Issue 46 | 1st October 2021

Elected Members Update

for local MPs, MSPs and
Councillors

**This regular 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)**.**

## **Headlines**

**Booster vaccines underway**

NHS Fife has begun the first stages of the Tranche 2 roll-out of the Covid-19 vaccine booster to all frontline health and social care workers, residents in care homes for older people and all those aged 70 and over. These groups are being offered both the flu and Covid-19 booster vaccines after the JCVI advised they could be given alongside one another. Adults aged 70 years and over and those 16 years and over who are on the highest risk list will be contacted in the coming weeks - either by letter or their GP Practice.

In addition, NHS Fife has also commenced the roll out of third Covid-19 vaccines to those aged 16 and over who are on the highest risk list (previously known as the shielding list).

Other eligible groups - including all those aged 16 to 49 years with certain underlying health conditions, adult carers, unpaid and young carers, adult household contacts of immunosuppressed individuals and all adults over 50 - will be able to book an appointment online from late October. After a period of online booking, appointment letters will be sent to anyone in these groups who has not self-booked. From last week, frontline health and social care workers have been booking an appointment for a booster jab online via NHS Inform. The online portal can be used by all health and social care workers to book a flu vaccine. COVID-19 vaccine boosters have also started being administered in care homes.

**12–15-year-old Covid-19 vaccination begins**

Around 16,000 local 12–15-year-olds begun to receive vaccination appointment letters this week, which are arriving in the familiar blue envelope. NHS Fife’s preferred model for vaccination is via appointments arranged through the national scheduling system as opposed to drop-ins. Appointments will be in the evenings after 3.30pm or weekends to avoid disruption to education and we intend to deliver all vaccinations over a two-week period. Any person unable to attend will have access to a further appointment or a drop-in clinic convenient to them. In addition to location and time details, appointment letters will also include an information leaflet to inform and support consent from the young person attending for their appointment. Staff in clinics will be happy to discuss any queries or concerns at the time of appointment. Further information on the vaccination of 12–15-year-olds can be accessed [here](https://www.nhsfife.org/12to15/).

## **Availability of drop-in vaccination clinics**

NHS Fife continues to provide drop-in clinics at venues across Fife for anyone requiring their first or second dose of Covid-19 vaccine. This format is anticipated to continue over the coming months, but availability of drop-in may be determined by other vaccination activity, appointment volume, and the allocation of immunisation staff. For instance, whilst there are drop-in clinics scheduled this midweek, there are none this weekend due to the requirement for our immunisers to be mobilised to vaccinate the severely immunosuppressed in environments out with clinics, scheduled first dose appointments for 12–15-year-olds, and scheduled second dose appointments for other groups.

**Local flu vaccination campaign arrangements**

The local flu vaccination campaign expanded its reach earlier this week. The below groups have now started to receive vaccinations, in addition to those eligible under the age of 16, who started receiving nasal vaccines on the 6th of September:

* Immunosuppressed and clinically extremely vulnerable people aged 16+
* Adults in care homes
* Frontline health and social care workers (including care home staff)

These groups will be offered the opportunity to have their booster Covid-19 vaccination at the same time as their flu vaccine if it has been six months or more since their last dose. Public communications started last week in relation to vaccination arrangements for those over the age of 80. This cohort will shortly receive letters appointing them to their local medical practice or a nearby community venue, with vaccinations beginning w/c 11th October. Those who are housebound and unable to travel to a clinic will instead be visited at home by our vaccination team. More information is available [here](https://www.nhsfife.org/news-updates/latest-news/2021/09/covid-19-booster-and-winter-flu-vaccination-campaign-in-fife-to-kick-off/).

**Managed retraction of some services**

All non-urgent surgical procedures and some outpatient appointments remain postponed to help reduce the pressures on our services and protect urgent care and cancer treatment. This retraction of some services has been both managed and phased to prioritise safety and ensure redeployed staff are given appropriate time to both prepare for and undertake any transitions. We want to ensure that as few people as possible are required to wait for their procedure, and despite the well-documented strain on our services, we continue to carry on with as much of our non-urgent surgical programme as we can perform safely - with those in greatest clinical need prioritised to be seen most quickly.

