

## Community Resilience Group Weekly Briefing - 37 1 October 2021

### Covid Update

Over the last 7 days there have been 404 new positive cases in Highland (to 30 September), a decrease from last week when 615 were reported. This means the latest 7-day rate per 100,000 has decreased from 261.2 per 100,000 last week to 171.6 per 100,000 as of 30 September. Whilst it is positive to see that the numbers continue to decrease, it remains important to be careful and stick to the Scottish Government guidelines.

In terms of neighbourhood data, the map below and accompanying table, highlights the positive cases per 100,000 in communities across the Highland area. The test positivity rate on was 4.7% on 28 September, down from 6.1% on 21 September.

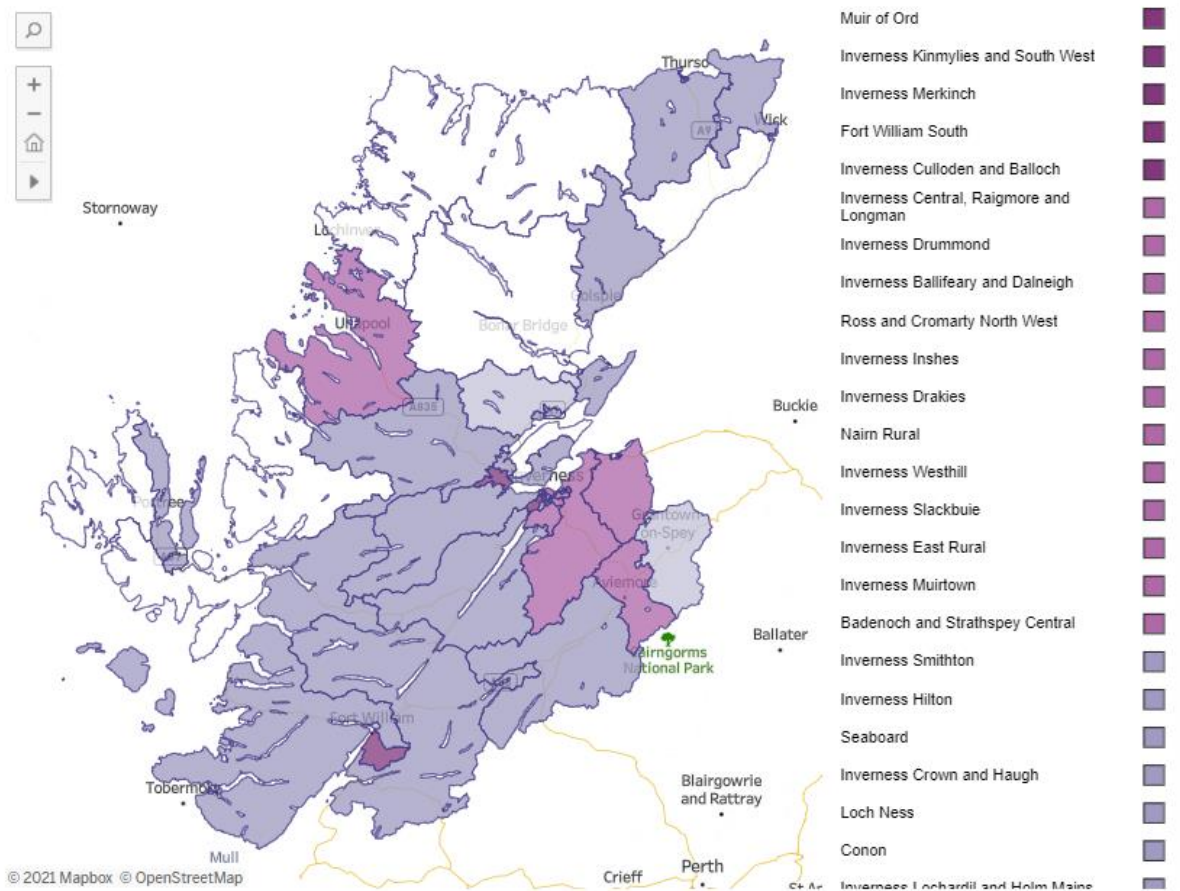
7 day positive cases in Highland based on people tested between 22 September 2021 and 28 September 2021

7 day positive cases	7 day positive rate per 100,000 population	7 day test positivity rate
404	171.6	4.7%

7 day positive rate per 100,000 population



\* For neighbourhoods with fewer than 3 cases, we do not show a 7 day rate to protect patient confidentiality.



## **Scotland has Moved Beyond Level Zero**

From 9 August 2021 the whole of Scotland moved to beyond Level 0. You can find Scottish Government guidance for everyone on how to stay safe and prevent the spread of COVID-19 here.

