



COVID-19 Update for key stakeholders



28 April 2021

COVID cases

On 28 April we had two new cases. The infection rate is 7.5/100,000 across the NHS Highland area: 8.2/100,000 in Argyll and Bute and 7.2/100,000 in North Highland.

We have a total of one patient in ITU, no other COVID inpatients, and none in Argyll and Bute.

There have been 169 recorded deaths in the NHS Highland area since the start of the pandemic: 98 in Highland and 71 in Argyll and Bute. These are deaths within 28 days of a confirmed positive test and represent no change for four weeks.

The National Records of Scotland also publishes deaths where COVID-19 is mentioned on the death certificate, either as the underlying cause or a contributory cause. These include deaths where 'suspected' or 'probable' COVID-19 appears on the death certificate. There has been no change in these figures in the last four weeks.

Vaccination

We have vaccinated 166,665 people with their first dose. This is 65.5% of over 16 year olds, compared to a Scottish average of 61.4%.

We continue to offer 'mop up' appointments to anyone over 50 who has not yet received a first vaccination.

Some clinics for 40-49 years olds have been scheduled and more will be arranged as supply is confirmed. Please ask people aged 40-49 not to contact their GP about vaccination appointments as practices are experiencing a high volume of calls at a time when they are already very busy. Patients will be contacted as soon as appointments are available.

Information is on the [NHS Highland website here](#) and you can view progress on the national [vaccination programme online here](#).

Remobilisation

The COVID-19 pandemic brought new and major challenges. To make sure we can provide health care services safely during these times, we had to change wards and services, which reduced the number of surgery beds we have for patients.

We have continued to prioritise emergency patients, concentrating on people who needed lifesaving or cancer surgery.

Orthopaedic operating restarted this week, starting with clinically urgent joint replacements. We will gradually increase the number of patients we can operate on as allowed by the space we have in our theatres and wards. It is important that we do this carefully to ensure we can provide services safely and effectively while keeping our patients and staff safe. Unfortunately this means we are unable to offer many patients a definite date for their surgery at the moment. We are writing to patients who are waiting to explain this and are setting up a patient access line for them to call with any queries. We will share the number for this once it is available.

Feedback

If you have comments or queries please contact nhshighland.feedback@nhs.scot