

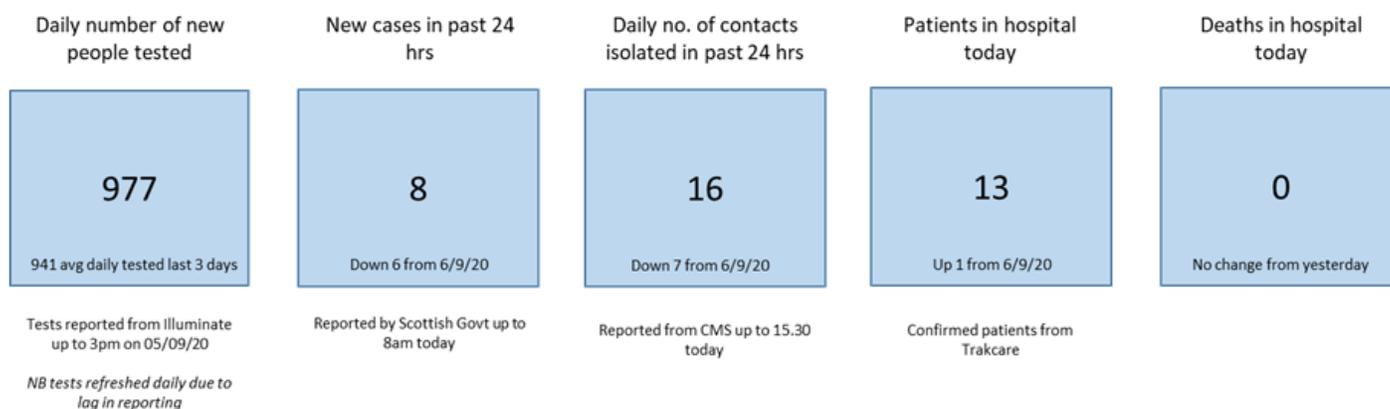
# COVID-19 Brief

coronavirus



Here is the brief for Monday 7 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](https://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. The national data is now being provided by Public Health Scotland. You can view that [here](#).



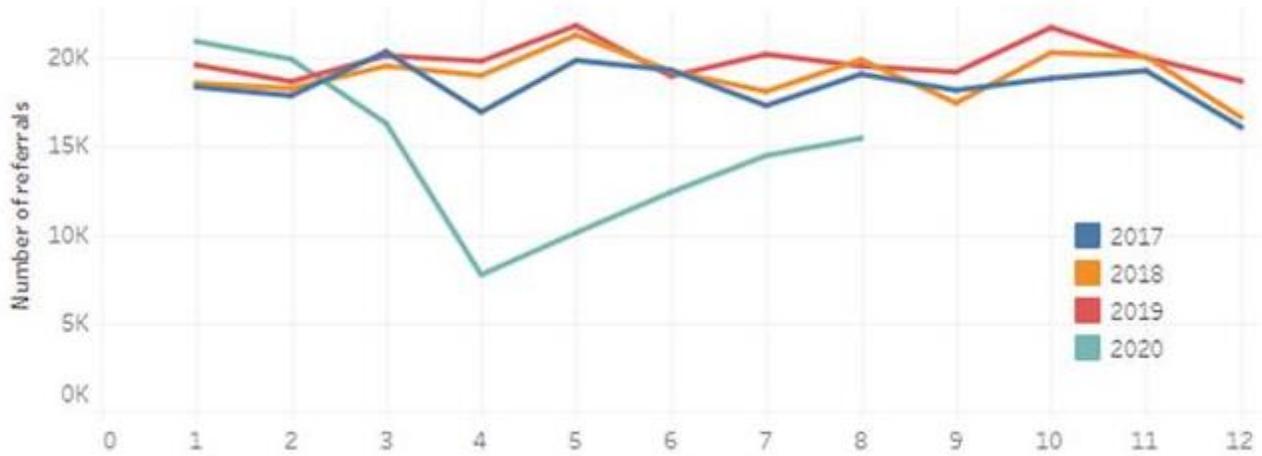
**COVID-19 cases on the rise again** Daily case numbers in the UK as a whole have been rising steadily for some time, but on Sunday increased quite sharply, rising by 2,988. Scotland's population is approximately 8.1% of the UK population and so on a simple population basis it might have been expected that the equivalent number of cases would have been 242. In fact, the figure for Scotland was 208 – lower, but not all that much lower, and still representing a sharp rise.

Today this figure has fallen to 146 and so there is no clear trend yet. There are a lot more tests being carried out in comparison to two months ago, and some of the rise in case numbers will be explained by this. There is little doubt however that there is a true rise in numbers of cases in Scotland.

