

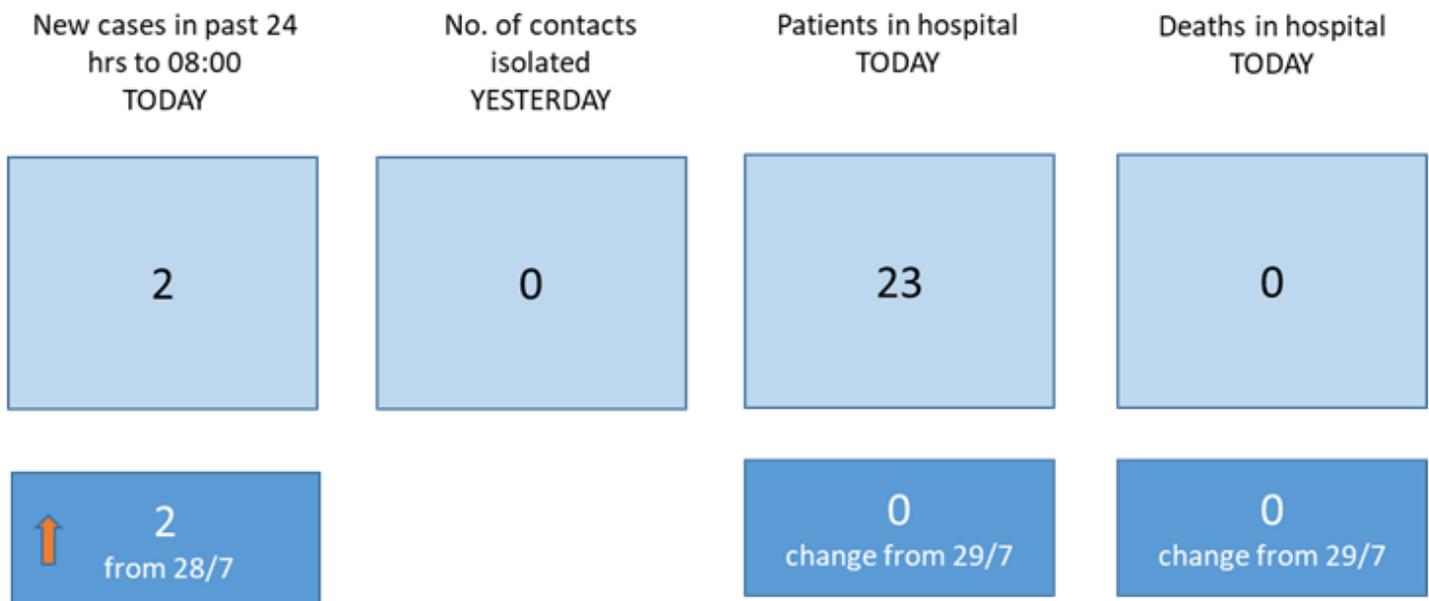
COVID-19 Brief

coronavirus



Here is the brief for Thursday 30 July 2020. Please ensure that you share this brief with colleagues and staff who do not have access to email, especially if they are self-isolating, otherwise working from home or do not have ready access to a PC. Briefs are shared on our dedicated website covid19.nhsgrampian.org which is updated continuously.

Grampian update The most up-to-date Grampian data about COVID-19 new cases, contacts and care in Grampian hospitals is shown below. Testing data will be included tomorrow. Please send any feedback or suggestions to gram-uhb.staffquestions@nhs.net. The national data is now being provided by Public Health Scotland. You can view that [here](#).



Isolation period extended for people with symptoms The four chief medical officers for the UK have announced today that the isolation period for people with COVID-19 symptoms or a positive test result has been extended from **7 days to 10 days**. This is in light of evidence which suggests people who become unwell can still transmit the virus for up to nine days. This change is effective immediately.

Scottish Government update – lockdown/schools & childcare The First Minister confirmed today there will be **no** changes to lockdown measures at present; we remain at Phase 3 on the government routemap. It was also confirmed that schools in Scotland will reopen w/c 11 August 2020. [Detailed guidance](#) has been prepared for the return of full time education; you may prefer to read this [shorter summary document](#). Local authorities will communicate directly with parents to advise on local arrangements.

If your child has been receiving critical childcare while you work, then there should still be provision for you until schools are due to reopen. Critical childcare for key workers and vulnerable children was put in place until registered childcare provision fully opens, including over the school summer holidays. As all childcare services, including ELC, childminders, breakfast clubs and out of school care are now able to reopen, local authorities will be winding down their critical childcare provision. Please contact your local council to confirm the end date in your area.

From 10 July, family members have been able to offer childcare and babysitting outwith their own household. Those who are at higher risk from COVID 19 may now choose to support others with childcare, but they must strictly follow hygiene advice when around all children, and physical distancing guidelines with anyone over 12. Detailed advice on physical distancing and hygiene is available on [NHS Inform](#).

Staff who have been shielding or have a particular vulnerability to COVID-19 are reminded that they should read this [Scottish Government guidance](#) which explains the risk assessment process in relation to the specific risk of COVID-19 to individuals in the workplace and complete the risk assessment at the end. They should then arrange a discussion with their manager, to discuss the outcome of the risk assessment and agree a safe return to the workplace. Staff who are currently able to work at home and can continue to do so are encouraged to continue working in this capacity. Where working at home has not been possible and a safe return to work has been agreed by the staff member and manager, physical distancing in the workplace must be maintained.

