



Update for key stakeholders

14 May 2021

COVID cases

We had 17 new cases in the seven days to May 12. The infection rate is 5.3/100,000 across the NHS Highland area: 0/100,000 in Argyll and Bute and 7.2/100,000 in North Highland.

We have no patients in hospital with COVID-19.

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 six 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 six weeks.

Vaccination

We have vaccinated 68.4% of over 16 year olds with their first dose, compared to a Scottish average of 64.9%.

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

Clinics for 40-49 years olds are being scheduled. 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](#).

Grantown

A mobile testing unit is available in Burnfield Avenue car park. We are asking people in Grantown without symptoms to book a PCR test at the unit [online](#) or by calling 0800 028 2816, using the option 'I have been asked to book a test by my local council or health protection team'. This is because we are investigating the variant present in Grantown and the PCR test gives us information we need for this, which a LFD test would not.

LFD testing

Please encourage people to make use of the LFD rapid tests available for people without symptoms. These can be [picked up or sent to your home](#). We know a significant percentage of people with COVID-19 do not have symptoms. LFD testing helps to stop people from spreading the disease without realising.

For people who need to self-isolate, the Highland Council can co-ordinate a range of support including collection of food shopping and prescriptions, and if someone will lose income as a result of staying at home, they may also be eligible for the £500 self-isolation support grant. More information is available by contacting the Council's COVID Helpline on 0300 303 1362.

Feedback

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