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COVID-19 Epidemiology Report

NHS Highland Public Health Intelligence Team

21 March, 2022



1 Introduction

The Scottish Government announced on the 5th of January that people will no longer be asked to take a PCR test to confirm a positive LFD result. Instead, anyone with a positive LFD should report the result online as soon as the test is done.

The national case definition has been revised to reflect this new testing strategy.

The first section of this report now includes cases identified by either PCR test, and, from the 5th January 2022, LFD test, or both, from data extracted from the NSS Test and Protect Data Virtualisation tables using the following logic:

- Positive LFD results which are followed by a negative PCR test within 48 hours are denotified.
- Only the first positive test result per person per infection episode is included. An episode is defined as extending 90 days from the initial positive test result for that infection.
- Positive LFD results must have a valid CHI to be included as a case. LFD cases can only be linked with a subsequent positive PCR result if both tests have a valid CHI.

Public Health Scotland (PHS) report that CHI completeness for Scotland is approximately 99 percent for LFD results from 5th January 2022.

The methodology is evolving, both nationally and locally. Therefore the data and this briefing will be developed over the coming weeks.

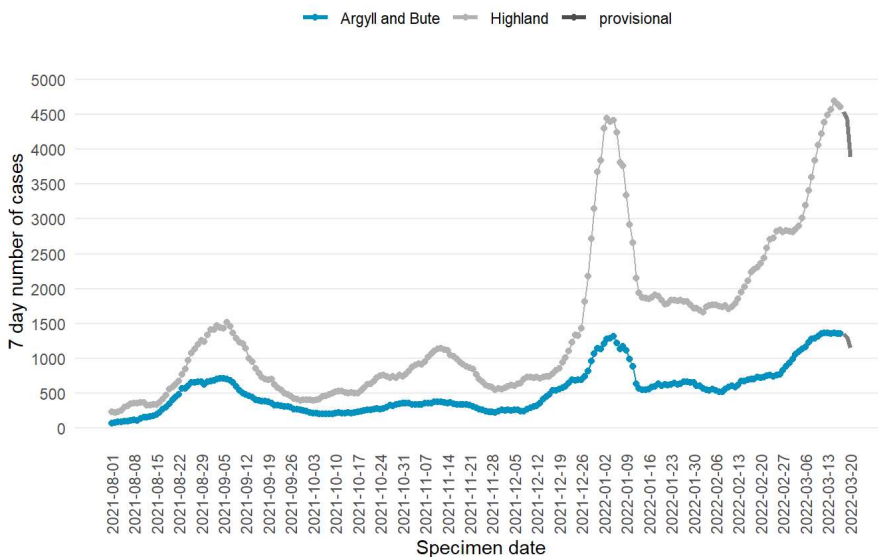
Cases are assigned to geographies using the postcode recorded at the time of testing or, if that is not available, by the postcode of the usual residence derived from the Community Health Index database.

The time necessary to process and submit testing data means that tests carried out in the most recent two to three days will be incomplete.

The seven-day figures in the report are presented with a lag to try and ensure that a complete period of data are provided.

