

# COVID-19 Brief

coronavirus



Here is the brief for Wednesday 9 June 2021.

**Use of face masks** All health & social care staff are reminded that the guidance regarding the use of face masks in healthcare settings remains in place. [You are encouraged to read the Frequently Asked Questions document](#), available online, which explains the guidance in full and covers a range of different job roles and settings.

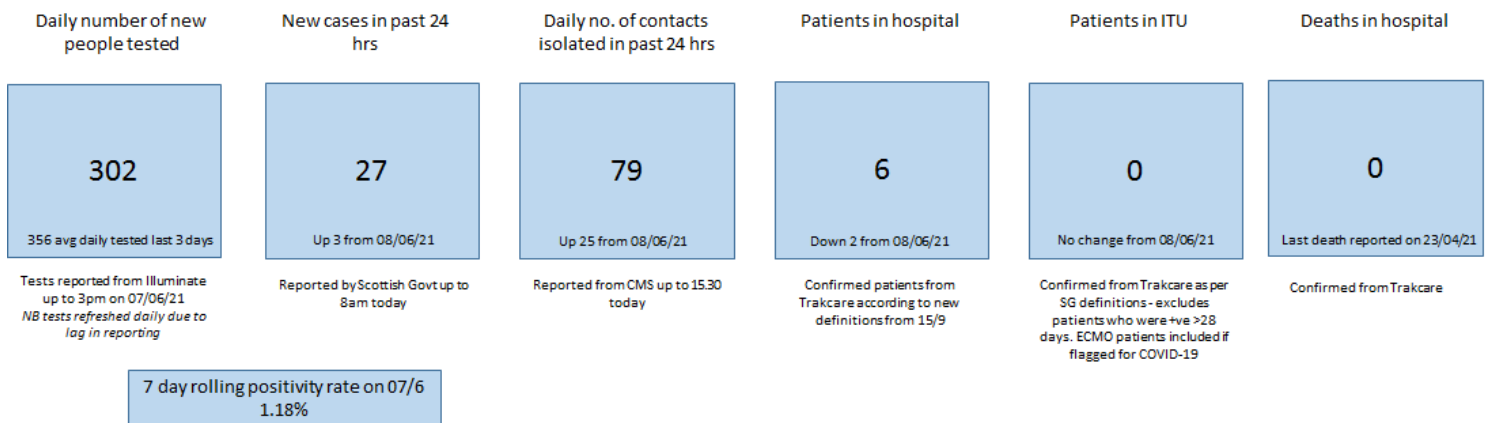
**Rapid COVID-19 tests** Community pharmacies across Scotland are extending access to rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing kits for people without COVID-19 symptoms. The expansion, which began today, is aimed at encouraging further uptake of testing among people with no symptoms and finding cases which would otherwise go undetected.

Free packs are available to be collected from participating pharmacies, with each containing seven Lateral Flow Devices (LFD) which can provide results in around 30 minutes. People with symptoms of COVID-19 should not enter pharmacies to collect self-test kits or use an LFD and must instead self-isolate immediately and book a PCR test.

As a reminder, healthcare staff are eligible to participate in the asymptomatic testing programme, whether your role is patient facing or not. If you register for this programme, you will receive a kit with everything you need to test twice a week, for 12 weeks. To take part, you should visit the [Asymptomatic Staff Testing webpage](#). If you are working in health & social care and develop symptoms of COVID-19 (and remember, you should also look out for sore throats, vomiting, diarrhoea, as well as the classic symptoms) you should use the [Staff Testing online request form](#) to book a PCR test.

**Grampian data** Here is the daily local update, including the 7-day rolling positivity rate. As a reminder, this rate is arrived at by dividing the number of positive tests in the past 7 days by the number of tests carried out in the past 7 days. Repeat tests are included in both categories.

The figure for the “daily number of new people tested” is only for the number of tests for people who have not been tested previously.



A national update is available on the [Public Health Scotland daily dashboard](#).

**Cervical screening** Next week sees the start of cervical screening awareness week. Anyone aged 25 - 64 years with a cervix is invited for a screening test ('smear test') every 5 years. It is NOT a test for cancer but checks for a virus called HPV which is the main cause of cervical cancer. A sample of cells is taken from the cervix (neck of the womb) and sent to a laboratory to be checked for HPV.

All screening programmes were paused in the initial phase of the pandemic but are now back up and running. Using national funding to address the backlog in cervical screens, NHS Grampian is able to run a weekly clinic in the Women's Day Clinic, Level 4, Yellow Zone, ARI. This is open to all staff who are due – or overdue – a smear test. The Acute Leadership Team has approved this initiative and is supporting the release of staff during their working day to attend these sessions.

If you wish to book an appointment at one of these clinics, please send your name, home address, contact telephone number and date of birth to [gram.gynaeadmin@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.gynaeadmin@nhs.scot) You will only be contacted with an appointment if it is verified that you are due or overdue a smear test. If your test is not yet due, you will receive a reminder when it is due.

[Jo's Cervical Cancer Trust has a host of information about screening and cervical cancer on their website.](#)

**It's What Matters to You Day** This annual event encourages all of us working in health & social care to ask the patients or clients we work with, what matters to you? Understanding what is most important to the people we care for can make a real difference to their experience, our experience, and their long-term outcomes. We wanted to share just one real-life example of what happens when we ask, what matters to you? This comes courtesy of Alison Cran, a Senior Charge Nurse at Woodend:

"We had an elderly lady up at Woodend, if I'm remembering correctly she was 100 years old. She had been in hospital for some time, between ORU, Trauma and Ward 9/10. Her son was shielding so couldn't visit when COVID restrictions came into place. He used to call her regularly but as her condition deteriorated, she was less able to talk to him on the phone. Each time she was on the phone she would always ask for Misty, her cat. Our ward didn't have an iPad for Virtual Visiting at that time and we knew we didn't have long, but Quality Improvement Facilitator, Louise went above and beyond to get one for us and stayed after her shift to set it up.

"A Facetime call was arranged with the lady's son and they were able to see each other, Misty the cat was on his knee at the time. He held the iPad down to Misty so the lady could hear her purr. Her face lit up! It was wonderful to be able to make this happen for them both.

"The lady died quite soon after and Misty was mentioned in the Notice of Death in the newspaper. Misty clearly meant a lot to the lady, and I still think about the difference we made by finding out what mattered."

**Question of the Day** In the spirit of What Matters to You Day, we are bringing back the Question of the Day! It's a simple one today – what matters to you at work? Your answers will create a word cloud which we'll share in tomorrow's brief. [This link will take you directly to the Question of the Day](#) – we look forward to hearing from you.

**Tune of the day** It's another two for the price of one day! Myra Kinnaird (Bereavement support midwife, AMH) has suggested [I can see clearly now by Jimmy Cliff](#), as featured on the soundtrack to Cool Runnings. I'm usually a sucker for a cover version, but on this occasion the original has my heart, so [here's the Johnny Nash version](#) too.

**Get in touch!** If you've got a question, an item to share with people working in health & social care, or just want to suggest a tune of the day, we want to hear from you! Drop us a line via [gram.communications@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.communications@nhs.scot).