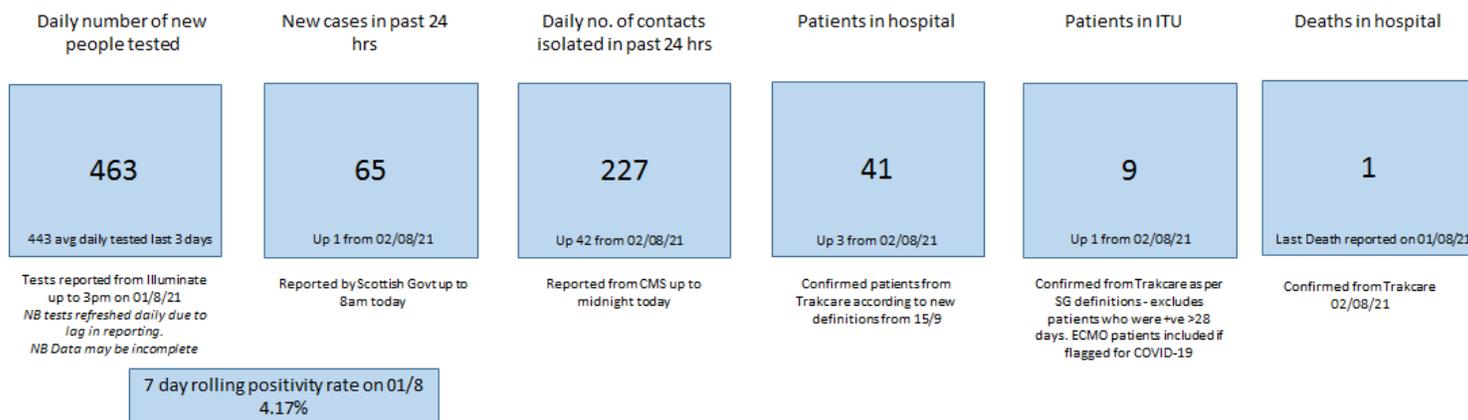


Here is the brief for Tuesday 3 August 2021.

Scottish Government update The Scottish Government has confirmed that Scotland will move 'beyond zero' on **Monday 9 August**. The announcement was detailed; we will cover as many of the key points here as we can, but [we also encourage you to read the First Minister's statement in full](#).

- From Monday 9 August, the legal requirement to physically distance in many public settings will be dropped, along with restrictions on the size of groups for social gatherings. Please bear in mind we are currently maintaining 2 metre physical distancing in healthcare settings.
- We will all still be required to wear face coverings or face masks in the usual public venues. [The FAQ on the extended use of face masks in healthcare settings is available to read here](#). Recognised exemptions will still apply.
- Test & Protect will still carry out contact tracing, therefore hospitality venues will still collect details from patrons.
- Those who can work at home are being encouraged to continue to do so. All employers are being encouraged to consider hybrid working arrangements in the longer term.
- COVID status certification – sometimes called COVID passports – remain under consideration for certain, higher-risk, venues but no decision has been taken. An app is being developed to allow people to have a digital copy of their vaccine certification; information has been shared in this brief previously about obtaining written proof of vaccination for travel purposes.
- Any adult (18+) with symptoms of COVID-19, or a positive test result, will still be required to self-isolate in line with the current rules. However, those identified as close contacts who are double vaccinated (with at least 2 weeks elapsed from their 2nd dose), who do not have symptoms, and who produce a negative PCR test result can end self-isolation as soon as a negative result is confirmed.
- Anyone aged 5-17 who is identified as a close contact will need to take a PCR test, with self-isolation ending at confirmation of a negative result. Children under 5 will be encouraged, but not required, to take a PCR test.
- There will be no blanket isolation of whole classes, should a school age child/young person test positive. Instead contact tracing will take a targeted approach, identifying those most at risk.
- For the first 6 weeks of the new school term (all local authority pupils in Grampian will return on Tuesday 17 August), school staff will be required to maintain 1 metre physical distancing from each other and from pupils. Staff, and pupils aged 12+ will still be required to wear face coverings or face masks in school settings. This will be regularly reviewed.
- In advance of the return to school, pupils are encouraged to take a Lateral Flow Device test and to keep taking up the offer of twice weekly testing once teaching resumes.

Grampian data Here is the local update for today, including the 7-day rolling positivity rate. 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](#).

Electronic patient record NHS Grampian is delighted to announce that we are launching our inpatient electronic record (IP EPR) developed in Trakcare. This is a significant step towards delivering our fully Digital Ward. Our co-design with the Digital Health Institute to improve record keeping and design a person-centred record has reached an exciting milestone: after thorough live testing in Ward 103, Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, using the learning gained there to improve, we are now ready to roll out across NHS Grampian. Watch Karen Beaton, Lead Nurse for Digital Ward, and Ben Dobb, Consultant in Acute Medicine, take you on a ‘walk through’ the Inpatient EPR.

Ben’s video: [Watch 'Short Electronic IP Notes Walk Through'](#)

Karen’s video: [IP EPR Walk through for Nursing Staff](#)

In addition, you can find a [Digital Ward Short Guide](#) and all other resources on the [Training and Support](#) section of the [Digital Ward intranet page](#) (networked devices only) where you can also find information on the roll out schedule.

Clinical Board – invitation to join Prof. Nick Fluck (Medical Director and Chair) would like to invite interested staff to attend the Clinical Board. The group are keen to build on the multi-professional and multiagency health and care network which has been created across Grampian and so would like to invite all interested staff to attend and contribute.

The group meets to discuss a range of topics including System Pressure, the Vaccination Programme, Education, Research, and other pertinent topics, to strengthen the direction of activity in line with agreed strategic objectives to support response, recovery, remobilisation and renewal. The meetings take place via Teams, on a fortnightly basis (which alternates between Tuesday and Wednesday) at 4pm. If you would like to become a member, please email gram.clinicalboard@nhs.scot

Working at Home tax relief HMRC Tax Allowance for those working from home (even for just 1 day in the year) can be claimed and needs to be reclaimed each year. Employees who are required to work from home can claim tax relief of £6 per week from 6th April 2020. No evidence of receipts, bills or contracts are required. The employee can access further information on the HMRC website. (<https://www.gov.uk/tax-relief-for-employees/working-at-home>)

Thought for the day There's a lot to absorb in today's announcement. Maybe it changes a lot for you, maybe it changes very little. As we've frequently said, do take the time to 'sit with' the upcoming changes and what they will mean for you. Ignore the noise, the commentary, the endless 'hot takes' on social media. Stick with the facts and you won't go far wrong.

Tune of the day Jacki Purves takes on selection duties today and she has given us an absolute beauty – [Midnight Train to Georgia, by Gladys Knight and The Pips](#). As well as being a complete tune in its own right, it features in a memorable karaoke scene in House, and was also transformed into 'Midnight Train to Huntly' in the HMT panto a few years back – the memory of Elaine C Smith belting out that one will live on for a long time!

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.