

NHS Shetland COVID-19 Update

Public Health Team
21st January 2022

Case numbers

149 cases have been reported for us in the past week , including both LFTs and PCRs. The number of PCRs alone was 12. Total number of PCR confirmed cases since March 2020 is 1583 cases.

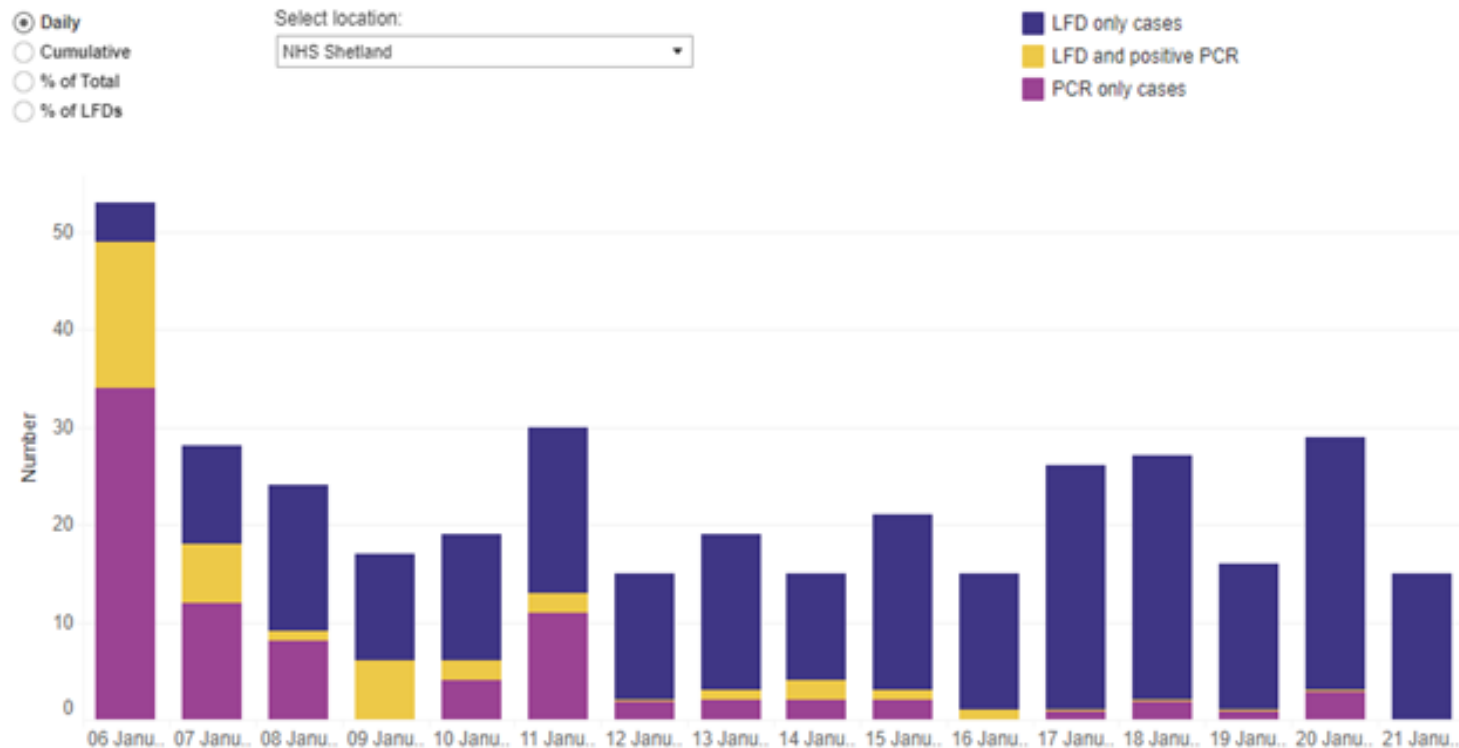
Both LFTs and PCRs are now being reported nationally, on a board level basis for the past few days, but we have data back to 6th January, when the changes in testing requirements started. Since then, the numbers in Shetland have fluctuated between 15-30 a day, with the vast majority now being LFT positive only.

Over half the cases in the past week are children aged 11 or under.

