

Here is the brief for Wednesday 17 February 2021.

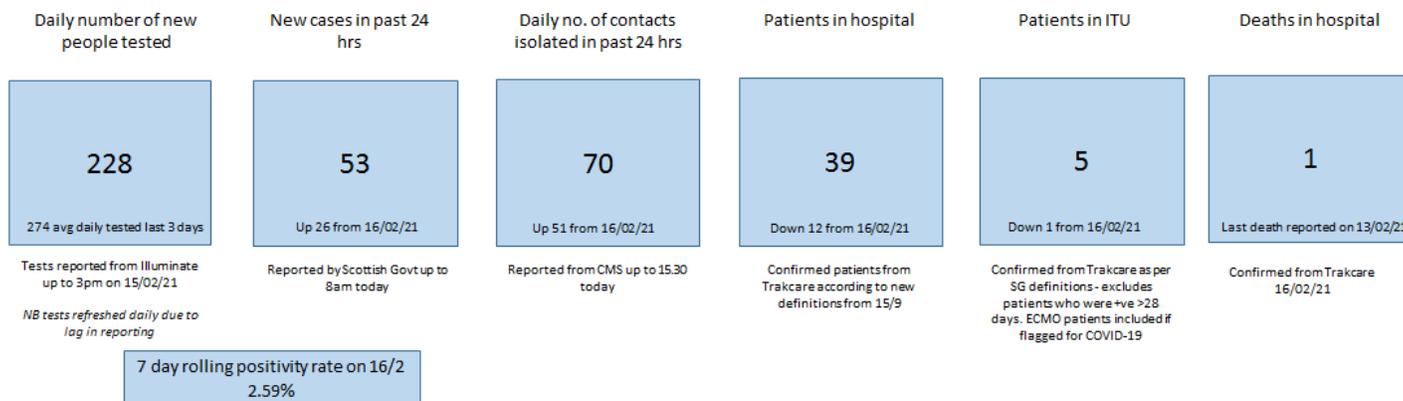
New policy regarding close contacts of COVID-19 cases As of tomorrow (18/02/2021) the Scottish Government is introducing a new policy regarding contacts of detected cases. All close contacts will in future be advised to arrange to have a COVID-19 test. All these contacts who have a mobile 'phone will receive a text message advising them of the need to have a test, and all contacts will subsequently be telephoned by a contact tracer who will confirm the advisability of arranging a test. **In Grampian we are advising that any contact who is a member of health or social care staff should arrange a test through the NHS testing system by completing the form available [here](#).** In addition, if any household members of this contact are also close contacts of the index case, they too should arrange a test through the NHS testing system even although they are not health or social care staff. Ideally the test should be performed between the 3rd and 5th day following the last day of contact with the index case. If any contact tests positive their contacts will also be traced, with the objective of breaking more chains of transmission. **It is really important to add however that if any contact receives a negative (not detected) result they must nevertheless continue to self-isolate for their full 10 days.**

Safer Workplaces This piece of work came from the requirement to support a safer working environment to help protect you as health & social care staff and to maintain function under the impact of the pandemic. The group of colleagues involved in providing Safer Workplace guidance has been active since April 2020. The demands on that group have changed and evolved through the pandemic to meet and support the needs of staff. The group membership is holistic and includes, amongst others, Acute, Facilities, Staffside, Health & Safety, and colleagues from the Health and Social Care Partnerships. This saw the creation of a person-centred framework to inform our colleagues on changes they could and should make within their environments and highlighted the importance to wellbeing of opening an early dialogue with colleagues. It was always understood that "one size" would not fit all and each sector may require its own adaptations.

Some of the initiatives prepared by the Safer Workplace group included checklists, room occupancy guidance, hazard identification and wellbeing forms, early requirement and support to working at home, signage creation and roll out, guidance on face masks, additional staff welfare areas such as a marquee at ARI, guidance provided on multiple room occupancy, and area champions. We have all needed to react to the ever-shifting sands through the pandemic and the promotion of Safer Workplaces has been no different. To that effect we have seen the creation of the Safer Workplace Facilitators posts to share learning and provide guidance and support where needed. Still to come will be further support of our champions, working from home updates, and a series of communications to share collectively the personal experiences of colleagues. Watch this space!

COVID-19 vaccination programme Public Health Scotland have published their latest weekly report, available to read [here](#). Between 8 December and 14 February, **122,856** people received their first dose of vaccine in Grampian. As previously highlighted, there is a national slow-down in the supply of vaccine. Subsequently, whilst some of our clinics are either paused or delivering a reduced service, vaccination teams will redeploy to focus on carrying out second dose vaccinations in care homes for both staff and residents.

Grampian data The local figures for today and the 7 day rolling positivity rate are shown below. If you click [here](#) you can visit the Public Health Scotland website, which includes neighbourhood figures for all local authority areas in Scotland.



Baird & ANCHOR Project – site works on Thursday 18 February Due to construction work for The Baird Family Hospital and The ANCHOR Centre we are installing a zebra crossing on Foresterhill Road. On **Thursday 18 February, starting at 8pm** a temporary Stop/Go traffic system will be in operation during the application of new road markings. Please click [here](#) for details. This work is scheduled to last for approximately three hours. **Priority access will always be given to emergency vehicles.** This work will not affect access to the Foresterhill Health Campus however we do apologise for any inconvenience caused.

Reminder – virtual visiting survey A short survey on the use of Virtual Visiting iPads is currently taking place. There are just four short questions and your answers will help us keep patients connected to the people most important to them. You can participate [here](#), survey closes on 1 March.

Wireless Network Maintenance - Wednesday 24 February Devices connected to the NHS Grampian wireless network will lose service intermittently during the times shown, at the following sites:

- **GP, Community Hospitals and Clinic Sites** – Wednesday 24 February, 6am to 7.30am

Examples of the kinds of devices that will be affected include: Ascom wireless telephone handsets, wireless printers, wirelessly connected laptops, iPads and iPhones (wireless connection only). Any queries regarding this work should be directed through the IT Service Desk on (01224 5) 54444.

Thought for the day Today is Random Acts of Kindness Day. We've used this bit of the brief a lot to talk about the importance of showing kindness, not only to others but also to ourselves. These acts don't have to be 'big' things; simply asking someone how they are and really listening to the answer, stopping for a cup of tea, or passing on a recommendation of a book, film, or tv show we've really enjoyed all count. There are so many 'big' things we cannot fix or influence right now – and that's incredibly frustrating – but we can take control of how we behave towards others and towards ourselves.

Today is also Ash Wednesday - the start of Lent. We wish those of you embarking on a period of reflection, meditation, and/or sacrifice well.

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.