

Community Resilience Group Weekly Briefing - 55

18 February 2022

COVID Update

Over the last 7 days there have been 1876 new positive cases in Highland up to 17 February compared to 1635 positive cases up to 241 since 8 February. The seven-day rate for this period is 798.1 per 100,000 population, compared to 694.5 per 100,000 population a week ago. Figures are the new number of reported positive cases (either a person's first LFD or PCR positive test) in the latest 24 hour period.

In terms of neighbourhood data, the map below and accompanying table, highlights the positive cases per 100,000 in communities across the Highland area.

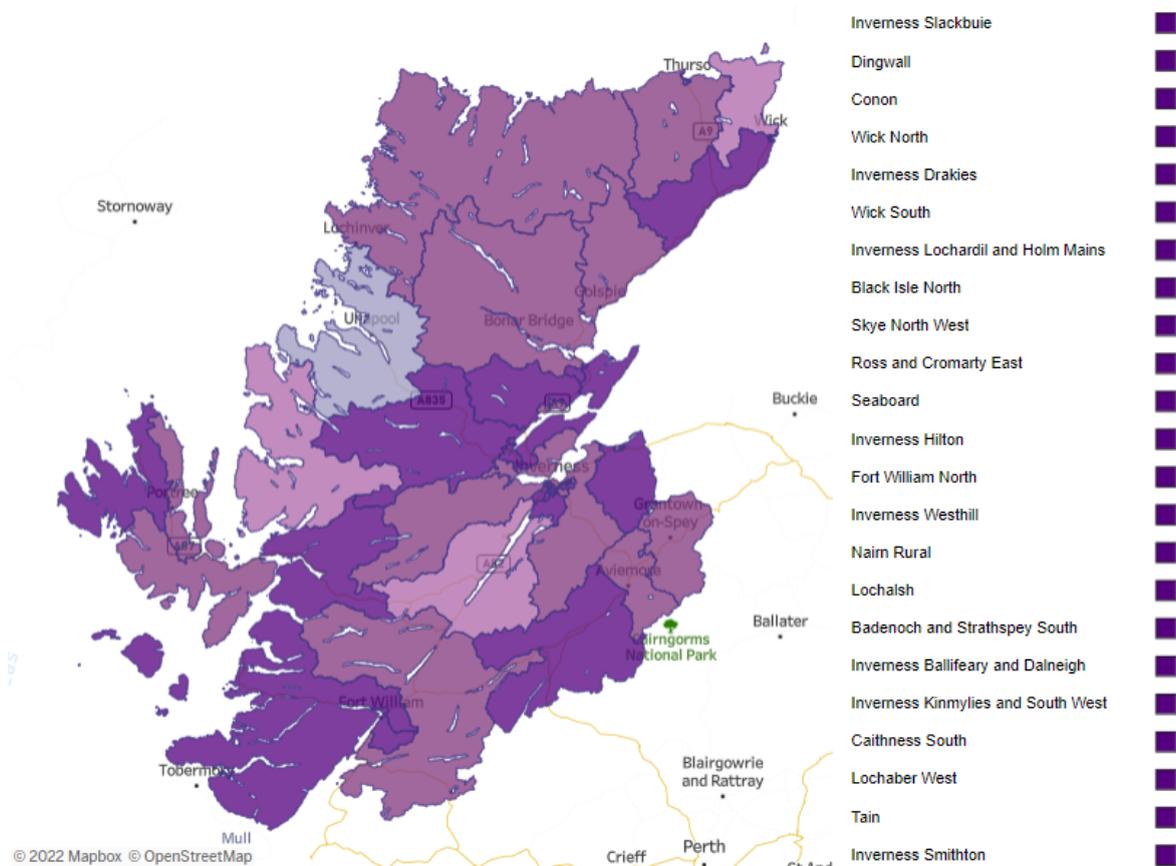
7 day positive cases in Highland based on people tested between 9 February 2022 and 15 February 2022

