

Here is the brief for Friday 11 February 2022.

State of the virus The new case rate has been relatively stable this week. However, it is still almost three times higher than the rate observed just two months ago. We are third top in the Scottish NHS 'league table', the one table we want to be bottom of!

[Our Public Health surveillance video report](#) this week highlights changing trends in age groups. There is now a continued fall in cases amongst school age children, but a distinct rise in 19-29 year olds. Some of this increase is affecting students but that is unlikely to be the sole driver. These trends are consistent nationally, so our targeted communications will be focused on basic protections, particularly testing, and ensuring availability of testing kits in areas of high footfall amongst young people.

Last week we highlighted high compliance with mask wearing, reported via the ONS. We need to keep this up, using masks wherever they are required. Research by the Centre for Disease Control (see below) demonstrates the effectiveness of the various types of mask:

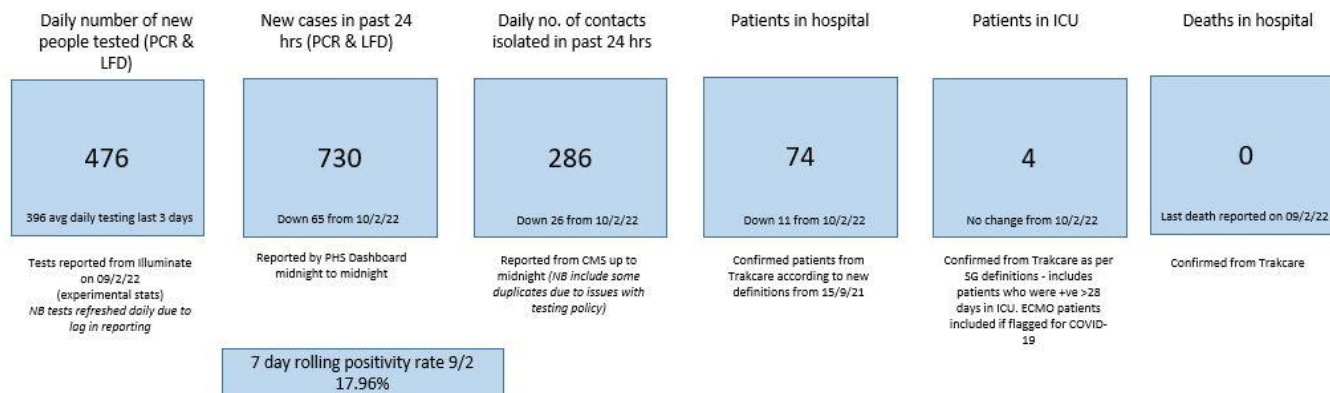


At this point in time when people might be thinking 'it's all over', wearing a mask reminds us it isn't and it demonstrates we care about others, by reducing the risk we pose to them. As we start thinking about how we want the future to look, living with the virus means very different things to different people. Personal responsibility means considering risk to others, continuing the strong solidarity and community spirit we have had throughout the pandemic. It's also worth remembering mask wearing and frequent hand washing are valuable public health interventions, reducing the risk of spreading other infectious diseases. We need only look at the extraordinarily low levels of 'flu for proof of that.

Culture Matters Staff Survey - Why Take Part? The Culture Matters Survey will launch on Monday (14 February), specifically focused on Nursing & Midwifery and Facilities & Estates teams in NHS Grampian and the three Health & Social Care Partnerships. This is a chance for you to share your views and have your say on organisational culture and provide robust feedback which will inform your teams report. You are encouraged to answer as honestly as possible to help the planning and understanding of your experience whilst at work. It is important for us to understand what we do well, where our gaps are, and what we are not delivering for staff. Taking time to complete the survey is much appreciated and we want you to be assured you are listened to and that we will act on the results from the survey.

Survey packs have been sent out this week, containing all the information you need. If you work in Nursing & Midwifery or Facilities & Estates and have not received your pack, please get in touch via gram.culturematters@nhs.scot. Further information is also available on [the dedicated intranet page](#) (networked devices only) and keep your eyes peeled for regular announcements via this brief and NHS Grampian social media channels.

Grampian data The local update for today is shown below.



[The Public Health Scotland daily dashboard is available to view via this link.](#)

Chaplaincy on-call this weekend As highlighted in a global email earlier, the chaplaincy on-call service today and over this weekend will be as follows:

Friday 11 February – On Call Chaplain available until 6.30pm

Saturday 12 February – On Call Chaplain available from 8.30am-6.30pm

Sunday 13 February – On Call Chaplain available from 8.30am-6.30pm

During this period, a full on-call service continues to be available when there is a need for the services of a Roman Catholic Priest. The on-call Priest can be contacted via Switchboard. The situation will be reviewed on Monday 14 February.

NHS Scotland National Event, 21-22 June As you will be aware this year's NHS Scotland event marks a return to in-person seminars and networking following a virtual event in 2021. We're delighted that the event will be in Aberdeen (at P&J Live). It will focus on Pandemic Recovery and Reform for the Future.

There is an opportunity for all health boards to submit abstracts for the parallel or spotlight sessions, which should demonstrate very real examples of excellent practice across NHS Scotland and its partners, for consideration by event organisers. There are 12 Parallel sessions, repeated on both days, lasting 75 minutes and four Spotlight Sessions scheduled for each day which feature three separate presentations of up to 20 minutes each

Abstracts for either parallel or spotlight should be focused around the general theme of the Event and reflect one or more of its programme areas: Focus on whole system, Quality, Values & Experience, Improved Population Health, Equity as well as Cross cutting themes – of transformation, sustainably and innovation, and workforce.

Each Board is able to submit a maximum of 5 abstracts, which must be approved by the Chief Executive in advance. The deadline for submitting abstracts to the organisers is 23 February. So, if you would like to put an abstract forward for Chief Executive approval, please e-mail it to: gram.conference@nhs.scot by **5pm on Friday 18th February** for assessment prior to consideration by the Chief Executive.

The template in which abstracts should be submitted is attached along with further guidance. Please note these abstracts are separate from the poster competition.

STAR Award Huge congratulations to the Compound Team (Colin Bullamore, Mitchell Dolan, Alan Dolan, David Yule, and Glen McHattie), the first recipients of a team STAR award for their hard work in processing *every single* bag of Orange Stream waste since the start of the pandemic. If you want to nominate an individual or team going above and beyond in health & social care, you can email gram.staffthanksandrecognition@nhs.scot or [complete the online nomination form](#).

Tune of the day [Dream of a Lifetime](#), from the 1985 album of the same name, is not one of Marvin Gaye's better known tunes, but it's both grand and reflective and a lovely way to round off the week.

Whatever you are doing this weekend, stay safe, rest up where you can, and come back to us safe. 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