

Here is the brief for Friday 28 January 2022.

COVID-19 in Grampian We have seen a 13% rise in detected cases between last week and this (based on combined PCR and lateral flow results) and are one of only two board areas in Scotland reporting an increase. This uptick may be short lived but there is continued uncertainty about the trajectory of cases in the community. We are increasingly reliant on epidemiological surveys (including staff testing) to understand the burden of infection in our communities. The latest ONS survey shows a continued decrease in infection, equating to approximately 1 in 30 people (an improvement from last week 1 in 20/25).

There is an increasing number of cases amongst young children aged between 5 and 11 which is explained more in our [situation update video](#). In the past 7 days, 14 schools (mostly primaries) were affected with 10 or more cases. We have begun offering vaccination to children aged 5-11 who are identified as being at greater risk from COVID-19 (see more on this below)

There were 80 COVID-19 hospital admissions last week – remaining high but stable. However, occupancy is high with an average of 95 patients in hospital each day over the past week. The biggest increase is in people over 70 years old and approximately half of these are ‘for’ COVID-19. The virus continues to put our system under pressure. Our staffing levels, whilst improving, continue to be challenging both in wards and out in the community.

Thank you for everything you are doing to keep yourself and your colleagues safe. Wearing masks and regular testing (remember to log your results, whatever they may be!) makes a huge difference.

Vaccination for 5–11-year-olds at risk Letters were sent out this week to the parents or carers of children aged 5-11 years old, identified as being at greater risk from COVID-19 and offering vaccination. Parents and carers of these children are being invited to drop-in to clinics in Aberdeen and Elgin this weekend, to have a discussion with the team before they make a final decision. Aberdeenshire centres are not open at weekends; parents/carers in this area are welcome to attend whichever centre is most convenient for them.

- **Saturday 29 January**

Marywell Health Centre, 90 College Street, Aberdeen, AB11 6FD

Inverurie Road Clinic, 106 Inverurie Road, Bucksburn, Aberdeen AB21 9AT

Bridge of Don Clinic, Cairnfold Road, Bridge of Don, Aberdeen, AB22 8LD

Fiona Elcock Vaccination Centre, Unit 7, Elgin Retail Park, Edgar Road, Elgin IV30 6RP

- **Sunday 30 January**

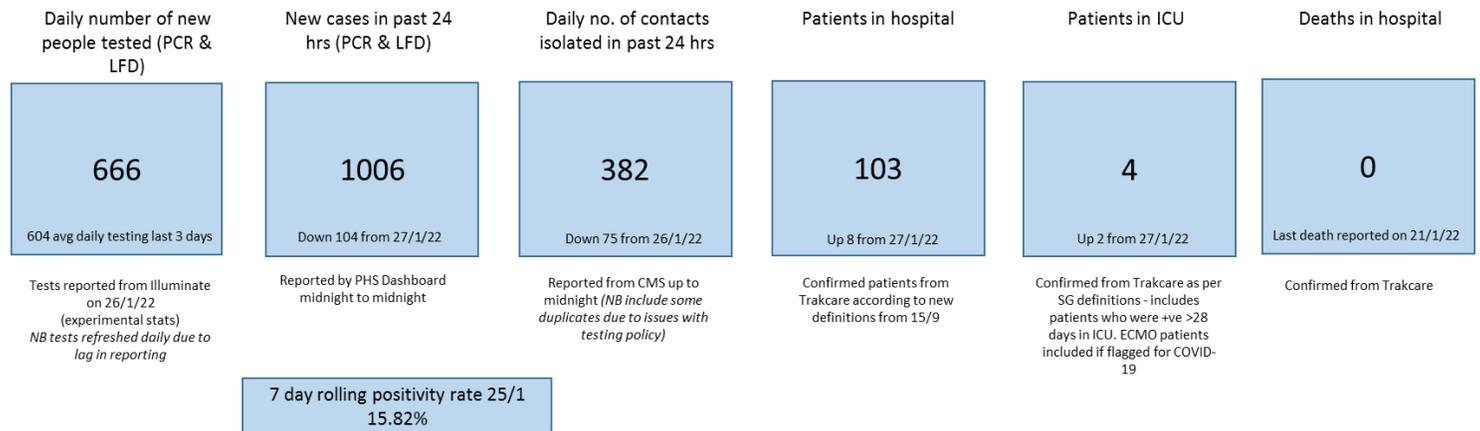
Marywell Health Centre, 90 College Street, Aberdeen, AB11 6FD

Fiona Elcock Vaccination Centre, Unit 7, Elgin Retail Park, Edgar Road, Elgin IV30 6RP

Drop in at the Aberdeen venues is between 9.30am and 4pm, or between 11am-5pm at the Fiona Elcock Vaccination Centre.