7 day positive cases	7 day positive rate per 100,000 population
1,879	798.1

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 **Neighbourhoods in Highland**



Scottish Government Guidance on Coronavirus (COVID-19): staying safe and protecting others

The Scottish Government updated its rules and guidance on how to stay safe and help prevent the spread of COVID-19 on 17 February 2022. You can find the most recent version here:

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

Additionally, other updated COVID-19 guidance this week includes:

14 February Coronavirus (COVID-19): funding for businesses affected by Omicron control measures

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-business-funding/>

15 February Coronavirus (COVID-19): safer businesses and workplaces

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-general-guidance-for-safer-workplaces/>

17 February Coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance on reducing the risks in schools

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-reducing-the-risks-in-schools/pages/overview/>

Scottish Government messages this week

There has been no Coronavirus (COVID-19) statement from the First Minister to the Scottish Parliament this week.

Covid-19 Testing

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 by calling 0800 028 2816 or online

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/coronavirus-covid-19/test-and-protect/coronavirus-covid-19-how-to-do-a-pcr-test-at-home>.

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.

Community Testing 21 – 25 February for those without symptoms (Asymptomatic):

The community testing programme offers rapid COVID-19 tests for people without symptoms. Next week, there are no plans to deploy our mobile testing units to carry out assisted testing. Instead, we continue with our programme of Outreach Delivery, sending small teams to various locations throughout the Highland area to provide testing advice and to hand out test kits.

LFD Kits free to collect - Dates, times, and locations are as follows:

Monday 21 February

- Inverness Retail Park (Tesco) 9:30am-12:30pm
- Inverness Retail Park (South End) 1pm-4pm
- Inverness Inshes Retail Park (Tesco) 9:30am-12:30pm
- Inverness Inshes Retail Park (South End) 1pm-4pm
- Telford Retail Park (B&M) 9:30am-12:30pm, 1pm-4pm

Tuesday 22 February

- Carrbridge Recreation Ground Car Park 9:30am-12:30pm
- Tomatin Strathdearn Community Centre 1pm-4pm
- Thurso High Street outside Museum 10:30am-12noon, 12:30pm-3pm
- Alness High Street (Bank Lane) 9am-12noon
- Invergordon Library 1pm-4pm

Wednesday 23 February

- Ullapool Tesco Car Park 9:30am-12:30pm, 1pm-3pm
- Fort William High Street (Cameron Square) 10:30am-12noon, 12:30pm-3pm
- Dingwall High Street outside Museum 9am-12noon, 12:30pm-4pm

Thursday 24 February

- Portree Somerled Square 10:30am-12:30pm, 1pm-3pm
- Alness High Street (Bank Lane) 9am-12noon
- Invergordon Library 1pm-4pm

Friday 25 February

- Inverness Victorian Market 9am-12:30pm, 1pm-4pm
- Ardersier Memorial Hall Car Park 9am-12noon
- Nairn High Street 1pm-4pm
- Conon Bridge High Street Car Park 9am-12noon
- Muir of Ord Library Car Park 1pm-4pm

For those with 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 119 if you can't book a test online. You may be able to order a PCR test to do at home, depending on availability.

Covid-19 Vaccination Update

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

For details of vaccination clinics in Highland, including drop-in clinics and GP practices supporting the booster roll-out, please check the link below. There are also FAQs on how vaccinations are being delivered in the NHS Highland area.

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

Vaccination Scams

Scammers are using mobile phone numbers to offer Covid-19 tests using a 'vaccinationpass' website which then demands payment.

If you receive a message, call, or link like this, do not respond. Instead, notify www.scamwatch.scot or call 0808 164 6000.

For information on vaccination scams and other Covid-19 related scams, visit the Trading Standards Scotland website

<https://www.tsscot.co.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-scams/>.

SSEN Resilient Communities Fund 2022 – North of Scotland

The 2022 Resilient Communities Fund is now open to applications in the North of Scotland network area.

