

Community Resilience Group Weekly Briefing - 36 24 September 2021

Covid Update

Over the last 7 days there have been 615 new positive cases in Highland (to 24 September), a decrease from last week when 915 were reported. This means the latest 7-day rate per 100,000 has decreased from 388.7 per 100,000 last week to 261.2 per 100,000 as of 24 September. Whilst it is positive to see that the numbers continue to decrease, they remain high and therefore it is extremely important to be careful and stick to the Scottish Government guidelines.

In terms of neighbourhood data, the map below and accompanying table, highlights the positive cases per 100,000 in communities across the Highland area. The test positivity rate on was 6.1% on 21 September, down from 7.9% on 14 September.

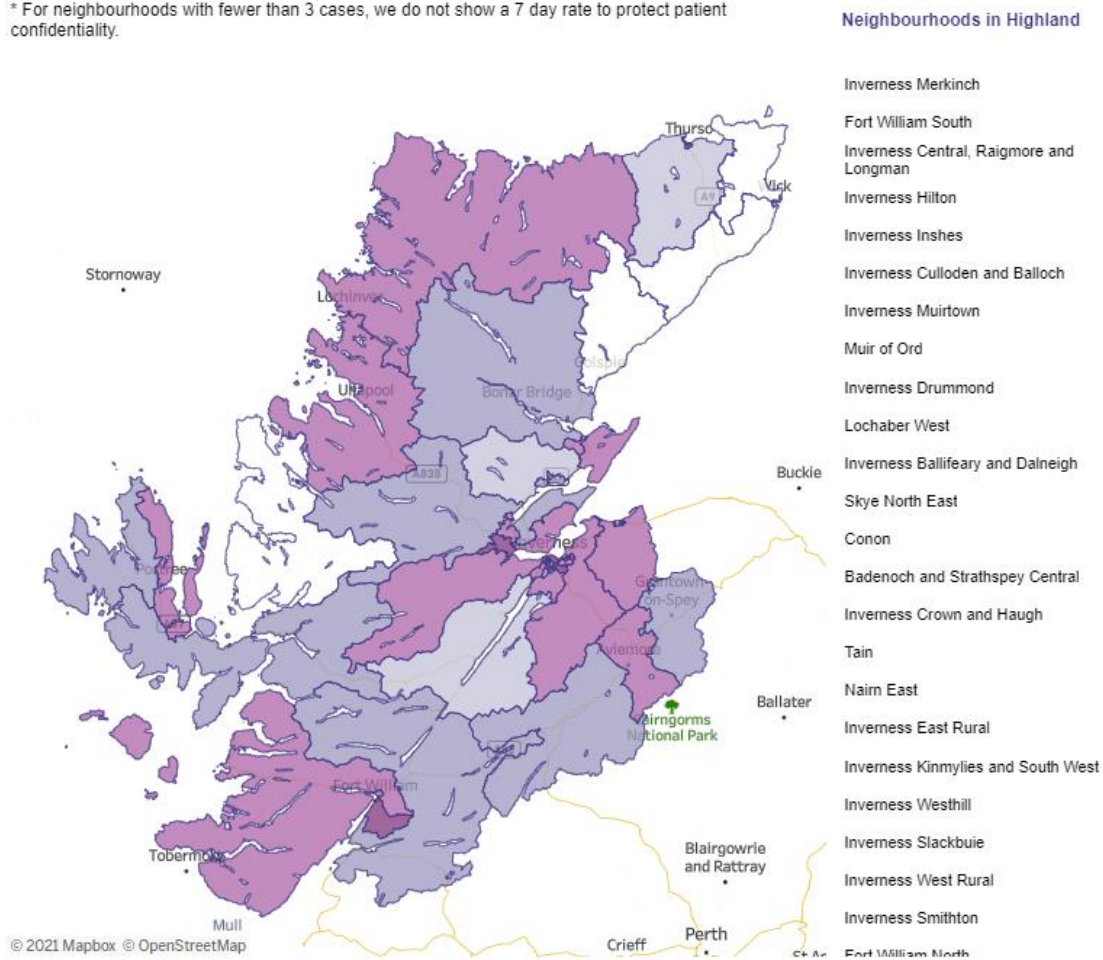
7 day positive cases in Highland based on people tested between 15 September 2021 and 21 September 2021

7 day positive cases	7 day positive rate per 100,000 population	7 day test positivity rate
615	261.2	6.1%

7 day positive rate per 100,000 population



* For neighbourhoods with fewer than 3 cases, we do not show a 7 day rate to protect patient confidentiality.



