

COVID-19 Brief

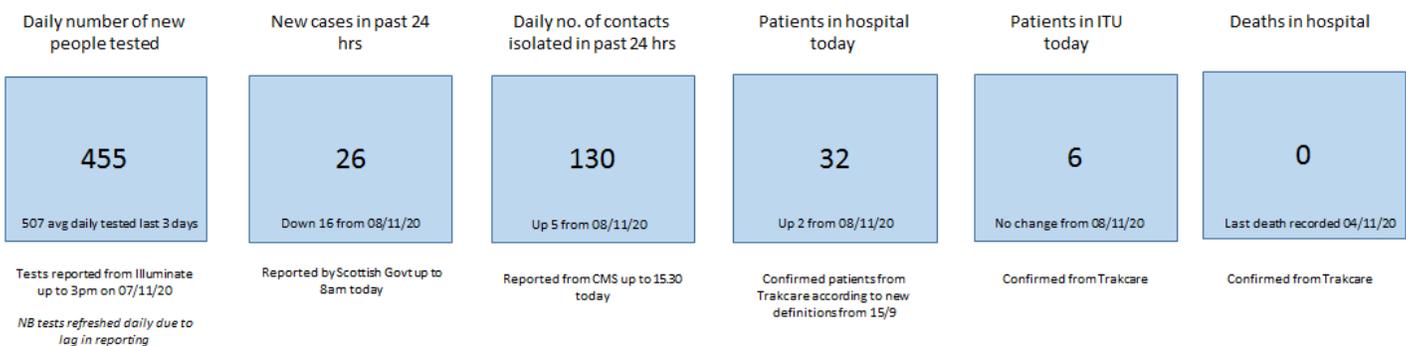
coronavirus



Here is the brief for Monday 9 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.

Message from the Chief Executive You can view this week's message from Caroline Hiscox [here](#); this week she has an exciting announcement on our decision to seek [MAGNET accreditation](#) as an organisation. You can get in touch with Caroline via gram.grampianchiefexecutive@nhs.scot

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.



Update from the Acute sector – winter planning Acute sector management have briefed DGMs, DCDs and UOMs on the latest Winter Surge Planning. The triumvirate noted that the past eight months have been quite "unlike anything we have ever been through before" and that the efforts shown by staff have been "exemplary". The sector continues to plan to ensure everything is in place - not only for winter but in the midst of rising COVID-19 admissions. This planning means we will need to have the flexibility within our hospital, for additional COVID-19 ward level capacity, to meet rises and falls in demand. This will allow us to maintain as many of our normal services as possible, for as long as possible. We all have a crucial part to play in how this works and indeed, how successful it is. We heard throughout the first wave of the pandemic that many teams found it really difficult to be separated from their colleagues. We have listened to this and as a result, where possible, we will ensure that doesn't happen again.

COVID-19 staff testing programme Did you know the staff testing programme was developed, at speed, by a hard-working team drawn from all parts of the organisation? The original team are now returning to their substantive posts, so we asked Helen Corrigan from the Health Protection team for her thoughts:

"When testing started a member of staff from Health Improvement worked with the health protection team to administer the organising of testing symptomatic individuals in the community. The introduction of NHSG staff and their household contacts brought greater numbers and expectation on a brand-new service.

"The booking team were pulled together from displaced staff from across the board. They came together at Summerfield House and together they have helped shape the service, making sure that every referral

was looked at and tested where appropriate. The team has evolved from using paper request form to a fully electronic system. Each new challenge that has been put in front of these amazing humans has been met with a 'can do' approach and an immense amount of humour. No deadline hasn't been met. They have supported the testing staff by making sure they have enough supplies of testing equipment; they have delivered testing equipment and labels to care homes, they have supported OHS in staff testing. When the testing team have been low in numbers, they have donned scrubs and supported the testing teams. There is nothing they wouldn't tackle to keep the testing show on the road.

“It has been my absolute professional pleasure to be involved with this team, who have worked together to build the plane we were flying as we went. They have supported one another through the tough professional and personal ups and downs of the pandemic. I have watched them take on new roles, develop new skills and confidence in supporting staff and patients through the testing process from referral to giving results, that has enabled return to work or admission for much needed surgery. As the original 'dirty dozen' are set to return to their substantive posts I cannot thank them enough for everything they have done. The whole organisation owes them a huge debt of gratitude.”

The staff testing programme remains fully operational and should be the first port of call for anyone working in health & social care in Grampian. You can request a test using [this form](#).

Patient Consent – new guidance from GMC As you may be aware the GMC recently issued an updated document on decision making and consent guidance. This comes into effect today (9 November). We have reviewed our current document compared to the updated guidance and are in the process of updating it to include the new themes from the GMC. However, as the new guidance does not essentially differ from with our existing policy, we should continue using the current NHS Grampian document until the new update is released.

Thought for the day – we are greater than the sum of our parts Today's brief contains items highlighting the hard work of two particular teams; the Acute sector and the 'dirty dozen' who set up the staff testing programme. While the challenges each team faced will have been unique to their area, what isn't unique is the effort, professionalism, attitude and sense of humour each team brought to the task in hand. Modesty is a built-in quality for north-east natives, but as an 'inabootcomer' that won't hold me back: we are a strong, committed, passionate, and capable group of people. We have met every challenge that 2020 has thrown at us with great aplomb. It hasn't been easy. It hasn't been without cost – and I mean emotionally and mentally, as well as in terms of pounds and pence – but we **have** done it. If it has been a difficult day for you, please don't let that cloud what we have collectively achieved this year, and the part you have played in that. Fa's like us?

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