

Community Resilience Group Weekly Briefing - 23 25 June 2021

Covid Update

You will be aware from the media coverage that numbers of covid cases have been rising across the country and this is also true within Highland. Over the last 7 days there have been 166 new positive cases in Highland (to 24 June), an increase from the 34 reported last week. This means the latest rate per 100,000 has increased from 14.4 per 100,000 last week to 70.4 per 100,000 as of 22 June.

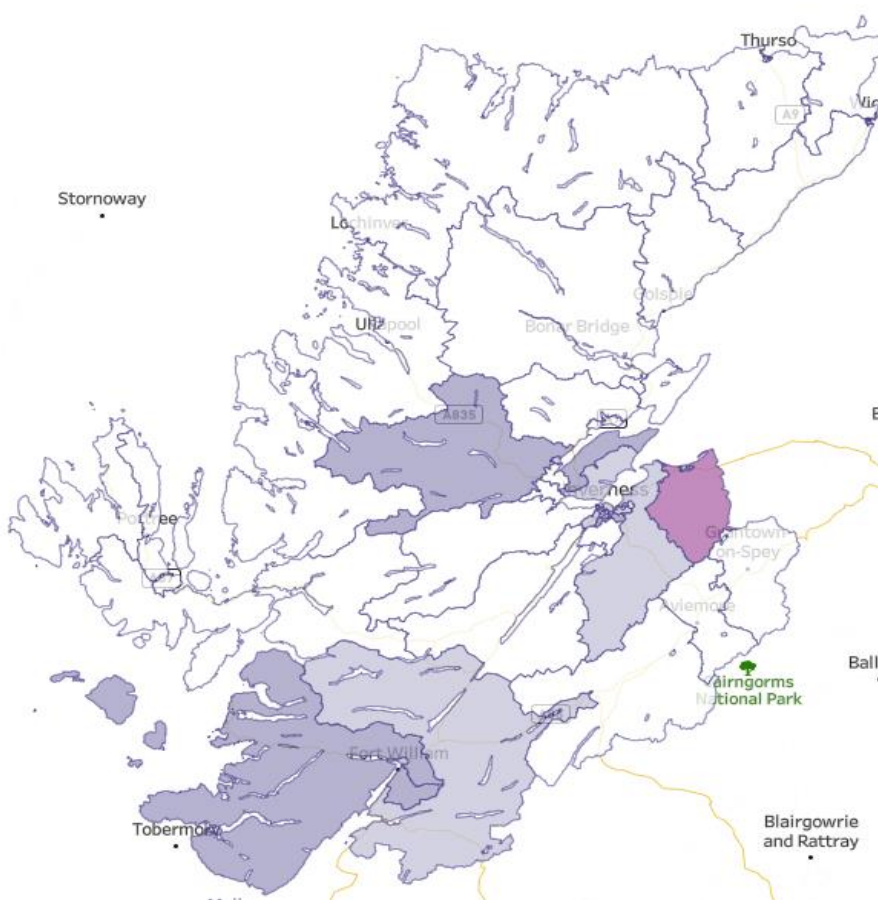
In terms of neighbourhood data, the map below and accompanying table, highlights the 7 day positive cases rate per 100,000 in communities across the Highland area. The increases shown reflect the increase in reported numbers of cases over the last week.

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



Inverness Scorguie	
Nairn Rural	
Wick North	
Wick South	
Black Isle North	
Fort William South	
Inverness Crown and Haugh	
Inverness Hilton	
Inverness Inshes	
Inverness Lochardil and Holm Mains	
Lochaber West	
Nairn West	
Ross and Cromarty Central	
Black Isle South	
Dingwall	
Fort William North	
Inverness Central, Raigmore and Longman	
Inverness East Rural	
Inverness Kinmylies and South West	
Inverness Muirtown	
Inverness Westhill	
Lochaber East and North	
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Symptoms and PCR Testing - the message from NHS Highland is to remain vigilant for any symptoms. The typical symptoms are a new continuous cough, a high temperature or fever and a loss of, or change in, normal taste or smell (anosmia). However, people with COVID-19 can present with a wide range of symptoms including headache, sore muscles and joints, tiredness, sore throat, cold-like symptoms and diarrhoea and vomiting.

Anyone that becomes unwell should isolate immediately and seek a PCR test. Tests can be booked through NHS Inform online or by calling 0800 028 2816.

Asymptomatic Testing - As cases rise, it is important to test yourself even if you 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, ordering 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.

