

Community Resilience Group Weekly Briefing - 30 13 August 2021

Covid Update

Over the last 7 days there have been 360 new positive cases in Highland (to 12 August), an increase from last week when 220 were reported. This means the latest rate per 100,000 has increased from 93.4 per 100,000 last week to 152.9 per 100,000 as of 12 August. 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 5.8% on 10 August, up from 4% on 3 August.

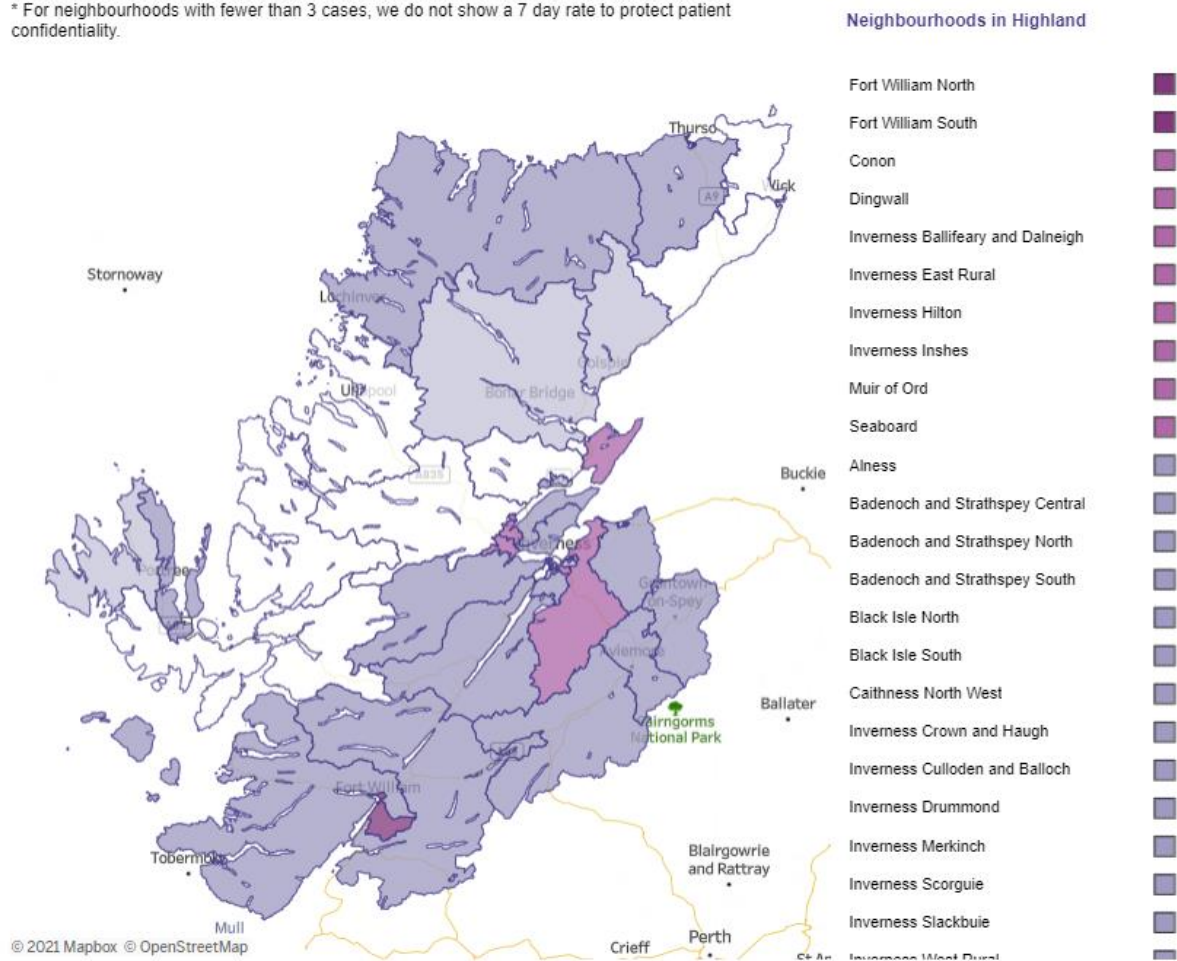
7 day positive cases in Highland based on people tested between 4 August 2021 and 10 August 2021

7 day positive cases	7 day positive rate per 100,000 population	7 day test positivity rate
360	152.9	5.8%

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.



