

Here is the brief for Monday 28 June 2021.

**Use of face coverings/face masks in healthcare premises** The Scottish Government guidance on when and how face coverings/face masks should be used in healthcare premises has been updated. [The Frequently Asked Questions document has been refreshed to take account of this, and we would encourage everyone working in health & social care to read it in full](#); the key points are as follows (please note FRSM = Fluid Repellent Surgical Masks):

- **Staff in hospitals**

In addition to staff providing direct care being required to wear FRSMs at all times while on shift, all staff in non-clinical areas of hospitals are now recommended to wear FRSMs, at all times whilst at work, except in a limited number of circumstances, such as when working alone or in a closed office in a non-clinical area where all other control measures are in place, i.e. good ventilation; physical distancing, with staff 2 metres apart; easy access to hand washing and/or hand sanitising facilities; and regular cleaning of the area.

Staff who work solely in non-clinical buildings - such as NHS Board headquarters or other standalone offices – and who do not enter buildings where patient care is provided, would not be expected to wear FRSMs, but instead may wear their own face covering. Staff members who work in non-clinical buildings but as part of their job role will enter buildings where clinical care is provided, would be expected to change to a FRSM if they do enter a building where care is provided.

- **Patients in hospitals**

The wording in the guidance has been strengthened to advise that FRSMs must also be made available to and worn by all hospital in-patients (unless exempt) across all pathways, where it can be tolerated and does not compromise clinical care (e.g. when receiving oxygen therapy or when in labour). This also applies to patients who are being transferred or transported to hospital. Staff are encouraged to engage in a discussion with patients as early as possible in the admission process to promote the importance of using facemask and adhering to other COVID-19 control measures.

In hospital, if a patient declines to wear a FRSM or is unable to tolerate one, the discussion and refusal to wear a FRSM should be noted in their patient/ medical records, each time, and not enforced. First and foremost, it helps ensure that a conversation takes place between the clinician and patient about the importance of wearing a FRSM. Secondly, in the event that there is transmission within a ward, it is helpful as part of outbreak investigation to understand which controls were in place, including mask wearing.

- **Long stay/overnight visitors in hospitals**

In order to protect patients and staff in high risk settings, long stay and/or overnight visitors, such as birthing partners; parents of children who are in long stay wards; or appropriate adults or families of patients who have learning disabilities and who are required to stay in hospital with the patient for a prolonged period of time, will be asked to wear FRSMs, (or face covering if a FRSM cannot be tolerated, unless they fall under one of the exemptions specified in the regulations). This will provide clarity for any long stay and/or overnight visitors who are required to stay in hospital with patient and will align with the guidance on patient and staff wearing of FRSMs.

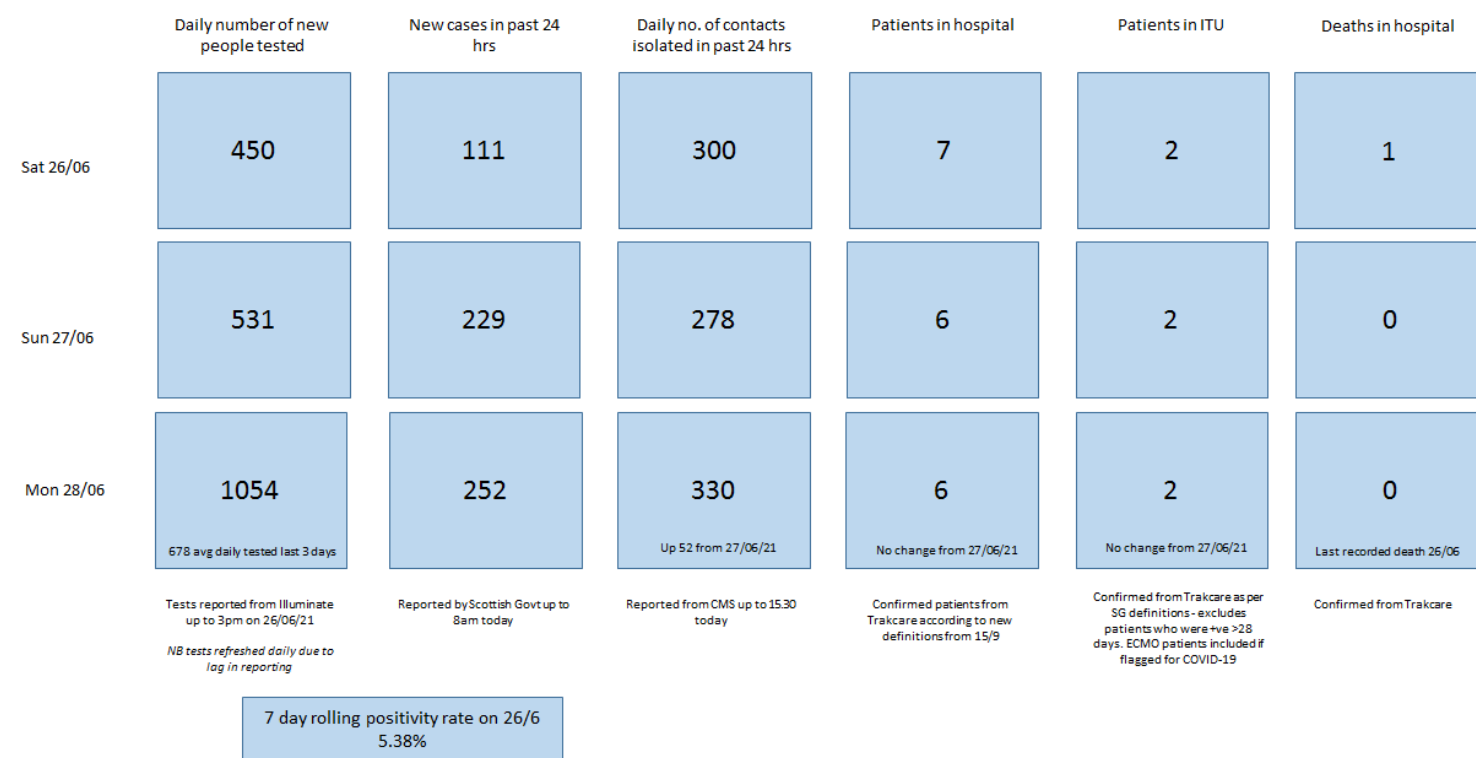
- **Visitors (including children aged 5 and over)**

