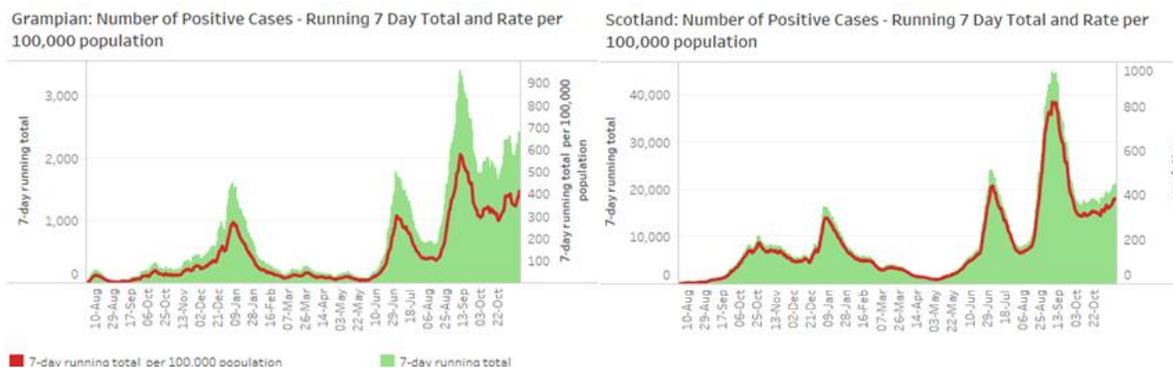


Here is the brief for Thursday 18 November 2021.

Current COVID-19 position in context Readers of the brief will be used to seeing the daily figures in the blue boxes, but it is worth while looking at the context of these figures. Whilst cases across Scotland continue to rise, in Grampian that rise is steeper. Indeed, in the large urban areas in the central belt, like Glasgow, case numbers whilst high, are fairly stable.



The reasons for this disparity are not entirely clear, although it may be in part that the central belt was previously hit very hard, and there may now be more immunity there. In Grampian the steepest rises are firstly in Moray, then in Aberdeen City, with Aberdeenshire being fairly stable at present.

There seems to be a common perception that the problem is with schools. It is the case that there is a steep rise in cases in the 0-12 age group, this may or may not represent transmission at school. There is also a steep rise in the 25 – 50 age group which might represent the parents/carers of the children. It is likely that the problem in school age children is merely a barometer for the general transmission of the infection in the community at large. Regarding this as being exclusively a school problem is likely to lead to a false sense of security amongst the adult population, who should really be continuing with the same precautions as we have been advocating throughout the pandemic – social distancing, avoiding crowded places, and wearing face coverings in public spaces. Remember too that there are other respiratory illnesses around over the winter, and these precautions apply to all of these infections.

Finally, hospitals remain under significant pressure mainly due to the usual problems that occur every winter, but severely aggravated by COVID-19 admissions. It will only take a small rise in these admissions to make the hospital full, or over-full. So last year's mantra of 'Protect the NHS' may still be appropriate for today.

COVID boosters and 'flu vaccinations Latest figures show 23,644 health & social care staff have booked a vaccination appointment. 17,023 have received their 'flu jab and 16,995 have received a booster. A big thank you to everyone working on the staff programme – and to all of you for booking your appointments. If you have still to arrange your appointment, you can do so [using the online booking portal](#). Booking opened at the start of this week for citizens aged 50-59, along with unpaid carers aged 16 and over, and those aged 16 and over who are household contacts of immunosuppressed individuals. All these groups use the same online booking service linked to above.

