Issue 25 | 6th May April 2021

Elected Members Update

for Fife’s MPs, MSPs and   
local Councillors

This weekly update is part of our on-going commitment to keep you informed of the latest developments at NHS Fife that may be of interest to you and your constituents. We would also encourage you to regularly visit and refer your constituents for the latest news and updates from NHS Fife on our [website](http://www.nhsfife.org): or follow us on our social media channels -[Twitter](http://www.twitter.com/nhsfife), [Facebook](http://www.facebook.com/nhsfife), [Instagram](http://www.instagram.com/nhsfife).

We ask that Elected Members do not contact our staff directly with any queries around the national vaccination programme. Instead, please consult the Scottish Government’s [vaccination programme webpage](https://www.gov.scot/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-vaccination/), the national vaccination information phone number on 0800 030 8013, or our own webpage for [local updates](https://www.nhsfife.org/news-updates/campaigns-projects/coronavirus-information/nhs-fife-covid-19-vaccination-programme/). We endeavour to cover as much as possible in these updates, however if you believe that there is something that has not been addressed in this or previous editions, or is not available publicly from other sources, your email should be directed to the NHS Fife Chief Executive Office for response and co-ordination at[fife.chiefexecutive@nhs.scot](mailto:fife.chiefexecutive@nhs.scot)

NHS Fife does not have access to appointments, so individuals are asked not to contact us directly and instead call the National Helpline on 0800 030 8013**.** NHS Fife also has no local capacity to inform members of the public when their appointment is booked for. Anyone eligible for vaccination under the definition of the national priority cohorts who has not received a letter, or who may have lost their letter, can arrange an appointment by providing details [here](https://invitations.vacs.nhs.scot/) or by calling the National Helpline to have the form filled out over the phone. **The current timescale given by the national team for investigation can be up to three weeks**. These submissions require to be investigated locally and nationally prior to an appointment being allocated. Those aged 80 and over living in the community should contact their GP Practice.

# Election guidance has been issued in relation to the Scottish Parliament elections on Thursday 6th May. Until then, we will continue to publish our weekly update with information focused solely on our ongoing response to COVID-19.

The latest Scottish Government restrictions can be found [here](https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/advice-and-guidance/2020/10/coronavirus-covid-19-protection-levels/documents/covid-19-protection-levels-summary-information-on-what-you-can-and-cannot-do/covid-19-protection-levels-summary-information-on-what-you-can-and-cannot-do/govscot%3Adocument/COVID-19%2Bprotection%2Blevels%2B-%2Bsummary%2Binformation%2Bon%2Bwhat%2Byou%2Bcan%2Band%2Bcannot%2Bdo.pdf).

## Local vaccination update

As we compile this latest update, we are rapidly approaching 100,000 people having received both doses of vaccine protection against COVID-19. This is another significant milestone and highlights the quickening pace of the programme in recent weeks, in line with increased vaccine supply.

On Monday, we began vaccinating those aged 40-49 at [our four new large-scale clinics](https://fife.link/vaccinationcentres) in Kirkcaldy, Methil, Glenrothes and Dunfermline, following last week’s smaller-scale phased testing of the sites; we anticipate this group – which includes around 20,000 further appointments this month- will have received their initial vaccine by mid-May. Planning is also well underway for the phased vaccination of those under the age of 40.

Priority vaccination group update

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| **Priority order** | **NHS Fife Status** |
| 1. Residents in a care home for older adults and their carers | Second doses provided to all care homes in Fife. |
| 1. All those 80 years of age and over and frontline health and social care workers | Majority of second doses complete. |
| 1. All those 75 years of age and over | 14,000 people vaccinated. 13,000 completed courses. |
| 1. All those 70 years of age and over | 26,000 people vaccinated. 20,000 completed courses. |
| 1. All those 65 years of age and over | 19,000 people vaccinated. 14,000 completed courses. |
| 1. All individuals aged 16 years to 64 years with underlying health conditions which put them at higher risk of serious disease and mortality | 44,000 people vaccinated. 3,000 completed courses. |
| 1. All those 60 years of age and over | 12,500 people vaccinated. |
| 1. All those 55 years of age and over | 11,500 people vaccinated. |
| 1. All those 50 years of age and over | 13,000 people vaccinated. |
| 1. All those aged 40-49 | 8,000 + people vaccinated. This group will be called in a staggered manner and we would ask for patience as we progress through it. Please do not contact us regarding missing appointments for people in this age group yet. |

Second vaccine scheduling error

The Scottish Government has advised of an error in the national scheduling system, with around 8,000 people across Scotland not being automatically called for their second vaccine appointment. These individuals have all now been identified and have received or will receive an appointment very shortly. Changes have been made to the national scheduling system to ensure these problems are not repeated.