Any individual visiting or attending an acute adult hospital (including mental health, maternity, neonatal and paediatrics), community hospitals, primary care premises (GP practices, dentists, opticians and pharmacies), should wear a face covering of the same kind that the Scottish Government has made mandatory to be worn on most indoor public places and indoor communal spaces, including retail and public transport, unless specifically exempt. Visitors to adult care homes should wear a FRSM, which they will be provided by the care home provider.

Where visitors decline to wear face coverings (or FRSMs in care homes), clinicians/ care home managers should apply judgement and consider if other IPC measures, such as hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, ventilation and physical distancing are sufficient depending on the patient / resident / client's condition and the care pathway. The hospital, primary care service or adult care home should provide visitors with a face mask where required.

**Grampian data** Here is the local update for today and across the weekend, 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](#).



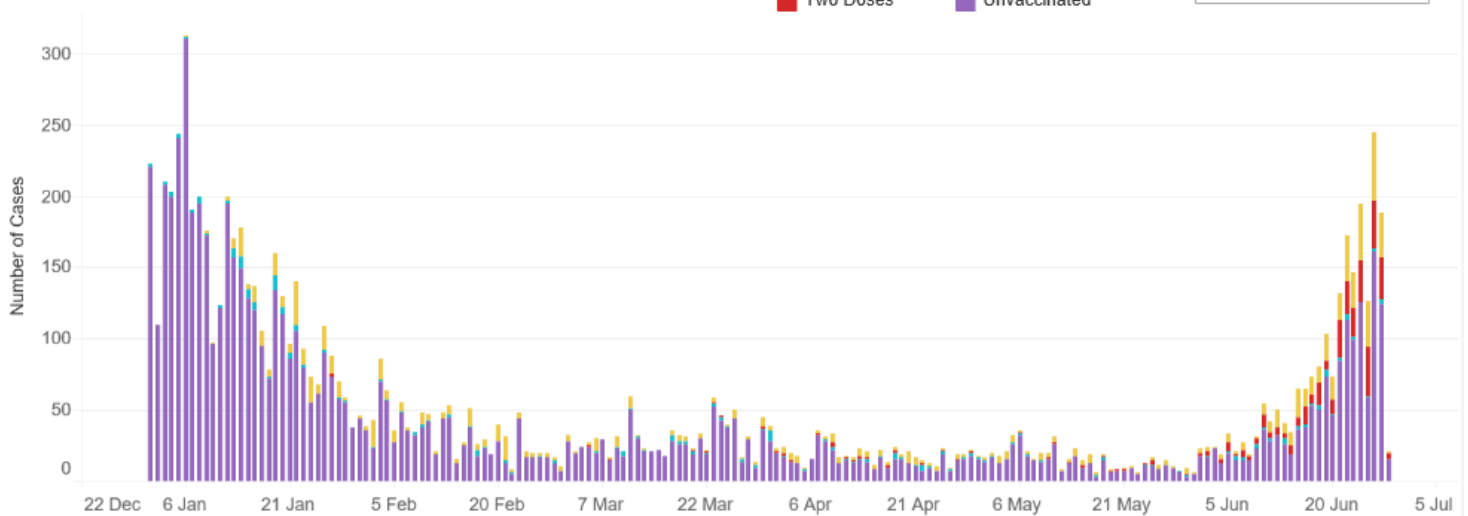
In addition, we wanted to share the bar chart below, which shows the vaccination status of all Grampian cases (not just hospitalisations). In the week 21/6-27/6, 84% of cases were either unvaccinated or had received only their first dose; 96% of cases were aged 55 or under.

