

Community Resilience Group Weekly Briefing - 35 17 September 2021

Covid Update

Over the last 7 days there have been 915 new positive cases in Highland (to 16 September), a decrease from last week when 1,432 were reported. This means the latest 7-day rate per 100,000 has decreased from 608.3 per 100,000 last week to 388.7 per 100,000 as of 16 September. Whilst it is positive to see the numbers have decreased from last week, they still remain very high and therefore it is extremely 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 7.9% on 14 September, down from 9.5% on 7 September.

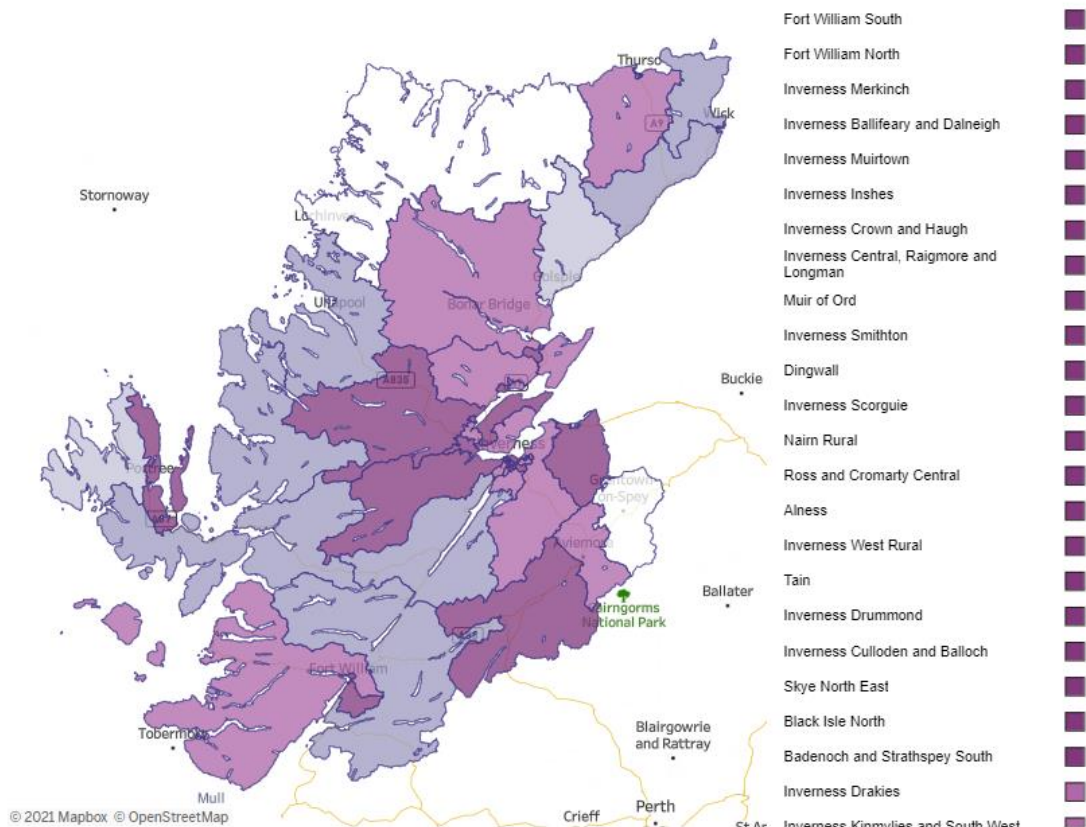
7 day positive cases in Highland based on people tested between 8 September 2021 and 14 September 2021

7 day positive cases	7 day positive rate per 100,000 population	7 day test positivity rate
915	388.7	7.9%

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.



Scotland has Moved Beyond Level Zero

From 9 August 2021 the whole of Scotland moved to beyond Level 0. You can find Scottish Government guidance for everyone on how to stay safe and prevent the spread of COVID-19 here.

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

Scottish Government messages this week

- Safety mitigations to keep children, young people and staff safe in schools will be extended until at least the October holidays. Education Secretary Shirley-Anne Somerville confirmed that all current mitigations, including the use of face coverings by pupils in secondary school classrooms, will still be required to help keep schools as safe as possible.
- With high coronavirus cases in Scotland, it's vital we do all we can to stop the spike. Please remember to wear a face covering when required, unless you are exempt. Securely cover your mouth, nose and chin.
- From Friday 1 October, coronavirus vaccination certificates will be needed to enter some events and higher risk venues like: nightclubs, music festivals and some sports stadia.
- From 30 September, people will be able to download the NHS Scotland Covid Status App. This can be used at places where vaccination certificates are needed. Haven't had your vaccine yet? You can: Register: <http://nhsinform.scot/vaccineregistration> or Go to a drop-in: <http://bit.ly/VaccineDropIn>
- Contact tracing helps us: Stop the spike and avoid the need for future restrictions. Thank you for helping our contact tracers do their job by filling in the secure online form as soon as you're asked.
- Taking public transport? Coronavirus hasn't gone away. It's more important than ever to remember to: Wear a face covering, keep your distance where possible and clean your hands often.