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-staying-safe-and-protecting-others/>

## **Scottish Government messages this week**

- Children aged 12-15 are now receiving letters inviting them to get one dose of the Covid vaccine. This age group have been able to attend drop-in centres to get vaccinated over the past couple of weeks, however now everyone this age will be officially invited by letter to attend an appointment.
- The Scottish government will release £25 million of funding to help small and medium sized businesses to make indoor settings safer throughout the winter months by improving ventilation. The fund expects to start making payments in November, with eligibility criteria set out over the coming weeks.
- The Scottish government has confirmed it will align its travel advice with that of Westminster. UK wide advice is still to be released on the position of post arrival testing for people travelling to the UK from non-red listed countries, however this is expected in the coming days.
- Invitations for coronavirus (COVID-19) booster injections are now being issued to people aged 70 and over and those aged 16 and over who are at highest risk. These groups are being contacted either by letter or by their GP with the first appointments scheduled from the week beginning 4 October.

## **Symptomatic Testing (with symptoms)**

If you do believe you have symptoms, please self-isolate and book a PCR test. Postal PCR kits are available through NHS Inform either online [here](#) or by calling 0800 028 2816.

In addition to the local support that is available, people can get support to self isolate by calling the Council's helpline number: 0300 303 1362. This can include access to food and supplies to self isolate and individuals may be entitled to a £500 self isolation support grant.

## **Asymptomatic Testing (without symptoms)**

It continues to be important that people test themselves even if they don't have symptoms. Taking a rapid LFD test twice a week can help stop new variants earlier, limiting the spread of the virus.

Test kits are available at pharmacies, or to order online from [www.nhsinform.scot/testing](http://www.nhsinform.scot/testing), or by calling 119.

Test kits are also available at Community testing sites. The details for where these are next week are outlined below.

## **Community Testing 4 October – 8 October for those without symptoms (Asymptomatic)**

The community testing programme offers rapid COVID-19 tests for people without symptoms.

### **Next week mobile testing units will be in Inverness and Fort William.**

The mobile testing unit 'Moves Like Jagger' will be at B&M car park at Telford Retail Park, Inverness, IV3 5LE:

- Monday 4 October, 9am-4:00pm
- Tuesday 5 October, 9am-4:00pm
- Wednesday 6 October, 9am-4:00pm
- Thursday 7 October, 9am-4:00pm
- Friday 8 October, 9am-3:00pm

The mobile testing unit 'Testalot' will be at the Middle Street Car Park, Fort William, PH33 6EU:

- Monday 4 October, 12 noon-4:00pm
- Tuesday 5 October, 9am-4:00pm
- Wednesday 6 October, 9am-4:00pm
- Thursday 7 October, 9am-4:00pm
- Friday 8 October, 9am-1:00pm

Just to emphasise that there are no specific outbreaks in these communities, this is to support normalising testing across the area.

No appointment is necessary, and it will be open both for asymptomatic testing and to collect LFD test kits.

Please note that these drop-in sessions for community testing are only for people without symptoms. Anyone that becomes unwell should isolate immediately and seek a PCR test. PCR tests can be booked through NHS Inform online or by calling 0800 028 2816.

Those who attend a COVID-19 Mobile Clinic will also have the opportunity to enter a free monthly draw to win an Amazon Kindle e-reader (10<sup>th</sup> generation, with 6" backlit display) after completing an exit survey. The winner will be drawn by random at the end of the month.

I would appreciate it if you could encourage people across your networks to attend.

### **Vaccination Update**

The latest update from NHS on the vaccine can be accessed at the following link: [www.nhsinform.scot/covid19vaccine](http://www.nhsinform.scot/covid19vaccine).

The following vaccination drop-in clinics are operating in Highland next week: <https://www.nhshighland.scot.nhs.uk/COVID19/Pages/Vaccination.aspx>

Where	Dates	Times	Comment
<b>WEST</b>			
Caol Community Centre Glenkingie Street Caol, Fort William PH33 7DS	4 Oct	10:00 - 12:45	Any dose Pfizer
		14:00 - 16:45	Second dose AstraZeneca
<b>NORTH</b>			
Mobile Clinic (Jabbernaught) Fountain Road Car Park Golspie	9 Oct	08:30 - 13:30 13:45 - 17:30	First doses for 12-17 year- olds in the Golspie and Dornoch area. Second doses for people in the area who had their doses on or before 14 Aug.
<b>SOUTH &amp; MID</b>			
Smithton Church 1 Murray Road, Smithton, Inverness, IV2 7YU	5-8 Oct	08:30 - 12:30 13:30 - 17:00	Any dose  Pfizer AstraZeneca

### Highlands and Islands Blood Bikes are seeking volunteers

In the last 18 months HAIBB has transported samples from every community hospital and many care homes across Highland. HAIBB is seeking volunteers for the following roles to help deliver their urgent medical transport service:

- Controllers – to take the calls and allocate bikes and riders to jobs. This can be done from your home; all you need is a mobile phone and a laptop.
- Riders – You need a full bike licence and either an advanced riding qualification or be willing to gain a recognized advanced qualification.
- Drivers – this role helps to support the Blood Bikes work using the HAIBB van or your own vehicle.
- Fundraisers and general volunteers – Keep HAIBB running, raising funds, attending events and talking about the work of the charity.

