Issue 26 | 13th May April 2021

Elected Members Update

for Fife’s MPs, MSPs and   
local Councillors

**Congratulations to everyone who was returned to the Scottish Parliament last week. We look forward to continuing to work with you via this update, our monthly meetings, and other correspondence and events or campaigns going forward.**

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](mailto:fife.chiefexecutive@nhs.scot) for response and co-ordination.

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.

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

The local vaccination campaign continues to make good progress and we will hit our latest milestone by Sunday, when the vast majority the 40-49-year-old age group (Cohort 10) will have received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine.

Our focus will now turn to vaccinating those aged 30-39 (Cohort 11), which encompasses around 36,000 people. We anticipate completing first dose vaccination by the 14th of June.

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 | Majority of second doses complete. |
| 1. All those 70 years of age and over | Majority of second doses complete. |
| 1. All those 65 years of age and over | Majority of second doses complete. |
| 1. All individuals aged 16 years to 64 years with underlying health conditions which put them at higher risk of serious disease and mortality | 45,000 first doses. 6,000 second doses. |
| 1. All those 60 years of age and over | 13,000 first doses. 3,000 second doses. |
| 1. All those 55 years of age and over | 12,000 first doses. 2,000 second doses. |
| 1. All those 50 years of age and over | 13,000 first doses. 2,000 second doses. |
| 1. All those aged 40-49 | 18,000 first doses. 3,000 second doses. |
| 1. All those aged 30-39 | Being scheduled. |

## Vaccination of people with a learning disability

Appointment letters for adults with learning disabilities who have not already been vaccinated have started being sent out by GP surgeries, and vaccination began on Monday. If patients require someone to consent on their behalf, they should bring evidence that they are able to do this, such as an Adults with Incapacity Certificate. Most individuals will be given an appointment at one of our community venues, but if they cannot access a community venue, they can peak to their GP who will be able to refer them to the Learning Disabilities pathway team to make a bespoke arrangement.

## JCVI guidance for those aged 30-39

The JCVI has made clear that the new advice for those aged 30-39 age group is based on the current low prevalence of the virus and the availability of alternatives to the Astra-Zeneca vaccine. If the situation changes the advice is that vaccination of adults aged 30-39 years with any of the UK authorised vaccines is always better than no vaccination, except where there are specific contraindications. The clear scientific evidence and advice continues to be that the benefits of receiving the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine far outweigh the risks for most age groups because it provides protection against the harm from COVID-19. It remains crucial that everyone who is offered a vaccination takes up the offer. Everyone who has received their first dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine safely should receive their second dose as this gives greater and longer lasting protection against the virus.

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. The rate of those not attending their COVID-19 vaccination appointment has varied week to week and between cohorts, and indicatively shows a lower rate of non-attendance amongst second doses. The project team are working to analyse this data before drawing conclusions and actions based upon it. However, they do not currently have any reason to think that rates are out of step with the rest of the country and we are pleased with the uptake. General information around uptake rates by cohort are reported by Public Health Scotland [here](https://public.tableau.com/profile/phs.covid.19#!/vizhome/COVID-19DailyDashboard_15960160643010/Vaccinations.).

Vaccination of pregnant women/ unpaid carers

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). 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.

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.

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).

## 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. Anyone with the symptoms of COVID-19 should book a test at [www.nhsinform.scot](http://www.nhsinform.scot) or call 0800 028 2816. If support is needed with the booking process, call 119. 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 Rosyth and High Valleyfield. A Scottish Ambulance Service Mobile Unit is currently available in Dalgety Bay providing testing for individuals with and without symptoms, appointments are required at this site. 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).

# Lateral flow testing for NHS Fife staff

Lateral flow testing for staff is another strand of the overarching testing programme, helping to protect our staff, their patients, colleagues, and family from COVID-19. Twice weekly testing is now available for all NHS Scotland employees (not just patient facing healthcare providers) as well as GP Practices, Dental Practices, Community Pharmacies and Opticians.  We are strongly encouraging colleagues to take part in the programme.

## Hospital visiting restrictions

Everyone in hospital can now 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/)**.**

## Increase in ED presentations

Over the last week, our Emergency Department has experienced a significant increase in attendance. However, we are conscious that many of those who are attending the Emergency Department are presenting with injuries, ailments or conditions that would be more appropriately treated elsewhere. To help us to help others, people requiring urgent treatment that is not life-threatening should call NHS 24 free on 111 - 24 hours a day, seven days a week. In emergencies, people should continue to call 999 or go directly to our Emergency Department. More information can be found [here](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nhsfife.org%2Fservices%2Fright%2F%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR22LvtHH5sqsItdd_bJa2qrS_VcDXYpeXcZK_gdKWj2yzUUaqy3q2NnpxM&h=AT0daXiaqSCqr_t5Jj0tNsGuL3d1iaiT-qBBkCvoy7_rgK3ntS_nkZD3qKVN-Lp90hI9nKuwc4mwvnuf3efyEMB9v0wujorochCH1DpLWRiSowu8G4t91JTeWh49_HiaQQ&__tn__=-UK-R&c%5b0%5d=AT3_BDZH0irtI4oWyPOTFl3zVaeRKT-hT2xhB8ld-cNRzgyuzvzISwLhLsdJt7NShODCYj8cp33k2TGg8NBKngiwNBy53VnLnO0CQZRQwieGY_pjXHGcElFLyo0HY4H-5VoGZ83d896SgL9eOpxw4UfgaNKxKx6Mw6rbXwwvMMHQl5ghtmCzyMjhznoNTVQkuBP-jYTsAF_gOMaE0aA).

# 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 this month. 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/).

## Orthopaedic centre piling work

To support the development of the Fife Elective Orthopaedic Centre at Victoria Hospital in Kirkcaldy, piling work will start on Monday 17th May. The Piling works will require steel rods to be inserted into the ground to ensure a strong foundation to allow the next stage of the construction of the building to take place. This vital work may cause some disruption with noise and vibrations felt in neighbouring buildings to the construction site. The project team will be monitoring vibration and noise to minimise the impact of this work on service provision. The work is expected to last no more than six weeks, subject to weather or other mitigating circumstances. Where there are nearby traffic information or alternative route signs, we would remind the public to abide by these.

## 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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