



Update for key stakeholders

27 August 2021

COVID cases

We had 1,138 new cases in the seven days to 22 August. The infection rate is 354.7/100,000 across the NHS Highland area: 553.7/100,000 in Argyll and Bute and 282.5/100,000 in North Highland.

We have 15 patients in hospital with COVID-19 including 2 in ITU. We have 7 ITU beds altogether (currently flexed up to 12) of which 2 are occupied with a COVID-19 patient and 10 are occupied with other patients.

There have been 183 recorded deaths in the NHS Highland area since the start of the pandemic: 108 in Highland and 75 in Argyll and Bute. This is an increase of 2 in the last 7 days.

Vaccination

93.6% of people over 18 in the NHS Highland area have received one COVID vaccination, compared to a Scottish average of 90.9%. 82% have received two doses, compared to a Scottish average of 81%. You can view progress on the national [vaccination programme online here](#).

Details of drop-in vaccination clinics for first and second doses are available on our [dedicated web page](#). This will continue to be updated as more clinics are added.

Listening and Learning Survey

We have reported on the results of our Listening and Learning Survey into staff experience. 41% of staff completed the anonymous survey. The responses revealed teams that know what they are doing and do it well, supporting each other and looking after each other's wellbeing. People feel able to be themselves at work and many commented on the support of their local managers. There was a sense of positive change underway.

The results also showed that we need to do more to improve the visibility of senior leadership, and to increase understanding of our vision and priorities. We need to improve internal communication and engagement, particularly when changes are suggested. And we need to help our people to access development, and to navigate our systems and processes.

In response, we will be increasing Executive and Non-Executive visits to staff bases, sharing more information about our structures and strategy, and introducing training in communications and leadership.

Board vacancy

NHS Highland is looking for a new member to join its Board. For this post we are particularly looking for someone who can bring experience of community engagement and partnership working related to the delivery of health and social care in rural settings.

This is a challenging, rewarding and worthwhile opportunity that will take up around 8 hours a week and last for up to 4 years in the first instance. Please spread the word to anyone passionate about the future of rural communities who may be interested in helping to shape health and social care.

[Full details are available on our website.](#)

Feedback

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