



Update for key stakeholders

1 April 2022

Covid figures

We had 4,461 new cases in the seven days to 27 March. The infection rate is 1,402/100,000 across the NHS Highland area: 1,263/100,000 in Argyll and Bute and 1,437/100,000 in North Highland.

We have 64 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 349 recorded deaths of people with COVID in the NHS Highland area since the start of the pandemic: 231 in Highland and 118 in Argyll and Bute. This represents an increase of 20 in the last 7 days. This refers to the total number of people who died within 28 days of their first laboratory confirmed report of COVID-19 infection and whose death was registered with National Records of Scotland.

While we appear to be at or just past the peak of the current wave of cases, pressure on all of our services remains extremely high. We are working hard to move people who no longer require hospital treatment on to other suitable places of care, to free up beds for other patients requiring urgent treatment. In some cases, this will involve working with their families who may be able to provide additional short-term help to allow patients to be discharged while awaiting more formal support being put in place.

Moray maternity review

Health Secretary Humza Yousaf has responded to an independent review of maternity services at Dr Gray's Hospital in Elgin by confirming a return to consultant-led maternity services. This will see 80 to 90% of Moray births taking place at the hospital over a period of time on a phased basis.

As services are expanded towards a consultant-led service at Dr Grays, in the interim Raigmore maternity unit will be expanded to allow Moray women to choose to access care in labour and birth there, in addition to Aberdeen Maternity Unit. The Health Secretary also confirmed £10 million of investment to delivery this, which includes £5 million to start the development of services at Dr Gray's and a further £5 million to improve facilities at Raigmore Hospital.

NHS Highland has acknowledged this announcement and welcomed the funding. Expanding accommodation and the capacity of our teams at Raigmore will take time and investment. Maternity services is one of the topics regularly reviewed by the Executive Collaborative Oversight Group, a joint group of leaders from NHS Highland and NHS Grampian. We are committed to working closely with colleagues in maternity and neonatal teams, as well as parents and families in Highland and Moray, to ensure the best possible care.

Feedback

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