For more information email [info@haibloodbikes.co.uk](mailto:info@haibloodbikes.co.uk) or phone 08432 897577  
<https://www.haibloodbikes.co.uk/>

### Highland Council - Climate Change Conference seeking stories

The Highland Council's annual Climate Change Conference is being held online this year from 21<sup>st</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> October. The Climate Change team is seeking contributions from any local community groups, businesses, or individuals that might have a suitable story to share. They are looking for pre-recorded videos which highlight green or

sustainable action taking place in Highland. As there are no live speakers at the conference all contributions will need to be recorded in advance. Further details are attached or email [carbonclever@highland.gov.uk](mailto:carbonclever@highland.gov.uk).

### **Developing the Scottish Suicide Prevention Strategy events**

To help develop the next national strategy on suicide prevention, Public Health Scotland want to hear from local people, groups and communities about what matters to them. Public Health Scotland are hosting a series of online regional events, relating to the development of the new Scottish Suicide Prevention strategy.

There are Highland regional and national consultation events, and you can attend either or both types of events – pre booking will be required. You can also contribute via an online questionnaire which will be open from Monday 27 September 2021 until Sunday 21 November 2021- <https://consult.gov.scot/mental-health-unit/suicide-prevention-strategy/>.

Highlands and Islands events:

- Friday 1 October: 10:00 – 12:30  
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/172919074607>
- Thursday 7 October: 15:00 – 17:30  
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/172919225057>
- Thursday 28 October: 13:30 – 16:00  
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/172919395567>

Details of other regional and national events are in an attached letter or if you have any questions: [contact@suicidepreventionengagement.scot](mailto:contact@suicidepreventionengagement.scot)

### **Challenge Poverty Week**

Challenge Poverty Week 2021 runs from 4-10 October and aims to build awareness of the solutions to poverty and help end the stigma of living on a low income. Throughout Challenge Poverty Week 2021, Highland Council will highlight sources of support.

You can find useful resources on the Council's Welfare Support Team web pages:

- **Worrying about money – where to get advice**  
The Council worked in partnership with NHS Highland Public Health, Independent Food Aid Network and the Trussell Trust to produce *The Worrying About Money?* Guide. The guide shows where to get financial advice and support in Highland if you are worrying about money which is available on the Council's website in English, Arabic, Polish and Gaelic.  
[https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory\\_record/102970/benefit\\_advice](https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory_record/102970/benefit_advice)
- **Find out about the Highland Council's Welfare Support Team**  
In partnership with NHS Highland, a YouTube video has been produced to promote the Welfare Support Team and the support they are able to provide households. This video is available at the following link and is used regularly to raise awareness about the assistance available for Highland residents.  
[https://youtu.be/b\\_Uun2B32qk](https://youtu.be/b_Uun2B32qk)  
#ChallengePoverty #NowIsTheTime

## **Food Support for Groups**

We know that a number of you continue to provide support to the most vulnerable in your communities and that most of you already have well defined routes for accessing food to provide this support or are supporting individuals to access their shopping or community fridges/food tables.

If you are struggling to access food to continue support to vulnerable people locally, please do contact us through the policy mailbox and we can look at ways that we can support your group going forward.

Contact: [policy6@highland.gov.uk](mailto:policy6@highland.gov.uk)

## **Helpful Links**

Welfare Support Team -

[www.highland.gov.uk/directory\\_record/102970/benefit\\_advice](http://www.highland.gov.uk/directory_record/102970/benefit_advice)

Self Isolation Support Grant - [www.highland.gov.uk/info/20016/coronavirus/940/self-isolation\\_support\\_grant](http://www.highland.gov.uk/info/20016/coronavirus/940/self-isolation_support_grant)

Energy Advice

[energyadvisors@hi.homeenergyscotland.org](mailto:energyadvisors@hi.homeenergyscotland.org)

AbilityNet - IT advice or support AbilityNet  
Helpline 0800 048 7642.

Covid Resilience Grant Support -

[www.highland.gov.uk/directory\\_record/1422811/supporting\\_community\\_resilience/category/155/grants\\_for\\_community\\_groups](http://www.highland.gov.uk/directory_record/1422811/supporting_community_resilience/category/155/grants_for_community_groups)

HTSI Community Group Helpline

Telephone Number 01349 808022