

Here is the brief for Friday 24 December 2021.

A message from your portfolio leads Last year when we wrote a festive message to you all, we didn't think we would be about to see the 12 months we have, we had hoped Covid-19 wouldn't dominate our thinking and healthcare system as much as it has continued to across primary, secondary and community care.

In the face of a continuing pandemic, individually and collectively you have continued to astonish us. Each of you is nothing short of incredible. No day passes where we don't hear about efforts of members of staff and teams that go above and beyond to benefit our patients and communities.

Looking at rising case numbers as we approach the New Year, do not be down heartened, we are not where we were in March 2020 and we have taken massive strides forward, both as an organisation and in wider society.

The adoption of protective measures, immense vaccine rollout in the area, new therapies and drugs we know can work; these have helped lift some of the Covid pressure from where it could have been and allowed us to carry out more of our "normal duties" than we could have otherwise. This has allowed us to continue to improve the quality of life for individuals.

Things have improved from where we were 12 months ago, although it may not always feel like it, and, while we wait to see exactly what impact Omicron will have on the health and care services, we know you will continue to give the best care possible to our patients.

Through the pressures and stresses, do not lose sight of the fact that we are still improving lives, still saving lives and still providing comfort and dignity in the cases where we cannot. Each and everyone of you plays your part in that. You are all amazing human beings doing the most incredible things in the most unprecedented of circumstances.

Looking forward, we all hope 2022 will be better, the pandemic will pass and both the world and healthcare system seems more normal. When that comes, each of you will have played an incredible part in getting us there.

For now you continue to have our heartfelt thanks for your herculean efforts. To those of you off over the festive period, relax, rest, enjoy your time off and stay safe. To those of you working, know at a management level we will continue to do our best to support you to do your job and help our patients each and every day.

Thank you.

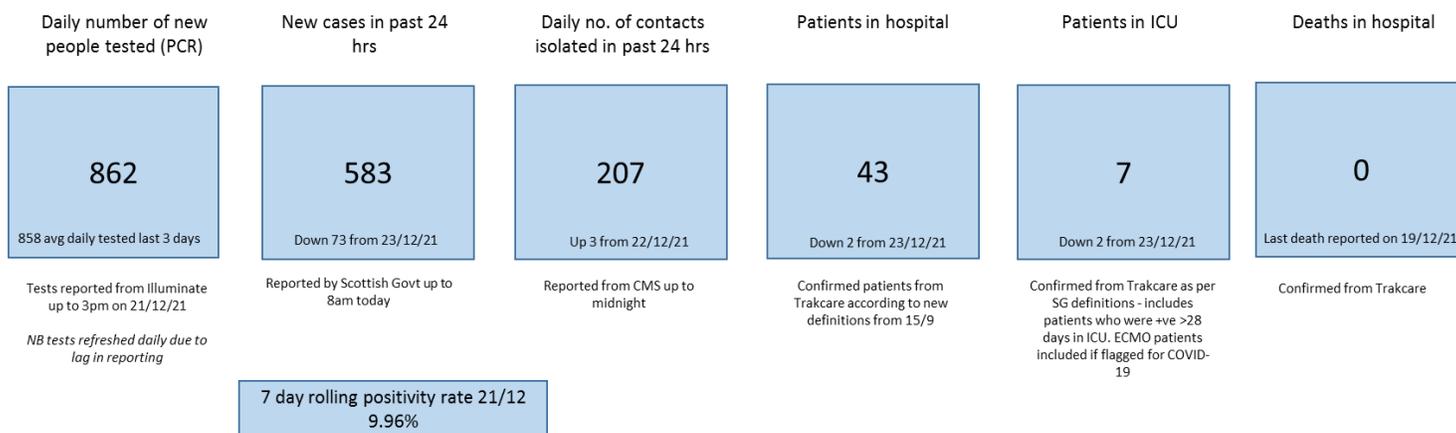
Sandra, Jenny, Paul, Simon, Susan and Pamela

System portfolio leads

Discharge Hub The discharge hub nursing team will be commencing a 7-day service the week beginning 27th December. The working hours will be 0800-1600hrs initially. The contact number for the Hub will remain the same as weekdays: 01224 (5)50700

Grampian data The local update for today (and across the weekend), including the 7-day rolling positivity rate, is shown below. Repeat tests are included in both categories. The figure for the "daily

number of new people tested” is only for the number of tests for people who have not been tested previously.



