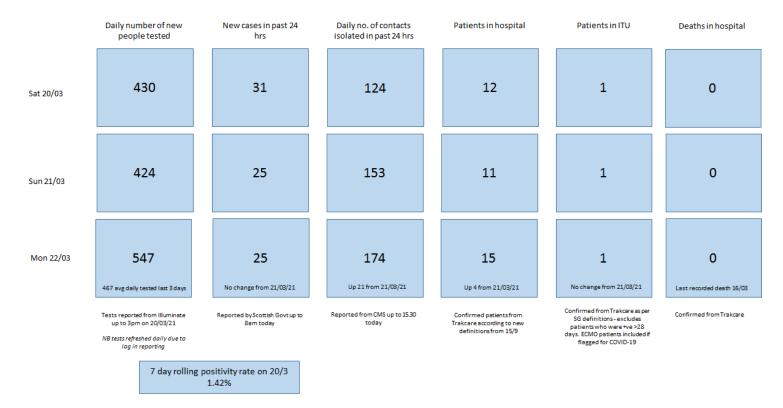
COVID-19Brief



Here is the brief for Monday 22 March 2021.

Grampian data The local figures for today (and over the weekend) and the 7 day rolling positivity rate are shown below. 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, whereas the figures we show here only record new tests. If you want to see more detailed information, including cases at neighbourhood level, click here for the Public Health Scotland daily dashboard.



Twice weekly asymptomatic staff testing Health & social care staff working directly with patients/clients are eligible to participate in twice weekly asymptomatic staff testing, using Lateral Flow Devices. There is a wealth of information available about this here but we know some of you will still have questions or concerns. The Public Health team want to hear from you! Submit your questions to gram.communications@nhs.scot and we will put them to the team in a video interview. Please submit questions by Friday (26 March) and we will share the video next week.

The SIREN Study needs you! We need volunteers to sign-up to take part in this research study before the end of this month - and it isn't just for doctors and nurses. We need all staff, including pharmacists, porters, AHPs, cleaners, domestic staff, administrators, lab staff, doctors, nurses, etc. It is not exclusively for patient-facing staff - anyone who works on the Foresterhill campus can sign-up. If you have had COVID-19 (or not) or have been vaccinated (or not), it doesn't matter - you can still sign-up.

Service Clinical Director for Biochemistry Kevin Deans has created a video with more information on the study. Click here to view it. For more information, you can email gram.nhsgsiren@nhs.scot, phone 01224 554038, visit snapsurvey.phe.org.uk/siren, or come along to the SIREN hub at the ARI main concourse. The final day for recruitment is March 31.

Safer Workplaces survey Thank you all for your continued support for the Safer Workplaces programme. A short survey has been developed and all staff are encouraged to share their views. The survey is available here and should be completed by close of play on Friday 2 April. You'll see the survey has been designed with the Safer Workplaces Champions in mind, but anyone working in health & social care can take part.

Mental health improvement training, April - December 2021 The Public Health directorate has organised a range of short, virtual, stress awareness & management and other public mental health training courses for health, social care, and Third Sector staff. These courses aim to raise awareness around mental health and wellbeing problems, explore solutions and signpost participants to related resources. The courses can be attended by any member of staff (clinical and non-clinical) working at any level across the sectors in Grampian. You can see the courses on offer here.

Infection Prevention & Control The infection prevention & control team were the focus of a special report on STV News on Friday. If you missed it, it is available to watch again here. A huge thank you to the team for all their efforts and for taking the time to participate in the STV coverage.

Thought for the day Tomorrow will be the first anniversary of lockdown restrictions being introduced across the UK. How did you feel then – and how are you feeling now? Speaking for myself, I have certainly found the last few months the hardest. Every day feels like a grind and my personal 'resilience well' has threatened to run dry more than once. I do count my blessings, not least that working in health & social care has given me a clear purpose and job security, at a time when many people we know have had neither. And yet, there has also been anger, frustration, sadness, and fear.

Marie Curie, with the support of 100 other charities, is encouraging us all to treat tomorrow as a time for reflection; on who and what we have lost because of COVID-19 and everything it has brought with it. At 12 noon tomorrow there will be a nationwide minute of silence, at 8pm we are encouraged to light a candle or shine a light at our doorsteps. We know many of you may have plans in your own departments or teams to mark the occasion – everyone working in health & social care is supported to take part in whatever way is right for them. The healthcare chaplains are recording a special video which you may wish to use to guide your reflections – this will be shared tomorrow morning. In addition, Marie Curie will be running a series of online talks throughout the day, produced by the Good Grief Festival. More information on those, and the day's other events, is available here.

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.