

Here is the brief for Monday 24 May 2021.

COVID-19 vaccination – self registration for 18-29 year olds People aged 18-29, who have yet to receive their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine are now able to register for an appointment here: <https://www.nhsinform.scot/under30register> This portal will be open until Friday 4 June, with appointments expected to take place from mid-June onwards. If anyone you know is eligible, but they don't have access to the internet or a smartphone, they can still register for SMS and email updates by calling the national COVID-19 Vaccination Helpline on 0800 030 8013.

Vaccine effectiveness – Public Health England study A new study by Public Health England, published over the weekend, has highlighted the effectiveness of current vaccines against the variant B.1.617.2 (first identified in India).

The [study found](#) that, for the period from 5 April to 16 May:

- the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine was 88% effective against symptomatic disease from the B.1.617.2 variant 2 weeks after the second dose, compared to 93% effectiveness against the B.1.1.7 variant.
- 2 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine were 60% effective against symptomatic disease from the B.1.617.2 variant compared to 66% effectiveness against the B.1.1.7 variant.
- both vaccines were 33% effective against symptomatic disease from B.1.617.2, 3 weeks after the first dose compared to around 50% effectiveness against the B.1.1.7 variant.

The difference in effectiveness between the vaccines after 2 doses may be explained by the fact that rollout of second doses of AstraZeneca was later than for the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, and other data on antibody profiles show it takes longer to reach maximum effectiveness with the AstraZeneca vaccine.

As more of the population are vaccinated – and therefore more data becomes available – further studies on effectiveness are expected. We will continue to share information on these in future briefs.

Vaccine Status Scheme We shared information in Friday's brief on the process you should follow to view your vaccine status, if you were immunised via the staff programme or didn't otherwise receive a 'blue envelope' appointment. Click [here](#) to find out more – **please note that while it is possible to view your status, a security issue means the ability to download a certificate is currently suspended**

Reflections on the changing workplace We want to say a particular thank you to everyone who has taken the time to share their thoughts on the changing workplace. Many of you gave very detailed responses and we are grateful for your honesty. In the interest of balance, we wanted to share some statements from those who have found working at home challenging:

Clearly those making the decision to work from home have enjoyed time with family however for those who go home to an empty house and now have to work at home alone it is very isolating. Being isolated and not seeing your work colleagues does not make a productive workforce.

I HATE the days when I am home working - I find my focus drifting, I feel isolated and always end up working longer hours than I would in the office. It really blurs the lines between home and work life and in a stressful role this makes switching off for much needed respite very difficult. I applaud those who are working from home full time as I don't know how they manage.

We will be sharing all the anonymised responses with senior management, for their further consideration. We try to ensure this brief is meaningful for everyone working across health & social. However, we recognise that policies on where you work (and how) are specific to your employer, which for many of you will be a local authority.

We would remind everyone working for NHS Grampian that guidance from the Scottish Government (which can be read in full [here](#)) says working at home arrangements should be agreed in writing. The GAPF Terms & Conditions Sub-group has drafted a template letter, attached to the email used to send out this brief. It is intended as a guide for line managers and individual arrangements can be added as required. However, no sections should be removed, as it outlines the minimum requirements.

Grampian data The local figures for today (and over the weekend) and the 7-day rolling positivity rate are shown below. 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, whereas the figures we show here only record new tests.

	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
Sat 22/05	468	12	65	7	1	0
Sun 23/05	97*	7	48	7	1	0
Mon 24/05	133*	8	55	7	1	0

233 avg daily tested last 3 days	Up 1 from 23/05/21	Up 7 from 23/05/21	No change from 23/05/21	No change from 23/05/21	Last recorded death 23/04
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Tests reported from Illuminate up to 3pm on 22/05/21 NB tests refreshed daily due to lag in reporting *may be incomplete	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
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7 day rolling positivity rate on 20/5 0.63%
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The Public Health Scotland daily dashboard is available to view [here](#). You can use this to see what is happening in local authorities and at neighbourhood level.

Tune of the day Today is Bob Dylan's 80th birthday. I swithered a bit on plundering his (extensive) back catalogue for a tune of the day, as I know 'His Bobness' is very much an acquired taste. However, it's hard to argue with his contribution to music and popular culture, so I've gone for [Simple Twist of Fate](#) from 1975's Blood on the Tracks. If you really cannot handle Dylan's particular tones, why not try the [Joan Baez version](#)? (fair warning, she does do an uncanny impression of the man himself during it)

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.