



## Update for key stakeholders

20 August 2021

### COVID cases

We had 333 new cases in the seven days to 15 August. The infection rate is 162/100,000 across the NHS Highland area: 222.4/100,000 in Argyll and Bute and 141.4/100,000 in North Highland.

We have 16 patients in hospital with COVID-19 including 5 in ITU. We have 7 ITU beds altogether (currently flexed up to 11) of which 5 are occupied with a COVID-19 patient and 6 are occupied with other patients.

There have been 181 recorded deaths in the NHS Highland area since the start of the pandemic: 106 in Highland and 75 in Argyll and Bute. This is an increase of 3 in the last 7 days.

### Vaccination

93% of people over 18 in the NHS Highland area have received one COVID vaccination, compared to a Scottish average of 90.3%. 79.5% have received two doses, compared to a Scottish average of 78.5%. You can view progress on the national [vaccination programme online here](#).

Details of drop-in vaccination clinics for first and second doses are available on our [dedicated web page](#). This will continue to be updated as more clinics are added.

### Riverbank and Lybster Practices to merge

Two GP practices in Caithness will merge this month: Riverbank Practice in Thurso and the Lybster Practice, based within Lybster village, have always worked closely together but the merger will now bring a formal arrangement into place.

There will be no change to how patients of either practice access services. Working more closely together will make the service more sustainable and, with shared systems, patients will see an improvement with access and patient choice. Staff will be working in a larger multi-disciplinary team which will create opportunities for clinical supervision, mentoring, training and development.

Patients are being given an opportunity to feedback if they wish via our Feedback Team – [nhshighland.feedback@nhs.scot](mailto:nhshighland.feedback@nhs.scot).

### Feedback

If you have comments or queries please contact [nhshighland.feedback@nhs.scot](mailto:nhshighland.feedback@nhs.scot)