



Dear Colleagues,

What a mix of weather again. As I write this message it is hailing - 10 minutes ago I got back from walking the dog in bright sunshine.

How quickly things change. Moray had for a long time one of the lowest rates

of covid, and now we are experiencing the highest rate of covid positive testing in Scotland.

We will all need to influence where we can to help our community move back to the sunshine days of low covid infection rates. I see the impact already of people changing plans due to the high covid rates.

Please look after yourselves and your colleagues as we navigate this next hurdle.

**Simon Bokor-Ingram,
Chief Officer**

Moray position – Moray now has the highest Covid-19 infection rate in Scotland with a 3.4% positivity rate for the seven days to 2nd May.

After months of restrictions it is natural for people to want to spend time with others but the only way to get Moray through the route map out of lockdown restrictions at the same time as the rest of Scotland is to get the virus back under control.

That takes all of us, individually and collectively, looking out for each other and sticking to the Level 3 rules so that we are able to enjoy having our freedoms back.

Cases are scattered across the area although Elgin and the surrounding neighbourhoods are the current hotspots. Almost half of detected cases are among people showing no symptoms.

Expansion of community testing – A key tool in our shared efforts to beat the spread of virus is testing. Anyone who lives, works or visits Moray and has no symptoms of Covid-19, can now access rapid tests including via the community testing sites. Everyone is eligible to get a free test.

A testing facility has been opened in Elgin Town Centre at 30/32 High Street which is open weekdays from 9.30am to 4pm.

Drive-in testing stations for now available in Buckie, Keith, Forres and Aberlour.

Town	Location	Day	Opening hours
Buckie	Cluny Square Car Park, Cluny Square, Buckie, AB56 1AH	Monday and Thursday	09:45 - 11:45
Keith	Regent Square Car Park, Regent Square, Keith, AB55 5DX	Monday and Thursday	13:45 - 15:45
Forres	Leys Road Car Park, Leys Road, Forres, IV36 1DS	Tuesday and Friday	09:45 - 11:45
Aberlour	Alice Littler Park Car Park, Broomfield Square, Aberlour, AB38 9QP	Tuesday and Friday	13:45 - 15:45
Elgin	Moray Leisure Centre car park, Borough Briggs Road, Elgin, IV30 1AP	Wednesday	09:30 - 16:00

Anyone who has Covid-19 symptoms should not attend these community testing centres. They should book a test in the usual way through the NHS Inform website.

Covid-19 vaccine programme – Receiving two doses of the Covid-19 vaccine provides the fullest and longest lasting protection against coronavirus.

As part of the mass vaccination programme, our Moray team has been working through second doses for those aged 65-79 which is being completed well within the 12 week dosing schedule. Uptake within this age group has been high.

In parallel, first appointments for those aged 40-47 are being undertaken this week and next.

Vaccinators have visited a number of local factories to offer vaccination in the workplace for employees who may have faced additional barriers in attending the Elgin centre or perhaps been vaccine hesitant. This outreach work is helping ensure all vaccine supplies are fully utilised.

Remember it is important for everyone in Moray to continue following FACTS even after vaccination.

MRC reconfiguration – Internal alterations to provide a temporary clinical space within the building which houses the Moray Resource Centre (MRC) in Elgin have been completed. Further works to kit out the rooms and install IT equipment is now progressing.

A range of NHS testing and treatment services essential for ongoing clinical care will be provided from the hub as an alternative to patients having to visit an acute hospital setting. This is part of the Home First model to bring services closer to patients, reducing their travel time and costs.

Staff support – If you find yourself struggling, the NHS Grampian We Care website is a great online resource to support your own health and wellbeing or to guide you in supporting colleagues. Head to: <https://www.nhsgrampian.org/your-health/wecare/staff-resilience-and-wellbeing/resources-and-links/>

