



Update for key stakeholders

14 January 2022

COVID figures

We had 3,705 new cases in the seven days to 9 January. The infection rate is 1,155/100,000 across the NHS Highland area: 1,084/100,000 in Argyll and Bute and 1,180/100,000 in North Highland. This is falling slightly compared to the previous week, but still much higher than previous waves. Omicron appears to be more prevalent amongst younger age groups.

We have 31 patients in hospital with COVID-19, including 5 in ITU. We have 9 ITU beds, of which 5 are occupied with COVID-19 patients, 3 with other patients and 1 is available.

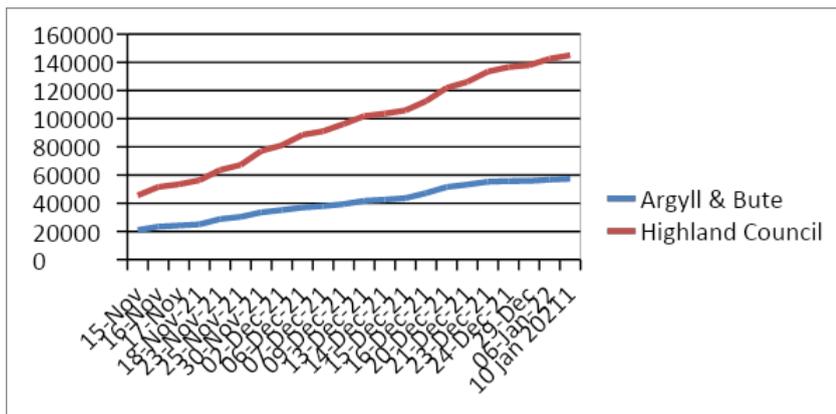
There have been 252 recorded deaths of people with COVID in the NHS Highland area since the start of the pandemic: 156 in Highland and 96 in Argyll and Bute. This represents an increase of 2 in the last 7 days.

While hospital admissions have not risen as quickly as cases, we are experiencing significant staffing shortages due to staff self-isolating. This is having an impact across the system, with 70% homes closed to admissions and Raigmore limiting visitors. We have plans in place should we need to change the ways we use staff or facilities, or reduce non-essential services.

Vaccination

84% of those aged over 18 who are eligible in the NHS Highland area have received their third dose or COVID booster. We continue to schedule clinics and encourage people to attend, whether for boosters or first and second doses.

This graph shows the number of third doses or boosters administered.



Testing and self-isolation

The Scottish Government recently changed the guidance on testing and self-isolation. NHS Inform has been updated with the changes here:

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/self-help-guides/self-help-guide-when-and-how-long-to-self-isolate-due-to-coronavirus>

More detailed guidance for frontline health and social care staff has been issued. This allows staff to return to work from day 7 of self-isolation if they meet the requirements. Staff who can return should not work with individuals on the highest clinical risk list for the remainder of the 10 day period.

Feedback

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