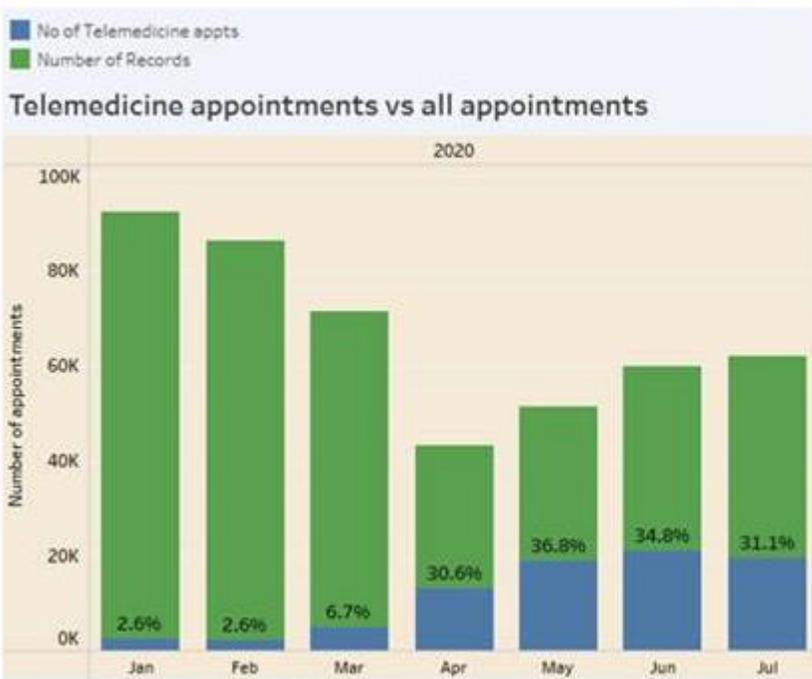
At the moment the rise is concentrated in the west central belt, however we in Grampian mustn't let our guard down simply because we have got over the recent outbreak. It cannot be said too often - the control measures that should universally be in place are hand hygiene, disinfecting of common touch surfaces, respiratory hygiene, physical distancing, appropriate use of PPE and not going to work with symptoms.

**Remobilising care** We want to start using this brief to talk more about work being done to remobilise services across Grampian. Today we are starting with referrals to outpatients. After a pause in many aspects of elective care during the spring, referrals are beginning to return to traditional levels. However, the way patients are being seen is changing substantially with the increased use of virtual consultations in secondary/hospital care. We've included three diagrams (below) to give you a better feel for the current situation. If you want to share more information on the work your service or specialty is doing as part of remobilisation, get in touch!

### New Outpatient referrals over time



Referrals to hospital for an outpatient appointment are now within 20% of normal levels, after a 63% drop at the peak of the pandemic



Although the number of hospital appointments is substantially lower than normal, nearly one third of all attended appointments in July were virtual, up from 2.6% in January.



This means over 1 million travel miles were saved in just 3 months, equivalent to 40 times around the world!

**O365 – Email Migration** From tomorrow (Tuesday 8 September), the IT Service desk hours of operation will return to 8am – 6pm, Monday – Friday. Users should continue to review the [Office 365 SharePoint Site](#) and [NHSG Digital Champions TEAM](#) for answers to their questions and the [service desk portal](#) should remain as the first choice for logging calls. As the journey of adjustment to Office365 continues, a series of live TEAMS sessions will be delivered providing practical guidance on using the tools and facilitating live questions and answers forums. Further details on the sessions will be published soon.

**New maternity services website launched** We are delighted to unveil our new maternity services website, available [here](#). This is designed to be a one-stop shop for prospective parents in Grampian. It has been created in partnership with the Grampian Maternity Voices Partnership and we are very grateful to them for their support. Special thanks must also go to all the maternity services team who have worked hard to create this site.

**V7 Jobtrain upgrade update - Go-Live Tues, 8th September 2020** Jobtrain continue with additional testing in advance of the planned Jobtrain V7 implementation, and to date no issues have been identified. Therefore, Jobtrain V7 go-live is scheduled for Tuesday, 8th September 2020 (starting overnight tonight) and final preparations are taking place for this. The new V7 SOPs remain available [here](#). Please take the opportunity to review these in advance of the go-live.

**The Orange award** This is a great way to highlight the fantastic work done by health & social care staff every single day. Any NHSG employee can nominate any NHSG employee [here](#) or via email: [gram.nmahporangeawards@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.nmahporangeawards@nhs.scot). Just tell us in a few words why this person should be recognised for the great work they do (anonymously if you prefer). Every single nominee will receive an email and certificate telling them why they are appreciated and each week the Rewards & Recognition Team choose one person or team to present as that week's winner. A member of the Systems Leadership Team will surprise that person in their place of work with a small gift, certificate, and lots of appreciation. The Orange awards are a fab way of showing each other how much what we do is noticed and appreciated.

**Making the brief accessible** [BSL](#) and [audio](#) digests of recent daily briefs are available. We welcome feedback on how useful these are.

**Thought for the day – Ready to return?** You may have seen media coverage over the weekend or today focusing on 'getting back to work' and this may be causing anxiety for some of you. Firstly, we know all of you have been at work – and working hard – throughout the pandemic, albeit in different locations. Secondly, it remains the policy of both Scottish Government – and us as an employer – that those of you who can work at home should continue to do so. Remember the [Safer Workplaces](#) section of our COVID-19 website contains a wealth of information to support you and your manager to work together on making appropriate plans for you and your team. Wherever you are working, thank you for everything you are doing. It is seen and appreciated.

**Question of the day** This will now become an occasional feature which we will use when there are particular questions we want to ask of you as health & social care staff.

**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](mailto:gram-uhb.staffquestions@nhs.net)