

COVID-19 Update for key stakeholders



18 February 2021

COVID cases

On 16 February we had 23 new cases. The infection rate is 58/100,000 across the NHS Highland area: 62/100,000 in Argyll and Bute and 57/100,000 in North Highland.

While cases are slowing decreasing, inpatient numbers remain relatively high. We have a total of 19 inpatient cases in Raigmore, plus five in ITU, and five in Argyll and Bute. There have been 144 recorded deaths in the NHS Highland area since the start of the pandemic: 81 in Highland and 63 in Argyll and Bute.

Vaccination

Our vaccination programme continues, as we work our way through the JCVI cohorts. We have now vaccinated over 88,000 people – a third of the adult population in our area. We have achieved or exceeded the 85% target for all cohorts so far, with the exception of extremely clinical vulnerable individuals (shielding). It has proved difficult to accurately quantify this group, as not all people shielding are recorded as such with their GP. However, we are close to the target for this group and expect to complete it soon.

We are now starting second dose vaccinations for people who received their first dose between 10 and 12 weeks ago. This may slow the progress of first doses for a while as we wait for vaccine supplies to increase. Members of the public eligible for second doses will be contacted directly to arrange vaccination in the same way as they were for their first dose. There is no need for them to make an appointment themselves.

Priority group	When the first dose will be complete	Total population across the NHS Highland area* (to nearest 500)
All those 80 years of age and over	5 February	18,500
All those 75-80 years of age	Mid-February	14,000
All those 70-75 years of age	Mid-February	21,000
Extremely clinically vulnerable individuals	Mid-February	4,500
All those 65-70 years of age	Early-March	20,000
All individuals aged 16 years to 64 years with underlying health	Early-May	44,000

conditions and unpaid carers		
All those 60-65 years of age	Early-May	22,000
All those 55-60 years of age	Early-May	23,000
All those 50-55 years of age	Early-May	22,000

*Includes Highland Council and Argyll and Bute Council areas.