Our Resilient Communities Fund was set up in 2015 and operates across our regions in the north of Scotland and central southern England. Its core aim is to help communities become more resilient in the face of storms, severe weather and prolonged power interruptions. More recently, the fund has evolved to include a focus on vulnerability. To date the Resilient Communities Fund has provided £2.8m to 540 not-for-profit community groups and charities.

The closing date for applications is 5pm on Friday 29 April 2022. Awards will be made in July 2022. Please read the guidelines prior to completing and submitting your application form.

<https://www.ssen.co.uk/RCF/Scotland/>

Scottish Flood Forum

The latest Scottish Flood Forum newsletter is attached. The Forum offers support and advice on flood protection, insurance, recovery, advice on establishing community flood groups and business continuity planning. We also represent the interests of people affected by, or at risk of, flooding. Please visit the Scottish Flood Forum for more information

The Forum aims to reduce the impacts of flooding on individuals and communities, through providing immediate support and by establishing a network of community

resilience groups in flood risk areas to equip communities to cope with the impacts and threat of flooding.

We work with local authorities and their partners in raising community awareness, promoting self-help and developing community groups. We also work with local authorities to establish a recovery support programme after a flood to ensure support is in place for the affected communities for the long term.

For more information visit the Scottish Flood Forum website

<https://scottishfloodforum.org/>

Supporting and Promoting the Census Scotland 2022

Scotland's next census will be held in March 2022. This census will be a digital first census and the National Records Scotland (NRS) want to encourage as many households in Scotland as possible to complete it online. To help with this NRS has created a [toolkit and supporting assets](#) to support groups that wish to engage with communities and service users about the census. The [toolkit](#) has lots of information about the census, as well as advertising, social media and other promotional materials you can download and share. The [toolkit and assets](#) can be used promote the census, encourage participation and answer questions.

These toolkits are available in a number of languages, including BSL and Gaelic, and accessible formats such as easy read and audio, NRS are holding sessions to give you a live demo of the online census completion website, information on the toolkit and supporting assets and the help and support available to enable people to complete the census questionnaire. You are invited to register for the relevant session by clicking on the link below.

Wednesday, 2 March 2022 | 11:00 – 12:00 [Click here to register for session](#)

Wednesday, 9 March 2022 | 11:00 – 12:00 [Click here to register for session](#)

Wednesday, 16 March 2022 | 11:00 – 12:00 [Click here to register for session](#)

If you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to get in touch at Scotlandsensus@nrscotland.gov.uk.

[Winter heating benefits: low income winter heating assistance consultation](#)

The Scottish Government has committed to replacing the UK Government's Cold Weather Payment (CWP) of £25 for every 7 day period of very cold weather, with a new £50 winter heating payment paid annually to those low-income households currently eligible for the CWP. This will be an investment of £20 million every year and support 400,000 households, giving eligible low-income households guaranteed support with energy bills.

This Scottish Government consultation asks questions on whether the proposed Scottish approach to replacing Cold Weather Payments will best meet the needs of those it is intended to help to ensure we have identified the best possible approach to delivering this assistance before we draft the benefit regulations

This consultation closes on 23 February 2022.

<https://consult.gov.scot/social-security/winter-heating-benefits/>

[Together We Care - NHS Highland Strategy 2022-27 - a chance to have your voice heard](#)

NHS Highland are currently running a project to develop their 2022-27 strategy; starting with gathering people's views and priorities. There is more information at the links below, including a link to an online survey.

- You Tube - short film explaining the "what is it" and "why" [Together We Care - YouTube](#)
- Survey - Please fill in and cascade the survey:
<https://forms.office.com/r/519bjRi4Sb>

Group submissions - If any organisation would like to submit a "group response" these can be sent to nhsh.listening@nhs.scot

Group Chat - If any group is having or would like an online meeting with an informal discussion about local health services / needs, please contact NHSH.TogetherWeCareIdeas@nhs.scot

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