Staff are urged to complete the form and have a discussion with their manager as soon as possible. It is appreciated that there is a very limited timescale between the risk assessment becoming available and the pausing of shielding on 31 July. All forms are expected to have been completed and a discussion had with managers no later than 11 August 2020. All employees who have been health excluded or shielding must go through this process within this timescale. Until the process has been completed the arrangements with regard to pay will remain in place.

For staff in the very high vulnerability group, those whose specific condition is not listed in the tool or if there is a health issue and no agreement can be reached between manager and staff member, an onward referral to Occupational Health should be made using the [COVID-19 Enquiry Form](#) (please note this is an Intranet link and will not work on non-networked devices). Until the OHS assessment has been completed, these staff should continue with their current arrangement - be this, working at home, working differently, being on special leave or remaining away from the workplace for some bank workers.

Other illnesses are still out there COVID-19 has been a challenge for all of us, but remember infectious symptoms spread other infections too. If you have any of the following, you should contact your manager and you should not come into work or arrange to go home promptly if you are on shift:

- Symptoms of influenza like illnesses, (new cough, wheeze, hoarseness, nasal discharge, nasal congestion or shortness of breath)
- Vomiting and or diarrhoea (today or in the previous 48 hours)
- an unexplained rash
- a temperature / fever
- a continuous cough
- a loss or change in sense of taste or smell

Preventing skin damage when using PPE The Occupational Health Service have put together [this guide](#) to preventing – and reporting if necessary - facial skin damage due to frequent use of PPE. The document is also available via the [Intranet](#).

Microsoft Office 365 Email Transition With the transition to Microsoft Office 365 Email fast approaching it's important all staff have addressed the preparation tasks and activated their Microsoft 365 login (which is done by logging into Microsoft TEAMS). Emails will be sent out to all current NHSG NHS.Net email users next week confirming their new email address, their Office 365/Mail/Teams Logon and instructions for how to logon to TEAMS (If user has not already activated their Microsoft o365 address). The email will have the subject "Microsoft o365 logon". Please look out for this email and take the necessary action.

Jobtrain Upgrade The upgrade of the national recruitment system, Jobtrain, from V6 to V7 did not go ahead as planned earlier this week. There were some challenging issues and Jobtrain are still

investigating these. Meantime V7 is still technically available and running in parallel to V6. Users following their previously saved links / favourites and the links on the support site will continue to be taken to V6, however there may be some who saved the redirected URL that was in place for the short-lived V7 live periods hence are continuing to login to V7. Jobtrain have confirmed this is not an issue - at the moment the systems are running in parallel with all data shared between them, and need to remain this way to allow investigations. Until further advised please only use V6 ([here](#)), however there is no risk of losing any work if you mistakenly use V7. Hiring Managers are advised to prepare any interview packs in advance of a possibly upgrade next week. The new V7 SOPs, webinar recordings etc. remain available ([here](#)) for any staff still to complete V7 familiarisation. We will update you further in due course.

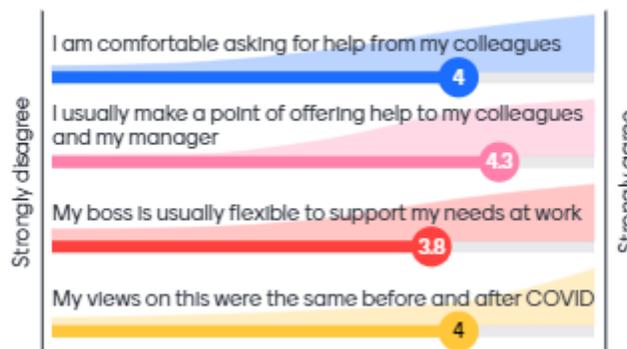
Return of services As we develop our re-mobilisation plan and services return, remember we are here to share information across health & social care teams. We can also ensure information is shared with the general public via the NHS Grampian social media accounts. Get in touch with us using the email address at the end of the brief.

Thought for the day The questions of the day for the past two days have been around the topics of control and support. There are a number of positive results when we feel in control of our working (and out of work) environment and where we feel supported at work. Firstly, we just feel better in ourselves. Secondly though, there is a significant body of evidence suggesting we also have less in the way of physical ill health, both in the short term (so less sickness absence for the organisation) and in the long term – so reduced likelihood of heart disease, cancer and Alzheimer’s. We should all think about what we can do for those staff who reported feeling out of control or unsupported – or who may not have felt able to answer the questions at all. The results from yesterday suggest we are willing to offer help; lets make good on that sentiment.

Question of the day – new topic and yesterday’s results Yesterday we asked how willing you were to be flexible, support colleagues and ask for help yourself. As of 16:00 today, the results are as follows:

How much do you agree - or disagree - with these statements?

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This is another positive set of results. It is particularly heartening to see many of you who answered the question are willing to ask for help if you need it. However, we do treat these results with caution as the numbers are comparatively small when compared with our total staff complement. We want to find out more about you, so today we’re asking in which area you work. You can select more than one option and we have included an option for ‘currently working at home’. To answer the question please click [here](#) or copy this link into your browser: <https://www.menti.com/yr9ymmt64c>

Comments? Suggestions? If you have feedback about this brief or questions about the content please do not hesitate to get in touch via gram-uhb.staffquestions@nhs.net