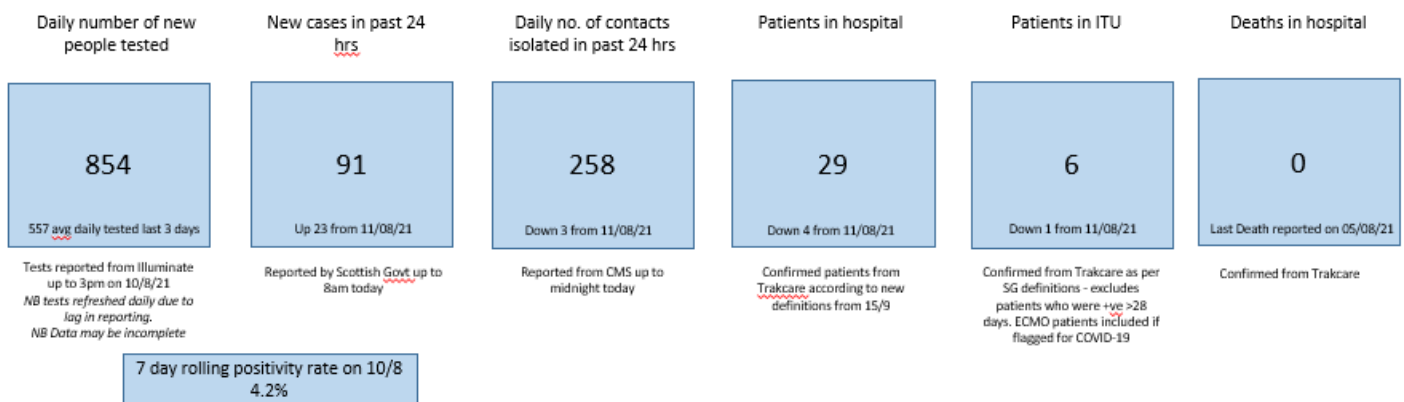


Here is the brief for Thursday 12 August 2021.

Grampian data The local update for today, including the 7-day rolling positivity rate, is 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. 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](#).

STI testing – change in lab system As of 1 September 2021, microbiology testing for Chlamydia trachomatis (CT), Neisseria gonorrhoeae (GC) and Trichomonas vaginalis (TV) sexually transmitted infections (STIs) will be changing in NHS Grampian. As the new system is a fully automated PCR platform, results will be reported as Detected or Not Detected, replacing the current Positive/Negative format. From the 1st of September the department will no longer be able to perform STI testing using BD Probec swabs/diluent tubes. STI samples will require to be sent using the Abbott multi-Collect Specimen Collection Kit. Testing of first void urines remains unchanged. The department will continue accepting currently used swab types in the interim. [Further information on this, including how to order the appropriate kit, is available on the intranet \(networked devices only\)](#)

Payroll team – new contact arrangements The Payroll team are currently experiencing very high levels of work, mainly as a result of sustained recruitment of additional employees to support our pandemic response and the associated increase in record administration. In order to ensure they can continue to deliver their core service of payroll processing, from Monday 16 August, telephone calls and email contact with the team will be limited to the hours of 2pm – 5pm, Monday – Friday.

The majority of salary queries received relate to payment for shift(s) worked. Such queries should be directed to your line manager in the first instance to check that the relevant shift(s) have been entered in SSTS and been duly authorised on time. Your support in limiting queries to those that are important is very much appreciated.

During the hours of 2pm – 5pm please contact your payroll point of contact as notified on your pay advice. If they are unavailable then please contact the Payroll hub on either 01224 (5)56512 or 01224 (5)56127 or by email gram.payroll@nhs.scot The Payroll team will aim to respond to telephone calls and emails received outwith these times within 24 hours.

Vacutainer Blood Tubes – action required Information was circulated earlier today regarding a potential shortage of the following products:

- 363095 (NDC SKU 023905) - Citrate - BD Vacutainer® Plus Citrate Tube with Light Blue BD Hemogard™ Closure 2.7 ml Na Citrate (0.109M) 13x75mm.
- 367954 (NDC SKU 023943) - Serum - Vacutainer Tube SST Plastic Yellow 5ml

If your ward/clinical area/ GP surgery uses these products, please identify your current stock levels and notify gram.logscustserv@nhs.scot, manage usage where safe to do so, and do not stockpile or over order. There will be no change to your current ordering processes.

Health and Safety - Mandatory Training – CORRECTION The Health & Safety team have advised that the refresher period for the Management of Violence and Aggression eLearning package is 18 months and not annually, as previously stated. They apologise for any confusion caused.

NHS Grampian Service of Thanksgiving & Remembrance This annual service, organised by the healthcare chaplaincy team, will be an in-person event, taking place on Sunday 12 September, at 3pm, at Queens Cross Church. The service isn't specifically to remember people who have died from COVID-19 - though it may include them - but it is to remember all our loved ones who have died, of any cause, in any of the Grampian hospitals or units in this past year.

Numbers able to attend in person will be capped at 70, but the service will also be live-streamed via the [Queens Cross Church YouTube channel](#). Those wishing to attend in person should email gram.chaplaincy@nhs.scot confirming their name, the number in their party (maximum of 4) and a contact telephone number. Places must be booked by **12noon on Friday 10 September**.

Thought for the day It is the first anniversary of the Stonehaven train derailment, in which three people – Brett McCullough, Donald Dinnie, and Christopher Stuchbury – were killed, and six others injured. Christopher in particular was well known to many of you, as a long-serving volunteer at Roxburghe House. Our thoughts are with all those marking the anniversary today.

Tune of the day Angela Davie is next up to the staff jukebox – she's suggested [Listen to the Man by George Ezra](#) – another video featuring a famous actor, in this case legend of stage and screen, Sir Ian McKellen.

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.