

COVID-19 Brief

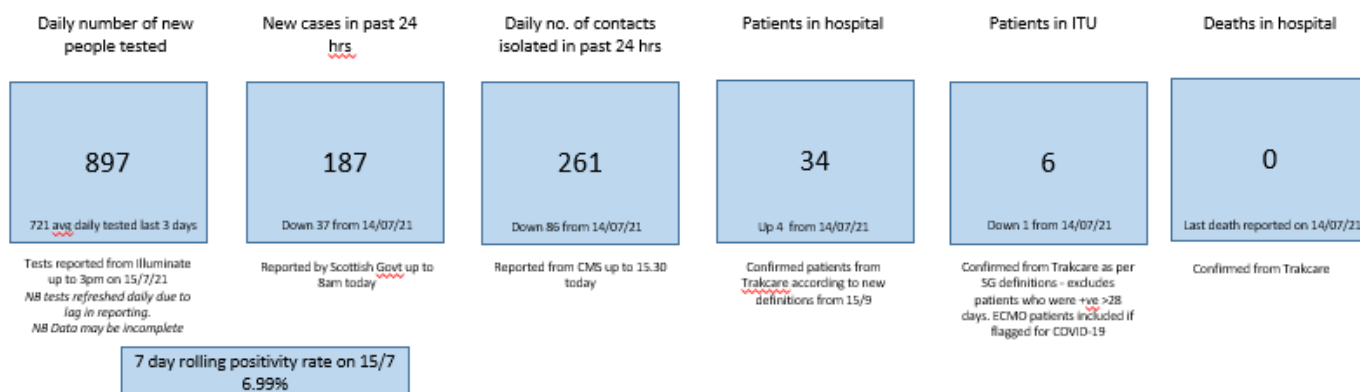
coronavirus



Here is the brief for Thursday 15 July 2021.

Support to self-isolate If you – or a member of your household – test positive and are required to self-isolate, it shouldn't be taken as read that everyone in your household will also contract COVID-19. Taking some simple steps can limit the spread of the virus in the home. Isla Bumba – a contact tracing team lead – has helped to compile a video with the benefit of her experience in the contact tracing team. [It's a little longer than some of the videos we circulate, but definitely worth a watch and a share with any friends, family, or colleagues that you think would find it helpful.](#)

Grampian data The local update for today, along with the 7-day rolling positivity rate, is shown below. As a reminder, this rate is arrived at by dividing the number of positive tests in the past 7 days by the number of tests carried out in the past 7 days. Repeat tests are included in both categories. The figure for the "daily number of new people tested" is only for the number of tests for people who have not been tested previously.



A national update is available on the [Public Health Scotland daily dashboard](#).

Lift limits – two will do Any of you working in large hospital or office settings across Grampian will be aware that limits are in place on the number of people who can occupy lifts. These limits remain in place - whether you are masked, whether you are double vaccinated, there should be no more than two people in a lift at any one time. Please keep observing these limits, keeping yourself, your colleagues, and patients and visitors safe.

Turas E-Learning Whistleblowing Staff Training Reminder Whistleblowing is when a staff member, or anyone providing services for, with, or on behalf of NHS Grampian, raises a concern of mismanagement, corruption, illegality, or some other wrongdoing. The public value of whistleblowing has been increasingly recognised since the term was introduced in the 1960s and is an invaluable mechanism for organisations to become aware of issues that need to be addressed.

To support whistleblowing to become a valued and well supported way for concerns to be raised, we are asking that all health and social care staff please work through one of the whistleblowing modules on Turas, which takes about 30 minutes. If you are not already registered for Turas please visit: [Turas Learn – How to Register \(nhsgrampian.org\)](#). For more information about whistleblowing and how to raise concerns in a confidential way please visit [Whistleblowing \(nhsgrampian.org\)](#).

Staff Governance Standard monitoring – we need your help! NHS Grampian, along with all NHS boards, is monitored, by the Scottish Government, on its performance against the Staff Governance Standard. Part of this involves demonstrating staff are well informed. This brief has been a crucial part of that since last March. Many of you have been kind enough to email and let us know how much you value the brief. We're after your kindness again! [Please use this link to go to Mentimeter and help us build a word cloud that demonstrates the impact/benefits of the brief.](#) If preferred, you can scan this QR code to go direct to Mentimeter:



If you want to say more than just a few words, please use the email at the end of the brief to send more detailed feedback, all contributions will be anonymised. Whichever method you choose, please have contributions with us by 22 July.

Chief Scientist Office funded PhD fellowships For the first time in many years there are now Chief Scientist Office funded PhD fellowships open to NMAHPs. This is an important opportunity and currently represents the only national funded scheme for doctoral training for this group of staff. The guidance specifies that applicants should be within the first 4 years post registration and salaries will be within band 5 (with additional research costs and tuition fees also funded).

There are two stages to the application:

1. Intention to apply (600 word summary) by 10th September 2021
2. Full application by 11th October 2021

More information is available here: [CSO Clinical Academic Fellowships Open for Applications – Chief Scientist Office \(scot.nhs.uk\)](#)

If you are an NMAHP and interested in applying, please get in touch with the NMAHP research leads in NHS Grampian (see contacts below) who will be more than happy to support you with preparing your application and for the selection process - some of us have personal experience of this and are always happy to support and guide others.

Debbie Baldie - Lead Nurse for Research and Practice Development - deborah.baldie@nhs.scot

Angela Kydd - Clinical Professor - nursing - a.kydd@rqu.ac.uk

Kay Cooper - Clinical Professor - AHPs - k.cooper@rqu.ac.uk

Tune of the day Barbara Anderson (Care Manager) takes charge today and her suggestion is a classic to listen to on sunny days – [Africa by Toto](#). The video is pure 80s, the lyrics don't entirely make sense in places, but who can resist that chorus?

Get in touch! If you've got a question, an item to share with people working in health & social care, or just want to suggest a tune of the day, we want to hear from you! Drop us a line via gram.communications@nhs.scot.