**Update for key stakeholders
27 January 2023**

**JCVI announcement**

This week the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) issued interim advice that a COVID-19 booster vaccination should be offered to those at higher risk of severe COVID-19 illness in autumn this year. They also advised an extra COVID-19 booster dose may be offered in spring to a smaller group of people, including those who are older and those who are have a weakened immune system. We expect the final JCVI advice on that shortly.

It has also been advised that the 2021 COVID-19 vaccination booster for those aged 16-49 who are not in the clinical risk group should stop in line with the autumn 2022 vaccination programme which ends on 31 March 2023. We still have a number of drop-in and appointment clinics across our area – all details on [our website.](https://www.nhshighland.scot.nhs.uk/health-and-wellbeing/vaccination/coronavirus-covid-19-and-flu-vaccinations/)

**Ward closure**

Ward 7C at Raigmore is currently closed due to a number of COVID cases. Infection prevention and control procedures are being followed.

**Health and Safety case**

NHS Highland will appear at Inverness Sheriff Court on Tuesday 31 January in a case brought under the Health and Safety at Work Act. In an incident which took place in 2019, NHS Highland failed to mitigate or prevent falls in a patient identified as at risk of falling, who subsequently died. The Board will be pleading guilty.

NHS Highland has made considerable improvements since this case was investigated, including improved training, clearer processes for escalating staffing shortages, and piloting a scheme for volunteers which offers additional support and supervision for older patients. A Board-wide falls prevention training programme is also being rolled out.

The Board apologises for and deeply regrets the failings identified that led to this death.

**Mo Dhachaidh care home, Ullapool**

Parklands Ltd recently announced the closure of Mo Dhachaidh care home, a 19 bed nursing home in Ullapool. There are currently 14 residents.

The small scale of operation and the substantial and rising costs associated with bringing the facility up to future standards are now considered by Parklands to be prohibitive and present too great a financial risk to their organisation. NHS Highland and the Highland Council are unable to provide the level of financial support required by Parklands and a confirmed closure date of 23 April 2023 has been agreed. Residents, relatives and staff have been informed.

A more detailed briefing was shared with stakeholders on Wednesday. Any inquiries about this briefing can be addressed to:

* Louise Bussell, Chief Officer Louise.Bussell2@nhs.scot
* Gillian Grant, Interim Head of Commissioning Gillian.Grant5@nhs.scot

**Feedback**

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