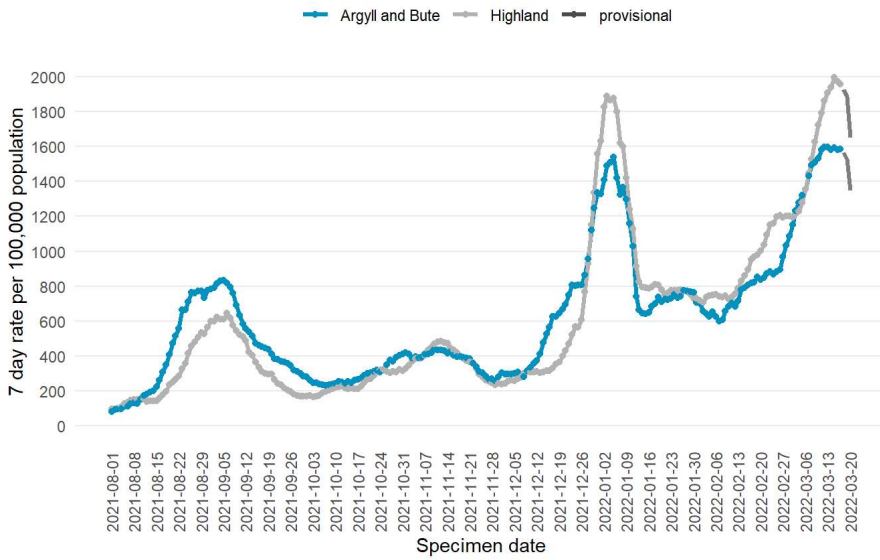
2 Trends

Figure 1: Number of cases over seven days



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

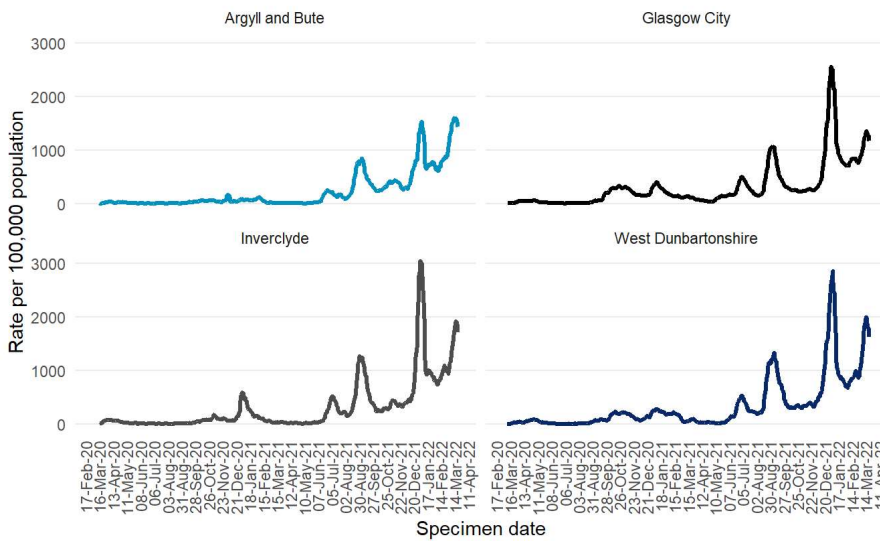
Figure 2: Rate per 100,000 population over seven days



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

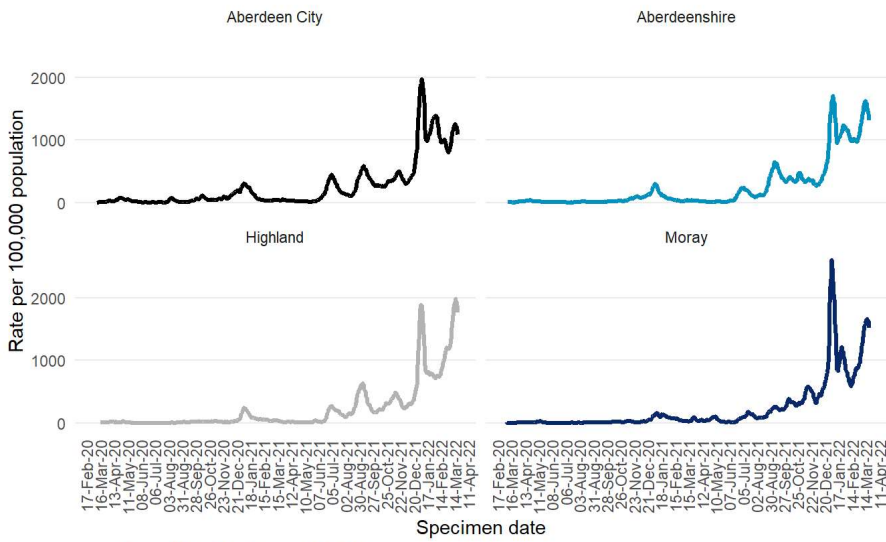
2.0.1 Local Authorities

Figure 3: Rate per 100,000 over seven days - Argyll & Bute
Comparison with selected neighbouring Local Authorities



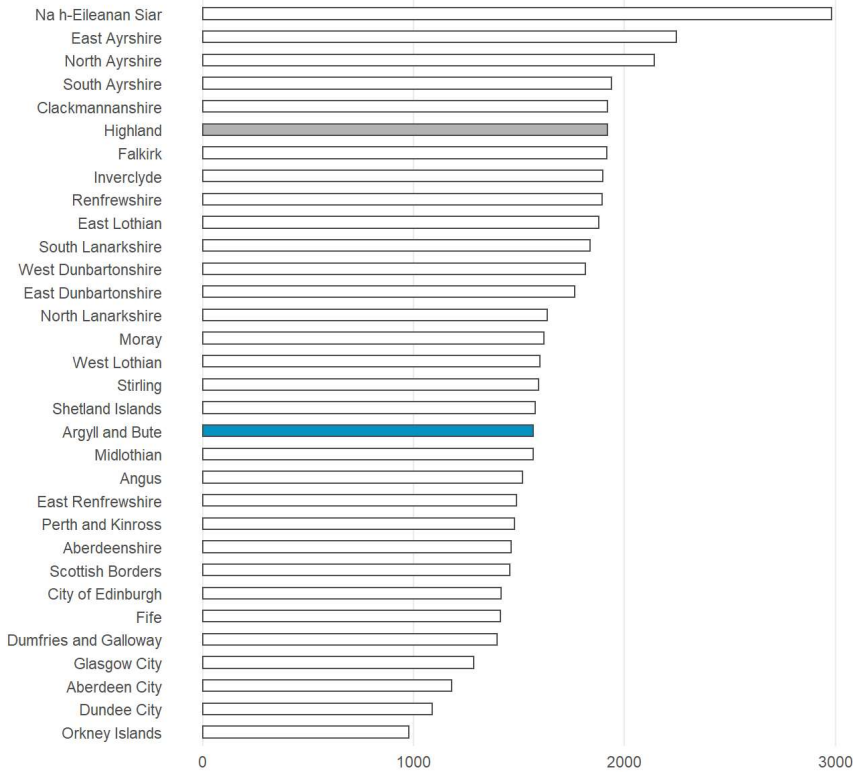
Data source: Public Health Scotland Daily, COVID-19 Cases in Scotland (Open Data)

