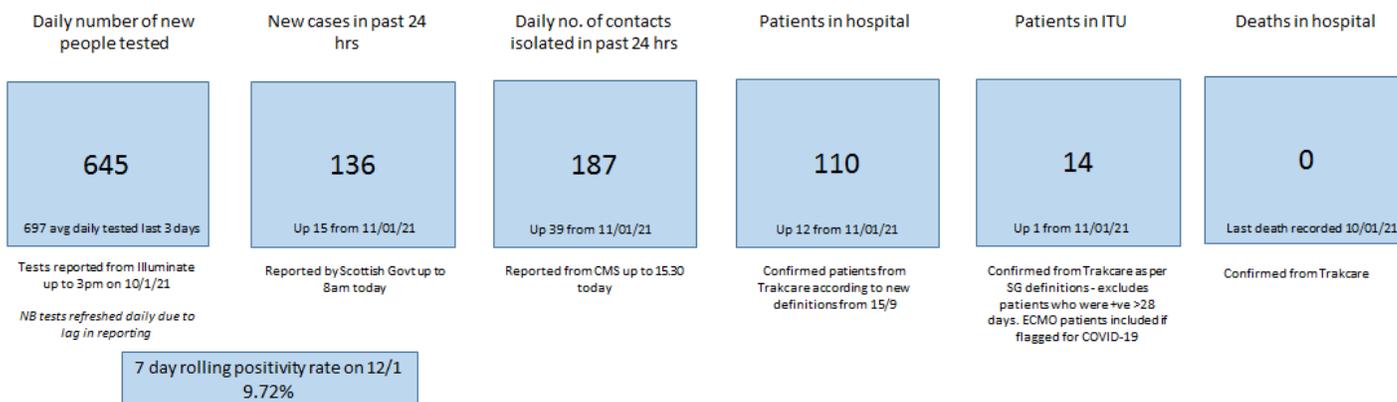


Here is the brief for Tuesday 12 January 2021.

**BBC Panorama – The Virus vs The Vaccine** You may have seen this programme last night on BBC1. We want to say a huge thank you to the members of the Emergency Medicine team at ARI who contributed video diaries for the programme. The experiences of staff working on the frontline are incredibly powerful and remind us of the very great challenges we still face. If you missed the programme it is available to watch via the BBC iPlayer [here](#) (you will need to set up a BBC account if you do not already have one).

**New Covid-19 variant strain on the rise** Last week we told you that the new COVID-19 variant virus was present in Grampian. The latest information from yesterday is that the new variant now accounts for 68% of all cases in Grampian. This just reinforces just how important it is to pay particular attention to all the things that you already know about physical distancing, hand hygiene, face coverings and ventilation in indoor spaces. Remember that this version of the virus is at least 50% more able to spread than the previous version.

**Grampian data** The local figures for today are shown below. Following feedback, we will now also include information on the positivity rate in Grampian. If you click [here](#) you can visit the Public Health Scotland website, which includes neighbourhood figures for all local authority areas in Scotland.



**COVID-19 vaccination & allergies** Following the item in yesterday's brief regarding requests for the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine due to anaphylactic reactions, we have been asked to reshare the updated guidance from Pfizer/BioNTech on the allergy exclusion list. Anyone in the following groups would not be able to get the Pfizer/BioNTech jab:

- Those who have had a confirmed anaphylactic reaction to a previous dose of this COVID-19 vaccine
- Those who have had a confirmed anaphylactic reaction to any components of this vaccine
- Those with a history of immediate-onset anaphylaxis to multiple classes of drugs or unexplained anaphylaxis.

The Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine only excludes those people who fall in the first two groups, therefore more people with a history of anaphylactic reactions will be suitable for this vaccine.

**Your questions answered** As promised, we will feature some of the most pertinent questions – and answers – sent in to us:

**Q** It was thought there would be a card given out after vaccine. We have seen others in other health boards with a card, stating date of vaccination and batch no and wondered if NHSG had planned to do this.

**A** There are no plans to issue a card for the COVID-19 vaccination in NHS Grampian. The vaccine is recorded on a national Vaccination Management Tool so all details are stored electronically.

**2021 Myhealthyworkplace Step Count Challenge** Last January we ran a pedometer challenge open to all staff. The participation was well above our expectations with almost 400 individuals and over 80 teams taking part, so we are running it again! It will commence Monday 18th January 2021, please follow this [link](#) for detailed information. In principle it is similar to last year, teams of 5 people (one of whom is team captain) and it will last for 4 weeks. There will be a cup for the winning team and other prizes. In these current times it is important to take some exercise, to unwind or take some fresh air and we hope that this challenge will provide some incentive. We know that pedometer challenges can be very competitive! All staff must ensure their involvement in this challenge is in line with the current rules on exercise and teams should not gather to walk together. For more information contact [james.norman@nhs.scot](mailto:james.norman@nhs.scot)

**Thought for the day** In the midst of concerns about the pressure on our services or the potential to deploy into different teams, it is possible to lose sight of the reason why we all work in health & social care – to support everyone living in north-east Scotland to lead healthy and happy lives. Behind the numbers we share each day are real people, some of whom are dangerously ill. We cannot forget those in our care for reasons other than COVID-19 either; each patient is an individual, with hopes and fears, with families and friends who care deeply for them and want the very best for them. Just as we use this brief to remind you of our own humanity – our weaknesses, our strengths – so we must remember the humanity of each person we care for. They are why we are here. Whether your role is ‘patient-facing’ or not, we are all public servants, playing a key part in getting our communities through this most awful period.

**Question of the Day** In yesterday’s brief we [shared a video](#) from Tom Power (Director of People & Culture) explaining more about what temporary deployment is and how it might affect some you. For today’s question of the day we would like to find out how you are feeling about this, to help us understand how we can support those of you who may be asked to support another team or area. Please skip any statements which are not relevant. As with all our questions, the results are completely anonymous and we would encourage you to be honest and open. To have your say please click [here](#) or copy this link into your browser: <https://www.menti.com/qu26j13t7e>.

**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](mailto:gram.communications@nhs.scot). Please also use that email address if you have items for consideration for future briefs.