**Update for key stakeholders
29 July 2022**

**Vaccination**

[JCVI advice](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/jcvi-updated-statement-on-the-covid-19-vaccination-programme-for-autumn-2022/joint-committee-on-vaccination-and-immunisation-jcvi-updated-statement-on-the-covid-19-vaccination-programme-for-autumn-2022) has been issued which recommends an autumn COVID vaccination booster programme for over 50s, frontline health and social care workers, and some other vulnerable groups. This is expected to start in September and we will keep you informed of progress.

Vaccination clinics continue to be updated regularly in the local press, social media and on our [website.](https://www.nhshighland.scot.nhs.uk/COVID19/Pages/Welcome.aspx) Anyone who receives an appointment invitation and needs to change the location or date can call our local Vaccination Enquiry Hub on 08000 320 339.

You can view all vaccination information and other COVID data on the [Public Health Scotland COVID dashboard.](https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/phs.covid.19/viz/COVID-19DailyDashboard_15960160643010/Overview/viz/COVID-19DailyDashboard_15960160643010/Overview)

**NHS Education for Scotland report**

We would like to thank NHS Education for Scotland for the report they produced following their recent visit to Lorn & Islands hospital and we accept their findings in full.  Difficulties in recruiting trained clinical staff, especially consultants, has undoubtedly led to significant additional pressures on the clinical teams working within the hospital and the training and peer support available for junior clinical staff has not been as robust as we would have liked.  We would therefore like to thank those colleagues who raised concerns about these issues.

We have put in place an action plan to implement the recommendations listed in the report and this plan has been shared with NHS Education for Scotland.  The recruitment issues we face as an organisation are shared by other Health Boards and we are actively looking into using more innovative methods of marketing and promoting NHS Highland as an attractive place to work. One element of this has been the launch of the Aim High Aim Highland recruitment campaign and we are hopeful that this will help us in the recruitment of key staff.  We have a great team at Lorn & Islands hospital and we recognise that the last couple of years have been an extremely difficult and challenging time for them and we would like to thank them, and all our colleagues across NHS Highland, for the work they are doing for their local communities every day of the week.

**Home Farm and Budhmor Care Homes**

There has been a delay in the transfer of residents from Budhmor care home to Home Farm care home due to confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 in Home Farm.

We are working to manage the COVID-19 cases within the home and have stepped-up testing of residents and staff as a precautionary measure. Home Farm will remain closed to new residents until mid-August due to the positive COVID-19 cases.

The Care Inspectorate has granted our request to provide support to residents in Budhmor as an extension of Home Farm care home. This means that the residents in Budhmor will remain in the home for a short period of time until there are no further positive cases of COVID-19 in Home Farm.

The Care Inspectorate has been clear that this extension is only for a short period and that residents in Budhmor will be transferred to Home Farm as scheduled in due course. The staffing within Budhmor will be supported by NHS Highland’s Care Response Team, who are a highly-skilled, experienced and dedicated team.

We recognise that this further delay in what is a stressful experience for families and we apologise for this. However, the wellbeing of all residents is our priority and we are doing everything we can to manage this developing situation while reducing harm to our residents.

**Ullapool Care Homes Briefing**

The sale of Mo Dhachaidh care home has been agreed between Barchester (the current operator) and Parklands (the buyer). While this is an independent commercial transaction between two organisations, NHS Highland are pleased for the continuity of care for the residents and the retained care home capacity for the community of Ullapool and the surrounding area.

NHS Highland had been approached informally by Parklands, as the new operator of Mo Dhachaidh, who have indicated an interest in the future running of Lochbroom House, and who wish to explore dialogue on potential opportunities.

NHS Highland has now received a formal request from Parklands to discuss the need to ensure sustainability of care home services in Ullapool. The written request refers to Parklands’ purchase of Mo Dhachaidh care home; the potential vulnerability of care services in Ullapool; and Parklands’ desire to combine the running of Mo Dhachaidh with Lochbroom Care Home, in order to stabilise care home services in the area.

Given the need to ensure sufficient care home provision across Highland and Scotland, NHS Highland would give due consideration to any approach that is made with regards to sustaining care home capacity in Ullapool and the surrounding area. At this stage no decisions have been made.

Our primary objective is the care and safety of all care home residents and to maintain sustainability of care home capacity in the area. We will keep you updated with any further developments.

**Feedback**

If you have comments or queries please contact nhshighland.feedback@nhs.scot