Figure 4: Rate per 100,000 over seven days - Highland
Comparison with selected neighbouring Local Authorities



Data source: Public Health Scotland Daily, COVID-19 Cases in Scotland (Open Data)

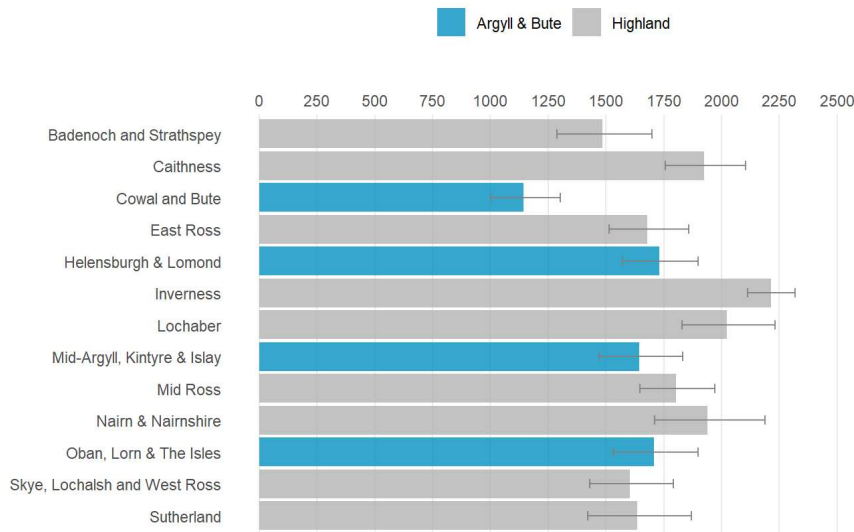
Figure 5: 7 day rate per 100,000, week ending 18 March, 2022



Data source: Public Health Scotland Daily, COVID-19 Cases in Scotland (Open Data)

2.0.2 Localities and Community Partnerships

Figure 6: Rate per 100,000 population in the most recent week
12 Mar, 2022 to 18 Mar, 2022



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

Figure 7: Cases in the most recent week (w/e 18 March, 2022) compared to the previous week (w/e 11 March, 2022)

Council	Locality / Community Partnership	Recent Week Cases	Previous Week Cases	Difference	Recent Week Rate per 100,000 population	Previous Week Rate per 100,000 population
▼ Argyll & Bute (4)		1340	1351	-11	1,568.5	1,581.4
	Cowal and Bute	229	227	2	1 145	1 135
	Helensburgh & Lomond	445	359	86	1 731	1 396
	Mid-Argyll, Kintyre & Islay	327	405	-78	1 645	2 038
	Oban, Lorn & The Isles	339	360	-21	1 708	1 814
▼ Highland (9)		4541	4222	319	1,928.8	1,793.3
	Badenoch and Strathspey	207	196	11	1 484	1 405
	Caithness	485	518	-33	1 925	2 056
	East Ross	373	416	-43	1 680	1 874
	Inverness	1809	1700	109	2 214	2 081
	Lochaber	398	316	82	2 022	1 605
	Mid Ross	487	435	52	1 803	1 611
	Nairn & Nairnshire	261	220	41	1 940	1 635
	Skye, Lochalsh and West Ross	311	219	92	1 603	1 129
	Sutherland	210	202	8	1 635	1 572

