



Update for key stakeholders

8 April 2022

Covid figures

We had 2,430 new cases in the seven days to 03 April. The infection rate is 1.008/100,000 across the NHS Highland area: 940/100,000 in Argyll and Bute and 1,032/100,000 in North Highland.

We have 68 patients in hospital with COVID-19, including 2 in ITU. ITU capacity is 9 beds, of which 2 are occupied with COVID patients, 4 with other patients and 3 are available.

There have been 366 recorded deaths of people with COVID in the NHS Highland area since the start of the pandemic: 246 in Highland and 120 in Argyll and Bute. This represents an increase of 17 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 the number of cases is decreasing, pressure on all of our services remains extremely high. Covid has not gone away and we are seeing approximately 4 admissions per day. There is also the ongoing impact on staff through infection and isolation. Our elective orthopaedics, though limited, did have a successful restart this week but our elective programme remains significantly reduced due to lack of bed capacity.

Covid vaccination – lettered appointments

Unfortunately the COVID vaccination programme has seen some scheduling and appointing issues with the national system which has resulted in people being asked to attend for their COVID vaccination outwith their local area.

This has affected residents in Highland and Argyll and Bute.

We are very sorry about this. Our teams are working with the national team to ensure, as best as we can, that this doesn't happen again.

Messages have been placed on our website and issued on our social media advising people that if they have been asked to attend an appointment outwith their local area they can contact the NHS Highland Vaccination Hub who will assist in rescheduling their appointment.

The Hub can be contacted on 08000 320 339 and is open Monday to Friday 9.30am to 4.30pm and Saturday 10am to 2pm.

Budhmer Care Home, Portree

We have been given 13 weeks contractual notice by CrossReach of their intention to close Budhmer care home, Portree at the end of June 2022.

Budhmer House is a residential care home for older people located in Portree, which is operated by Crossreach (Church of Scotland). The care home is registered for 29 residents but due to facility restrictions (steps etc.), has 25 usable rooms. The current occupancy of the care home is 15 residents.

With regard to the facility, CrossReach has significantly invested in maintenance and refurbishment costs but there is a shared view that the facility does not provide for the desired standard of accommodation and is not fit for purpose into the future.

The building condition has recently been reviewed by NHS Highland Estates colleagues with CrossReach's own estates team who have indicated that significant further investment is required which would not be commensurate with the resulting ongoing suitability as a care home. A number of bedrooms cannot be used due to access issues and the entire building would need significant work to meet required standards.

The timing of this notice has allowed for the planned re-opening of beds at Home Farm, Portree, following the refurbishment works at this location, with sufficient beds becoming available again. This bed capacity will enable a local option to be available to all residents relocating from Budhmor, should this be their wish.

We are now working closely together with CrossReach to try to ensure the best outcomes for residents and their families and that they are kept fully informed of the closure programme. We are also exploring employment opportunities for staff. We have agreed with them about potential flexibility of the timescales to ensure we meet all of the residents care needs. To assist with this an internal NHSH support team has been assembled to support the resident relocation process.

Feedback

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