

Here is the brief for Tuesday 7 December 2021.

Omicron – what’s the latest? 99 cases of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 have been confirmed in Scotland, including a small number here in Grampian. The current evidence suggests it is more transmissible than the Delta variant. There may also be grounds to believe it is more able to evade natural immunity (from previous infection) or immunity due to vaccination. The Scottish Government are not introducing any new restrictions but are keeping the situation under daily review and have stressed the need for all of us to comply with the current rules. In particular, they are encouraging everyone who can work at home to do so. As you will be aware, the NHS Grampian position is that all of us who can work at home should do so, and plan on this basis until 31 March 2022. In last night’s brief, we highlighted some changes to the self-isolation guidance for staff – [you can view this in full here](#).

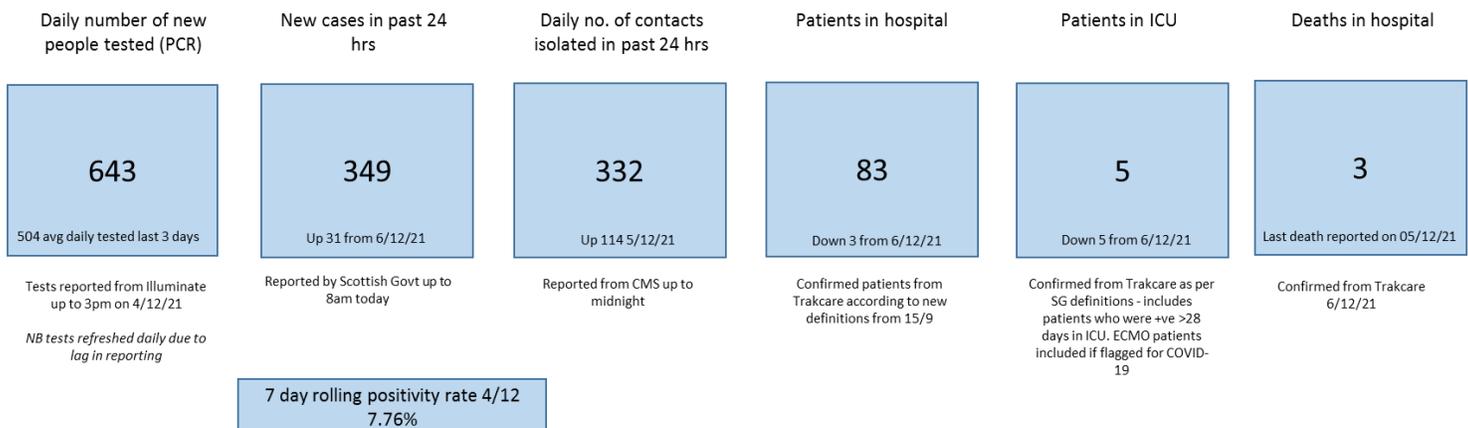
Tighter rules on international travel have been introduced in response to Omicron. If you are planning any travel outwith the Common Travel Area (that is, England, Wales, Northern Ireland, Republic of Ireland, Isle of Man, or the Channel Islands), it is vital you understand what the current requirements are, not only here, but also in the country you are travelling to. You should also check the relevant sections of the HR Q&As

[Scottish Government information on travel.](#)

[HR Q&As](#)

Web Filter Change / Teams Video Issue As shared earlier, technical issues around the Web Filter have been resolved, and eHealth will implement a new web filtering system at 7.30am this Thursday (9 December). There will be a very brief interruption in access to any web-based applications during the switchover. If a website used for business purposes is blocked, please log a service desk call using the Website Unblock form on the [Self Service Portal](#) and your request will be considered. With respect to Teams video, the team need to assess the impact of the change above on clinical system performance. Monday 13 December is a tentative date for the resumption of video; a confirmed date will be announced as soon as possible.

Grampian data The local update for today is shown below.



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

Clinical Board The Clinical Board is a meeting which emerged due to the upheaval and adversity at the start of the pandemic to discuss and review complex clinical care. It has grown to become a multi-professional, multi-agency health and care network across Grampian which discusses a range of topics and is an open forum for engagement. [A video has been created](#) to celebrate the success of Clinical Board but also to highlight the value of being a member, both as an individual and as part of a team. Anyone is welcome to join so if you are interested, please email gram.clinicalboard@nhs.scot

Positivitree We're sharing another 'Positivitree' post today. If you're unfamiliar with this, all the comments shown were gathered during recent public engagement sessions, held to inform the new NHS Grampian strategy.



Advent Achievements In line with all UK centres, the Aberdeen Centre for Reproductive Medicine closed at the start of the pandemic, with only emergency fertility preservasions available, and the nursing/midwifery team were redeployed. A huge amount of work went into planning the return of the service, working closely with other fertility centres in Scotland. Staff have changed the way they worked and, where possible, care is delivered remotely, using NHS Near Me. The redesign of the service, to respond to uncertainty, has been successful, and achieved through team commitment. Waiting times have been significantly reduced post enforced closure, success (pregnancy) rates established, and Government targets met. Well done to the whole team!

Tune of the day Catherine Buchan is responsible for today's choice – she's dedicating [Jingle Bell Rock](#) to all the team at Finlayson Street Surgery in Fraserburgh, especially Laura and Ali.

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