Figure 8: Maps of cases in the most recent 2 weeks

Week ending 18 Mar 2022 compared to the previous week ending 11 Mar 2022

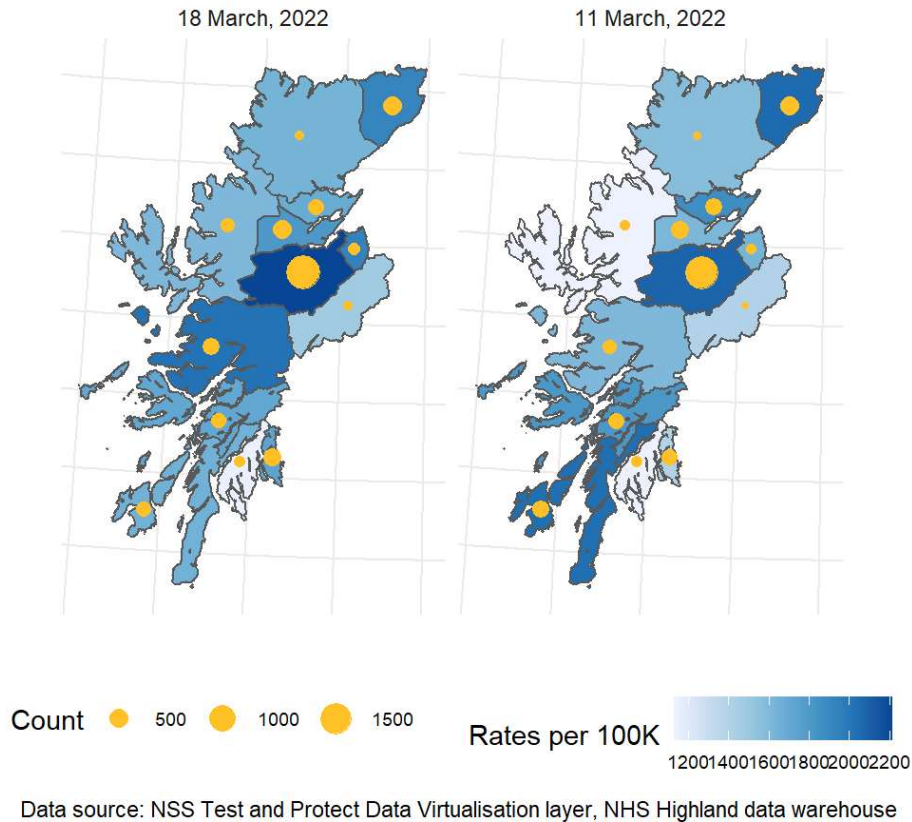
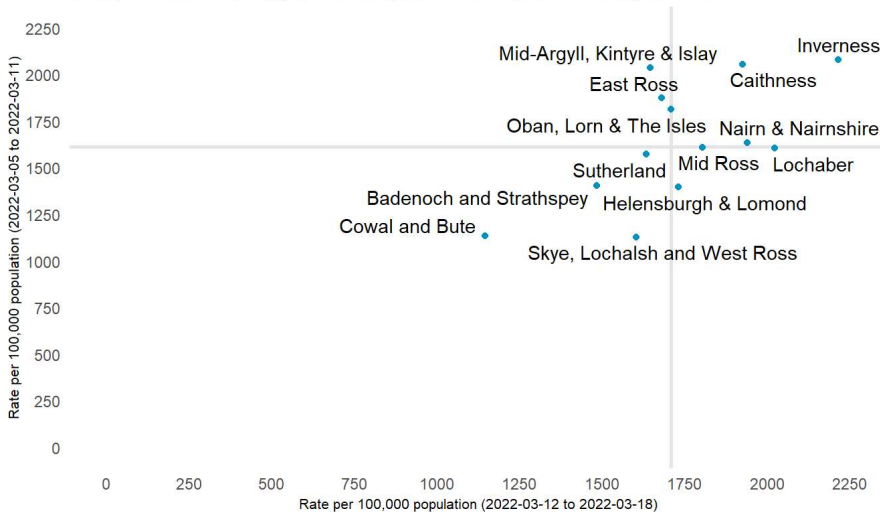


Figure 9: Scatter plot of rate per 100,000 population

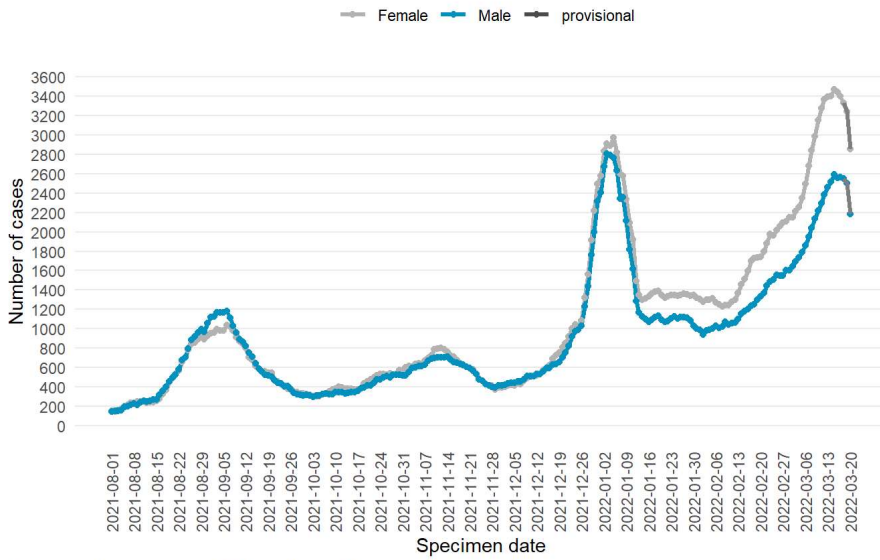
Week ending 18 Mar 2022, compared to the previous week, Week ending 11 Mar 2022



