

Community Resilience Group Weekly Briefing - 39 22 October 2021

Covid Update

Over the last 7 days there have been 555 new positive cases in Highland (to 21 October), an increase from last week when 506 were reported. This means the latest 7-day rate per 100,000 shows an increase from 214.9 per 100,000 last week to 235.7 per 100,000 as of 21 October. It remains 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 7.2% on 19 October, up from 6.3% on 12 October.

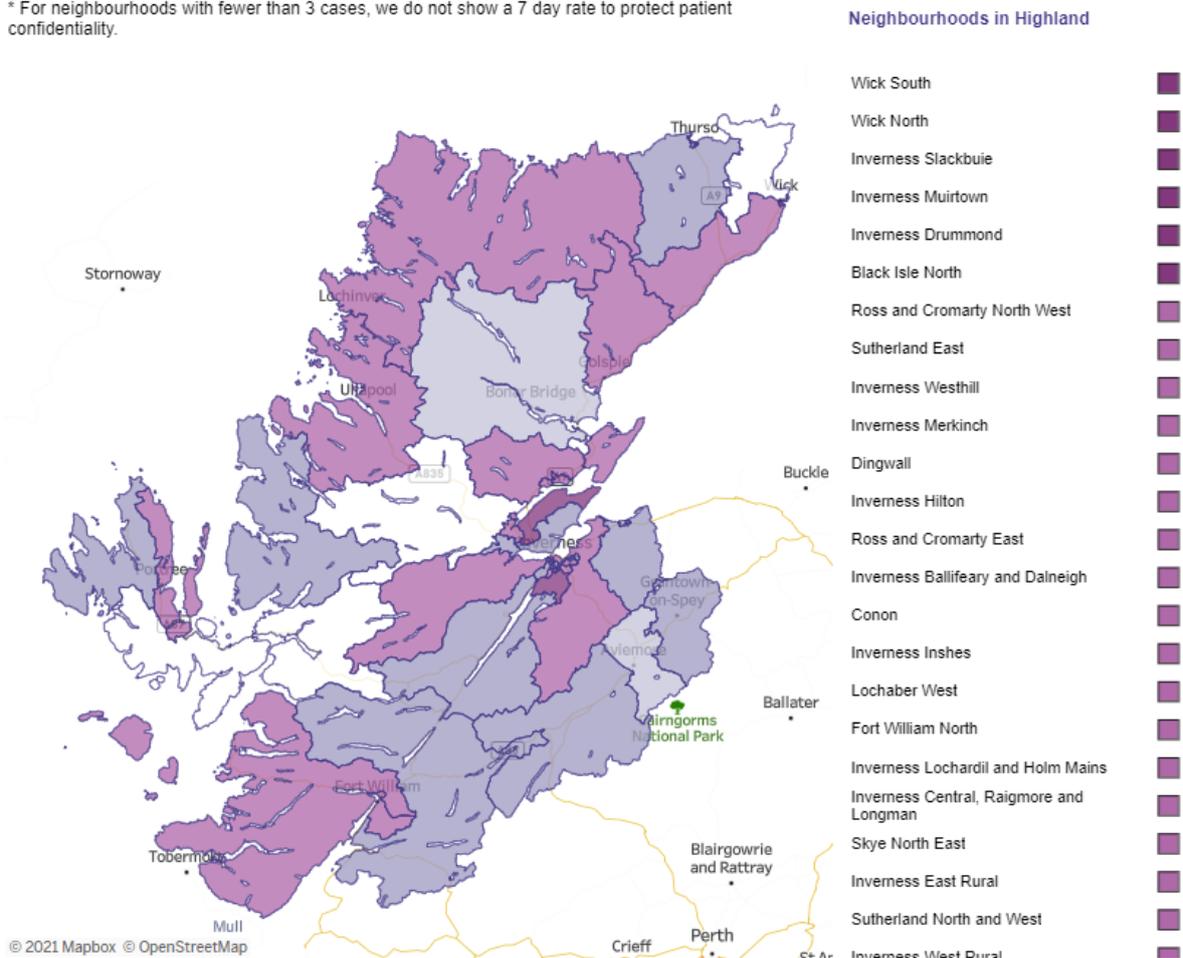
7 day positive cases in Highland based on people tested between 13 October 2021 and 19 October 2021

7 day positive cases	7 day positive rate per 100,000 population	7 day test positivity rate
555	235.7	7.2%

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

Key points

- Existing COVID-19 safety mitigations in schools are to remain for now, following advice from senior clinicians. Pupils will continue to be required to wear face coverings in secondary school classrooms as they begin to return from the October break. Secondary-aged pupils, and staff in primary and secondary schools, will also still require face coverings in communal areas or when moving around the building.

<https://www.gov.scot/news/covid-19-safety-in-schools/>

Symptomatic Testing (with symptoms)

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.

Asymptomatic Testing (without symptoms)

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 are outlined below.

