

COVID-19 Brief

coronavirus



Here is the brief for Tuesday 1 February 2022.

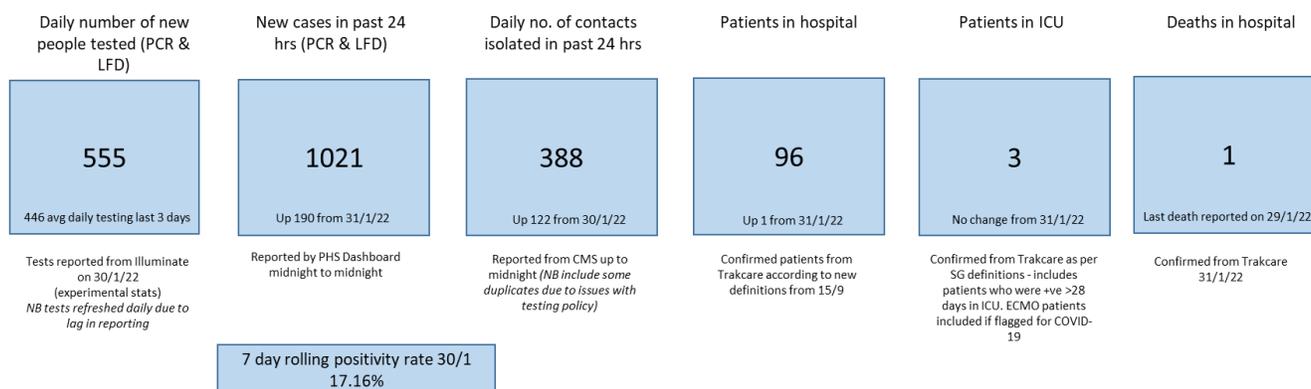
Data, data everywhere – but what does it mean? We've made it a bit of mission to support you to understand the wealth of statistics collected about COVID-19, and today is no exception.

Firstly, Public Health Scotland publish regular blog posts on their website; the most recent one sees Dr Dianne Stockton take a closer look at the information they publish on cases, hospitalisation, and death by vaccination status – and caution again making simple comparisons. [You can read her post in full on the PHS website \(and we'd encourage you to take a look\), but here are her key conclusions:](#)

- “From these analyses we know that Omicron is around one third as severe as Delta for adults (i.e. around one third the number of hospitalisations and deaths per case). This is true whatever your vaccine status – unvaccinated, partially or fully (boosted) vaccinated. For children, severity remains low and is similar to Delta.
- “Additionally, having had a booster gives a significant protection against severe outcomes for both Delta and Omicron compared to someone not vaccinated (you are at least 4 times as likely to be hospitalised if you haven't had a booster).
- “The likelihood of being hospitalised increases with age, but is much reduced at all age if you are fully vaccinated compared to unvaccinated. Of those admitted to hospital in early January 2022, many were elderly and not boosted, and of those who died in early January 2022, they were also mainly elderly and most had not been vaccinated within the last 6 months.”

Secondly, there is a change coming to the daily data published by Public Health Scotland. To date, people who have been reinfected with COVID-19 don't count as new cases in the statistical reports. If you received a positive PCR result yesterday, you will not be included as one of the new cases reported today **if you had also tested positive on a previous occasion**. However, from tomorrow, the weekly report from Public Health Scotland will contain initial data and they will incorporate this into the daily case figures later in the month. It should be noted that the daily figures for England started to include reinfections from yesterday, so for a short period of time case numbers in Scotland and England will not be directly comparable. It should be stressed that, as things stand, the current daily figures do capture the significant majority of people who test positive each day.

Grampian data The local update for today is shown below. A complete national report, including the option to view cases at a neighbourhood level, [is available via the Public Health Scotland daily dashboard](#).



Reminder - NHS Scotland National Event – call for posters If you are interested in submitting a poster to the 2022 NHS Scotland National Event poster contest, [full details on how to do this are available on the event website](#). We ask everyone who is considering submitting an abstract to get in touch via gram.conference@nhs.scot for advice and support (please don't contact individual members of the Corporate Communications team – thank you!).

Positivitree You'll be familiar with these illustrations by now, highlighting comments made during engagement sessions considering NHS Grampian's Plan for the Future. This one has a twist however, as all the comments below are from staff, about staff:



Thought for the day Well, January lasted (approximately) 763 days, but we have made it to February. 1 February marks Imbolc, part of what's called the Celtic Wheel. Rather than four seasons, this splits the year into eight. Imbolc falls roughly halfway between the Winter equinox and the Spring equinox and marks the first stirrings of Spring. Little by little, the days are stretching, snowdrops are starting to appear, and maybe (just maybe) things are looking a little brighter.

Tune of the day Many of you are now deep into the prelim zone. It's a tough enough time, but the weekend storms have led to some school disruption locally, making life yet more complicated for our young people. This one is dedicated to the parents and carers among you – it's [Harper Valley PTA](#) by Jeannie Riley

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