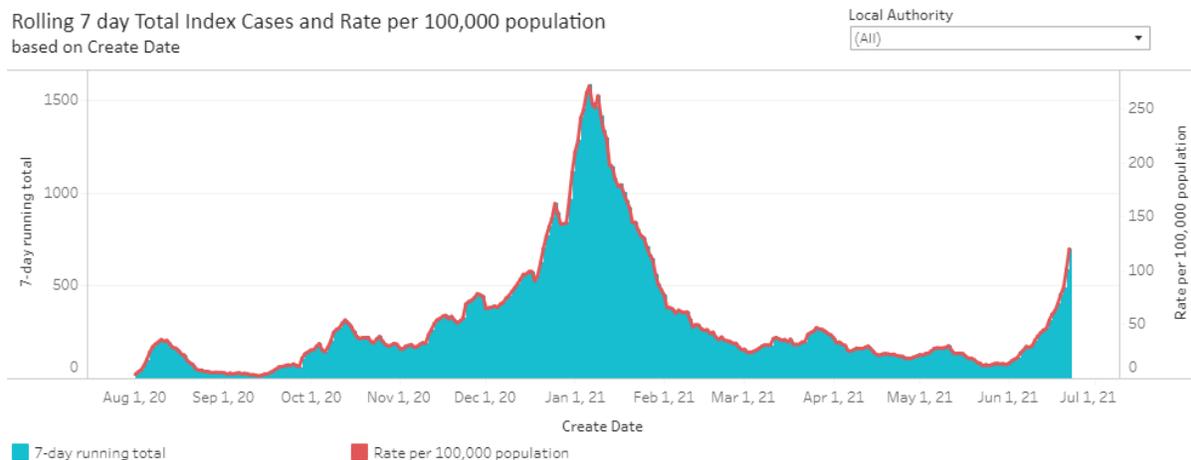


Here is the brief for Wednesday 23 June 2021.

Third Wave Modelling Case numbers continue to rise across Scotland with a significant increase yesterday, taking the daily new infections to almost 3,000. Grampian rates remain lower than the national average but cases are rising rapidly in Aberdeen City and in pockets of Aberdeenshire. Only Moray has a low and stable position overall. Cases in Aberdeen are across a number of communities and there is an enhanced public health response focused on northern parts of the city, with a surge plan in place with the local authority and partners.

What does this mean for health services? We are tracking case numbers and hospitalisations against our modelling of the 'third wave'. Early signs suggest we are following a scenario that could mean higher case numbers than those seen in previous peaks, and hospital occupancy at around 50% of the levels seen in January. We are also seeing increasing demand through the Covid Hub so many parts of the care service will be under pressure as cases rises.

This situation is proof of how things can quickly escalate. However we have experience of bringing situations back under control and Moray is an excellent example of this. The availability of testing, vaccination and most importantly, community support can and does make a huge difference.



The Line We Walk We are in strange times, in a simple way the thought late last year was we would get the vaccine, and then we would be sorted.

It is not, unfortunately, that simple. Many things are as good, or even better, than we hoped. The vaccine works to reduce new symptomatic infections, limits the number of people who get sick, and reduces the need for people to be in hospital and ultimately saves life.

Testing remains a way of nipping transmission in the bud. Preventing spread, saving the lives, and livelihoods, of a community. We are all freer, more hopeful and closer to normal than we have been for a while. The Scottish Government has slowed, but not stopped or reversed easing of restrictions.

However, we are in a third wave. Cases are rising, rapidly across the region – in Aberdeen the rate per 100,000 is 142.6 compared to just 10.9 a month ago and in Aberdeenshire it's 72.7 vs 12.6. In Moray it's

a better picture, 18.8 vs 20.9, so an improvement, and that is likely down the extra testing and vaccinations during its recent outbreak.