*For those awaiting second doses:*

* People should only contact the National Helpline (0800 030 8013) about a second appointment if it has been 11 weeks or more since their first vaccination.
* If an interval longer than the recommended interval is left between doses, the second dose should still be given, and the course does not need to be restarted

Vaccination passports

As the vaccination rollout progresses and more and more people are vaccinated, we are increasingly being asked if it will be possible to have proof of vaccination status. Whilst the Scottish Government is developing a technical solution to allow people to access their vaccination status directly, there is currently no standard document, nor international certification standards. People should not contact their GP with enquiries and information will be made widely available once the relevant considerations have been agreed.

## COVID-19 patients in hospital

NHS Fife has recently been asked by media outlets to confirm how many patients are currently in local hospitals with COVID-19, along with data on how this compares with numbers from earlier in the year. We said that, while the situation can change from day to day, currently there are a very small number of patients who have tested positive for COVID-19 and are recovering from their illness in hospital. While this is encouraging, we know there continues to be prevalence of the virus in our communities, so it remains vital people continue to follow public health guidance, especially as restrictions are eased.

Vaccination of pregnant women

Pregnant women can now receive the Pfizer vaccine at our vaccination clinics. In advance of their appointment women are encouraged to speak to their midwife or GP or can speak to a vaccinator at their clinic appointment. More information is available [here](https://www.nhsinform.scot/covid-19-vaccine/the-vaccines/pregnancy-breastfeeding-and-the-coronavirus-vaccine).

Self-registration for unpaid carers

The online self-registration system for unpaid carers is no longer available. Eligible unpaid carers can still register for their coronavirus vaccine and are asked to do this via the National Helpline on 0800 030 8013.

Non-attendance at clinics

For those who do not attend their appointments, the national scheduling team will write to them in the coming weeks offering them the opportunity to book another appointment.

Mass vaccination sites

The Carnegie Conference Centre in Dunfermline, M&S on Kirkcaldy High Street, the former Argos in the Kingdom Centre, Glenrothes, and the Savoy Sports Centre in Methil have been announced as mass COVID-19 vaccination sites. More information on the venues, including directions and parking availability, is available [here](https://fife.link/vaccinationcentres).

Parking at M&S Kirkcaldy

Many people have begun to receive COVID-19 vaccination appointments at our new site at M&S on Kirkcaldy High Street. We are committed to ensuring the easiest possible access for people and we are grateful to Fife Council for allowing free use of the car park at the Kirkcaldy Centre, formerly known as The Postings, for those with an appointment. If people require parking, they should bring their blue envelope appointment letter as they will be asked to present this by a member of our team. The car park can be accessed via Hunter Street.

## Hospital visiting restrictions

On Monday, local hospital visiting restrictions were relaxed from essential visits only to everyone in hospital being able to receive at least one named visitor. For those visiting a patient in hospital infection control measures will remain in place, including physical distancing in communal areas, face coverings, hand hygiene stations, restricted movement around the hospital, and a clear instruction that visits should not take place if the visitor has COVID-19 symptoms or is isolating. Current arrangements, including guidance on essential visiting criteria and FAQS, can be found [here](https://www.nhsfife.org/services/patients-carers-and-visitors/visiting-arrangements-during-covid-19-pandemic/)**.**

# Remobilisation of services

The latest version of our remobilisation plan is currently with the Scottish Government and is expected to be presented to the NHS Fife Board in May. As COVID-19 related admissions to our acute hospital continue to reduce, we are gradually remobilising elective and out-patient programmes. More information is available [here](https://www.nhsfife.org/services/resuming-health-and-care-services-in-fife/).

## Vaccine progress data update

Public Health Scotland is now publishing [daily statistical data](https://beta.isdscotland.org/find-publications-and-data/population-health/covid-19/covid-19-statistical-report/) on vaccinations in Scotland. The report includes data on; total vaccination – daily count and cumulative total, vaccination by age group, sex and cohort (including percentage of population to receive first dose), and vaccination by location (health board and local authority area). The [weekly statistical report](https://beta.isdscotland.org/find-publications-and-data/population-health/covid-19/covid-19-statistical-report/17-february-2021/dashboard/) issued by Public Health Scotland on 24/03/21 included a new section on ‘Equality of COVID-19 vaccination’ this week. This included national-level data on uptake rates by ethnicity and by level of deprivation. We would encourage elected members and media to use these resources as the main source for the latest data on COVID-19 vaccination figures. The Scottish Government’s COVID-19 Vaccine Deployment Plan can be found [here](https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-vaccine-deployment-plan-2021/).