Community Testing 28 June – 2 July

For groups in Tain, one of the community testing units will be at the Asda Car Park, Knockbreck Rd, Tain, IV19 1NZ next week on the following days and times:

- Monday 28 June 12.00 to 16.30.
- Tuesday 29 June 9.30 to 15:00

For groups in Dornoch, one of the community testing units will be at the Dornoch Academy Car Park, Evelix Rd, Dornoch, IV25 3HR next week on the following days and times:

- Wednesday 30 June 9.30 to 16:30

For groups in Inverness, one of the community testing units will be at Tesco Car Park at the Inverness Retail Park, 1A Eastfield Way Inverness IV2 7GD next week on the following days and times:

- Monday 28 June - Thursday 1 July 9:30 to 16:30
- Friday 2 July 9:30 to 13:00

The community testing programme offers rapid COVID-19 tests for people without symptoms. Just to emphasise that there is no outbreak 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.

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

HMRC support to meet costs of children's summer holiday activities

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has been reminding working families that they can use Tax-Free Childcare to help pay for their childcare costs over the summer.

Tax-Free Childcare – a childcare top-up for working parents – can be used to help pay for accredited holiday clubs, childminders or sports activities – giving parents and carers that extra peace of mind that their child is having fun during the school summer holidays and it can save them money.

Tax-Free Childcare is available for children aged up to 11, or 17 if the child has a disability. And for every £8 deposited into an account, families will receive an additional £2 in government top-up, capped at £500 every three months, or £1,000 if the child is disabled.

Parents and carers can check their eligibility and [register for Tax-Free Childcare via GOV.UK](#).

Tax-Free Childcare is also available for pre-school aged children attending nurseries, childminders or other childcare providers. Families with younger children will often have higher childcare costs than families with older children, so the tax-free savings can really make a difference.

Connecting Scotland Programme – phase 3

The [Connecting Scotland Programme](#) aims to get 60,000 digitally excluded households online by the end of 2021. Phase 3 of the programme is now open for organisations to apply under three strands of activity:

- [Fast track](#) – for organisations who have identified up to ten people they are currently working with at risk of social isolation and loneliness. There is a particular focus on older people, disabled people and single parents.
- [Social housing fast track](#) – for housing associations and other social housing providers to rapidly distribute up to 100 devices to tenants at risk of social isolation and loneliness.
- [Employability](#) – for organisations working to remove barriers related to digital exclusion for unemployed young people and adults (aged 16+)

Organisations can apply for support on behalf of the people they work with. Support includes:

- Digital devices – iPads and/or Chromebooks
- Internet connectivity – a mobile WiFi hotspot with 24 months unlimited data
- Training and support – for staff and volunteers to become 'digital champions' to support people to use the internet confidently and safely

Further details can be found at: <https://connecting.scot/organisations>

Vaccination Update

The latest update from NHS on the vaccine can be accessed at the following link:

www.nhsinform.scot/covid19vaccine

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

Resilience Network Contacts

Should any group not already be involved with these networks, the contact details for each is below.

- Caithness –If any groups aren't involved and wish to be please contact Alan Tait at Caithness Voluntary Groups allan@cvg.org.uk
- Sutherland – If any groups aren't involved and wish to be please contact Karina Ross at Highland and Islands Enterprise karina.ross@hient.co.uk
- East Ross – Helen Ross, Ward Manager, will facilitate this network. For future involvement in this network please contact policy6@highland.gov.uk
- Black Isle - If any groups aren't involved and wish to be please contact Asia Cielecka at communities@black-isle.info
- Wester Ross and Dingwall – Dot Ferguson, Ward Manager, will facilitate this network. For future involvement in this network please contact policy6@highland.gov.uk
- Skye and Raasay - If any groups aren't involved and wish to be please contact Fiona Thomson at Skye Community Response Development Team fiona@portreeandbraes.org
- Lochaber – Emma Tayler, Assistant Ward Manager, will facilitate this network. For future involvement in this network please contact policy6@highland.gov.uk
- B&S –If any groups aren't involved and wish to be please contact Karen Derrick enquires@vabs.org.uk
- Inverness City – David Haas, City Manager, will facilitate this network. For future involvement in this network please contact policy6@highland.gov.uk
- Inverness Rural – Charles Stephen, Ward Manager, will facilitate this network. For future involvement in this network please contact policy6@highland.gov.uk

- Nairn – Emma Tayler, Ward Manager, will facilitate this network. For future involvement in this network please 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