A number of care homes, businesses and events held in the NHS Highland area are continuing to feel the impact of COVID. A reminder that this virus is still here and can still do damage.

Fort William in particular has seen an increase with 56 cases in the area since last Friday and the rate in the Lochaber area is currently (12 August 2021) 444 per 100,000. Accordingly, NHS Highland will be running PCR community testing for those **with symptoms** in Fort William next week. The details are below.

Scotland Moves Beyond Level Zero

As noted last week, from 9 August 2021 the whole of Scotland moved to beyond Level 0. This week the Scottish Government has published advice for people at highest risk.

Coronavirus (COVID-19): advice for people at highest risk

People at highest risk (those formerly classed as 'shielding') from Covid are advised to follow the same advice as the rest of the population. Everyone in Scotland is asked to follow some important precautionary measures to protect people who may not yet have had the vaccine, or who are unable to have it. The advice applies to people at the highest risk of severe illness from coronavirus and who will have received a letter from the Chief Medical Officer telling them so. The advice includes sections on:

- Work, education, childcare and transport
- Vaccine drop-in clinics
- Keeping up to date
- If you are immunosuppressed
- Priority supermarket delivery slots - available until 30 September

However, people at highest risk are also advised to contact their specialist care team to discuss if the advice is right for them as it will depend on their individual situation. The full advice can be found here <https://www.mygov.scot/covid-highest-risk>

Staying Safe

The Scottish Government guidance for everyone on how to stay safe and prevent the spread of COVID-19 applicable from 9 August, **Staying Safe and Protecting Others** can be found here.

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

Asymptomatic Testing

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 is outlined below.

Symptomatic Testing

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.

Community Testing 13 – 20 August for those WITH symptoms

In response to the rise in cases in Fort William, a mobile testing unit will be in the area to carry out COVID-19 (PCR) testing for those **with** symptoms. **PCR testing is by appointment only – book through [NHS Inform](#)**

- This mobile PCR testing unit will be at Fort William Shinty Club, An Aird, Fort William, PH33 6AN:
Friday 13 and Saturday 14 August, 11am - 4pm
Sunday 15 August, 11am – 3.30pm
Tuesday 17 and Thursday 19 August, 11am – 4pm

Community Testing 16 – 20 August for those without symptoms

The community testing programme offers rapid COVID-19 tests for people without symptoms. In a new initiative, there is now an incentive for people to come along and get tested. Wipro have kindly donated a number of Amazon Kindles. After taking the test and completing the questionnaire, people can be entered into a monthly draw for a Kindle.

Next week a mobile testing unit will be in Dingwall

The mobile testing unit "Moves like Jagger" will be in the main car park at Greenhill Street, Dingwall, IV15 9SE:

- Monday 16 August, 10am – 4.40pm
- Tuesday 17 – Thursday 19, 8.30am – 4.30pm
- Friday 20, 8.30am – 3pm

Just to emphasise that there is no specific outbreak 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.

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.

Vaccination of 16-18 year olds

From 7 August, 16-18year olds are now eligible for vaccination and will be directed to the drop in clinics - see NHS Highland website for details <https://www.nhshighland.scot.nhs.uk/COVID19/Pages/Vaccination.aspx>.

Vaccination Explainer videos

For anyone working with groups with communication needs, NHS had produced a range of Covid-19 information in alternative formats and languages. This includes a number of explainer videos containing factual information about the covid vaccine in several languages including BSL. Links to the Vaccination Explainer videos are in the attached document.

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