

COVID-19 Brief

coronavirus

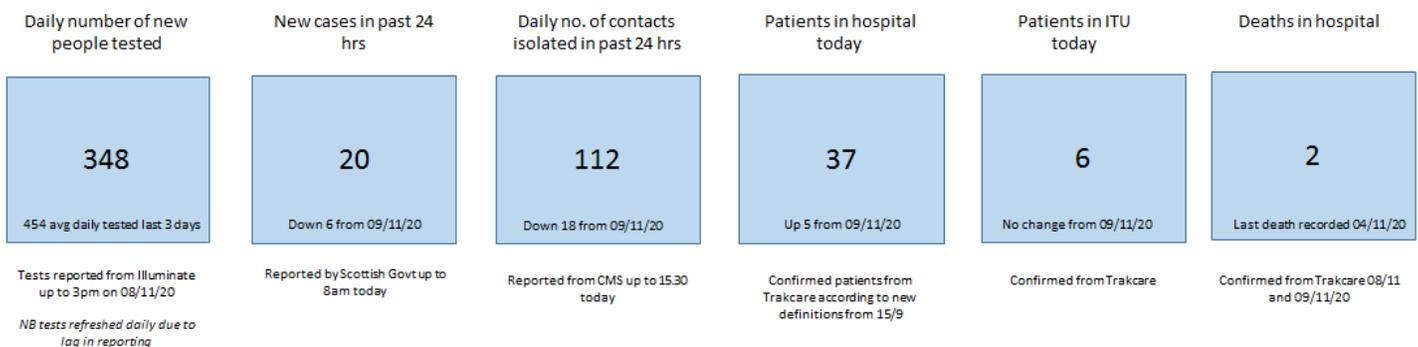


Here is the brief for Tuesday 10 November 2020. Please ensure that you share this brief with colleagues and staff who do not have access to email, especially if they are self-isolating, otherwise working from home or do not have ready access to a PC. Briefs are shared on our dedicated website covid19.nhsgrampian.org which is updated continuously.

Patient safety in Grampian You may have seen a newspaper story today, raising concerns about the treatment of patients from other health boards and the risks this could pose to patients, particularly in ARI. We are absolutely clear that there is no link between the specialist treatment we offer patients from other health boards and the current outbreak of COVID-19 on Ward 109 in the hospital.

Our specialist ECMO team deal with all aspects of the transfer of patients to Aberdeen to receive this care. We are extremely proud to be the national centre for this type of treatment; it is a reflection of the high degree of skill and professionalism shown by the team in ICU that we were formally awarded this status earlier this year. ARI is also home to the Major Trauma Centre for the north of Scotland – another demonstration of the life-saving care we are able to offer, not just to patients in Grampian, but to those in need from elsewhere too. Collectively we have many decades of experience in the safe transfer of patients into and out of the region and everyone involved puts a premium on the safety of **all** patients and **all** staff.

Grampian update The most up-to-date data about COVID-19 new cases, contacts and care in Grampian hospitals is shown below. Remember, all the national data collected by Public Health Scotland is available [here](#). Using that link you can see what is happening at board, local authority, and neighbourhood level anywhere in Scotland.