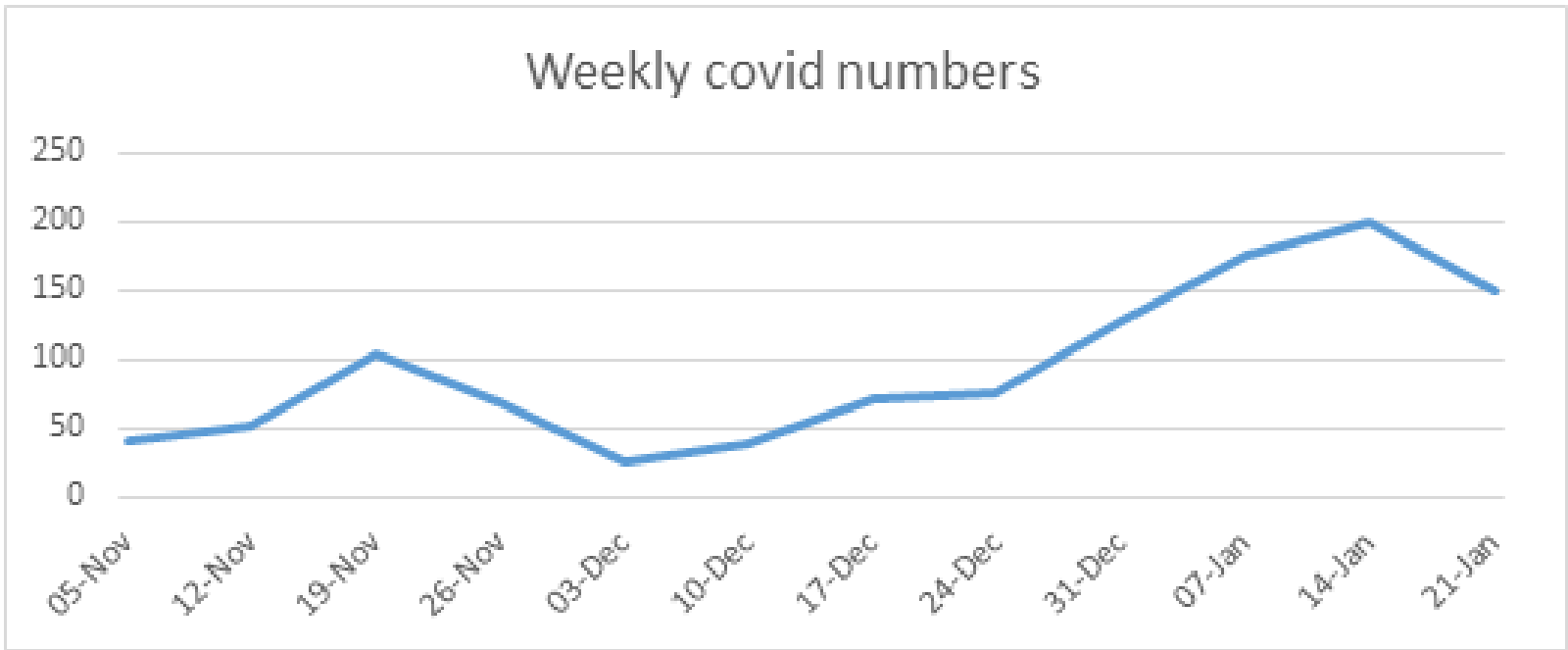
We know that Omicron is circulating in Shetland, but LFTs cannot be tested for Omicron, so we do not know how many cases are now due to Omicron. When only PCRs were counted, across Scotland over 90% of cases had shown 's-gene drop out', a marker for Omicron.

Daily LFT & PCR positive cases in Shetland

Daily combined positive cases by test type in NHS Shetland



Weekly COVID numbers



Vaccine uptake at 21/01/22

Vaccine uptake

89.7% of all over 18s eligible for a booster – second highest in Scotland, after Orkney (81% for Scotland as a whole).

91.6% of all over 40s boosted (not just those eligible) and 83.9% of all 18s – both highest in Scotland

83.5% 12-15s first dose - highest by far in Scotland (67.5% for Scotland)

69.4% 16-17 2nd dose – second highest in Scotland, after Orkney (52.6% for Scotland)

Current vaccine clinics

We are now calling in 12-15 year olds for their second dose, and immunosuppressed in this age group for their boosters.

But we are open for all boosters, 2nd doses and 1st doses. The island practices are continuing to call their own patients.

Pregnant women are now considered a high risk group and should be encouraged to get their covid vaccinations.

5-11 yr olds in high risk groups and those living with someone who is immunosuppressed will start being called for their first vaccinations this week, with the first clinics at the end of January in Child Health.

As the Gilbertson Park clinics are now quiet, we are reducing the frequency down to twice a week – Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1st February.

There will be no clinic on 26th January as this is an NHS Shetland holiday.

Changes to
guidance for
H&SCW–
confirmed in DL
on 17th January

H&SCW will no longer need a PCR in order to return to work if they are triple vaccinated; they just need a negative LFT and then daily LFTs and no symptoms.

Once they have returned to work, H&SCW workers who have tested positive should not return to daily LFTs for a 28 day period from date of positive test. And no asymptomatic PCRs for 90 days as before.

Isolation periods for care home residents and hospital inpatients to reduce from 14 to 10 days – updated HPT guidance awaited for further detail.

Changes to guidance for H&SCW—confirmed in DL on 17th January

Updated guidance for healthcare, social care settings, and also latest HPT guidance.:

Cases are still recommended to isolate for 10 days, but may finish on day 7 if they have a negative LFT on day 6 and on day 7. Or day 7 & 8 etc.

Fully vaccinated (three doses) contacts may be exempt from isolating if they have a negative LFT, and then take then daily for 7 days. They must also follow all other guidance for those ending isolation early. They do not need a PCR

A positive LFT no longer requires a confirmatory PCR except in certain circumstances (if applying for isolation grant or in high risk group and may be eligible for treatment)

Anyone with Covid symptoms should still get PCR (unless they already have a positive LFT)

The only contacts who need a PCR are those who are unvaccinated

People who have tested positive in past 90 days should avoid asymptomatic PCR tests but should do asymptomatic LFD tests including if contact traced.

General public encouraged to do LFD test before going to social events, visiting etc as part of or in addition to the recommended twice weekly tests. H&SC staff now encouraged to do daily LFD testing

<https://publichealthscotland.scot/our-areas-of-work/covid-19/covid-19-health-protection-guidance/overview-and-latest-guidance/>

Useful information

Health Protection Scotland dashboard (included daily LFT and PCR number and vaccination uptake) https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/phs.covid.19/viz/COVID-19DailyDashboard_15960160643010/Overview/viz/COVID-19DailyDashboard_15960160643010/Overview

Scottish Government daily data:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-trends-in-daily-data/>

Public Health Scotland weekly Covid statistical report - detailed information on a national basis on admissions, testing, contact tracing and vaccinations <https://publichealthscotland.scot/our-areas-of-work/covid-19/covid-19-data-and-intelligence/covid-19-weekly-report-for-scotland/>

Weekly respiratory report : <https://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/publications/hps-weekly-report/>