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

National Award for Dr Gray’s The Elgin hospital has been named the best in the country for hip fracture patients.

The NHS Grampian hospital, in Elgin, has won The Golden Hip Award which recognises the high standard of care the facility’s medics provide.

Toni Papadopoulos, consultant in trauma and orthopaedics at Dr Gray’s said: “This award recognises the efforts of all the staff involved and the excellent standard of care we provide here in Elgin.

“A broken hip is treated by a variety of teams. The patient’s journey usually begins in the Emergency Department, followed by surgery then rehabilitation by the nursing, physiotherapy, and occupational therapist teams on the ward.

“I would like to thank all of those teams who helped us get this amazing award, with their incredible efforts, and provide the best care for our patients.”



Testing reminder If you or members of your household experience COVID-19 symptoms, don’t use a Lateral Flow Device. Book a PCR test, through the NHSG testing team. Book a test by [clicking here](#)

Please note that these samples are tested in NHS Grampian labs and have a consistent turnaround time of within 24 hours. If you or your household member choose to go to a UK Government site for tests, turnaround times may vary and the NHS Testing Team have no access to these tests or results.

If you are an 'asymptomatic' member of NHSG staff who has been identified as a contact of a Covid-19 case and you require an urgent PCR test due to extreme pressure on your service please complete the online form and advise the reason an urgent test is required. We will contact you to organise the test and inform your line manager that the test has been booked.

Please note urgent tests should only be requested for asymptomatic staff when a result is required within a 24 hour period and only for those working in services under extreme pressure. Symptomatic staff should go through the usual staff testing route.

Please be aware the team operates a seven-day week and opening hours are 8am-7pm* and we will contact you during these times to arrange a test. *Reduced hours on Christmas Day and Boxing Day so please get your form in early.

DPH weekly update The omicron variant continues to dominate the agenda this week, with widespread interest in understanding more about its effects and impacts. Our local modelling is explained in this week's video illustrating the potential significant effect on new cases, hospital admissions and occupancy – if left unchecked. This is an important point. Changing behaviours and increased protective measures will bring the peak down and push it out further – helping to make the situation in health, social care, critical services, businesses and our everyday lives more manageable. (PS this video is 12 mins long. Not everyone wants to know the detail of our covid situation, but it is there for you if you do - and thank you to Corri Black for doing it). To view the video [click here](#)

We had positive news this week about the severity of Omicron with two studies reporting a lower risk of hospital admission compared to Delta. They are based on small numbers and it too early to draw definitive conclusions from this, but it is a hopeful sign. The Edinburgh study also reported that the booster offers substantial additional protection against Omicron, reducing the risk of symptomatic infection by about half. So great that 61% of our over 18 population is now fully vaccinated.

Getting in the festive spirit Here at the Daily Brief we've been given exclusive, behind the scenes, access to today's ARI safety brief. We're delighted to say Santa made an appearance... or it might be Deputy Medical Director for Acute, Dr Christine Hemming



Thought for the Day For 22 months – the most difficult two years our working (and personal) lives, we have faced head on, the peaks and troughs of the Covid-19 graphs. And yet we are still here – still showing up to do the job.

We don't just care for our patients, we look out for each other. We are built on loyalty and, for the most part, fuelled by caffeine, camaraderie and comedy; it helps us to deal with the hard parts, and boy has it been hard.

If you are off this Christmas enjoy it. Eat the chocolate, drink the port (or lemonade!) play the board games. Do what you need to do to be present with your loved ones, or whatever makes you happy. Do not feel guilty, you have earned it!

For those working through – we know that this is part of the business of healthcare. It doesn't switch off for the holidays and we all know that the atmosphere in your workplaces is really special at this time: on the wards, in social care settings, in virtual meetings – the effort is made.

From all of us at Daily Brief Towers, we want to thank you all for your continued support and readership. We take great joy in giving you the stuff you need to know with a sprinkling of the stuff you need to keep going.



However and wherever you will be celebrating in the coming days, Merry Christmas one and all.

Tune of the day Personally I refuse to accept it is the Christmas until I hear this tune... given it's on my shuffle playlist that sometimes happens in July and things becomes very confusing. Anyway, to the rest of you that are more festively appropriate with your playlists, "IT'S CHRISTMASSSSSSS". Here is The Darkness' yule time serenade [Christmas Time \(Don't Let the Bells End\)](#) – Let the festivities and merriment commence and bonus Yule Time points to anyone who can hit the high notes!

We're always on the look out 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.