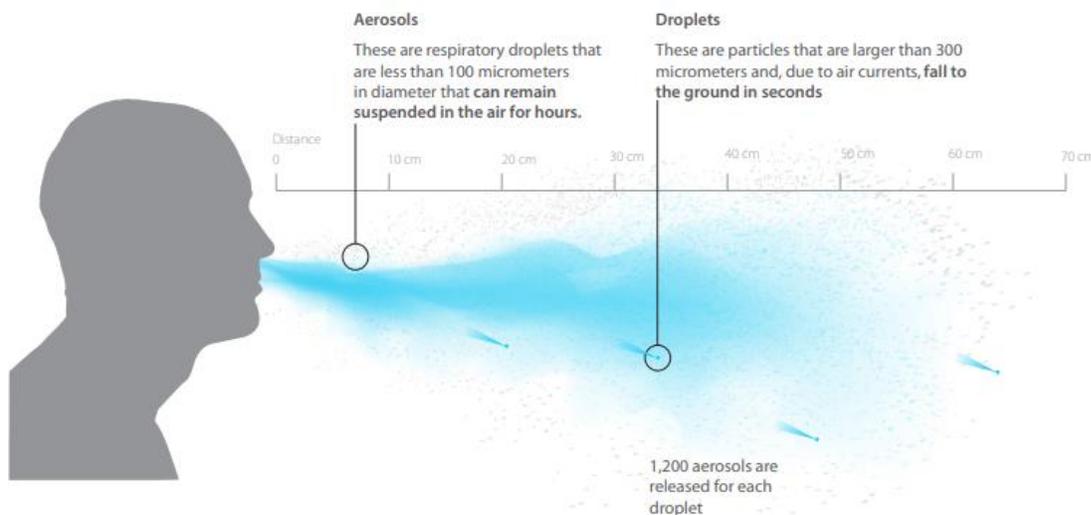


Restrictions update The Scottish Government held their first review of the protection levels in place across Scotland earlier today. Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire remain at [Level 2](#), Moray at [Level 1](#). The government have announced some easing of the Level 1 restrictions in Orkney, Shetland, and the Western Isles, permitting indoor visiting from Friday. It must be noted that these changes do **NOT** apply to Moray or Highland (the two mainland Level 1 areas).

Elsewhere in the country, Angus, Perth & Kinross, and Fife councils move into Level 3 restrictions. There is no change for any of the local authorities already in Level 3. If you want to check what is happening in any part of the country, the Scottish Government website has a useful [postcode checker](#).

Use of face masks/face coverings One of the biggest adjustments we have all had to make during the pandemic is the use of face masks/face coverings, especially in the workplace. Compliance is generally good across Grampian; there are a few key points we should all be aware of:

- Disposable masks must be placed in either an orange stream waste bin (in clinical buildings) or in a lidded black bag bin (in offices) at the end of use. They must not be left on canteen tables or trays or dropped on the floor. We have a duty to dispose of single use masks safely to protect our colleagues. We also have a duty to dispose of them responsibly - the Marine Conservation Society found discarded PPE on 30% of beaches in the UK during their recent annual survey
- All staff working at – or visiting – Foresterhill should be aware that masks or face coverings should be worn in all university buildings on site. Please abide by this measure (unless specifically exempt) and be respectful of any additional requests made by our university colleagues.
- Wherever you are working – whether it is a clinical or office setting – bear in mind that face masks/coverings are not a substitute for physical distancing. Wherever possible we must maintain a 2 metre distance. This diagram (adapted from a [recent article](#) in El Pais newspaper) highlights the distance aerosol and droplets can spread, highlighting the value of both distance and covering up:



Patient experience of planned or emergency care during the pandemic We are looking for people who have used planned or emergency care at Dr Gray's or ARI during COVID-19 to join a 'virtual' conversation this Thursday (12 November) at 1.30pm on Microsoft Teams. This informal discussion will be about how hospital services are being provided during COVID-19, and will include hospital-based staff as well as members of the public. Participants require an email address (so they can be sent a joining link) and you will also need to have a camera and microphone on your laptop, PC or tablet/smart phone. The conversation will be led by Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland. The views captured from people across Scotland will inform a final report of recommendations to the Cabinet Secretary and Mobilisation Recovery Group, to ensure a better understanding of how services can meet public health needs in a sustainable way. To book your place or find out more please get in touch at gram.involve@nhs.scot. Please share this invitation with friends or family who may be interested.

Virtual visiting NHS Grampian led the way in introducing virtual visiting in Scotland, as we sought to keep patients and families connected at the height of lockdown. Lyn Irvine, Alzheimer Scotland Dementia Nurse Consultant, will be presenting our experience at a webinar next month along with colleagues from NHS Fife. If you are interested in learning more about this work, the event takes place on Thursday 3 December between 10-11.30 a.m. Registration is free and can be completed [here](#).

Welcome event for new graduate nurses, midwives and AHPs Special events to welcome new graduate nurses, midwives and allied health professionals to NHS Grampian have been arranged for this Thursday (12 November) and next Thursday (19 November). The events take place via MS Teams and you can book your place via Turas. If you have any additional queries please get in touch with your local education teams, line manager or email gram.ngn@nhs.scot.

Thought for the day Well, we have to speak about it. The Vaccine. Initial analysis of the vaccine developed by Pfizer and BioNTech looks incredibly promising and it is certainly some much needed positive news. However (and you knew there was going to be a 'however' here, didn't you?) we need to keep this in context. This is one of several vaccines currently under development. It has not yet passed final safety tests or been approved for use by the Medicines & Healthcare products Regulatory Agency. Any vaccine which is finally approved for public use will be delivered in a phased way, with older adults in care homes and care home staff expected to take top priority. So, are we likely to get back to normal (whatever that is) anytime soon? That depends on your definition of 'soon', but probably not. We're not saying this to bring you down, only to be realistic. We need to keep doing the things we have been doing - observing the restrictions, wearing a face covering, keeping our distance, and washing our hands. Until (and even after) a vaccine is cleared for safe public use these are the things that will keep this virus at bay.

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