Grey lines represent the weekly median rates

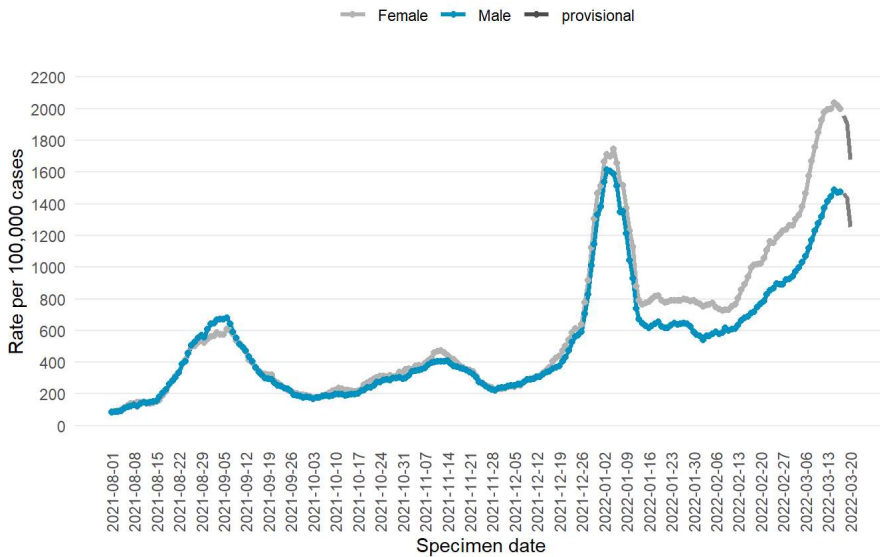
3 Age and gender

Figure 10: Number of cases over seven days by gender, NHS Highland



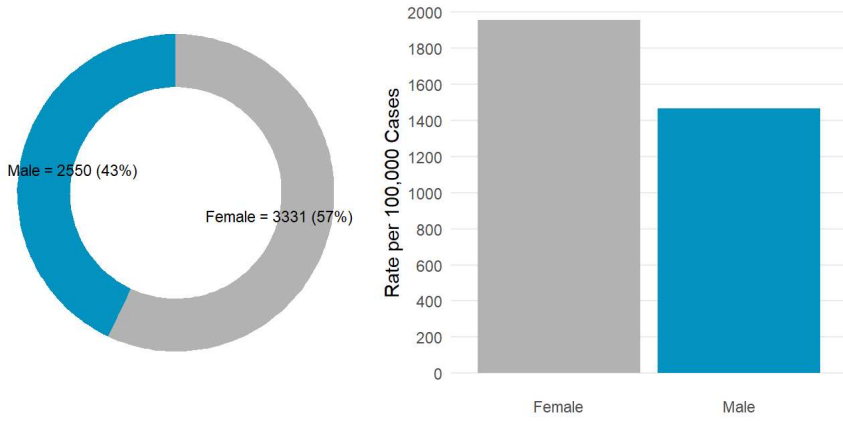
Data source: NSS Test and Protect Data Virtualisation layer, NHS Highland data warehouse

Figure 11: Rate per 100,000 population over seven days by gender, NHS Highland



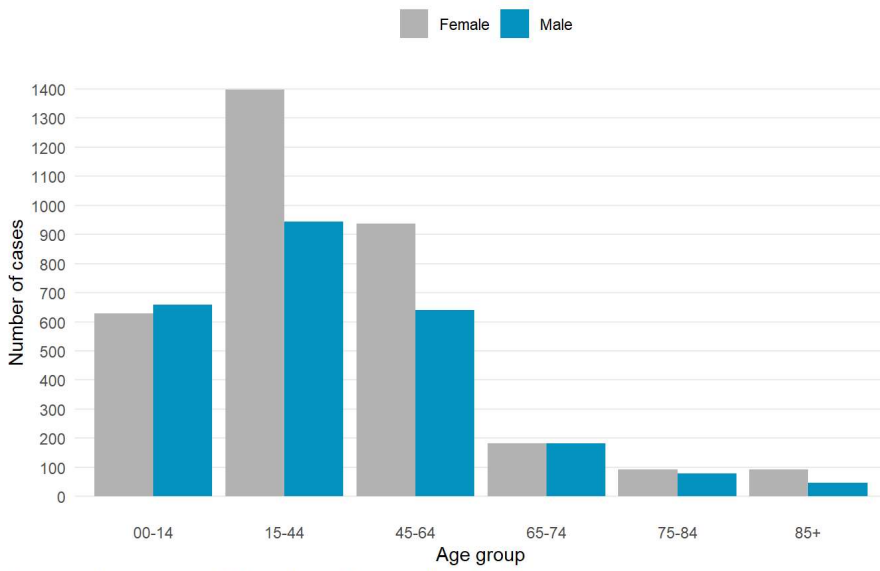
Data source: NSS Test and Protect Data Virtualisation layer, NHS Highland data warehouse

Figure 12: Cases in the most recent week by gender, NHS Highland



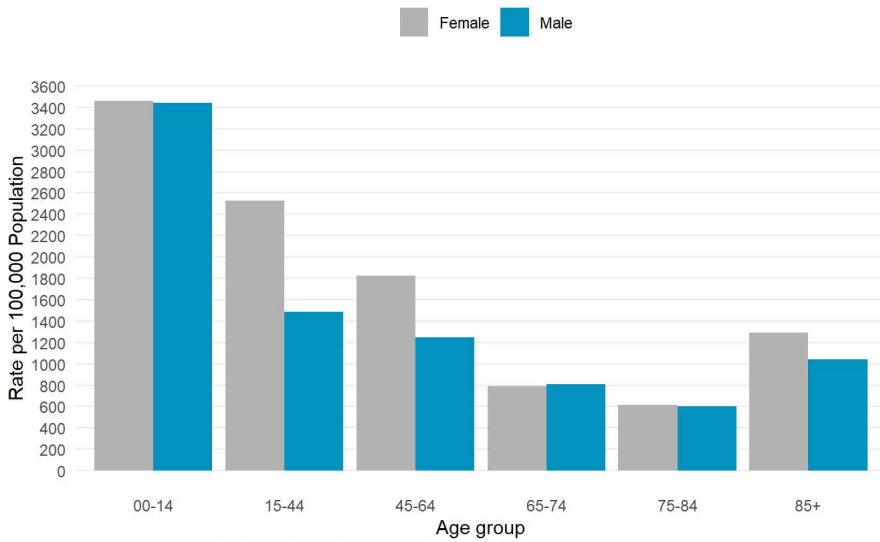
Data source: NSS Test and Protect Data Virtualisation layer, NHS Highland data warehouse

