

COVID-19 Brief

coronavirus



Here is the brief for Tuesday 29 December 2020.

Grampian figures Here are the figures for today and the previous four days. Click [here](#) to see all the data published by Public Health Scotland, which includes neighbourhood figures for all local authority areas in Scotland.

	Daily number of new people tested	New cases in past 24 hrs	Daily no. of contacts isolated in past 24 hrs	Patients in hospital	Patients in ITU	Deaths in hospital
Fri 25/12	707	150	127	42	5	0
Sat 26/12	790	103	121	51	7	3
Sun 27/12	442	57	175	47	6	0
Mon 28/12	289	88	192	52	6	0
Tue 29/12	462	164	165	59	9	0

398 avg daily tested last 3 days	Up 76 from 28/12/20	Down 27 from 28/12/20	Up 7 from 28/12/20	Up 3 from 28/12/20	Last death recorded 26/12/20
Tests reported from illuminate up to 3pm on 27/12/20 NB tests refreshed daily due to lag in reporting	Reported by Scottish Govt up to 8am today	Reported from CMS up to 15:30 today	Confirmed patients from Trakcare according to new definitions from 15/9	Confirmed from Trakcare as per SG definitions - excludes patients who were <ve >28 days. ECMO patients included if flagged for COVID-19	Confirmed from Trakcare

Acute sector update Across the acute sector over the last few days we have continued to face challenges around staffing and capacity. Demands created by COVID-19 are now being accompanied by usual winter pressures – today for instance we dealt with dozens of patients, at the Emergency Department, who had slipped on ice, leading to orthopaedic and head injuries. Since before Christmas, we have seen a rise in the number of hospitalised COVID-19 patients once again – this morning we were up more than 20% on 23 December - and it is anticipated that this will rise further in the coming days following the increased mixing of people and households at Christmas.

Due to the pressure these factors, accompanied by staff absence, again due to COVID-19 and winter pressures, we have unfortunately seen ambulances having to wait at the front door as a result. We are working hard to create extra capacity and address these delays. We are continuing to expedite flow improvement work within Aberdeen Royal Infirmary and working with our Health and Social Care partners to improve discharge and transfer out of the hospital as part of our “Home First” focus to

increase daily bed capacity. We also recently launched the Pick Me Up Project to encourage people to collect their loved-ones, who are ready for discharge, during the working day to free up more bed space in the hospital for those who are acutely ill. We would once again thank you all for your continued efforts over the festive period and at this extraordinary time. You are all truly remarkable.

Life in Level 4 – travel restrictions As you will be well aware, mainland Scotland moved to [Level 4](#) of COVID-19 restrictions on Boxing Day. You can see the full detail on what this means by clicking the link above, but the key point we should all remember is not to travel out of our local authority area, unless for essential purposes. The full list of travel exemptions is available [here](#).

COVID-19 vaccine – email correction Please note, if you need to cancel a clinic appointment at ARI, the email address to use is gram.aricovidvacc@nhs.scot. An incorrect email address was circulated in the brief on 24 December; we apologise for any inconvenience caused.

The vaccination programme team want to extend their thanks again to everyone who has requested an appointment for their patience. Appointments are being put in place each day and information issued directly to those who have requested them.

MS Teams – best practice Please ensure any MS Team you ‘own’ is set to ‘private’ and that the Team name is prefixed with ‘GRAM’. These are essential parts of our data compliance when using MS Teams and are mandatory. For information on setting Teams to private, please click [here](#) (Intranet link, networked devices only). The same menu that lets you check whether a Team is private is also the one you use to check the name of your Team and add the ‘GRAM’ prefix if it isn’t there.

Thought for the day Hopefully you were able to enjoy a break and mark Christmas, albeit in a different way this year. Our thoughts now turn towards Hogmanay. It is a holiday that is rich in tradition in Scotland with first footing and the giving of special gifts. We have further traditions particular to us in the north-east – the fireballs in Stonehaven and burning the clavie in Burghead – that, yet again, the pandemic has robbed us of. As with Christmas, it is natural to be feeling a range of emotions right now: sadness, anger, relief (not all gatherings are happy ones), or fear at what the coming months may bring. This year we must keep our celebrations small and take ‘a cup o’ kindness’ only with our immediate household. Whatever you are planning for Thursday evening – a movie marathon, digging out the board games, or cooking a favourite meal – remember that keeping to your household is an act of care not only for yourself and your loved ones, but also for the communities we live in.

Items for the brief? If you have something you would like to be considered for inclusion in this brief, please send this to gram.communications@nhs.scot. Messages should be clearly marked as ‘Daily brief – for consideration’. Please be aware that space is limited, and items are prioritised based on subject matter and relevance to all staff groups.