## Local COVID-19 data

You can find the latest COVID-19 statistical report [here](https://beta.isdscotland.org/find-publications-and-data/population-health/covid-19/covid-19-statistical-report/). The number of confirmed cases, people in hospital and ICU in Fife [here](https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-daily-data-for-scotland/). Local information around deaths is published weekly by National Records Scotland at 12 noon on a Wednesday; this includes a breakdown by setting and is sourced from all death registrations. This data can be found [here](https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/covid19stats). We have also produced a handy info graphic that we publish every week on the Know Fife website summarising the above data – this can be accessed [here](https://know.fife.scot/).

## Schools and nurseries updates

During the last school term, NHS Fife and Fife Council jointly published information on COVID-19 cases connected to nurseries and schools. For this new school term NHS Fife and Fife Council will be publishing a weekly update on cases within local schools and nurseries.

More information is available [here](https://www.nhsfife.org/news-updates/latest-news/2021/03/weekly-reporting-of-covid-19-cases-linked-to-schools-and-nurseries/?fbclid=IwAR3cTD2G_Lj0dyliA1Bn_frxQGDBEA2RajGLgp-9qIXlsdLW9BTz-odMNDY).

## Testing in Fife

Alongside the vaccination programme, testing continues to be an important part of the response to COVID-19. Several testing sites are available across Fife for members of the public with symptoms. Testing for individuals without symptoms is available through our community testing sites - available to the public on a drop-in basis. Community testing sites are currently available at Glebe Centre, Kirkcaldy; Savoy Centre, Methil; Tryst Centre, Dunfermline, with mobile sites currently in Ballingry and Rosyth. Rapid testing kits for home use are also now available to individuals who do not have symptoms, with members of the public encouraged to test themselves twice weekly. These kits can be ordered online and delivered through the post, alternatively they can be picked up from testing sites at Victory Memorial Hall, St Andrews; Overton Community Centre, Kirkcaldy; Regional Drive-Through Centre, Bankhead Car Park, Glenrothes; Glenrothes Miners Charitable Society, Glenrothes and the Dell Farquharson Community Centre, Dunfermline. Sites are open from 3.30pm to 8pm for the collection of kits and no appointment is necessary. Further information on testing in Fife can be found [here](http://www.nhsfife.org/testing).

## Sharing our messages

We appreciate the support of elected members in sharing our health messages and note that you have already been engaging with the topics we have suggested on social media - we are grateful for your support. As such, and in order to help you share our messages with the public in as vibrant a way as possible, we have created a [dedicated campaigns area](https://www.nhsfife.org/campaignresources/) on our website where you will be able to download graphics, videos and any other resources to complement your posts.

## Help us to help you keep your constituents informed

NHS Fife would ask our elective representatives to share our regular updates and guidance via their own channels of communications with their constituents. By supporting us you can help to ensure that we can reach as many people across Fife in a timely manner.

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| Keep in touchElected members enquiries NHS Fife is committed to responding to elected member enquires in a timely manner. However, we need to manage enquiries to ensure that our urgent frontline delivery is not disrupted. To help you and to help us we are asking that all emails for updates and information or to address constituents' enquiries are directed to our central email address. All emails should be directed to the NHS Fife Chief Executive Office for response and co-ordination at: [fife.chiefexecutive@nhs.scot](mailto:fife.chiefexecutive@nhs.scot)  The Chief Executives’ Office will formally acknowledge receipt of all correspondence and coordinate a response from services to ensure that all enquiries are responded to in good time. Elected members are politely asked not to approach services directly for responses and instead direct all enquiries to the Chief Executive’s Office. Also, during this busy period can we ask that you make use of the excellent public information available on the NHS Fife Website, NHS Inform and the Scottish Government website and only come to us if the request relates specifically to Fife and not covered by local or national updates or guidance. To aid the sharing of information and updates with Fife's elected representatives we will now be issuing or Elected Members briefing on a weekly rather than fortnightly basis. This will be emailed directly to you and available to access online at: [www.nhsfife.org/emu](http://www.nhsfife.org/emu)  This update will also collate and address any common or shared requests for information from Elected members, received via the Chief Executive's Office, rather than us having to address each individual enquiry. Accessible information and translation NHS Fife continues to provide interpreting and translation services for patients despite there being no face to face interpretation currently. These assets and further information can be found [here](https://coronavirus.nhsfife.org/accessible-informationtranslation/). Board papers accessible online Board papers from previous meetings can be accessed online [here](https://www.nhsfife.org/nhs/index.cfm?fuseaction=nhs.pagegroup&p2sid=E44DBB1B-5056-8C6F-C013BB57547CE2B1&themeid=E44C37C3-5056-8C6F-C003CD63C15D8FF0&GroupOrg=270004AD-BB72-8519-4F4524B7837B36DD). |

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