

Coronavirus update from the First Minister: 25 May 2021



Good afternoon everyone. Thanks for joining us today.

I'm joined today by the Chief Medical Officer, who will help me later on answer questions.

Before then though, I want to provide an update on the state of the pandemic. You'll be pleased to know that this does include some notes of cautious optimism and I'll come back to that later on. But firstly I will run through today's statistics as usual.

The total number of positive cases reported yesterday was 318.

149 of these are in the Greater Glasgow and Clyde health board area, 54 in Lothian, and 34 in Lanarkshire.

The total number represents 2% of all of the tests carried out, and means that the total number of confirmed cases now stands at 232,661.

Currently, there are 97 people receiving hospital treatment – which is 3 more than yesterday.

And 6 people are receiving intensive care, which is 1 more than the position yesterday.

Sadly I have to report that 2 deaths were reported in the past 24 hours which means that the total number of deaths registered, under the daily definition, is now 7,666.

As always, particularly on days like today when we are reporting deaths, I want to convey my condolences to everyone who has lost someone as a result of the virus.

Let me also briefly give an update on the vaccination programme.

On the contrary, we all have to work together to make sure we get uptake rates and keep uptake rates as high as we need them to be.

For all of us that means recognising that getting vaccinated is about protecting ourselves - but it is also part of our civic duty to each other and to our wider communities.

For government it is about making vaccination as easy as possible - and we will continue to explore and implement all possible ways of doing that.

Today, briefly before I finish there are two asks I want to make.

The first is for anyone who thinks they should have had an appointment but hasn't - in some cases this might be because you have moved house recently, for example.

Please go onto the NHS Inform website to arrange an appointment. The vaccinations section of the site has a section on missing appointments details, which provides a form you can submit. Alternatively, you can call the hotline on 0800 030 8013.

Doing that means that if your appointment has been missed because of, for example, wrong address details, it can be re-arranged.

And secondly, if you are aged between 18 and 29, you can now register online for vaccination. That helps to ensure that your details are correct and up to date.

You can register at this address: register.vacs.nhs.scot.

I can tell you that in the first 16 hours of this online system being operational yesterday, over 22% of everyone in that age group registered which I think is brilliant.

But if you are in that age group and haven't done so, please register now.

And if you are watching and you know someone in that age group, please make sure they're aware of this new system.

And just a reminder - register.vacs.nhs.scot.

And that's the note I want to end on. This is a bump in the road with this new variant. There are some positive signs in these outbreak areas and we need to stick with what we're doing to make sure that they continue.

But overall, we all have a part to play in making sure we keep this under control.

So continue to follow all of the advice and continue to take all of the necessary precautions and mitigations and if we all do that, and if we all support this incredible work that our public health teams across the country are doing, then I do remain confident that we will stay overall on the right path and that is a path back to the normality that we all crave.

So thank you very much again for listening and bearing with me through that update.