

NHS Highland (Highland Council Area) Winter Vaccination FAQs

COVID-19 and Flu Vaccination

Following final advice on the Winter COVID-19 vaccination programme from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI), the following groups will be offered an additional COVID-19 vaccination:

- Residents in a care home for older adults and staff working in care homes for older adults
- Frontline health and social care workers
- All adults aged 50 years and over
- Those aged 5 to 49 years in a clinical risk group, including pregnant people
- Those aged 5 to 49 years who are household contacts of people with immunosuppression
- Carers aged 16-49 years

Those eligible for a free flu vaccination are:

- Residents in a care home for older adults and staff working in care homes for older adults
- Those aged 50 years and over
- Those aged 6 months to 49 years in a clinical risk group for flu
- Health and social care workers (NHS Highland Employees)
- Pregnant people
- Children aged 2 to 5 years (and not yet in school)
- Primary school children (P1 to P7)
- Secondary school pupils under 18 (S1 to S6)
- Unpaid and young carers
- Household contacts of people with immunosuppression or carers
- Primary, Secondary, and Nursery teachers and pupil-facing support staff
- Prison population and prison officers who deliver direct front-facing detention services and support staff

A full list of eligible frontline health and social care workers can be found on NHS Inform: [Winter vaccines](#)

How will I get my vaccine?

All vaccinations will be Board run clinics held in the community – please do not contact your GP Practice. All information on vaccine clinics is available on the NHS Highland [website](#).

How do I book my vaccine?

Everyone over the age of 65 and those aged 5-64 who are at risk will be invited by letter to attend for their vaccine.

Children - flu

How are flu vaccinations being delivered to school-age children?

This vaccine is being delivered at schools. You will receive notification from your school.

Are 16-17 year olds eligible for flu vaccination?

If you are still in school then you can receive this vaccine in school. If you have left school this age group is not eligible for the flu vaccine unless you have one of the eligible health conditions.

What about children under the age of 5 who are not in school?

Children not at school (aged 2-5yrs) will be offered their flu vaccination at a community clinic, as will children aged 6mths – 2yrs who are at risk.

General questions

What if I can't make the appointment?

If you received an appointment letter you can reschedule your appointment by emailing nhsh.covidvaccine@nhs.scot or by contacting the National Vaccination Helpline on 0800 030 8013 or the local Service Delivery Centre Helpline on 08000 320 339.

If you booked via the portal, log back in to the portal and follow the instructions to change your appointment.

How can people who are housebound access vaccination?

People who are registered with their GP as being housebound will be contacted and vaccinated at home. If you receive an appointment to attend a clinic and cannot attend because you are housebound, please email nhsh.covidvaccine@nhs.scot or call our local Service Delivery Centre Helpline on 08000 320 339.

Why isn't NHS Highland offering more drop-in clinics?

Drop-in clinics work best in areas with a lot of people, where a single large clinic can be filled easily. We will run some drop-ins in such areas, or in cases where we are able to set up a clinic at short notice when letters may not arrive in time. In remote and rural areas, smaller clinics filled by appointment are a better way of using clinic capacity effectively without people having to travel too far. Appointed clinics are also a good way to avoid long queues – particularly important with winter weather.

Why isn't my GP practice offering vaccinations?

Nationally, vaccinations are now being health board-led as part of the GP contract.

Why aren't you sending appointment letters to people under 65?

The national portal provides the flexibility for people to self-appoint. Anyone in this age group who does not use the portal will still be contacted and offered an appointment, but not until later in the programme.

Clinic Locations

- South & Mid Highlands [scheduled clinics list](#)

Inverness Vaccination Centre; Nairn Community Arts Centre; Ullapool Village Hall; Beaully Phipps Hall; Invergordon Social Club; Fortrose Leisure Centre; Gairloch Community Hall; Dingwall Leisure Centre; Boat of Garten Community Centre. Culduthel Christian Centre; Smithton Church; Merkinch Community Centre.