



## Update for key stakeholders

4 February 2022

### **Covid figures**

We had 1,136 new cases in the seven days to 30 January. The infection rate is 354.7/100,000 across the NHS Highland area: 338.3/100,000 in Argyll and Bute and 359.8/100,000 in North Highland.

We have 20 patients in hospital with COVID-19, including 2 in ITU. ITU capacity is 9 beds, of which 2 are occupied with COVID patients, 3 with other patients and 4 are available.

There have been 267 recorded deaths of people with COVID in the NHS Highland area since the start of the pandemic: 165 in Highland and 102 in Argyll and Bute. This represents an increase of 10 in the last 7 days.

### **Patient Notification Exercise**

NHS Highland is contacting a small number of patients who had blood samples processed at Raigmore Hospital in early 2021 as part of a patient notification exercise. This follows a positive HIV result identified during routine processing of a blood sample. The positive result did not relate to the patient from whom the sample was taken, and it has not yet been possible to identify the source.

A thorough laboratory investigation into this suggested the possibility that the sample was contaminated from an unknown other sample and that another routine blood sample processed in the laboratory at a similar timeframe may be from an individual who is HIV positive. As such, we believe there is a patient with undiagnosed HIV infection to whom we can offer treatment and support should they wish.

Letters have been sent to those individuals included within the exercise to provide them with specific advice and to offer HIV testing. Testing for HIV involves a blood test which is provided free of charge with results available with a couple of days. We have a dedicated team of health advisors who will provide practical support, guidance and advice to everyone involved in this process.

### **County Hospital Invergordon**

Sutor ward, County Hospital Invergordon was closed on 29 January following the identification of a small number of positive COVID patients. The ward remains closed and has adopted COVID outbreak measures in line with national guidance. Visiting is being assessed on an individual basis by the Senior Charge Nurse.

### **Feedback**

If you have comments or queries please contact [nhshighland.feedback@nhs.scot](mailto:nhshighland.feedback@nhs.scot)