

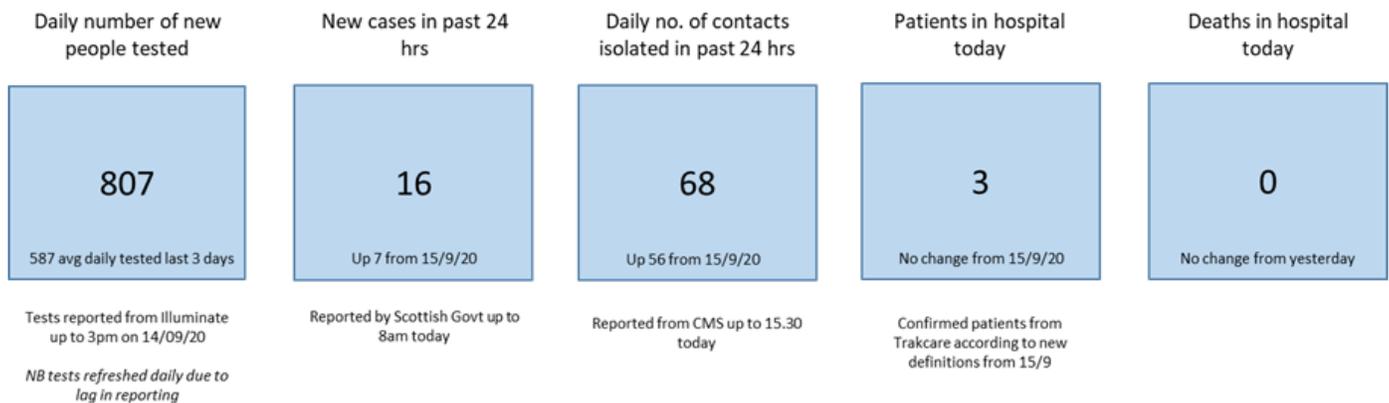
COVID-19 Brief

coronavirus



Here is the brief for Wednesday 16 September 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. As highlighted in yesterday's brief, there has been a change in reporting for these figures. New definitions have been introduced which mean that we will only include patients who first tested positive within 14 days before admission or during the current hospital stay. National data is provided by Public Health Scotland. You can view that [here](#).



Pressure on UK testing service You will all have seen media coverage of the pressure on the UK testing service in recent days. There have been reports of people unable to book a test despite their nearest centre being quiet, people being directed to centres more than 100 miles away, and indications that English Testing Centres are using Scottish postcodes to subvert the system in England. Firstly, we want to reassure you that any delays in contacting cases are caused by the delays in getting results from the UK government labs, and not by any delay in our contact tracing system, which continues to deliver really well. The English cases dropping in to the Scottish system are causing increased work for our already busy contact tracers, who have to contact these cases, issue the appropriate advice, and then track down their English Health Authority to alert them about the case.

The only testing service we directly run is the staff testing programme, therefore we as a health board have limited influence on this situation. However, as individual members of health & social care staff, we can influence the behaviour of those around us. Remind friends and family that they should only be making arrangements for a test if they are displaying symptoms. We can also continue to use the staff testing service responsibly and in line with the [eligibility criteria](#).

Remobilisation – post diagnostic support in Aberdeen City During the past months the delivery of post diagnostic support for people with dementia within Aberdeen City has been on hold. However, as we start to remobilise our services, we are making plans to start to provide this very necessary support. Over the past few weeks, we have reconnected with our peer support group and have reviewed the content of the information pack to be delivered to people at the point of diagnosis. This pack is now available for all [here](#). We have also been in the process of triaging those people who have been diagnosed and who have been waiting for post diagnostic support. We now have the results of the triage process and are ready to start with the delivery of post diagnostic support. We hope that by 28

September we will have matched the people who are waiting for post diagnostic support with a member of the ACHSCP workforce, where the person who has been diagnosed is on their active caseload.

