

COVID-19 Brief

coronavirus



Here is the brief for Tuesday 24 August 2021.

COVID-19 public inquiry The Scottish Government is inviting views on the draft aims and principles, published today, of an independent public inquiry into the handling of the pandemic. Following consultation, this draft will be finalised and will form the Terms of Reference for what will be a judge-led inquiry, to be established by the end of the year.

[The draft aims and principles are available on the Scottish Government website](#), any feedback should be sent to COVID-19publicinquirysetupteam@gov.scot

In person hospital visiting From tomorrow (Wednesday 25 August) hospital patients in Grampian may have up to two visitors each day and we are removing the requirement for these visitors to be the same, named, individuals. For example, Mrs Smith may be visited by her son in the morning and her husband in the afternoon, while on the following day, her daughter and grandson could visit her together.

We are still limiting the maximum number of visitors a patient may have in a day to two and we still ask that arrangements to visit are made in advance with ward staff. Two metre physical distancing remains in place in healthcare settings, and we continue to ask all visitors to use a Fluid Repellent Surgical Mask (available at all hospital entrances) rather than a face covering, unless they are exempt. Following consultation with Public Health colleagues, clinical staff are no longer required to record contact details of visitors for contact tracing purposes.

Self-isolation – Who? When? How? What? Today we're focusing on what happens when a child or young person is confirmed with COVID-19, identified as a close contact of a confirmed case, or there is a confirmed case in their nursery room/school class.

- **Confirmed case is under 18 years of age** There is no change to isolation requirements for confirmed cases. All confirmed cases must self-isolate for ten days.
- **Contact tracing under 18s** If the contact of a confirmed case is under the age of 5 and asymptomatic, then they do not need to isolate. If the contact of a confirmed case is aged between 5-17, they will be advised to isolate initially and to arrange a PCR test – remember, the children of health & social care staff can be tested via the staff testing service – just complete the [online request form](#). If that test comes back negative and the child/young person is asymptomatic, then self-isolation ends. In addition, if the child or young person identified as a contact has had a positive PCR test in the previous 90 days AND is asymptomatic, they are not required to self-isolate.
- **I work in health & social care and live with a child/young person who has tested positive** At the moment it is not possible for someone who works in a health and social care setting to attend work if they have ongoing contact with the person who tested positive. In this situation, you would not be able to attend the workplace.
- **My child attends primary or secondary school. I have heard there is a confirmed case in their class. Do they need to self-isolate?** Only those children and young people who are identified as close contacts will need to self-isolate. Test and Protect will individually contact anyone who is identified as having close contact with the affected individual. They can shorten their isolation period if they meet certain criteria (see above).

Whole classes or groupings of pupils where the nature of contact presents a low risk of transmission, will no longer be required to self-isolate. They/their parents will receive a warn and inform letter from the school.

- **My child attends nursery. I have heard there is a confirmed case in their room. Do they need to self-isolate?** No. All contacts under the age of 5 are exempt from self-isolation unless they develop symptoms. They are encouraged to take a PCR test, but this is not mandatory. When there is a confirmed case in a nursery, their parents will receive a warn and inform letter from the nursery.

COVID-19 vaccination and pregnancy If you are pregnant, it is recommended you receive COVID-19 vaccination. According to the Royal College of Midwives (RCM), nearly 200 pregnant people were admitted to hospital with COVID-19, across the UK, between May and July. [The RCM has prepared this handy fact sheet to help you make an informed decision.](#)

iMatter staff survey – team confirmation stage If you are a manager in NHS Grampian you should have been sent an email regarding the team confirmation stage of the annual iMatter staff survey. You must log-in to the iMatter system and update your teams by 5pm this Friday (27 August). The survey phase will then commence on Monday 30 August running until 20 September. Any queries about the survey during this time should be sent to gram.imatter@nhs.scot

Professional registration – it's your responsibility If you are a member of a professional organisation – for example the GMC, NMC, or HCPC – it is your responsibility to keep your registration up to date. In particular, HCPC members should remember there are specific registration windows for each profession. [Details on these windows were shared in this brief on 4 August](#) and are also available on the [HCPC website](#). Whichever body you are registered with, please ensure they have your correct contact details, especially if you used your old NHS.net email address. Please remember e-mails may also go into Junk/Spam folders so check those regularly too. A lapsed professional registration will impact on your ability to work and will most likely result in a disciplinary hearing in line with NHSScotland Workforce policies.

Grampian data The local update for today, including the 7-day rolling positivity rate, is 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. 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.

Daily number of new people tested	New cases in past 24 hrs	Daily no. of contacts isolated in past 24 hrs	Patients in hospital	Patients in ITU	Deaths in hospital
613 <small>648 avg daily tested last 3 days</small>	179 <small>Up 30 from 23/08/21</small>	299 <small>Up 132 from 22/08/21</small>	25 <small>Up 1 from 23/08/21</small>	7 <small>Up 1 from 23/08/21</small>	0 <small>Last Death reported on 21/08/21</small>
<small>Tests reported from Illuminate up to 3pm on 22/8/21 NB tests refreshed daily due to lag in reporting. NB Data may be incomplete</small>	<small>Reported by Scottish Govt up to 8am today</small>	<small>Reported from CMS up to midnight</small>	<small>Confirmed patients from Trakcare according to new definitions from 15/9</small>	<small>Confirmed from Trakcare as per SG definitions - excludes patients who were +ve >28 days. ECMO patients included if flagged for COVID-19</small>	<small>Confirmed from Trakcare</small>
<small>7 day rolling positivity rate on 22/8 5.55%</small>					

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

Revised Health & safety Risk Assessment Form and Online Learning Module The Corporate Health & Safety Team have recently updated both the Health and Safety Risk Assessment Form and associated Online Learning Module. These changes have been made following a peer review of our Online Learning Module by health and safety professionals in a number of other NHS Boards and public sector organisations.

Everyone involved in carrying out health and safety risk assessments should undertake the Online Learning Module again. All areas should use the new form when undertaking new health and safety risk assessments. Existing health and safety risk assessments should be moved to the new form at the date of their next review.

[The most up to date form can be downloaded here](#) (Intranet link, networked devices only)

[The most up to date online learning module can be accessed here.](#)

Shared devices with touchscreens Many teams/departments will have access to shared electronic equipment, such as photocopiers, with touch screens. These touchscreens may not be compatible with disinfectant or alcohol wipes, as the wipes may damage the screens, leading to costly repair or replacement. If you have a shared device with a touchscreen in your office/ward area, please ensure you follow the manufacturers cleaning instructions, and that hand sanitiser is available to use before and after contact with the device. You should ensure the sanitiser is fully absorbed and hands are dry before using a touchscreen.

Tune of the day After Odyssey yesterday, we're keeping it funky today, with [Use My Imagination by Gladys Knight and The Pips](#). If, like me, you're a bit of a fan of RuPaul's Drag Race, you'll know this one from the Season 4 'Lip Sync for your Life' between Latrice Royale and Dida Ritz.

We're always on the look out for your suggestions of a great song to end the day (or start it, depending on when you read this brief) so just drop us a line via gram.communications@nhs.scot That's also your first port of call if you've got any queries or an item to share.