

NHS Highland Covid-19 Vaccination - Covid-19 & Flu Vaccination

2021

Introduction

Delivery of Tranche 2 of the vaccination programme began in September 2021.

This year's flu campaign has been expanded to include larger numbers of younger children to be delivered alongside Covid Boosters and third doses of Covid-19 vaccine.

The national aim is to achieve the following:

Tranche 2 objective	Description
Stage 1 Covid Booster complete early November	Stage 1 is defined as Care Homes, Frontline Health and Social Care Workers, 70yrs + and Clinically Extremely Vulnerable
80% flu vaccines to complete by 20th December	Interpreted as 80% take up amongst eligible cohorts
Stage 2 Covid Booster complete early January	Stage 2 is defined as 50-69 yrs, 16+ underlying health conditions; 16+ unpaid carers; 16+ household contacts of immunosuppressed

In order to continue to protect the population of the NHS Highland Board area the provision of first and second doses of Covid-19 vaccine to the adult population continues, alongside the delivery of a single dose of vaccine to those aged 12-18yrs.

NHS Highland has delivered approximately 23,500 vaccine per week since the beginning Tranche 2 on 14th September.

Flu Vaccination and Covid-19 Boosters at Care Homes were completed on 22nd October

Flu Vaccination within Primary and Secondary Schools continues on plan for completion in November

We are continuing to roll out the programme prioritising the most vulnerable groups first

GPs participating in the programme have agreed to complete all eligible cohorts by 6th December

Nonetheless it remains a challenging programme and the following information is intended to describe those challenges and the mitigations being put in place to support effective delivery.

In addition a table describing the participation of GPs has been included for the reference of elected members and their offices.

Notes for context

The Vaccination Programme is complex to deliver across the geography of the board area. The notes below provide some helpful context for reference:

- **Tranche 1** Included the vaccination of the adult population of Highland against Covid-19 (18yrs+); and was then extended to include vaccination of children and young people 12-17 years; and third primary doses for those with severe immunosuppression. These latter groups join the Tranche 2 groups to be part of the wider Autumn & Winter FVCV Programme.
- **Tranche 2** includes Flu Vaccination and the administration of Covid-19 boosters.
- In addition to the above NHS Highland continues to provide **first and second doses** to groups eligible under Tranche 1 (for example because they are now 18, or have changed their mind about vaccination etc).
- **Covid boosters** are provided to those who have completed their vaccination course (both doses) and are over the age of 50, or clinically at risk.
- Covid boosters cannot be delivered until **24 weeks** (approx 6 months) after the second dose. It is not required that this is delivered at 24 weeks.
- Those who are severely immunosuppressed are receiving a **third dose** of Covid vaccine to complete their course of vaccination. Subject to future JCVI guidance they may require further doses or a booster dose.

Challenges

The principal challenges facing NHS Highland in delivering the programme across the board area are the scale of demand, mobilising capacity to meet the demand and ensuring access to clinics at appropriate locations:

1. Demand

NHS Highland are required to complete approx 500,000 vaccinations in the 5 months between 1st September and the end of January 2022, with the majority requiring completion by 20th December 2021¹.

NHS Highland have already administered 69,844 flu vaccines and 47,692 covid doses since the beginning of September², including 20,813 first and second doses of Covid vaccine.

2. Capacity

The need to mobilise greater capacity for the vaccinations in light of remobilising services has been understood for some time and various mitigations have been put in place to support deliver of clinics including:

- General Practice were re-engaged to provide Tranche 2 vaccinations in light of the capacity gap
- School nurses delivering vaccination in primary and secondary schools
- Use of Scottish Ambulance Service and Advanced Health Practitioners to support secondary school vaccinations
- Request for military support submitted in August 2021, and ongoing escalation
- Recruitment undertaken in Argyll and Bute and Highland in Summer, and now continuous in Highland
- Community Pharmacies providing flu vaccination for eligible staff cohorts (with some also providing covid boosters)
- Beginning flu vaccination as early as possible to extend the time available to compete the required volume
- Community nursing teams are deployed in Highland to vaccinate the housebound as part of their caseload
- Repeating activity with the clinic staff pipeline to identify other resources (eg independent contractors, retirees, etc) who may be able to offer time to work as vaccinators in certain areas
- Approaching GPs to understand their ability to provide vaccination staff for our clinics

3. Access

The limitations on capacity mean that providing the access to vaccination across the geography is very challenging

As a result, drop-in clinics have been consistently provided at Fort William and Inverness and are available to all.

Plans are continually reviewed and updated to expand the locations at which vaccination can be given.

¹ NHS Highland completed 440 000 covid vaccinations between 1st December 2020 and end of July 2021, in context of service suspension and static population.

² Excludes vol of vaccine administered in schools which are recorded on paper.

Clinic Plans

Clinic Plans are under constant review, with additional clinics being added as resource that can be used is identified.

Where we have engaged GPs they notify their patients and arrange their own clinics.

Where GPs are not participating in the programme NHS Highland run replacement clinics to which people are invited by letter of appointment, with the contact details for the Vaccination Hub in case they need to re-arranging their appointments.

Drop-in clinics are available to all residents to the NHS Highland board area, unless specified otherwise.

The latest iteration of clinic plans is attached in Appendix 1 providing Elected Members with a view of the clinic activity planned up the 5th November.

A further iterations of this plan will be produced shortly as provisionally planned clinics secure staffing and invites are issued. Flu and Covid clinics are planned in Aviemore (w/c 15 November) and Tain (w/c 23 November).