Community Testing 25 – 29 October for those without symptoms (Asymptomatic)

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

Next week a mobile testing unit will be in Wick.

https://www.highland.gov.uk/news/article/14056/rapid_covid-19_community_testing_available_in_wick

The mobile testing unit 'Jabbernaut' will be at the Riverside Car Park, McLeay Lane, Wick, KW1 4EA. Opening times, will be;

- Monday 25 October, 12 noon - 4:00pm
- Tuesday 26 October, 8am - 4:00pm
- Wednesday 27 October, 8am - 4:00pm
- Thursday 28 October, 8am - 4:00pm
- Friday 29 October, 8am – 12 noon

Just to emphasise that there are no specific outbreaks in this community, 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.

The following vaccination drop-in clinics are operating in Highland during October: <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	25 Oct	10:00 - 12:45	Any dose Pfizer
		14:00 - 16:45	Second dose AstraZeneca
NORTH			
Assembly Rooms, 20 Sinclair Terrace, Wick	21 Oct	11.00-19.00	Patients registered at Riverview practice only – anyone eligible for flu vaccine or covid booster Any 1st and 2nd dose covid CLINIC FULL
British Legion, Thurso	23 Oct	08:30 - 13:00 and 13:45 - 17:00	All school aged children 12+, Wick and Thurso Overdue 1 st and 2 nd doses

			Drop-in, no appt needed
British Legion, Thurso	28 Oct	11:00 - 19:00	Patients registered at Riverbank practice only - anyone eligible for flu vaccine or covid booster Any 1st and 2nd dose covid CLINIC FULL
Assembly rooms, 20 Sinclair Terrace, Wick	29 Oct	09:00 - 17:00	Patients registered at Riverview practice only - anyone eligible for flu vaccine or covid booster Any 1st and 2nd dose covid. Appt only, phone 01463 705531,
Dunbeath Community Hall	30 Oct	08:30 - 12:30 13:30 - 17:00	Patients registered at Dunbeath practice only Flu vaccine or any dose - COVID vaccine COVID Booster (6mths from 2nd dose) Drop-in, no appt needed
SOUTH & MID			
Smithton Church 1 Murray Road, Smithton, Inverness, IV2 7YU	19 - 22 October	08:30 - 12:30 13:30 - 17:00	Any dose - Pfizer and AstraZeneca COVID Booster Flu vaccine (Health and Social Care colleagues only)

Winter Road Maintenance - gritting policy and community assistance

The Highland Council's winter gritting programme started on Thursday 14 October and continues until 14 April 2022.

During this time the Council will monitor road and weather conditions across its road network and will respond with its winter fleet of gritters, footpath tractors, snowblower and over 200 staff. The Council has adequate salt stocks for the start of the main winter season and has no concerns about the future provision of salt deliveries.

As in previous years, Highland Council is offering assistance to communities who wish to take action in their own area to help clear snow and ice from footpaths. We will provide salt in either bins or heaps, snow shovels and pushers, gloves and hi-vis vests and health and safety advice to volunteers. Full guidance and an [application form](#) can be found on the [Council's website](#).

Press release:

https://www.highland.gov.uk/news/article/14033/know_the_gritting_policy_for_your_area

For further information and the Council's gritting policy visit:

www.highland.gov.uk/gritting

Gritting route maps:

https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/20005/roads_and_pavements/107/winter_road_maintenance/2

Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund

A new £15 million fund has been announced by Scottish Government to help improve adult mental health and wellbeing. The purpose of the Fund is to support community-based initiatives that promote and develop good adult mental health and wellbeing caused by social isolation and loneliness; to mitigate and protect against the impact of distress and mental ill health within the adult population, as well as addressing the mental health inequalities exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Highland has been awarded just over £700,000 from the fund to support local grassroot community activity. The fund is being managed by the Highland Third Sector Interface, in partnership with the Health and Social Care Partnership and the Community Planning Partnership.

The fund is likely to open for applications the week of 8 November 2021 and several virtual information sessions are planned.

Further information on the fund and the virtual sessions can be found at the following link:

<https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Announcement--New-Community-Mental-Health-and-Wellbeing-Fund.html?soid=1136520961793&aid=oLS1JwKdljQ>

Redress Winter Energy Fund

This fund is open for applications from charities registered with the Energy Redress scheme.

The Redress Winter Energy Fund is available to support vulnerable households with pre-payment meters that have been affected by the recent energy price rises and are at risk of self-disconnection.

Funding can be used to purchase fuel vouchers from a voucher provider and applicants must have existing routes to reach vulnerable households in need of support. Projects will run for six months. Applications will be assessed on a first come first served basis to ensure money is available to support clients as soon as possible. Minimum grant amount £40,000 - Maximum grant amount £500,000

Deadline for applications: 5pm on Wednesday 17 November 2021. Completed application forms must be emailed before the deadline. energyredress@est.org.uk
Further information can be found at <https://www.energyredress.org.uk/apply-funding>

<https://www.energyredress.org.uk/sites/default/files/2021-10/Redress%20Winter%20Energy%20Fund%20-%20Guidance%20Oct%202021.pdf>

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