Figure 13: Number of cases in the most recent week, by age, NHS Highland



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

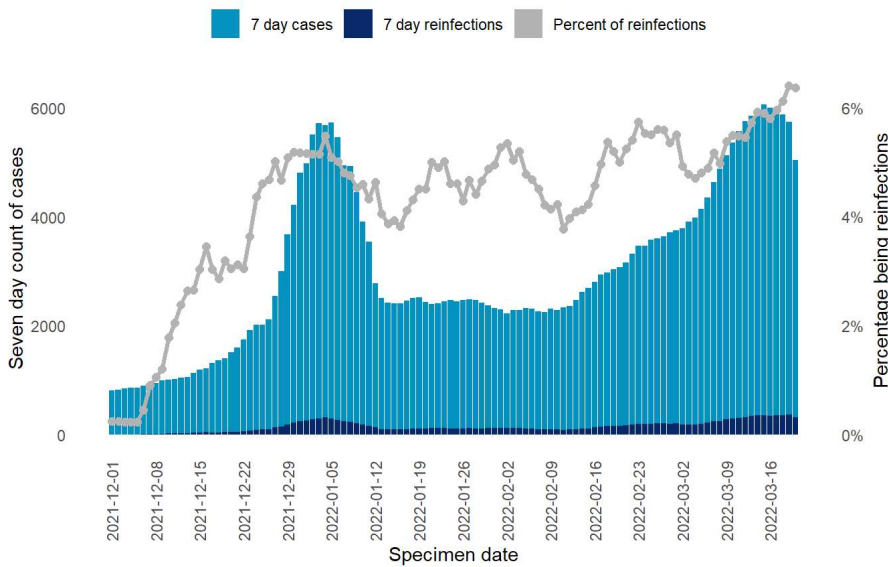
Figure 14: Rate per 100,000 in the most recent week, by age, NHS Highland



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

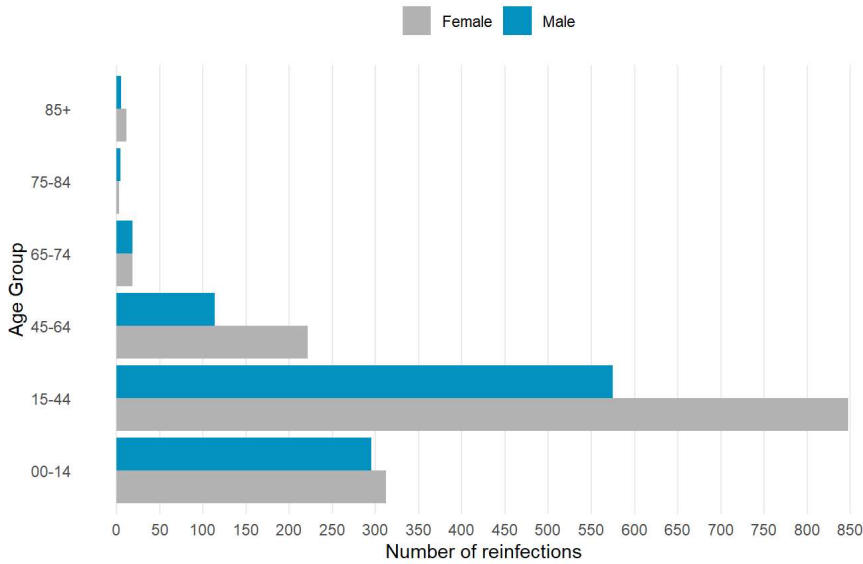
4 Episode of infection

Figure 15: Cases over seven days by episode and reinfection rate, NHS Highland



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

Figure 16: Number of reinfections by age and gender from 1 Dec 2021, NHS Highland



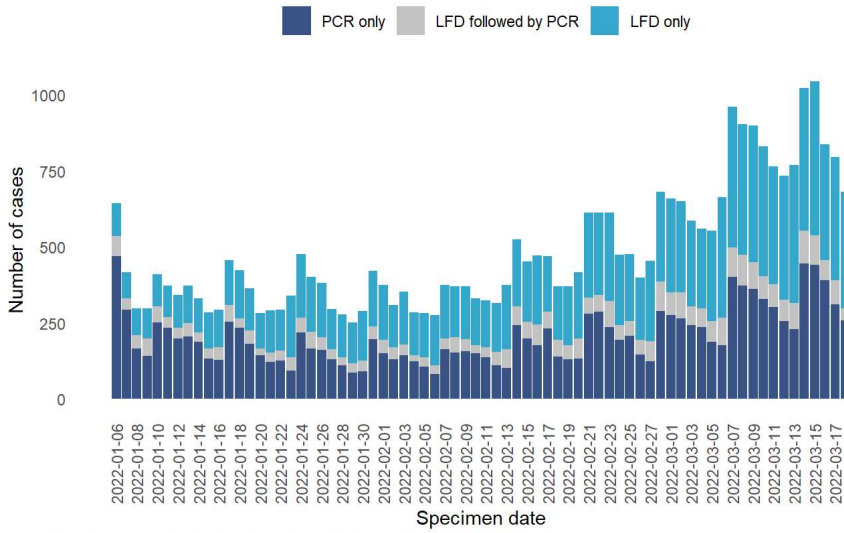
Data source: NSS Test and Protect Data Virtualisation layer, NHS Highland data warehouse