Vaccination clinics locations and activity will increase in late November as school vaccination plans are completed, and the anticipated military support is expected.

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GP Participation

Any General Practice not included in the list below is fully participating Tranche 2. That is, they are providing flu vaccinations and Covid boosters/3rd doses to the population over 50 or otherwise at risk. Participating GPs use their own processes to plan and appoint clinics, and will contact their patients directly.

Advertised drop-in clinics are open to all residents unless stated otherwise.

The GPs listed below are not participating fully in the Autumn Vaccinations so their involvement is described alongside how the registered patients they are not vaccinating will be invited to appointment.

Full participation means they are vaccinating all eligible cohorts

Not Participating means they are NOT vaccinating any eligible cohorts

(Other) specifies the cohorts the practice IS vaccinating.

South & Mid Highland

Practice ID#	Practice name	Participation in Flu vaccination	Participation in Covid-19 boosters & 3 rd doses	Route to Vaccination
55911	Aviemore Medical Practice	Not Participating	Not Participating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ NHS Highland appointment letters, drop-in clinics
55696	The Aird Medical Practice - Beauly	Not Participating	Not Participating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Appointments are for flu and Covid together where appropriate ▪ Appointments can be rescheduled via NESH Vaccination Hub
55728	Drumnadrochit Medical Practice	70yrs+	70yrs+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ NHS Highland appointment letters, drop-in clinics for clinically extremely vulnerable, clinically at risk and 50-70yrs ▪ Appointments are for flu and Covid together where appropriate ▪ Appointments can be rescheduled via NESH Vaccination Hub ▪ For flu vaccination of 2-5 year olds contact NESH Vaccination Hub; other ages will be invited by letter

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55751	Culloden Surgery	50yrs+ Clinically extremely vulnerable Clinically at risk	50yrs+ Clinically extremely vulnerable Clinically at risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For flu Vaccination of 2-5 year olds contact NESH Vaccination Hub; other ages will be invited by letter
55766	Culloden Medical Practice	70yrs+ Clinically Extremely Vulnerable 2-5yrs	70yrs+ Clinically Extremely Vulnerable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NHS Highland appointment letters, drop-in clinics for 50-70yrs or clinically at risk Appointments are flu and Covid together where appropriate Appointments can be rescheduled via NESH Vaccination Hub
55817	Kingsmills Medical Practice	65yrs+ Clinically Extremely Vulnerable Clinically at risk 2-5 yrs.	65yrs+ Clinically Extremely Vulnerable Clinically at risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NHS Highland appointment letters, drop-in clinics for 50-65yrs Appointments are flu and Covid together where appropriate Appointments can be rescheduled via NESH Vaccination Hub
55925	Grantown-On-Spey Medical Practice	50-65yrs 2-5yrs	Not Participating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NHS Highland appointment letters, drop-in clinics for 65yrs+, clinically extremely vulnerable and clinically at risk Appointments are flu and Covid together where appropriate Appointments can be rescheduled via NESH Vaccination Hub
55427	Tain & District Med Group	Full Participation	Not Participating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NHS Highland appointment letters, drop-in clinics
55431	Tain & Fearn Area Med Practice	Full Participation	Not Participating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appointments are flu and Covid together where appropriate
55836	Fairfield Medical Practice	Full Participation	Not Participating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appointments can be rescheduled via NESH Vaccination Hub
55893	Crown Medical Practice	Full Participation	Not Participating	

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North Highland

Practice ID#	Practice Name	Participation in Flu Vaccination	Participation in Covid-19 boosters/3 rd doses	Comment
55037	Riverbank Surgery	Not Participating	Not Participating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ NHS Highland appointment letters, drop-in clinics ▪ Appointments are flu and Covid together where appropriate ▪ Appointments can be rescheduled via NHSH Vaccination Hub
55075	Dunbeath Surgery	Not Participating	Not Participating	
55094	Lybster Medical Centre	Not Participating	Not Participating	
55131	Riverview Medical Practice	Not Participating	Not Participating	
55220	Golspie Medical Practice	Full Participation	Not Participating	
55272	Tongue Medical Practice	Full Participation	Not Participating	
55287	Helmsdale/Brora Med Practice	Full Participation	Not Participating	

West Highland

Practice ID#	Practice Name	Participation in Flu vaccination	Participation in Covid-19 boosters & 3 rd doses	Comment
55624	Tweeddale Medical Practice - Fort William	Not Participating	Not Participating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ NHS Highland appointment letters issued, drop-in clinics ▪ Appointments are flu and Covid together where appropriate ▪ Appointments can be rescheduled via NHSH Vaccination Hub
55662	Acharacle Medical Practice	Not Participating	Not Participating	
56025	Ballachulish Medical Practice	Not Participating	Not Participating	
55357	Aultbea/Gairloch Med Practice	Full Participation	Not Participating	
55427	Tain & District Med Group	Full Participation	Not Participating	
55431	Tain & Fearn Area Med Practice	Full Participation	Not Participating	
55639	Kinlochleven Medical Practice	Full Participation	Not Participating	
55643	Lochaline Medical Practice	Full Participation		
55732	Cill Chuimein Medical Centre - Fort Augustus	Full Participation	Not Participating	
55610	Glen Mor Medical Practice - Fort William	Full Participation	Not Participating	
56030	Mallaig And Arisaig Medical Practice	Full Participation	Not Participating	

Appendix 1. Highland Clinic Plans 1st Nov – 14th Nov 2021

Clinic plans are subject to change as described above and will be refreshed each week on the Highland website.

As measures to increase capacity are completed further clinics will be added and the calendar of clinics published will be extended.



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