



## COVID-19 Update for key stakeholders



**25 February 2021**

### **COVID cases**

On 24 February we had 19 new cases. The infection rate is 46/100,000 across the NHS Highland area: 25/100,000 in Argyll and Bute and 54/100,000 in North Highland.

We have a total of 15 inpatient cases in Raigmore, plus six in ITU, and two in Argyll and Bute. There have been 155 recorded deaths in the NHS Highland area since the start of the pandemic: 84 in Highland and 71 in Argyll and Bute.

### **Vaccination**

NHS Highland continues to vaccinate patients in line with the Scottish Government and guidance for the vaccination programme. The current target is to vaccinate all those aged over 65 (Joint Committee for Vaccination and Immunization (JCVI) cohort groups 1-5) by 5 March 2021. We have given 100,216 people their first dose vaccination, with approximately 27,000 being from Argyll and Bute and 73,000 from Highland. We are now starting second dose vaccinations as well.

You may have seen concerns reported recently that the vaccination programme is being adversely affected by slow supply of vaccine. We can reassure you that all GP practices have been allocated adequate stock to vaccinate their patients in line with the national target dates. Our programme has a Stock Allocation Group that meets weekly. This group has oversight of all of the stock that is allocated to NHS Highland and ensures that all 96 GP practices receive enough vaccine for each cohort. Wherever possible, we try to be flexible with stock allocations to accommodate GP practice clinic plans.

The approach across practices varies, with some organising larger clinics, run less often, whilst others organise smaller clinics more regularly. Due to the way that stock is allocated, it is not possible for each practice to be at exactly the same point in the vaccination programme. Some will be slightly ahead of others and may therefore have a short gap between cohorts while others are catching up, but all practices are working towards the same target date for completion of each cohort. We are confident that all eligible patients will be offered a vaccine by 5 March 2021 and we will then at a board-wide level be able to move on to following cohorts.