As you may have seen, the self-registration portal, which was previously used for unpaid carers and then those aged 18-29 to register for their COVID-19 vaccination has now been opened to everyone aged 18 and over in Scotland. The self-registration system is open to all adults, whether you are registered with a GP or not, and will enable anyone who is new to Scotland or did not have an up-to-date registered home address to come forward. [The COVID-19 vaccination self-registration portal can be accessed via the NHS Inform website.](#)

## Cases by Create Date and Vaccination Status

One Dose  
Two Doses  
Unknown  
Unvaccinated

Age Group  
(All)



**NHS Grampian Plan for the Future 2022-2028** We have had to work very differently in the last 16 months to continue providing care to those who have needed it most. This has meant we have had to flex and adapt to new ways of working in a very short time, and in some cases in very different areas with new teams. We are extremely proud of and grateful to everyone for their continuing hard work and efforts throughout this challenging time. We are also very aware the impact this will have had on all of you as you have juggled your work and personal lives through this global pandemic, and that as we move into this third wave, the flexing and hard work is not over yet.

However, we also need to start to look forward to the future and plan how we are going to rebuild our healthcare services. We want to learn from what has worked well during the pandemic without losing what was good from before. We know that some of the changes made during the pandemic have been positive and some less so. To be able to plan for the future we will need help from our staff and the people we serve in Grampian. We want to rebuild our services with people not for people. To do this we need to know what matters to and is important to you.

We appreciate not everyone may feel in the right place, professionally or personally, at the moment to engage with developing this plan for the future, so we are giving everyone the chance to get involved in the way they would like to over the next 8 weeks. You can get involved as an individual, a carer, a service user, a community group, as a member of staff or as a staff team. [You can fill in this short online questionnaire](#) (also available by scanning the QR code below), send in feedback from team discussions or register your interest to attend an online discussion group to [gram.strategydevelopment@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.strategydevelopment@nhs.scot). There will be lots more ways for you to have your say and we would like to thank you in advance for your help with this, as the more people we hear from the better our services can be.



**Long COVID website** You may be interested to know that a dedicated Long COVID page has been added to the NHS Grampian website. It contains information on what Long COVID is, advice on how to manage the condition, and links to other useful guidance. [The Long COVID page is available to view here.](#) we would encourage you to share it widely and we welcome all feedback.

**eESS/Employee Support System** eESS is a single, national NHS Scotland approach to workforce systems that is intended to enable a high quality, standardised workforce information. Work to implement the system in NHS Grampian was paused but has now resumed. The latest newsletter from the project team has been attached to the email used to send out this brief. More information is available on the [NHS Grampian eESS intranet page](#) (networked devices only) and on the [national eESS website](#).

**Thought for the day – selfish good deeds** Depending on your vintage (and TV tastes) you may recall the episode of Friends when Joey and Phoebe debate whether or not selfless good deeds exist (Joey says not, Phoebe says they do, hilarity ensues). I bring this up because the good deeds we are being asked to perform (social distancing, regular testing, keeping our social circle small) are both selfLESS and selfISH. They are selfless for all the well-trodden reasons we know so well (protecting the more vulnerable, giving time to the vaccination programme) but they are also selfish - or perhaps self-interested, if we're being kind about it. If we're testing regularly, keeping our distance, making smart choices about socialising, then we're also reducing our own risk of catching COVID-19 and getting a phone call from the contact tracing team, advising 10 days of self-isolation. Worth thinking about, as we move into holiday season...

**Tune of the day** Wonders will never cease – it's the first day of the school holidays and sun has shone (in Aberdeen at least). [This has inspired today's choice of tune – a meditation on life, the universe, and sunscreen - from Baz Luhrmann.](#)



**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).