Update for key stakeholders
10 December 2021

COVID cases

We had 847 new cases in the seven days to 5 December. The infection rate is 264.9/100,000 across the NHS Highland area: 291.5/100,000 in Argyll and Bute and 254/100,000 in North Highland.

We have 19 patients in hospital with COVID-19, including 4 in ITU. We have 7 ITU beds, currently flexed to 8, of which 4 are occupied with COVID-19 patients and 4 with other patients.
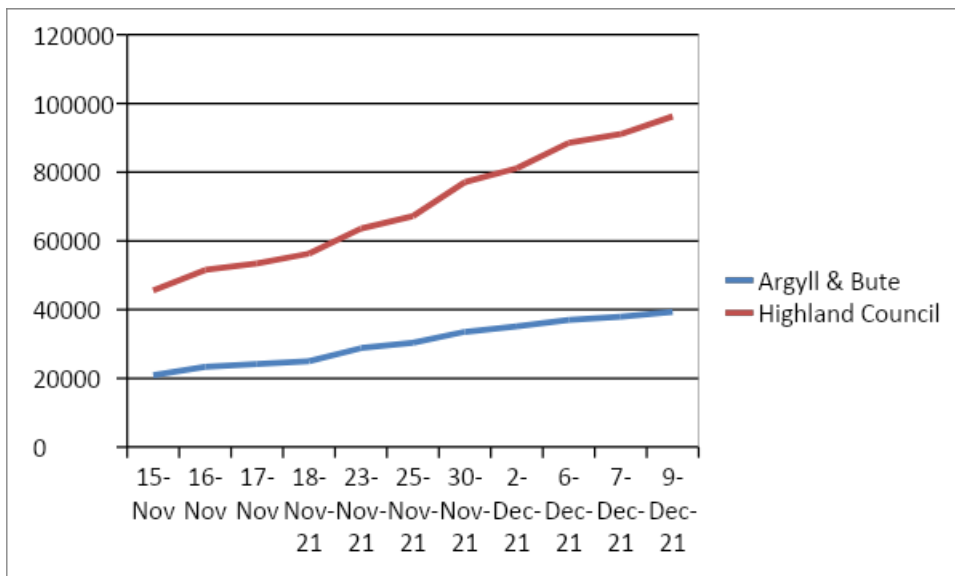
There have been 241 recorded deaths of people with COVID in the NHS Highland area since the start of the pandemic: 148 in Highland and 93 in Argyll and Bute. This represents an increase of 2 in the last 7 days.

Omicron

The speed at which the Omicron variant is transmitted is causing concern. We have reminded staff to test regularly, ventilate workplaces, work from home wherever possible and use PPE correctly. We have also asked that they consider ways to make Christmas socialising plans as safe as possible.

Vaccination

This graph shows the number of third doses or boosters administered.

The COVID booster vaccination programme is likely to accelerate further and plans to bring forward vaccination of younger age groups are in development.

Ward closures

Ward 7a at Raigmore hospital is closed to new admissions and visiting following the detection of a small number of cases of Covid-19. Patients are being clinically assessed and monitored with normal in-patient care continuing.

All appropriate infection prevention and control measures have been put in place. Close contacts have been identified and given appropriate advice and support.

There is no evidence of any link between these cases and those in ward 5a which also remains closed to new admissions and visiting.

Tests are being assessed to establish whether any of the cases are of the Omicron variant. The results will not be available until next week.

Feedback

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