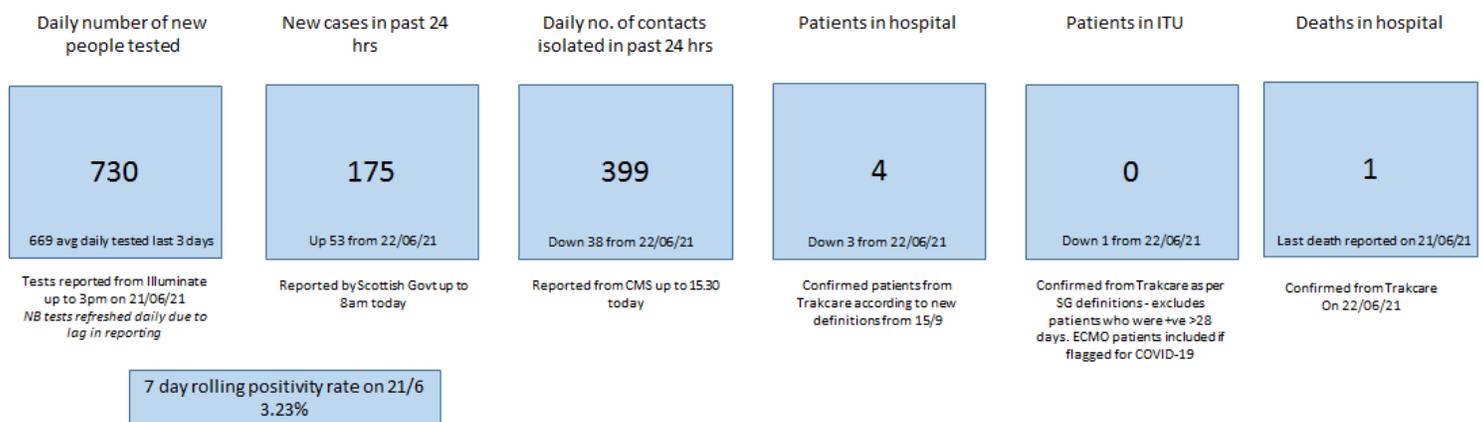
Even if it is more likely to be younger people, young people can get ill and some people with the vaccine will still get ill. When we test, we risk personal disruption but can prevent further spread to others. The impact on hospitalisations and deaths will be proportionately less; but it will not be eliminated.

As a society the vaccination means we can all carry more risk. With greater freedoms comes increased interactions with others. The ratio of close contacts for each positive case has increased from 1.5 in November to over 6 which places extraordinary pressure on Test and Protect. Over 66,000 days have been lost to self-isolation in the past fortnight; disrupting education, work and the ability for us to provide care.

Finding our own judgement of risk and caution is hard, especially when the whole country seems to have decided COVID is over, when unfortunately, the reality is it is not [quite yet]. These are not easy considerations, to navigate as people, or a health and social care service.

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](#).

Road Closure Due to groundwork in support of a communication systems upgrading, the exit lane of the Westburn Road site entrance will be closed from 8am on Friday through to 4pm on Sunday.

Traffic wishing to leave the site will be required exit the site using the Cornhill Road exit. In addition, the left-hand side of the road heading from the Foresterhill Lea building towards Westburn Road will be closed.

Traffic entering the site using Westburn road entrance will remain unchanged although there may be short disruptions to accommodate large construction vehicle exiting the site. These disruptions to traffic flow will be kept to a minimum.

A temporary footpath will be in place to support pedestrian traffic entering and exiting the site safely.

Deadline for application to the EU Settlement Scheme – 30 June 2021 This is a final reminder that 30 June 2021 is the deadline to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme! If you are an EU, EEA or Swiss citizen, you and your family members will need to apply before the deadline to continue to live and work in the UK. We would like to encourage all EU/EEA and Swiss staff members who still need to make their application to do so now. Full details regarding eligibility, along with information on how to apply are available on the gov.uk website.

Staff testing reminder If you work in health & social care and either you or your household members have symptoms you can request a test by [clicking here](#)

Staff should request a test if they experience any “classic” symptoms – a fever, new continuous cough, or a loss of taste or smell – or any of the following: Chills, Sore Throat, Headache, Runny nose, Shortness of breath, General weakness, Muscle Pain or Diarrhoea

Tune of the day Howdy pardners! Whether you're old enough to remember this movie with your mum, dad, your granny, or even swaying back and forth humming at silly o'clock on a beach far, far away, this song is always guaranteed to raise a smile or a tear. Who can sing in the lowest octave....? From the classic Paint Your Wagon, it's Lee Marvin's [I was Born under a Wand'rin Star](#)

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.