

# Community Resilience Group Weekly Briefing - 33

## 3 September 2021

### Covid Update

Over the last 7 days there have been 1,263 new positive cases in Highland (to 2 September), an increase from last week when 832 were reported. This means the latest 7-day rate per 100,000 has increased from 353.4 per 100,000 last week to 536.5 per 100,000 as of 31 August. Cases numbers are increasing week on week at present therefore it is extremely 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 10.5% on 31 August, up from 8.8% on 24 August.

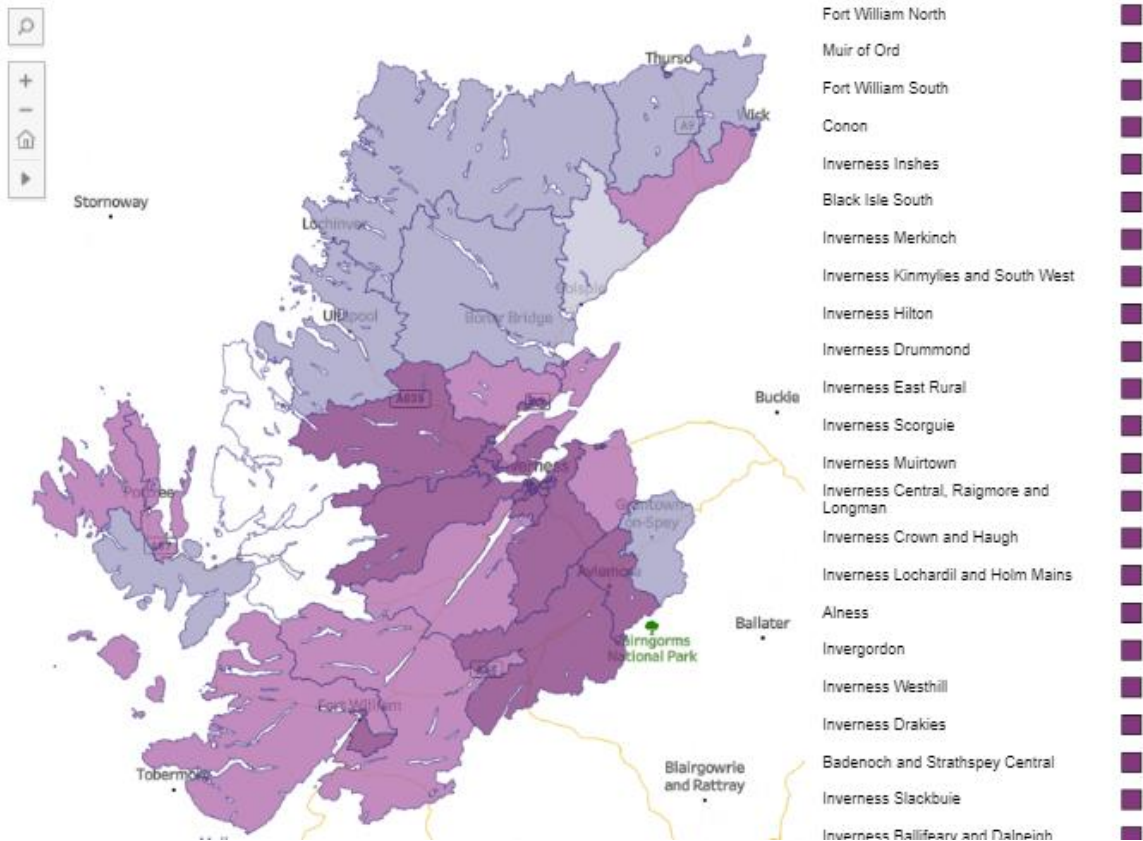
7 day positive cases in Highland based on people tested between 25 August 2021 and 31 August 2021

7 day positive cases	7 day positive rate per 100,000 population	7 day test positivity rate
1,263	536.5	10.5%

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 – First Minister’s Announcements this Week**

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/>

Although there has been the move beyond level zero, with the increase in cases, the First Minister has been emphasising this week the importance of complying with all the basic mitigations still in place, e.g. face coverings, and to carefully follow all public health advice.

There is also a strong message to encourage vaccination and letters have recently been sent to all 16 and 17 year olds to encourage vaccination uptake.

### **Asymptomatic Testing**

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 is outlined below.

### **Symptomatic Testing**

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.

### **Community Testing 6 – 10 September for those without symptoms**

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

Next week a mobile testing unit will be in Inverness.

The mobile testing unit Jabbernaut will be at Tesco Car Park, Inshes Retail Park, Milton of Inshes, Inverness IV2 3TW next week:

- Monday 6 September 9am-4pm
- Tuesday 7 September 9am-4pm
- Wednesday 8 September 9am-4pm
- Thursday 9 September 9am-4pm
- Friday 10 September 9am-3:30pm

Just to emphasise that there is no specific outbreak in this community, 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).

### **Vaccination of 16-18 year olds**

From 7 August, 16-18 year olds are now eligible for vaccination and will be directed to the drop in clinics - see NHS Highland website for details  
<https://www.nhshighland.scot.nhs.uk/COVID19/Pages/Vaccination.aspx>.

### **Useful information for parents and families about Covid symptoms and testing**

The following links provide information that may be useful for parents, families and young people.

**ParentClub** is aimed at parents but explains how covid and testing can be explained to children, helpful links:

- [Does my child need a covid-19 test?](#) (this has been on the back to school page for a while)
- [Covid testing for staff and pupils](#) – this page explains process and links to videos and help
- [Scottish schools and coronavirus](#)

**YoungScot** is primarily aimed at young people. Helpful links:

- (video) [How to do a nasal & throat swab lateral flow test video](#)
- [What to expect from a Covid-19 test](#)
- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Jargonbuster](#) (really helpful for young people)

### **Connecting Scotland Programme Phase 3 Round 2 (Employability)**

The [Connecting Scotland Programme](#) aims to get 60,000 digitally excluded households online by the end of 2021.

Organisations can apply for support on behalf of the people they work with. This includes:

- Digital devices – iPads and/or Chromebooks
- Internet connectivity – a mobile WiFi hotspot with 24 months unlimited data
- Training and support – for staff and volunteers to become ‘digital champions’ to support people to use the internet confidently and safely

Previous application rounds have targeted those at high clinical risk from coronavirus, families with children, young care leavers, older people, people with disabilities and residents in care homes.

**Applications are now open for Phase 3 Round 2 (employability).** The closing date is Monday, 27th September at 5pm. Organisations will also be able to apply for more devices in a second fast track round to open in early October.

More info: <https://connecting.scot/organisations>

### **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