

Here is the brief for Friday January 14 2022.

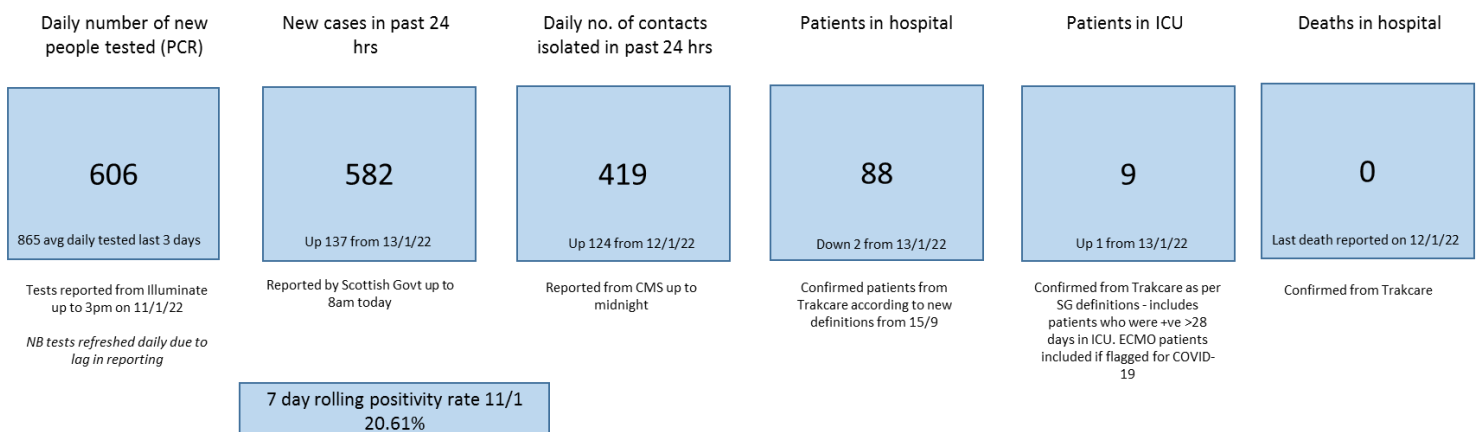
What a difference a week makes. Over the past 7 days we have seen detected case rates change from 1910/100k to 1480/100k. Whilst still at the highest levels we have seen since the start of the pandemic, the past week may indicate a turning point in the omicron wave.

However uncertainties remain. Is the reduction in cases due to changes in testing, delays in labs or a genuine drop in incidence? This is difficult to answer because we are losing sight of the full extent of case burden and community transmission due to changes in testing policy. It means that we are even more reliant on individuals registering their test results. Understanding infection rates in our communities is critical knowledge that keeps us safe, allowing us to modify our behaviour based on risk. It also provides information and warning for health systems, education and the economy to prepare. It will become a vital part of our risk assessment and outbreak management when covid ceases to be a major threat and becomes endemic. So we need your help to encourage everyone to register the result of lateral flow tests, whether positive or negative.

There are other encouraging signs that suggest we may be turning a corner on the Omicron wave. The [latest situation report video](#) highlights that admissions 'for' covid in Grampian are showing the first signs of stabilising and we are also seeing hospitalisations plateau in some parts of Scotland who were ahead of us in the Omicron wave.

Things are incredibly tough across health and social care right now and this is likely to continue for a little while longer. Whilst many uncertainties remain however there are early signs that the Omicron wave may not rise as high as we thought. Our collective actions and sacrifices have all contributed to this. The Scottish Contact Survey (to week ending 5th January) reported a reduction in contacts across most age groups and a significant increase in lateral flow testing throughout the festive period. Thank you to everyone who has responded so well to public health advice.

Grampian data Here is the local Grampian data update for today. There continues to be an issue with data flow affecting reported results to Public Health Scotland.



A national update is available on the [Public Health Scotland daily dashboard](#).

Star Awards This week's recipients are Shiona McKelvie, Regional Lead OPD Training Theatres, and Ronnie Lawson, Estates Officer at Dr Gray's Hospital/

Shiona received her award at a presentation this week for her outstanding contribution towards the training and development of Operating Department Assistants during the Pandemic all who passed with distinction.

Ronnie was on call during Storm Arwen and managed to coordinate staff over a widespread area during the destruction caused by the storm.

Congratulations to both of you!

Tune of the day Today's song request comes from Marie Reid who asked us to include The Ronettes' [Baby, I Love You](#) in memory of Ronnie Spector who fronted the group and passed away earlier this week.

We're always on the lookout for your suggestions of a great song to end the day (or start it, depending on when you read this brief) so just drop us a line via gram.communications@nhs.scot That's also your first port of call if you've got any queries or an item to share.