Avian influenza – Public Health advice A record number of cases of avian influenza (or ‘bird flu’ as it’s commonly known) have been confirmed across England, Scotland, and Wales in wild and captive birds this winter. While avian influenza is not uncommon in winter and the risk to human health from infected birds is very low, a human case of avian ‘flu was confirmed in England earlier this month. As such, we should not touch any sick or dead birds we may come across. Please leave the bird where it has been found, and then inform the Department of Environment, Food, & Rural Affairs by telephone on 03459 33 55 77.

Grampian data The local update for today is shown below.



[For more detailed data, covering the whole of Scotland, please visit the PHS daily dashboard](#)

Launch of fire safety training eLearning modules The Fire Safety Team have introduced an amended selection of fire safety eLearning modules within TURAS. These modules are aimed at supporting staff on a range of fire safety topics during these challenging times with the reduced opportunity of face-to-face training. These are in line with the guidance contained within NHSScotland ‘Firecode’ Scottish Health Technical Memorandum 83: Part 2 Fire Safety Training and NHS Grampian Fire Safety Policy – Fire Training Protocol. A simple navigation table showing which module or training package would be appropriate to your individual role or training needs and the frequency of this training will be available to view within the Fire Safety section on TURAS. However, the 3 new modules are:

- General Fire Safety module incorporating Inpatient – Clinical / Community Care Staff guidance – This covers rudimentary fire safety information, evacuation and potential fire hazards within a hospital environment and out in the Community.
- Senior Nurse / Manager – Provides Command and Control advice of actions to be considered for incident controllers during a developing fire emergency.
- Fire Warden – This contains role specific information that will enhance local fire evacuation provision where simultaneous or immediate evacuation is being employed.

Further advice or any queries should be directed to the general fire safety team mailbox on gram.firesafety@nhs.scot

Fire and smoke alarms in Scottish Homes As previously highlighted, the law on the provision of linked fire alarms in your home is changing in Scotland. It is important this should be considered so you have sufficient protection in place to provide early warning of fire. More detailed information on these changes [is available on the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service website](#).

Use of Mobile Data on NHSG provided devices Mobile devices such as Smartphones and MiFi/WiFi devices (sometimes known as data dongles) are purchased from a national contract with EE. Each device has a data limit that is governed by the amount paid monthly for that device (the data Tariff). Typically, smartphones have a limit of 2GB of data per month; MiFi units, a limit of either 2GB or 8GB of data per month. The contract with EE has a “fair use” policy; allowing EE to review all user data usage over a 6-month period and if any user is seen to be consistently above their data limit then EE will increase the Tariff payable for that device. **As of January 2022, any tariff increase for using excess data will be passed directly on to the user’s departmental budget for payment.** This is a reminder to all NHSG mobile device users that data tariffs should only be used for NHSG business.

Positive feedback Let’s close off the working week with some positive news and huge congratulations to six teams across NHS Grampian who have received regular and completely positive feedback via Care Opinion:

ARI: [General Surgery](#), [Orthopaedics](#), [Breast Services](#)

Dr Gray’s Hospital: [Paediatrics](#)

Woodend Hospital: [Elective Orthopaedics](#)

Peterhead Hospital: [Peterhead Maternity Unit](#)

You can read the feedback for these teams yourself by clicking on the relevant links above. While Care Opinion reviews are only a snapshot, they do give an insight to what truly person-centred care looks like and what is important to patients. The kind words patients and their families share also help with individual and team motivation, give a confidence boost, and let staff know their skills are valued and appreciated. If you would like to know more about Care Opinion in your area, please get in touch with kirsten.dickson@nhs.scot

Ticket offer The team at P&J Live have passed on details of two discounts for upcoming events, which may be of interest:

[John Bishop \(18 Feb\) – 50% off ticket price](#)

L.O.L.Surprise! VIP party (5 March) 2 for 1 offer. There are two shows, please click on the relevant link:

[2pm on Saturday 5 March](#)

[5.30pm on Saturday 5 March](#)

Tune of the day Thanks to Eva Bohlert for this suggestion – with a birthday coming up, she has gone for [What’s My Age Again? by Blink-182](#) (The video is a little cheeky, be warned).

Whether working or resting, we wish you a good weekend. The brief will return on Monday.

If you want to request a song for tune of the day, follow up on items included in this brief, or suggest an item for sharing, drop us an email via gram.communications@nhs.scot