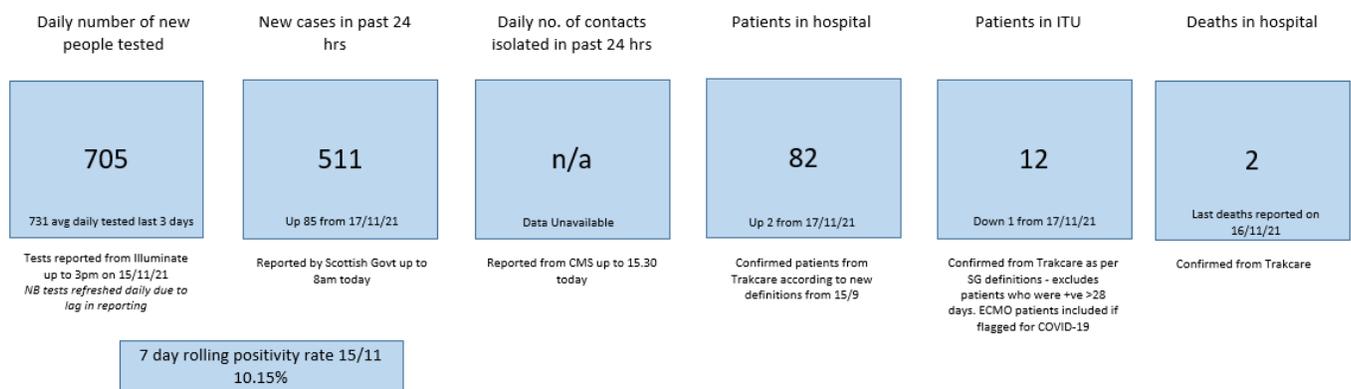
Progress in the COVID booster programme is recorded in the Public Health Scotland daily dashboard (linked to later in this brief). Since the 'flu campaign commenced, well over 200,000 'flu immunisations have been administered in Grampian.

ARI pharmacy – change to operations this weekend The new North of Scotland Pharmacy Stock Control System (PSC) will go live this weekend (20/21 November). To support the changeover, Pharmacy and eHealth will need to complete a significant amount of manual data entry and system configuration over that weekend across multiple sites in Grampian. This means a revised dispensing and distribution service will operate at ARI, as follows:

- Distribution Service – emergencies only, 9am-1pm, Saturday 20 November.
- Dispensary – closing at 12 noon on Sunday 21 November.

Any discharge prescriptions submitted to the Dispensary on Sunday must be submitted as early as possible and must be accompanied by a copy of the medicines chart. There will be no exceptions to the 12noon cut off and Pharmacy will not be able to accept any prescriptions/ medicines charts submitted after this time. Site and Capacity can be contacted regarding alternative discharge medicine supply routes out of Pharmacy hours. This project has taken two years and is essential to underpin the future delivery of North of Scotland HEPMA (Hospital Electronic Prescribing and Medicines Administration) system across NHS Grampian and the North of Scotland. Your support with the adjusted opening hours is greatly appreciated.

Grampian data The local update for today is shown below. Unfortunately, due to some issues with data, we are unable to confirm the number of contacts isolated today.



[The Public Health Scotland daily dashboard is available to view via this link.](#)

Optimising Patient Flow – project update There are three workstreams in the Optimising Patient Flow – 90 day improvement collaborative. Today we’re sharing an update from Workstream 1, which is focused on reducing demand/pressure at the ‘front door’. The update is attached to the email used to send out this brief.

Realistic Medicine We’ve shared a number of items about the Realistic Medicine approach in previous briefs; we’re pleased to say [there is now a dedicated website](#). This has sections for staff, patients/members of the public, and helpful resources for more information.

Health & Safety Executive The primary aim of the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) is to ensure that our workplace meets the required standards to keep everyone - staff, patients, contractors and the general public - safe. The role of an HSE Health and Safety Inspector is to investigate (review) if people are at risk, set out actions to be completed to ensure compliance with the law, and issue enforcement action. It’s important that you are all aware of what powers a HSE Inspector has and the consequences of not complying. [The purpose of this guidance](#) (intranet link, networked devices only) is to ensure that all NHS Grampian (NHSG) staff are aware of what is required with regards to visits from an HSE Inspector. In the event of an HSE visit, the person receiving the Inspector or contacted by the Inspector must ensure that their Line Manger is informed, who in turn should inform their senior management and

the Manager of Health and Safety who will then inform the Head of Occupational Health and Safety, Director of People & Culture, and the Chief Executive.

Another day at your desk? If your job in health & social care sees you at a desk from start to finish, 5 (or more) days a week, [you might want to listen to this episode of Just One Thing](#), a BBC podcast by Dr Michael Mosley. In each (short) show he highlights one thing we can all do to be healthier; in the episode we have linked to, he focuses on the difference simply standing up can make. A big thank you to Sara Cook from MH&LD for sharing this informative podcast with the daily brief team!

Tune of the day We've got a special request today, dedicated to Liz Steven, part of the Peterhead vaccination team. Liz retires today; in fact, my sources tell me this is Liz's second retirement, as she was one of the many who made a comeback to support the vaccination programme. The whole team in Peterhead want to wish Liz all the best and have asked for [Stir It Up by Bob Marley & The Wailers](#).

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