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 20 – 24 September for those without symptoms

The community testing programme offers rapid COVID-19 tests for people without symptoms.

Next week mobile testing units will be in Inverness and Alness

The mobile testing unit 'Moves Like Jagger' will be at Tesco Car Park, Inverness Retail Park, 1A Eastfield Way, Inverness IV2 7GD

- Monday 20 September 9am-4,30pm
- Tuesday 21 September 9am-4.30pm
- Wednesday 22 September 9am-4.30pm
- Thursday 23 September 9am-4.30pm
- Friday 24 September 9am-4.30pm

The mobile testing unit 'Testalot' will be at Alness Obsdale Park, Alness, IV17 0TR

- Monday 20 September 10am-4.30pm
- Tuesday 21 September 9am-4.30pm
- Wednesday 22 September 9am-4.30pm
- Thursday 23 September 9am-4.30pm
- Friday 24 September 9am-3pm

Just to emphasise that there is no specific 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.

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.

Those who attend a COVID-19 Mobile Clinic will also have the opportunity to enter a free monthly draw to win an Amazon Kindle e-reader (10th generation, with 6" backlit display) after completing an exit survey. The winner will be drawn by random at the end of the month.

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 young people

From 7 August, 16-18 year 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>.

Children and young people aged 12 -15 years old will be offered a dose of the coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccination from Monday 20 September after Scottish Ministers accepted advice from the four UK Chief Medical Officers (CMOs).

The following vaccination drop-in clinics are operating in Highland next week:

																																																																	
<p>Drop-in vaccines in Wick and Inverness Any dose Pfizer or AstraZeneca</p>	<p>Drop-in vaccines in Fort William Any dose Pfizer, 2nd dose AstraZeneca</p>																																																																
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'Worrying About Money?' leaflets – IFAN survey

Independent Food Aid Network (IFAN) has supported the co-development of cash first referral leaflets or 'Worrying About Money?' leaflets for over a year in Scotland. Leaflets are now in circulation in 15 local authorities across Scotland with work currently underway in a further six areas. You can find information about the leaflets at www.foodaidnetwork.org.uk/cash-first-leaflets and you can find the Highland

Council leaflet here

https://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/23081/worrying_about_money.

If you have used the leaflet, or know of someone who has, IFAN are running a survey to evaluate its impact and to gather the thoughts and experiences of people who have used the 'Worrying About Money?' leaflet in Scotland either as a resource to help with money worries or to help people facing financial difficulties. All responses will be kept confidential.

The data collated through the survey will be analysed by IFAN as well as [ScotCen](#) as part of an ongoing evaluation of the leaflet's impact. A report including the findings from this survey will be published in the Autumn.

The survey should take approximately 7-10 minutes to complete and the deadline for responses is Tuesday the 21st of September at 12 midday.

You can complete the survey here

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc8Utp2p8KX-Vlz4dFu3FDaFryGUBxw1ZnlgGyO1xhOl65agw/viewform>

Supporting Communities Safely

Advice for community groups, organisations and volunteer networks adapting to life with Covid-19

A new resource has been published to support community organisations to carry out their vital work safely during the Covid-19 outbreak. This free, online resource, developed by SCDC (Scottish Community Development Centre) and Public Health Scotland, features a range of practical information and advice, such as:

- How to safely promote an organisation's services
- Keeping volunteers safe and fit to provide services
- How to get help with complex care needs
- Safely collecting and delivering items
- How to cook and transport hot meals
- In towns and villages across Scotland, community organisations and volunteers are fighting COVID 19 and this resource is designed to help them do this as safely as possible.
- Whether groups are starting up, or taking stock of an existing service, following this advice reduces risks of indirect transmission of the virus on packaging or other forms of contact when we support people in their homes.

The advice helps those providing services to think how they could break the chains of potential infection from the store to the door.

View the resource here <https://www.scdc.org.uk/supporting-communities-safely>

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