

Here is the brief for Thursday 24 June 2021.

**Lateral Flow Device Testing for Asymptomatic Staff** Yesterday we talked about the significant rise in cases as we have entered into this third wave, and what this means for all of us. Today, we again thank all those who are already testing twice-weekly using lateral flow devices, and encourage all those who haven't yet signed up, to please think about doing so.

Along with being vaccinated, testing is one of our best defences when it comes to preventing the spread of the virus. Vaccination alone will not stop the spread, as you can still unknowingly catch and spread the virus to those more vulnerable, causing serious illness or worse.

Lateral flow testing is for asymptomatic staff and all staff are eligible. By taking a few minutes to test each week:

- We can all do our bit to try and limit the impact of this third wave.
- We can help prevent the spread of the virus and stop someone more vulnerable becoming seriously unwell.
- We can help to prevent more staff from having to self-isolate, putting pressure on colleagues and helping to keep our patients safe.
- We can help keep future restrictions to a minimum and let us all enjoy some much needed freedom to go out and enjoy life.

We can help keep ourselves and each other safe.

If you haven't already done so and would like to sign up for testing, please [click here](#) and complete the relevant staff link.

Please remember to always record your result, even if your test is negative. We need this information so we can monitor what is happening with the virus in the community. To log results, [click here](#)

Thank you for your continued support and for choosing to test.

**Self-isolation** Staff must self-isolate when they themselves are displaying Covid-19 symptoms, when one of their household members is displaying symptoms, if they have tested positive for Covid-19 or if they have been instructed by Test & Protect to self-isolate.

If the staff member is well enough, arrangements should be made for them to work at home. Self-isolating when working at home should not be recorded as an absence on SSTS / HealthRoster.

If the staff member is unable to work at home either because they are not well enough or there is no appropriate work for them to undertake at home their absence should be recorded as an absence on SSTS/HealthRoster using the appropriate Special Leave code as detailed in Appendix 3 of the HR Q&A's.

Full guidance on self Isolating and being absent from the workplace is available [here](#).

Meantime managers are encouraged to plan ahead and consider what work staff members can be undertaking at home should they be required to self-isolate. This includes encouraging staff members to be prepared to work at home – taking mobile devices, chargers, etc, home at the end of each working day/shift.

**Chaplaincy Reminder** Spiritual care from a chaplain will be appropriate at many stages of the healthcare journey, for example:

- Anxiety upon admission
- Loneliness, worry or upset
- Upon receiving bad news
- Before or following surgery
- Someone needs to talk to an attentive, skilled listener
- Someone is facing death / coping with bereavement
- There is a request for prayer, sacraments, ceremonies and services. (e.g. funerals, weddings, baptisms, blessings, remembrance services)

Healthcare Chaplains are available to all patients, their visitors and also to staff.

Referral to the Chaplaincy Service can be made during office hours between 8am and 4.30pm.

This can be done by phoning 53316 or at [gram.chaplaincy@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.chaplaincy@nhs.scot)

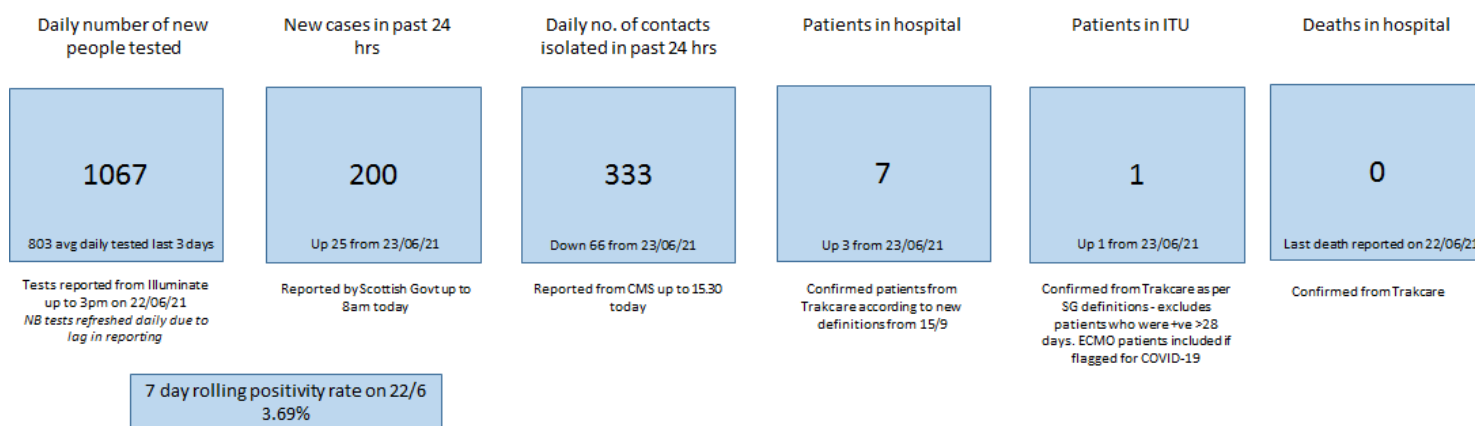
**SHARE**, the Scottish Health Research Register and Biobank, is a database of volunteers (over 11 years of age) who are interested in assisting research for improving healthcare.

SHARE is an NHS Research Scotland initiative, supported by the Universities in Scotland and the Chief Scientist Office.

Please sign up today to be contacted for future research. It will only take you a minute to sign up at [www.registerforshare.org](http://www.registerforshare.org)

**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](#).

**Thought for the Day** With infection rates rising whilst the view that 'it's all over' prevails, it's easy to think 'why bother' and let it get you down. Until you step into one of our hospitals and see the herculean efforts and sheer kindness of our staff continue. Those efforts throughout have been inspiring and continue to be so.

We're 15 months into the pandemic and now have a much clearer understanding of our way out of this. Hopefully for what will be one last time we'll all need to dig deep, support our patients and save as many

lives as possible in the face of another wave. The efforts to this point have exceed anything anyone thought possible last February. They are, quite simply, beyond words.

How bad things get in the next few weeks will ultimately depend on how we, as the public, all behave in these coming days. As an organisation we have put in place enhanced testing at hotspots and are offering walk-in vaccinations clinics in an effort to outpace the spread of the virus, across the board, at every level, we are all pushing back against the tide.

We went into this together and we will emerge from this, proudly, together. Keep doing what you are doing, every one of you is a hero of this pandemic. #ProudToBeNHSG

**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).