19 vaccine The first vaccinations have been administered in Grampian! Thank you to Elaine and Katrina for letting us take and share these photographs, and to everyone supporting the vaccinator clinics today.



The response to the opening up of clinic bookings has been really impressive; as of 3pm today, 1806 of you have already sent in appointment requests. The booking form for all clinics is available [here](#).

The Peer to Peer part of the programme starts on **Thursday (10/12)** and we would encourage as many clinical staff as possible to get their immunisation via a local peer vaccinator. Your SCN/line manager should be able to advise you which staff in your area are participating.

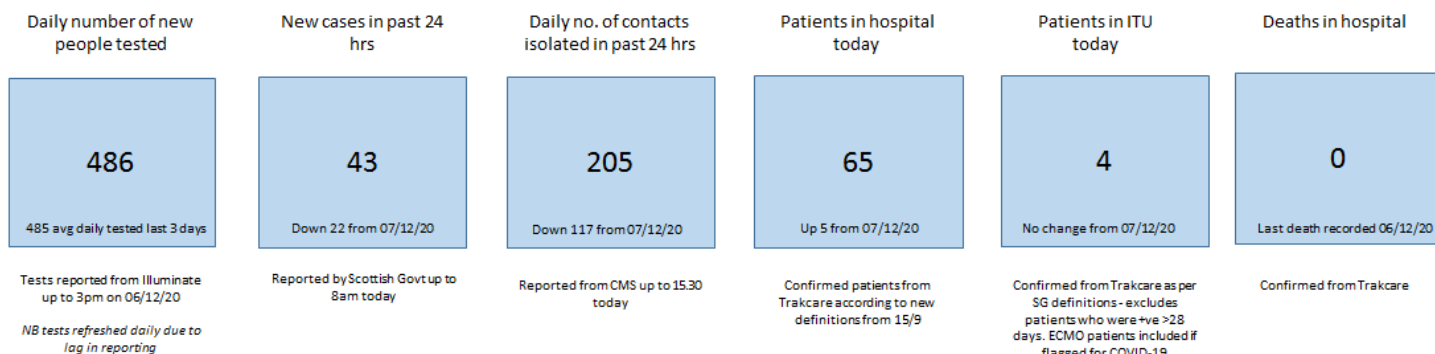
A Frequently Asked Questions document and more information about this particular vaccine is available [here](#). You can also access this information by visiting <https://www.nhsgrampian.org/>, clicking on the COVID-19 tab and visiting the 'For NHSG Staff' section. We have a page there to bring together all the information about the vaccine programme.

Vaccine clinics – Royal Cornhill Hospital As of Monday 14 December, staff will be able to be vaccinated through the Peer-to-Peer arrangements. There are now staff trained in giving vaccines in a safe and efficient way. Please check with your Senior Charge Nurse or line manager and they will be able to advise if there are trained vaccinators within your area. **We have also set up a number of clinics that will run over the next month. They will start on Monday 21 December. Booking for these will be available from 10am, Monday 14 December - a link for booking will be sent on Monday morning from Central Services email account.**

The clinics will take place in The Kildrummy Hub. To book a clinic appointment to get your vaccinations (remember you need two, around 28 days apart) you will need to complete the booking form supplied. It is essential that all of the information requested is included. You do not need to have access to a networked device to complete the form.

Protection Levels The weekly review of the protection levels in place across Scotland has taken place and there is no change for our three local authority areas. Moray continues in [Level 1](#), Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire remain in [Level 2](#). You can read the full statement from the First Minister [here](#).

Grampian figures Local data for today is shown below. If you are interested in the situation elsewhere in Scotland, click [here](#) to see all the data published by Public Health Scotland.



Introduction of contact tracing 'self-service portal' As of last Friday (4/12) a new feature has been introduced in Grampian for people who have tested positive for COVID-19. Anyone who is notified of a positive result by text message now has the facility to log on to a portal where they can fill in details about their close contacts and any places they have been in their infectious and pre-infectious periods. This information then automatically appears in their record in the Case Management System that is used by the contact tracers. The advantage of this, for both the case and the contact tracer, is that the length of the telephone call can be shorter than usual, the contact tracer merely having to confirm the appropriateness of the close contacts and places that have been pre-entered. This should be less stressful for the case and will increase the productivity of the contact tracing team. Whilst using this system is entirely optional, we are already finding that many cases are readily using it, something that we would very much like to encourage.

Payment As If At Work during Annual Leave – Agenda for Change staff Regularly paid non-contractual overtime and excess hours should be included in payments during annual leave for Agenda for Change staff and from November 2020 payment will be made on an ongoing basis (reference circular PCS(AFC)2019/6). Interim arrangements, which were agreed nationally, and were in place for some time with arrears payments being processed periodically have now ceased. More details are available from [“Agenda for Change – Pay During Periods of Annual Leave and Public Holiday Leave”](#) document (intranet link, networked devices only). Managers will be required to categorise overtime and excess hours in SSTS as either contractual or non-contractual. Guidance on this will be sent direct to SSTS users. In addition, there has been a slight change as to how payments during annual leave for Agenda for Change staff are to be processed. From November 2020 the payment that has been calculated for the first day of annual leave will be paid for all other days of leave in the same block of leave. Prior to this change, a separate calculation was processed for every day of annual leave in the same block of leave.

Operation Rainbow – commemorative coins As a mark of appreciation to staff, who worked across the system as part of Operation Rainbow earlier this year, commemorative coins are now available. Employee Director, Rachael Little said: *“We'll never be able to show how appreciative we are of staff efforts, but these coins are a token of thanks to staff, whose herculean efforts went above and beyond during the first coronavirus spike and continue to do so now. In future we hope this special memento will allow staff to look back with great pride at what they have done and what they have achieved during this extremely challenging time. Everyone's collective efforts to this point, across the System, has saved lives. That work continues and ultimately will help lead us out the other side of the pandemic and beyond.”* The coins are available to all staff, with stocks being held at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, Dr Gray's Hospital, Woodend, Royal Aberdeen Children's Hospital and Inverurie. Those wishing to receive one of the coins should contact their line manager. It will take some time to get these out so please bear with us.

Thought for the day – what kind of day has it been? The first doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered. Despite fears otherwise, there will be no change to the protection levels covering Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire. Compared to some days we have had in recent months, this one looks pretty good. However (and you know how fond we are of a ‘however’), look below the surface. The number of patients we have in hospital has increased. Care homes and community hospitals alike have felt the impact of outbreaks in recent days. Case numbers and case positivity may be down, but not by as much as any of us would like. We are very far from done with this virus – or it with us. Keep being cautious. Keep limiting your contacts. Wear your face covering wherever it is required. Wash your hands. Shop solo and support local when you can. Every bit of progress we have made since March can slip away from us all too easily.

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. 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.