# Twitter Thread by db





# **WEDNESDAY 23rd**

# **UK-FRANCE DEAL**

- -Last night the government announced the deal agreed with France to reopen the border and allow freight to travel through
- -The deal is based on mass testing of lorry drivers, 150-200 military personnel are being deployed to give lateral flow tests to hauliers in Kent
- -Lorry drivers get their results in 20-30 minutes, they'll then get a text message, allowing them proceed to France
- -It appears Macron backed down on a demand to make the lorry drivers have more accurate PCR tests, which take 24 hours to give a result
- -A government official says the PM was "full of praise" for how Transport Secretary Grant Shapps handled the crisis ■
- -It is expected to take days to clear the backlog and hauliers are still being asked not to come to port
- -Rail, air and sea services will resume on Wednesday morning, all those travelling from the UK to France will need to show a negative test taken within the previous 72 hours

## ABOUT THOSE LATERAL FLOW TESTS

- -"The government shelved plans to open rapid-turnaround test centres across England amid concerns about the accuracy of their results"
- -"Directors of public health had concerns about the potential false reassurance to those testing negative." ■

### TIER 4

- -More areas could be in Tier 4 from the 26th as cases rise, Ministers will meet today to discuss further possible measures after the UK recorded its highest daily increase in coronavirus cases
- -Sources warn there is 'high chance' of full national lockdown in New Year
- -"I'm told public health chiefs were pushing for a national Tier 4 across England from Boxing Day, unclear yet whether politicians have agreed to it."
- -Health ministers could announce the changes today after review was brought forward from December 30

#### **NAUGHTY NICOLA**

- -Nicola Sturgeon has apologized after the Sun got hold of pics of her chatting to pensioners in a pub without a face mask
- -"This was a stupid mistake and I'm really sorry" She says, after she broke laws requiring pub customers to wear masks unless seated at a table

#### **BREXIT**

- -A UK source said an agreement on a UK/EU trade deal is again possible today, EU sources stressed that they do not have much room for manoeuvre on fisheries
- -"UK source now says agreement on a UK/EU trade deal is again possible tomorrow" ITV's Peston \*yawn\*

#### USA

- -US President Trump warned he will not sign the stimulus package until Congress amends it
- -He called the bill a disgrace and full of wasteful and unnecessary items, He demanded that stimulus checks are increased to \$2,000 from \$600
- -House Speaker Nancy Pelosi responded to Trump saying she welcomed his call for \$2,000 checks for most Americans.
- "Democrats are ready to bring this to the Floor this week by unanimous consent. Let's do it!" Who would have thought

Housing Sec Jenrick on the morning broadcast round

- -Hope there is no link between Brexit and border issues
- -Hope to see trucks crossing today to Calais
- -Will take a few days to work through backlog of trucks
- -New variant is spreading fast
- -No plan to change Christmas rules