



## Update for key stakeholders

21 January 2022

### **Covid figures**

We had 1,562 new cases in the seven days to 16 January. The infection rate is 486.9/100,000 across the NHS Highland area: 409.7/100,000 in Argyll and Bute and 514.8/100,000 in North Highland – less than half of the previous week's rates.

We have 22 patients in hospital with COVID-19, including 3 in ITU. We have 9 ITU beds, of which 3 are occupied with COVID-19 patients, 2 with other patients and 4 are available.

There have been 257 recorded deaths of people with COVID in the NHS Highland area since the start of the pandemic: 158 in Highland and 99 in Argyll and Bute. This represents an increase of 5 in the last 7 days.

Staffing pressures continue and are particularly acute in the social care sector. We have set up a Workforce Resourcing Centre to identify colleagues who may be able to provide support to essential services, and to manage this process, including any necessary support and training. A specific request to staff to come forward and support care homes has been issued.

### **Vaccination**

85% 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. We are concentrating on younger age groups (12-17) where the take up is lower. We are pleased to report that take up amongst lower socio-economic groups, while below other areas, is well above average for Scotland.

Plans are now underway for vaccination of 5-11 year olds in certain high-risk groups. Parents of these children will be contacted directly. The Scottish Government press release on the topic is available here: [Vaccinations for youngsters with specific medical conditions - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/topics/health/vaccinations-for-youngsters-with-specific-medical-conditions)

### **Testing and self-isolation**

Guidance on testing and self-isolation for staff continues to be updated, most recently to remove the requirement for health and care staff who are contacts of someone who tests positive for Covid to have a PCR test (a LFT is now sufficient, in line with the general population).

### **Feedback**

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