Figure 17: Rates of reinfection in Localities and Community Partnerships from 1 December 2021

Council ↑	Locality / Community Partnership ↑	Reinfection Rate per 100,000 population
▼ Argyll & Bute (4)		855.7
	Cowal and Bute	710
	Helensburgh & Lomond	1 306
	Mid-Argyll, Kintyre & Islay	337
	Oban, Lorn & The Isles	937
▼ Highland (9)		719.1
	Badenoch and Strathspey	724
	Caithness	452
	East Ross	756
	Inverness	979
	Lochaber	756
	Mid Ross	825
	Nairn & Nairnshire	468
	Skye, Lochalsh and West Ross	247
	Sutherland	210

5 Test type

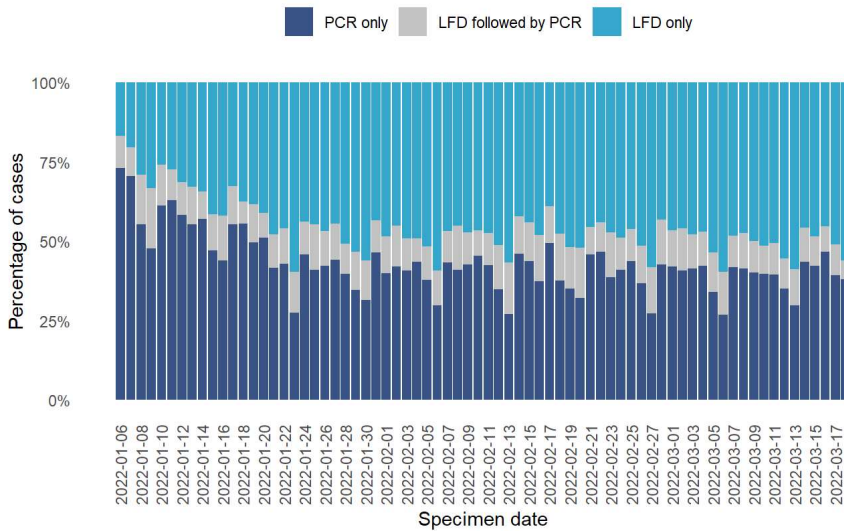
Figure 18: Number of cases by test type, NHS Highland



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

Cases can move between the categories as testing is completed, but are only counted once.

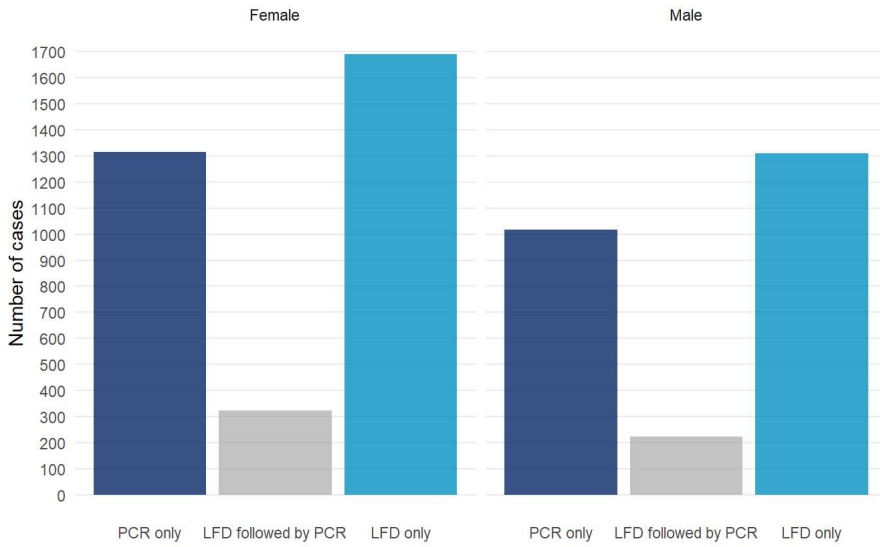
Figure 19: Percentage of cases by test type, NHS Highland



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

Cases can move between the categories as testing is completed, but are only counted once.

