

Here is the brief for Tuesday 2 March 2021.

Scottish Government update – education The Scottish Government have confirmed today that it is their intention for all children in Primaries 4-7 to return to school on a full-time basis from 15 March. In addition, it is hoped all secondary school pupils will be spending at least some time in school between 15 March and the start of the Easter break, with priority given to pupils in S4-6 for in-school learning. It is planned that all secondary school pupils will return to school full-time after the Easter break. The government have stressed that safety in school is their highest priority; all local authorities will - at least until Easter - continue to observe the current requirement for 2m physical distancing in secondary schools and when secondary schools return, face coverings will need to be worn at all times. You can read the full government statement [here](#).

Variant of Concern detected in Grampian A significant amount of work has been undertaken over the last 48 hours to carry out enhanced contact tracing, related to the three cases of a COVID-19 variant of concern detected in Grampian. In addition to the usual Test & Protect strategy, local teams have also been establishing who the 'contact of contacts' may be and offering them testing. This isn't standard procedure but is being followed for these cases as an additional precaution. It is important to take this opportunity to highlight the rapid response of the local Public Health and Health Protection teams. As noted by the Chief Medical Officer our teams swung into action immediately and, as they have done throughout the pandemic, they have worked effectively and efficiently. We are extremely grateful to them for their efforts.

The National Contact Tracing Centre are working to trace those who were onboard BA Flight 1312 from Heathrow to Aberdeen on 29 January. Given not all the data they have received is correct, they are asking anyone on that flight who did not provide up-to-date contact details to call the NHS National Contact Tracing Centre on 0800 030 8012

COVID-19 vaccine and fertility We have all likely heard various claims about the COVID-19 vaccines. One of the most persistent suggestions is that the vaccines may impact fertility. The Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists has a clear statement on this, which we wanted to share with all health & social care staff:

There is no evidence to suggest that COVID-19 vaccines will affect fertility.

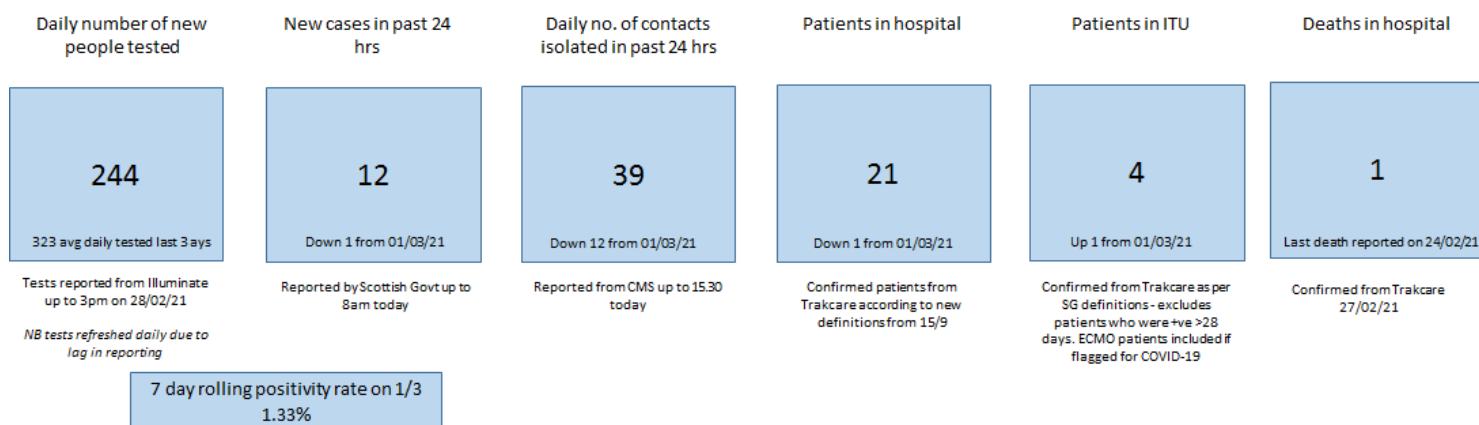
There is no biologically plausible mechanism by which current vaccines would cause any impact on women's fertility. Evidence has not been presented that women who have been vaccinated have gone on to have fertility problems.

Likewise, the theory that immunity to the spike protein could lead to fertility problems is not supported by evidence. Most people who contract COVID-19 will develop antibody to the spike and there is no evidence of fertility problems in people who have already had COVID-19.

As more evidence becomes available on the safety of each vaccine (from following up people for longer), we will update our advice.

This is part of the RCOG online Q&A about the vaccine, which is available to read in full [here](#).

Grampian data The local figures for today 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.



Electronic Patient Record NHS Grampian aims to introduce a comprehensive, multi-professional, person centred, electronic patient record across the organisation by December 2021. We have taken the learning from a series of person-centred [records workshops](#) which many of you have been a part of and developed an initial build in TrakCare. We have started to test this in a live setting to further develop the processes. Initial testing in Ward 103 began at the end of January 2021. This fully supported testing involved the nurses continuing to enter into the patient admission assessment record (including patient placement tool) with the addition of medical staff entering medical clerking, senior review, and medicine reconciliation directly into TrakCare. All staff now contribute toward the patient's daily goal, problem list and continuous care record electronically. To find out more about this project, click [here](#) to watch a short video, filmed prior to the pandemic.

Key Guidance for Managers, Budget-Holders and Staff on Financial Year End Processes Please click [here](#) (intranet link, networked devices only) to view the guidance to be followed and the deadlines for submission of the required information as we complete the 2020/21 financial year end. This includes, where applicable, specific returns for accrued income / expenditure, and stock holdings. Compliance with this guidance is critical to the successful completion of NHS Grampian's financial year end and annual accounts process. If you have any queries on the guidance please contact your aligned Management Accountant or Finance Manager for clarification.

Thought for the day Something a little bit different today, but a big development for everyone working in social care. In person visiting has resumed in care homes, following strict criteria. This is an incredibly emotional time for residents, their relatives and care home staff; thank you to Amanda McRae (manager), Norah Peddie (resident) and Anne Chalmers (relative) from Edenholme Care Home for sharing their experience yesterday:



Anne: I'm just back from seeing mum this morning and had to write to thank you and your staff so much for making this happen! I did feel quite anxious heading for the visit, but from the moment I walked through the door, everyone was so friendly, welcoming and helpful and it felt very safe and well organised. Seeing mum up close and to actually hug her is beyond words and the months not seeing her just fell away. This is such a huge step forward and it's going to be just brilliant to see her more regularly and more normally again. Once again, words cannot express how grateful I am to everyone for all their care and attention throughout this time.

Amanda: Today has been really wonderful and hugely emotional for all of the staff here. Seeing our residents being able to hug their families and sit and chat together has been so uplifting. We have all worked exceptionally hard to care for residents and to keep communication between families going as much as we can, but nothing can compare to face to face contact and the human touch.

Question of the day Yesterday the Chief Executive's update focused on Safer Workplaces (and if you haven't had a chance to watch it, you can do so [here](#)). We're going to be talking more about safety in our workplaces a lot more in the coming weeks, so we wanted to ask – what makes you feel safe at work? Remember, this can be any workplace – a ward, a lab, an office, working at home – we want a broad range of views. To take part, just click [here](#) or copy this link into your browser:
<https://www.menti.com/efw84kfm8v>

Questions to ask? Information to share? If you have particular questions – or are aware of questions coming from friends and family – please share them with us. We may not be able to answer every question and it may take us time to get a proper answer, but we will endeavour to respond and share the answers. You can get in touch with us via gram.communications@nhs.scot. Please also use that email address if you have items for consideration for future briefs.