

Here is the brief for Friday 26 November 2021.

**Storm Arwen** A significant amount of work has taken place across health & social care today to mitigate the disruption caused by Storm Arwen. Thank you to all involved for your hard work. The latest updates on weather conditions are available via the [Met Office website](#). Our local authority partners, Police Scotland, and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency will also be issuing regular updates

**COVID boosters** People aged 40-49 will be able to book their COVID booster jab from tomorrow (Saturday 27 November), using the national booking portal. This is already open to those aged 50-59, unpaid carers who are 16 and over, and those aged 16 and over who are household contacts of immunosuppressed individuals. Where eligible, citizens will also be offered a 'flu jab at their appointment. If you know anyone in the above groups (and we guess you probably do) please share the following info with them:

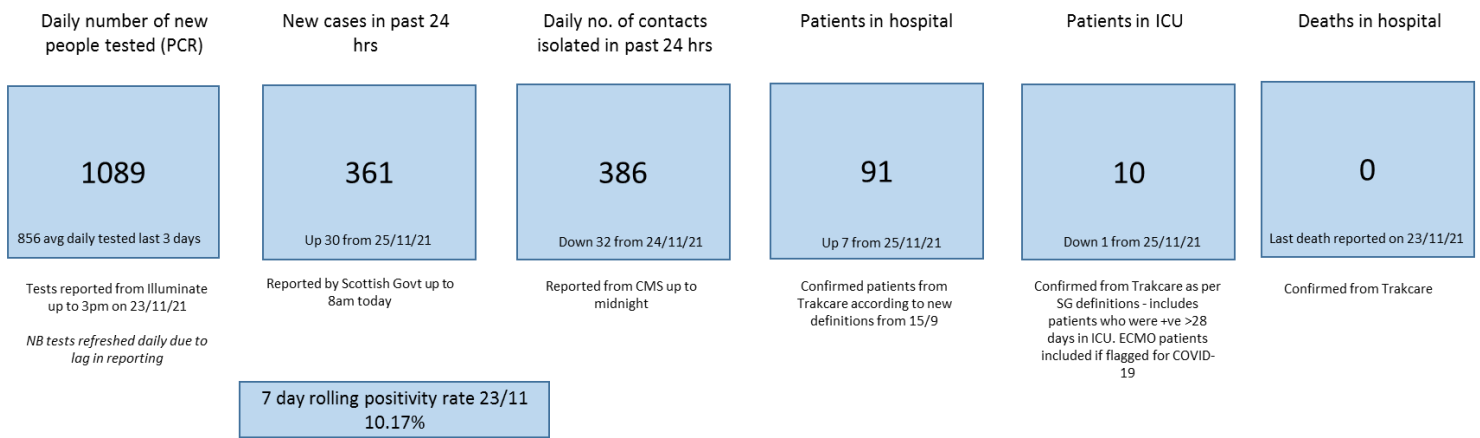
- They will not get a 'blue envelope' appointment letter. They need to book their own appointment.
- The COVID booster can only be given a minimum of 24 weeks after the second dose.
- To use the online portal, citizens will need their unique vaccination username. This can be found on any previous appointment letter. If this is not readily available, it can be located or reset on the NHS Inform "recover username" page. Those without online access, can book an appointment through the National Helpline 0800 030 8013.
- All the information citizens will need is available on [nhsinform.scot/vaccinebooking](https://nhsinform.scot/vaccinebooking)

**New research on vaccine effectiveness** Findings from a paper published in Eurosurveillance estimate that 27,656 deaths have been directly averted in Scotland as a result of the vaccination programme. The World Health Organisation led paper, supported by Public Health Scotland, documents the approximate number of lives saved in people aged 60 years and over from COVID-19 vaccination programmes in 33 countries, from December 2020 to November 2021. By using weekly numbers of observed deaths and vaccination coverage, the study estimates that a total of 469,186 (51% of expected) deaths in 33 countries have been averted as a result of vaccination. You can read the paper in full [on the Eurosurveillance website](#).

**New travel restrictions** As announced late last night, all travellers **returning** to Scotland from South Africa, Namibia, Lesotho, Eswatini, Zimbabwe, and Botswana will be required to self-isolate and take two PCR tests regardless of their vaccination status. In addition, managed quarantine accommodation will be stood up to cater for any **arrivals** from these countries, effective from 4am tomorrow morning

The decision follows concerns about cases of the emerging B.1.1.529 variant cases in the south of Africa, given concerns over a high number of mutations and the effectiveness of vaccines against it. [More information on the restrictions is available on the Scottish Government website](#).

**Grampian data** The local update for today is shown below. [The Public Health Scotland daily dashboard is available to view via this link](#). From Monday 6 December, PHS will move to a 5 day (Mon-Fri) reporting system, reporting weekend trend data on the following Monday. Headline figures regarding COVID-19 will still be published on the [Scottish Government website](#) at weekends. We continue to work on the additional data requested by many of you and hope to be able to present these figures from next week.



**Orange Award** Two more, very worthy, winners collected their Orange Award this week. The warmest of 'well dones' go to Susan Duthie (TB Specialist Nurse) and Donna Dawson (Learning Disability service). If you work with an individual or team going above and beyond in health & social care, why not nominate them for an Orange Award? You can either email the details to [gram.nmahporangeawards@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.nmahporangeawards@nhs.scot) or you can [complete the online nomination form](#).

**Tune of the day** A simple choice today – [Safe From Harm by Massive Attack](#). Please stay safe this weekend. We hope you are able to get some downtime. To those of you working over the coming days, thank you. Look after yourselves, the brief will be back on Monday.

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](mailto:gram.communications@nhs.scot)