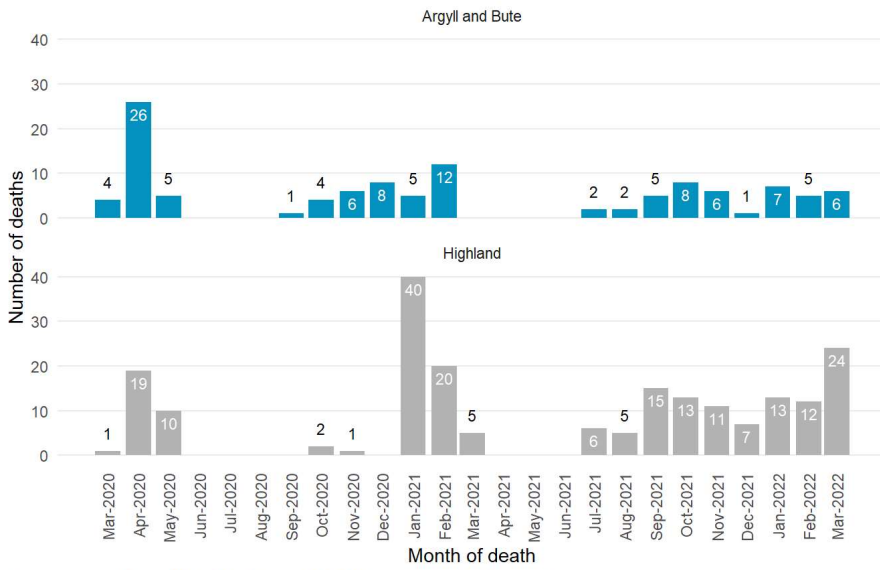
Figure 20: Number of cases by test type and gender, NHS Highland



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

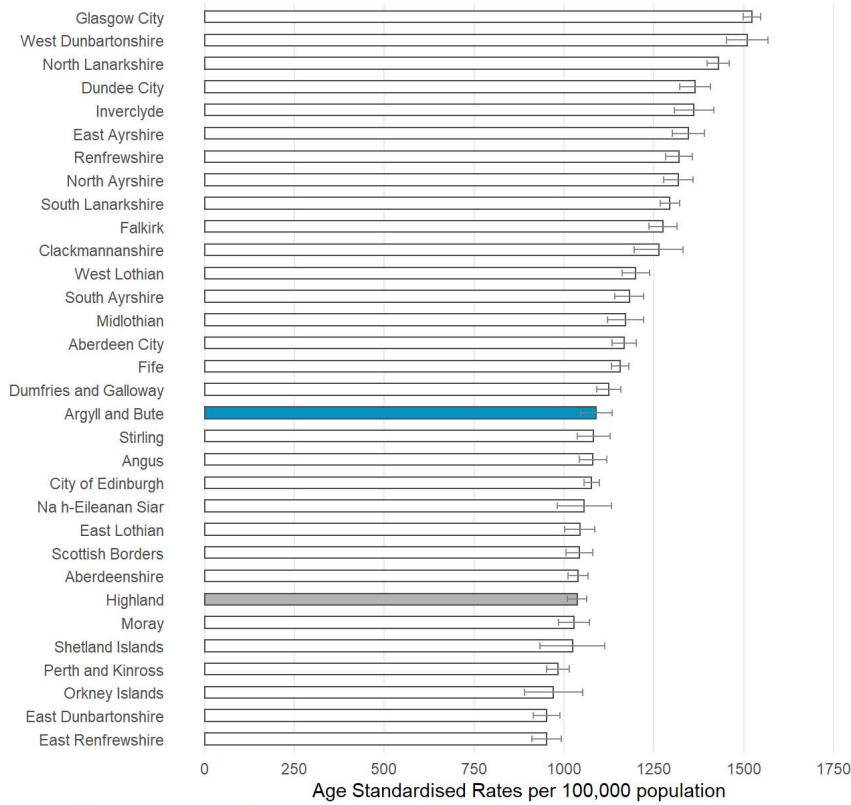
6 Deaths

Figure 21: Number of deaths (COVID-19 confirmed)



Data source: Public Health Scotland Daily, COVID-19 Cases in Scotland (Open Data)

Figure 22: Age standardised rates for deaths involving COVID-19 Scottish Local Authorities from 1 March 2020 to 31 December 2021



Data source: National Records of Scotland, Deaths involving COVID-19

7 Additional information

ONS Coronavirus (COVID-19) Infection survey

(<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/conditionsanddiseases/bulletins/coronaviruscovid19infectionsurvey/pilot/latest>), containing high level estimates for England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland

Public Health Scotland COVID-19 daily cases in Scotland dashboard (<https://publichealthscotland.scot/our-areas-of-work/covid-19/covid-19-data-and-intelligence/covid-19-daily-cases-in-scotland-dashboard/overview-of-the-daily-covid-19-data-dashboard/>) (updated Monday to Friday) with the latest available figures on Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Scotland (positive cases number of tests carried out, deaths of people with a positive test, COVID-19 vaccination rates)

Public Health Scotland COVID-19 & Winter Statistical Report (weekly) (<https://publichealthscotland.scot/publications/show-all-releases?id=20580>) draws sights from a wider range of existing metrics around COVID-19 and winter pressures

ONS Coronavirus (COVID-19) Infection Survey

(<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/conditionsanddiseases/bulletins/coronaviruscovid19infectionsurvey/characteristics-of-associated-with-testing-positive-uk>), characteristics of people testing positive for COVID-19

Modelling the COVID-19 epidemic in Scotland (weekly) (<https://www.gov.scot/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-modelling-the-epidemic/>) including the spread of the disease through the population (epidemiological modelling) and the demands it will place on the system

Coronavirus (COVID-19): state of the epidemic in Scotland (weekly) () brings together different sources of evidence and data about the coronavirus epidemic to summarise the current situation