Scotland has Moved Beyond Level Zero

From 9 August 2021 the whole of Scotland moved to beyond Level 0. You can find Scottish Government guidance for everyone on how to stay safe and prevent the spread of COVID-19 here.

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-staying-safe-and-protecting-others/>

Scottish Government messages this week – booster vaccination update

- Residents in care homes for older people will be the first to be offered Covid-19 booster vaccinations. This group will be offered both flu and COVID-19 booster vaccines.
- Frontline health and social care workers are able to book an appointment for a booster jab online at NHS Inform. The portal can be used by all health and social care workers to book a flu vaccine.
- Adults aged 70 years and over and those 16 years and over who are on the highest risk list will begin to be contacted by letter or by their GP from the end of September. People on the highest risk list who were severely immunosuppressed at the time of their last COVID-19 vaccination will be offered a third primary dose instead.
- Other eligible groups - including all those aged 16 to 49 years with underlying health conditions, adult carers, unpaid and young carers, adult household contacts of immunosuppressed individuals and all adults over 50 - will be able to book an appointment online from October.

<https://www.gov.scot/news/covid-19-booster-vaccinations-underway/>

Asymptomatic Testing

It continues to be important that people test themselves even if they don't have symptoms. Taking a rapid LFD test twice a week can help stop new variants earlier, limiting the spread of the virus.

Test kits are available at pharmacies, or to order online from www.nhsinform.scot/testing, or by calling 119.

Test kits are also available at Community testing sites. The details for where these are next week is outlined below.

Symptomatic Testing

If you do believe you have symptoms, please self-isolate and book a PCR test. Postal PCR kits are available through NHS Inform either online [here](#) or by calling 0800 028 2816.

In addition to the local support that is available, people can get support to self isolate by calling the Council's helpline number: 0300 303 1362. This can include access to food and supplies to self isolate and individuals may be entitled to a £500 self isolation support grant.

Community Testing 20 – 24 September for those without symptoms

The community testing programme offers rapid COVID-19 tests for people without symptoms.

Next week mobile testing units will be in Inverness and Aviemore.

The mobile testing unit 'Moves Like Jagger' will be at Tesco Car Park, Inverness Retail Park, 1A Eastfield Way, Inverness IV2 7GD:

- Monday 27 September, 9am-4:30pm
- Tuesday 28 September, 9am-4:30pm
- Wednesday 29 September, 9am-4:30pm
- Thursday 30 September, 9am-4:30pm
- Friday 1 October, 9am-4:30pm

The mobile testing unit 'Jabbernaut' will be at the Aviemore Retail Park, Grampian Road, Aviemore PH22 1RH:

- Tuesday 28 September 9am-4.30pm
- Wednesday 29 September 9am-4.30pm
- Thursday 30 September 9am-4.30pm
- Friday 1 October 9am-3pm

Just to emphasise that there are no specific outbreaks in these communities, this is to support normalising testing across the area.

No appointment is necessary, and it will be open both for asymptomatic testing and to collect LFD test kits.

Please note that these drop-in sessions for community testing are only for people without symptoms. Anyone that becomes unwell should isolate immediately and seek a PCR test. PCR tests can be booked through NHS Inform online or by calling 0800 028 2816.

Those who attend a COVID-19 Mobile Clinic will also have the opportunity to enter a free monthly draw to win an Amazon Kindle e-reader (10th generation, with 6" backlit display) after completing an exit survey. The winner will be drawn by random at the end of the month.

I would appreciate it if you could encourage people across your networks to attend.

Vaccination Update

The latest update from NHS on the vaccine can be accessed at the following link: www.nhsinform.scot/covid19vaccine.

Vaccination of young people

From 7 August, 16-18 year olds are now eligible for vaccination and will be directed to the drop in clinics - see NHS Highland website for details <https://www.nhshighland.scot.nhs.uk/COVID19/Pages/Vaccination.aspx>.