The delivery of post diagnostic support is part of our holistic approach to the delivery of care and support to people who have dementia. Therefore, the blended approach that is advocated should match the intervention currently being delivered. So, for example, if face to face interventions are in progress, post diagnostic support will be part of these visits; if you are delivering an intervention digitally, then you will deliver post diagnostic support as part of this intervention. This blended approach has been advocated by the national experts in the delivery of post diagnostic support.

World Patient Safety Day Tomorrow (17 September) is World Patient Safety Day. The World Health Organisation (WHO) aims to mark the day by highlighting the huge challenges and risks health workers face that have been unveiled by the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition they note; “working in stressful environments makes health workers more prone to errors which can lead to patient harm.” With this in mind this special Patient Safety Day edition of [MedWatch](#) (Intranet link) focusses on a recent MHRA Drug Safety Update on direct-acting oral anticoagulants (DOACs): reminder of bleeding risk, including availability of reversal agents and what resources are available to assist NHS Grampian health care professionals when prescribing, dispensing or administering DOACs. You can also share The DOAC video [You and Your Anticoagulant](#) with your patients prescribed DOAC anticoagulants to improve medication safety.

This event is being marked Scotland wide - visit the Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS) [ihub webpage](#) for more information. QI Connect are running a WebEx with Professor Michael West sharing his reflections about compassionate leadership on 17th September. To join, please register [here](#).

New Aberdeen Royal Infirmary Pharmacy Dispensary Please note on Monday 21 September 2020 the dispensary in the Aberdeen Royal Infirmary concourse will close at 2.30pm. This is to allow the dispensary to be moved to its new site on Level 1 Green Zone which will open the following morning. If clinical areas could please plan ahead to ensure CDDs are completed as early as possible. After 2.30pm a limited dispensing service will be available only for emergencies.

Brexit On 31 January 2020, the UK formally ceased its membership of the European Union. A transitional period is now in place until the end of 2020, while the UK is preparing to leave the EU single market and customs union. The end of the transition period will affect citizens, businesses, as well as travel to and from the EU.

All staff are encouraged to consider how the new rules from January 2021 will affect them and their families. The UK government have made a [questionnaire](#) available which will give you a personalised list of actions for you and your circumstances.

Most crucially, if you or your family member are a citizen of the EU, Iceland, Lichtenstein, Norway or Switzerland, you will need to apply for settled status to continue living and working in the UK after 31 December 2020. The deadline for applications under the EU Settlement Scheme is 30 June 2021. You can secure your status now by [applying on GOV.UK](#). A [range of support](#) is also available online, by email and over the telephone to help EEA citizens and their family members apply to the EU Settlement Scheme.

Working in Grampian and previously a registered nurse or midwife in another country? We are currently collating information regarding HCSWs, or other support roles, who are registered nurses or midwives in another country and may be interested in renewing registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Council to practice in the UK. If this applies to you, please complete [this short survey](#) to register your interest.

NHS Spitfire flight A fundraising flight, using a restored Spitfire plane, will take place across Scotland tomorrow (17 September). It is timetabled to fly over Woodend Hospital (10.48am), Aberdeen Royal

Infirmery (10.50am) and Dr Gray's Hospital (11.08am). More information on the flight is available [here](#); all money raised is being donated to NHS Charities Together.

Thought for the day – what we can (and cannot) control We've used this brief to talk about control before; to think about the things we can do something about and the things we have to accept as they are. So much of the response to this pandemic involves each of us making changes to the way we live our lives and those individual actions contributing to a greater collective action. As mentioned in the item about the UK testing service, we do have scope to influence others around us, but sometimes that influence can be limited – or mean difficult conversations. It is ok to step away from the things you cannot control, to preserve your strength and focus for the things you can do something about. It is also ok to step away from the crowd (this can be friends, family, or colleagues) if you are not comfortable with the choices they are making. Ultimately, we can only be responsible for our own behaviour, our own choices.

Question of the day Today we are trying something different – we are asking you for your three word Wednesday. We're looking for a word to describe work, a word to describe home, and a word to describe life in general. To take part click [here](#) or copy this link into your browser: <https://www.menti.com/b785msy1ue>. We will share the word cloud you create tomorrow.

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