



Update for key stakeholders

1 October 2021

COVID cases

We had 731 new cases in the seven days to 26 September. The infection rate is 227.9/100,000 across the NHS Highland area: 326.6/100,000 in Argyll and Bute and 192.0/100,000 in North Highland.

We have 18 patients in hospital with COVID-19, including 6 in ITU. We have 7 ITU beds, currently flexed up to 12, of which 6 are occupied with non-COVID-19 patients.

There have been 198 recorded deaths in the NHS Highland area since the start of the pandemic: 120 in Highland and 77 in Argyll and Bute. This represents an increase of 6 in the last 7 days.

Vaccination

94.6% of people over 18 in the NHS Highland area have received one COVID vaccination, compared to a Scottish average of 91.9%. 88.8% have received two doses, compared to a Scottish average of 86.1%. 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.

12-15 year olds can now attend drop in clinics. We recognise that locations and opening hours may not be suitable so clinics are being arranged across NHS Highland near or at the locations of High Schools. Further information on these additional vaccination clinics will be communicated as plans are finalised.

The COVID booster (third dose) programme will begin shortly.

New Employee Director

Adam Palmer has stepped down this week as Employee Director. This essential role on the Board represents the voice of our colleagues across NHS Highland, and Adam has fulfilled that brief admirably over two terms of four years, having been elected in October 2013.

Those eight years span some of the most turbulent and challenging times in the Board's history, and Adam has remained a calm and considered presence throughout. He has served on many different groups and committees, and has made a significant contribution to the Board throughout his tenure. As Employee Director he has been a member of Staff Governance, Remuneration and Endowment Committees and co Chair of the Area Partnership Forum and its associated sub groups. In addition to this, he has also served as a Board member on the Highland Health and Social Care Committee and the Clinical Governance Committee.

We will be sorry to lose Adam from the Employee Director role, but the position of Employee Director will be in good hands, with Elspeth Caithness taking over the role from 1 October.

Elspeth started her career in Raigmore Hospital qualifying as a Registered Nurse in 1989, working predominately in Acute Medicine. She has represented Royal College of Nursing Members (RCN) locally at Branch level and nationally on RCN Scotland Board and RCN Council.

NHS Lanarkshire Board Chair appointment

Scottish Ministers want to appoint a new Chair to Lanarkshire NHS Board. Please share this opportunity to help shape the NHS in Lanarkshire and provide assurance that it is working effectively, efficiently and in the best interest of the population served, This is a hugely worthwhile role. Applicants will need to be able to commit to 3 days per week, for which they will receive an annual remuneration of £35,138 (non-pensionable). An application pack can be found at the [public appointments website](#).

Completed applications must be received by noon on Tuesday 5th October 2021.

Feedback

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