

Here is the brief for Tuesday 23 November 2021.

COVID booster/flu vaccination – appointment self-booking More than 10,000 citizens have booked vaccination appointments since the online portal was extended to those aged 50 to 59, unpaid carers who are 16 and over, and those aged 16 and over who are household contacts of immunosuppressed individuals. However, we estimate there are a further 50,000 people eligible in Grampian, in the above groups, who have yet to arrange an appointment. We're asking for your help – please spread the word among your friends, family, neighbours – anyone you know in the above groups. They use the same online booking system we use as health & social care staff, [which is available here](#). Appointments are available at the nine vaccination clinics across Grampian, some as early as next week. As a reminder, the booster should only be given once 24 weeks have passed since the second dose was administered.

Safely celebrating with colleagues A few weeks ago we highlighted the Endowment Fund staff social fund. NHS Grampian staff can apply for a contribution of £20* per person, to go towards a staff social event. COVID-19 continues to circulate widely, across all parts of Grampian. While vaccination (and boosters) significantly reduces the risk of serious illness and hospitalisation, it does not make it impossible to catch and spread COVID-19. Testing positive will take you out of the workplace for 10 days of self-isolation. Being a close contact of a confirmed case will take you out of the workplace until a negative PCR result is confirmed (and other criteria are met to allow your safe return).

A guide has been put together to help you plan the safest social event you can, alongside information to support managers/team leaders in making contingency arrangements. Both documents – entitled 'Think before you Clink' – have been added to the end of the brief and also attached to the email used to send it out. Please share them widely.

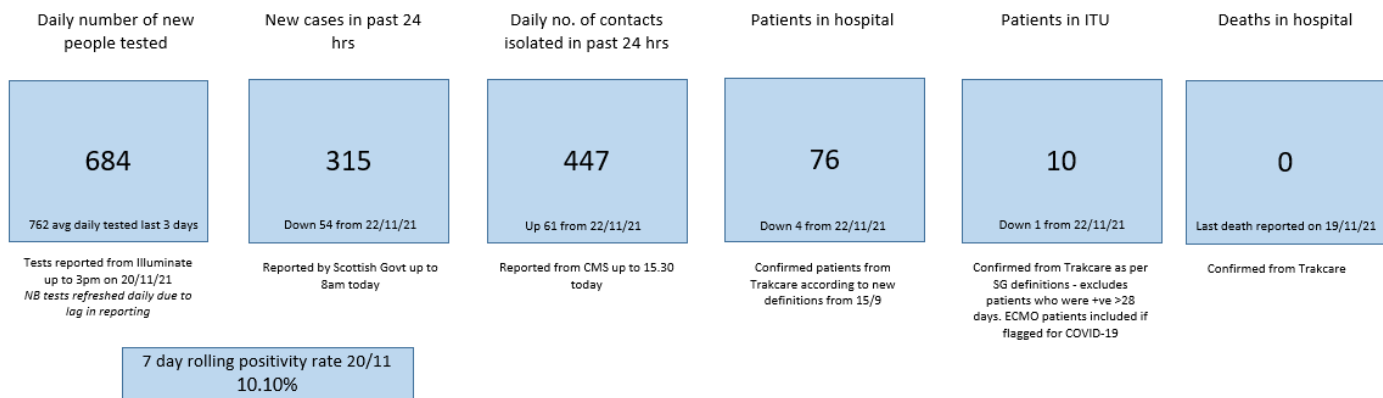
Remember, the staff social fund contribution is not solely for Christmas events - it is open until 31 March 2022.

**The contribution is usually £10, for this financial year only the fund from 2020/21 has been rolled over.*

Suspension of Teams video/recording It remains the case that participant video on Teams (where there are more than two users) and the recording of Teams meetings are temporarily disabled. eHealth continues to work on a solution to the Web Filter/Connectivity issues and apologise for any inconvenience caused.

Using Teams for meetings is still the preferred way for us to conduct business. Face to face meetings should be the exception, and only where they are **absolutely** necessary.

Grampian data The local update for today is shown below. [The Public Health Scotland daily dashboard is available to view via this link](#).



Child Disability Payment This new payment provides families with support for extra costs that a disabled child might have. This replaces the UK Government's Disability Living Allowance for children.

Those already receiving Disability Living Allowance for children do not need to apply for Child Disability Payment as their cases will be automatically transferred to Social Security Scotland in a phased approach by spring 2023. Child Disability Payment will be available to apply for online, by phone and post and also through our Local Delivery service. This will be available across every local authority area in Scotland. [People can find out more and apply through mygov.scot](#) or by calling 0800 182 2222.

Healthcare Support Workers Day If you've had the chance to look at the NHS Grampian social media accounts today, you'll know we've been marking Healthcare Support Worker Day. From Seafield to Fraserburgh, Inverurie to Royal Cornhill we've been shouting out this amazing staff group. You can see all the photos and videos on the [HCSWs of NHS Grampian Facebook page](#).

Tune of the day With many thousands of us working in health & social in Grampian, it shouldn't come as a surprise that we're a broad church, musically, and yet this feature has thrown up so many surprises and hidden gems. A big thank you to David Anderson for today's request. Please enjoy Finnish bluegrass band [Steve 'n' Seagull and their take on AC/DC's Thunderstruck](#). When a video starts with the accordion player making a grand entrance on a ride-on lawnmower, you know you're in for a treat!

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



Covid vaccines are highly effective at reducing the risk of serious illness from COVID-19, but can't eliminate it. Fully vaccinated people can still be infected and can still pass it on to others, including other vaccinated people. There are local examples where one infected person (at an indoor social event) led to half the people there becoming infected.

So think before you clink – be as safe as you can be in your party planning:

- Agree a colleague to act as 'organiser'
- The organiser should keep a list of colleagues who attend
- Everyone should take a Lateral Flow Device (LFD) test before the event and not attend if it shows as positive
- No-one should attend if they have any respiratory or gastrointestinal symptoms
- Outdoor activities have less risk of transmission than indoor activities
- Fewer people in a room makes physical distance easier to maintain
- Physical distance between people reduces risk of droplet transmission
- Type IIR face masks reduces risk of droplet transmission
- Ventilation and air flow reduces the risk of airborne transmission
- Seated events may have lesser risk of transmission than 'free-mixing' events
- Better still, go virtual for the safest option there is!

If you manage a team, be prepared with your contingency plans.



Principles for contingency planning

Hope for the best but plan for the worst

Plan for a worst-case scenario of 50% absence rate in those who attended

If the team's work could be done from home:

- would everyone have the necessary equipment and remote access to keep working from home?
- if many of them became too unwell to work, who else could be drafted in, and what preparation might they need to do so?

If the team's work could not be done from home:

- would there be enough staff who didn't go to the event to keep the service running?
- who else could be drafted in, and what preparation might they need?
- what would need to be prioritised and what could be stopped temporarily?