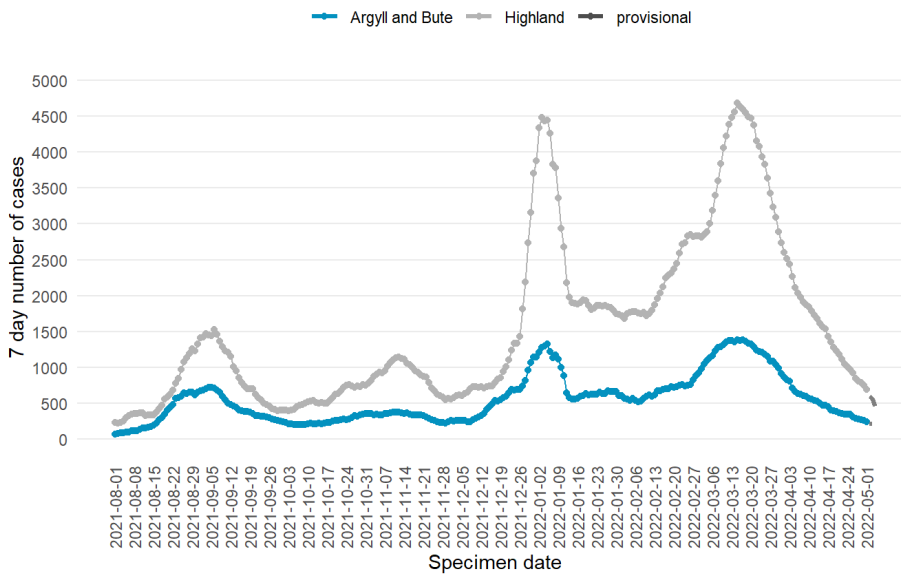


Covid figures

We had 923 new cases in the seven days to 1 May.

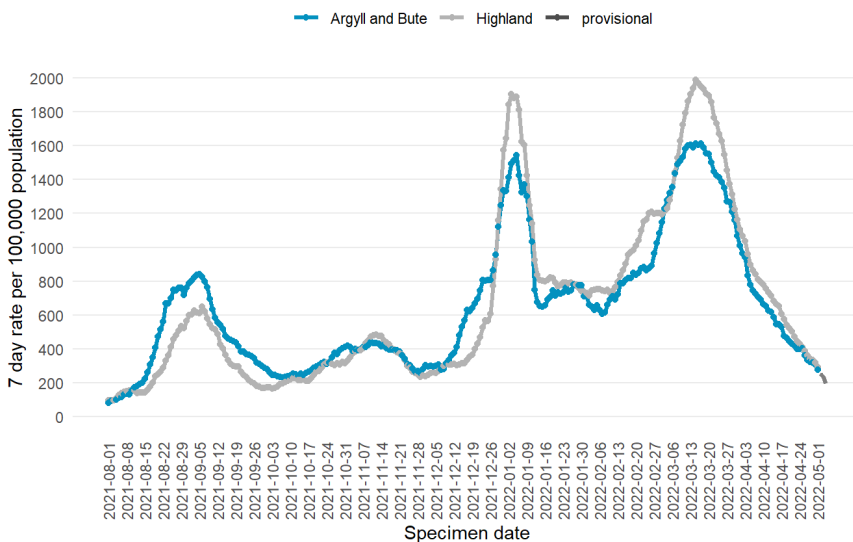
Figure 1: Number of cases over seven days



Data source: NSS Test and Protect Data Virtualisation layer, NHS Highland data warehouse

The infection rate is 288.6/100,000 across the NHS Highland area: 277.4/100,000 in Argyll and Bute and 291.4/100,000 in North Highland.

Figure 2: Rate per 100,000 population over seven days



Data source: NSS Test and Protect Data Virtualisation layer, NHS Highland data warehouse

We have 52 patients in hospital with COVID-19 across all hospitals, including 3 in ITU. ITU capacity is 9 beds, of which 3 are occupied with COVID patients, 4 with other patients and 2 are available.

There have been 396 recorded deaths of people with COVID in the NHS Highland area since the start of the pandemic: 270 in Highland and 126 in Argyll and Bute. This represents an increase of 7 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.

Vaccination

Letters inviting those eligible to attend for their Spring Booster are currently being issued. Every effort has been made to ensure people are invited to a clinic near their home but, in the event that has not happened, the letters will include the National Helpline number 0800 030 8013 (open from 8am to 8pm, 7 days a week) or alternatively people can contact NHS Highland's local enquiry line on 08000 320 339 which is open 9.30-5pm Mon-Fri and Sat 10am-2pm.

We continue to promote COVID vaccination clinics across the area. Our website (<https://www.nhshighland.scot.nhs.uk/COVID19/Pages/Welcome.aspx>) is updated daily as new clinics are confirmed and these are highlighted on social media. This includes the pharmacy clinics in Drumnadrochit and Alness, and we are also sharing the national campaign to promote vaccination.

Press releases were sent out to local papers, divided into each locality, highlighting the clinics for the Spring Booster. The exception was Lochaber as clinics there were not yet confirmed, and we instead arranged with the local press that they would direct people to our website.

Clinic information has also been sent to local groups such as community councils.

Alness and Invergordon Medical Practice

Last week we explained that, prior to Alness and Invergordon Medical Practice transferring to NHS Highland, they had not been fully complying with their legal requirements in respect of Disclosure Scotland and Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) registration for all applicable roles which they employed. The practice remains open with support from the wider community team. Proactive planning early last week has ensured that our GPs, nurses and support colleagues continue to provide clinical care to the local community

We continue to have challenges with GP and clinician appointments within the practice but have had good support from experienced GPs working remotely who are providing a good and urgent service to all. We are offering face to face appointments when clinically indicated by a member of the MDT. We thank the community for their understanding and the clinical staff for their continued commitment at this time.

All PVG applications now submitted and are awaiting disclosure Scotland response.

NHS Highland is working with the practice team to generate an action plan to allow the practices internal developments to allow us to move into a more stable position in order to provide a sustainably good service to our community.

Ullapool Care Homes

NHS Highland has been advised that the sale of Mo Dhachaidh care home has been agreed between Barchester (the current operator) and Parklands (the buyer). This is a commercial transaction between the two organisations and NHS Highland has no role within this. It is NHS Highland's understanding that the completion of the sale is likely to take a minimum of 12 weeks, whilst the necessary actions are undertaken to ensure a smooth transfer. Residents, families, and staff of Mo Dhachaidh were updated on developments in the last couple of weeks.

NHS Highland has been approached informally by Parklands, as the new operator of Mo Dhachaidh, who have indicated an interest in the future running of Lochbroom House, and who wish to explore dialogue on potential opportunities. At this stage that no formal discussions have taken place and no decisions have been made. NHS Highland would give due consideration to any approach that is made with regards to sustaining care home capacity in Ullapool and the surrounding area.

Our primary objective is the care and safety of all care home residents and to maintain sustainability of care home capacity in the area. We will keep you updated with any further developments.

Feedback

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