From 20 September, children and young people aged 12 -15 years old are offered a dose of the Covid-19 vaccination. They can attend drop-in clinics for a vaccination if they wish to get their jab before they receive their letter inviting them for a scheduled appointment (details of drop-in clinics in Highland are found below). Everyone in this age group will be invited for vaccination at a community-based clinic or a school delivery session from 27 September.

The following vaccination drop-in clinics are operating in Highland next week:

<https://www.nhshighland.scot.nhs.uk/COVID19/Pages/Vaccination.aspx>

Where	Dates	Times	Comment
WEST			
Caol Community Centre Glenkingie Street Caol, Fort William PH33 7DS	27 Sept	10:00 - 12:30	Any dose Pfizer
		13:00 - 15:00	Second dose AstraZeneca
NORTH			
SOUTH & MID			
Smithton Church 1 Murray Road, Smithton, Inverness, IV2 7YU	21 - 24 Sept	08:30 - 12:30	Any dose
		13:30 - 17:00	Pfizer AstraZeneca
Smithton Church 1 Murray Road, Smithton, Inverness, IV2 7YU	28 Sept - 01 Oct	08:30 - 12:30	Any dose
		13:30 - 17:00	Pfizer AstraZeneca

Money Counts Courses – Levels 1 and 2 online

As part of Challenge Poverty Week, 4 – 10 October 2021 NHS Highland Public Health are offering individuals in North Highland the opportunity to attend Level 1 and/or a Level 2 Money Counts Course online.

- Money Counts 1: This course is aimed at anyone who is in a position to have a brief conversation with individuals around money worries.
- Money Counts 2: This course is aimed at Individuals who have a supporting role and are likely to be able to build up relationships which can be used to ask about money worries.

Details of dates, times and how to register are in the attached flyer or email nhsh.healthimprovementtraining@nhs.scot for further details.

Rural Communities Ideas into Action Fund

Scottish Government funding to help rural communities thrive through community-led initiatives. It offers small grants of up to £3,000 for grassroots locally-led rural groups or organisations to support community projects that fit with local needs, and large

grants of between £3,001 and £50,000 for not for profit organisations to invest in community-led initiatives that respond to local need.

Closing date 8 October 2021 For information see

<https://www.inspiringscotland.org.uk/rural-communities-ideas-into-action-fund>

Adult Care Home consultations

There are two related Scottish Government consultations Adult Home Care consultations out this week:

- **Adult care homes: strengthening health and social care standards**
The Scottish Government seeks views on their proposals for strengthening the Health and Social Care Standards to enable people living in adult care homes to maintain family and friendship connections to support their health and wellbeing. These proposals form part of work to take forward Anne's Law, ensuring that people who live in adult care homes have rights to see and spend time with the people who are important to them.
Details of how to register for 2 workshops are also in the link.
Closing date 15 October.
<https://consult.gov.scot/pandemic-response/annes-law/>
- **Anne's law: proposals for adults living in care homes to maintain family and friendship connections**
The Scottish Government seeks views on hteri proposals for delivering Anne's Law in primary legislation, to ensure that people who live in adult care homes have rights to see and spend time with the people who are important to them.
Details of 3 consultation events are also in the link:
Consultation responses need to be submitted by 2 November
<https://consult.gov.scot/pandemic-response/annes-law-legislation/>

Food Support for Groups

We know that a number of you continue to provide support to the most vulnerable in your communities and that most of you already have well defined routes for accessing food to provide this support or are supporting individuals to access their shopping or community fridges/food tables.

If you are struggling to access food to continue support to vulnerable people locally, please do contact us through the policy mailbox and we can look at ways that we can support your group going forward.

Contact: policy6@highland.gov.uk

Helpful Links

Welfare Support Team -

www.highland.gov.uk/directory_record/102970/benefit_advice

Self Isolation Support Grant - www.highland.gov.uk/info/20016/coronavirus/940/self-isolation_support_grant

Energy Advice

energyadvisors@hi.homeenergyscotland.org

AbilityNet - IT advice or support AbilityNet
Helpline 0800 048 7642.

Covid Resilience Grant Support -

www.highland.gov.uk/directory_record/1422811/supporting_community_resilience/category/155/grants_for_community_groups

HTSI Community Group Helpline
Telephone Number 01349 808022