

MEDIA RELEASE

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Inverness and surrounding area Vaccine Update

The uptake of the COVID vaccine programme in NHS Highland has been excellent and we fully appreciate that many are now keen to get their COVID booster and their flu vaccination.

In Inverness and the surrounding area NHS Highland will be delivering the following vaccination clinics for these GP Practices –

- The Aird Medical Practice, Beauly (Flu and COVID);
- Crown Medical Practice (COVID);
- Culloden Medical Practice (Flu and COVID for those 50-70yrs and patients clinically at risk);
- Drumnadrochit Medical Practice (Flu and COVID for those for clinically extremely vulnerable, clinically at risk and 50-70yrs);
- Fairfield Medical Practice (COVID);
- Fortrose Medical Practice (COVID 50-69yrs)
- Kingsmills Medical Practice (Flu and COVID 50-69yrs)

Eligible patients with these practices will be invited by letter or asked to call the Vaccination Hub. Appointments can also be rescheduled via the NHS Highland Vaccination Hub. Please only call the Hub if you have been asked to.

Other clinics are being run by your own GP practices and they will get in touch with patients directly.

We know patients have experienced difficulty in getting through to the Vaccination Hub. The software issues experienced at the beginning of this programme have been resolved and we are pleased to say that an appeal for more colleagues to assist the Hub Team has resulted in offers of support which will help us in operating these phone lines.

We will roll out vaccination over the coming weeks, prioritising the over 70s, the clinically extremely vulnerable and the severely immunosuppressed and working through other eligible groups.

Clinics have already been arranged at Smithton Church for patients registered with Culloden Surgery, Fairfield Medical Practice and Crown Medical Practice.

Further drop-in clinics, for patients who are registered with non-participating practices, have also been arranged at Smithton Church during November.

Clinics for Beauly patients have been held and more will be arranged with details available on our website once scheduled in.

More clinics for this area will continue to be scheduled shortly and we will issue information to the media and via our <u>website</u> and social media when they have been set up. The majority of patients will be invited by letter for the remaining clinics.

We will continue to assess the demand for vaccination and, if required, schedule in more local clinics.

ENDS