



COVID-19 Update for key stakeholders



18 March 2021

COVID cases

Over the course of this week, we have had 33 cases notified in NHS Highland residents. The latest infection rate is 34/100,000 across the NHS Highland area: 8/100,000 in Argyll and Bute and 43/100,000 in North Highland. These cases are primarily concentrated in the Inverness area.

We have a total of seven inpatient cases in Raigmore, plus four in ITU, and two inpatient cases in other hospitals within NHS Highland, including one in Argyll and Bute. There have been 169 recorded deaths in the NHS Highland area since the start of the pandemic: 98 in Highland and 71 in Argyll and Bute.

Vaccination

NHS Highland continues to vaccinate patients in line with the Scottish Government guidance for the vaccination programme. We have exceeded the target of vaccinating over 85% of all those aged over 65 (Joint Committee for Vaccination and Immunization (JCVI) cohort groups 1-5).

We have also started first dose vaccinations for cohort 6, 'clinically at risk 16-65'. This large group is being split into sub groups:

- 6a those at risk based on a modified version of the flu vaccination list
- 6b carers in receipt of SSS allowance
- 6c those at risk due to additional risk conditions
- 6d other unpaid carers

The national Unpaid Carers Portal has also been launched for people who provide vital face-to-face care and support for others, and who haven't already been given an appointment for their COVID vaccination. The portal can be accessed [here](#).

We have given 132,734 people their first dose vaccination: 51.4% of the population over age 16. Vaccination data is now also available on the Scottish Government's daily [interactive dashboard](#).