## **Local Covid-19 vaccination overview**

**Total doses: 536,081**

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| **Age Group** | **Total % received 1st dose** | **Total % received 2nd dose** |
| 80 + | 100% | 100% |
| 75-79 | 100% | 100% |
| 70-74 | 99.2% | 98% |
| 65-69 | 99.5% | 98.2% |
| 60-64 | 100% | 98.5% |
| 55-59 | 98.6% | 96.6% |
| 50-54 | 95.1% | 92.5% |
| 40-49 | 90% | 84.6% |
| 30-39 | 86.6% | 76.47% |
| 18-29 | 73.6% | 59.7% |
| 16-17 | 68.1% | 8.7% |
| 12-15 | 8.6% | 0% |

*Figures correct on 29th September 2021*

**Drop-in vaccination clinics**

All confirmed clinics, including opening times and criteria, are listed [**here**](http://www.nhsfife.org/dropinclinics).

**Test & Protect**

**Community Testing**

Testing sites are available across Fife for members of the public with and without symptoms. Anyone with symptoms of Covid-19 or who has been advised to take a test should book a test via [www.nhsinform.scot](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Chamiltoncr%5CDesktop%5Cwww.nhsinform.scot). If support is needed with the booking process, call 119. Routine testing for anyone without symptoms is available through our community testing sites and mobile testing units. Fixed sites are currently available at the Glebe Centre, Kirkcaldy; Leys Park Car Park, Dunfermline; Parkgate Centre, Rosyth and Maxwell Centre, Cowdenbeath. In addition, mobile units are taking testing into the very heart of communities, providing responsive, localised testing based on the latest Public Health data. Mobile units are being deployed across Fife to reach as many communities as possible. More information and current locations can be found [here](https://www.nhsfife.org/news-updates/campaigns-and-projects/coronavirus-information/coronavirus-testing-in-fife/testing-for-those-without-symptoms/).

**Universal lateral flow testing kits**

Covid-19 rapid home testing kits are now available to anyone in Scotland who does not have symptoms, with members of the public encouraged to test themselves twice weekly. These free kits can be ordered and delivered through the post by calling 119 or [ordering online](https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested/pages/no-covid-symptoms/). They are also available from any of Fife’s 85 pharmacies or can be picked up through our community testing programmes. Further information on testing in Fife can be found [here](http://www.nhsfife.org/testing).

**Other news**

**Maternity staff nominated for UK award**

Specialist Perinatal Mental Health Midwife, Katie Potton, and Clinical Midwifery Manager, Pamela Galloway, have been shortlisted for 2021 Royal College of Midwives Awards. The awards celebrate midwifery’s best and brightest talent. Katie has been shortlisted for the Excellence in Perinatal Mental Health award for her role in the development of new services to support women with their mental health during the perinatal period, as well as staff education and support within maternity. Pamela has been shortlisted for the Slimming World Caring for You During a Global Pandemic Award for her comfort box creation, which used named tokens to promote self-care and resilience within teams. The tokens were designed to be carried by staff during their shift and easily accessible to promote feelings of relaxation during a difficult day. The RCM Award winners will be announced at a ceremony in London on the 27th of October. More information is available [here](https://fife.link/h5ey).

**Reminder of temporary changes to traffic system at Victoria site**

We have issued a reminder to people via social media that there is a temporary road closure in place at the Victoria Hospital to enable water drainage works to be carried out. The works are part of the programme to construct the new Fife Elective Orthopaedic Centre and the road leading from the traffic light junction on Hayfield Road to the Emergency Department is closed to all but emergency or delivery vehicles until Sunday 3 October. For those using bus services, particularly the X27, Stagecoach has issued the following [guidance](https://fife.link/b926).

**Helping people get the right care, in the right place, at the right time**

The Scottish Government has redesigned the way that urgent healthcare services are accessed across Scotland, supporting the public to access the right care, in the right place, at the right time. Under the arrangements, people with non-life-threatening conditions, who would usually attend A&E, are asked to call NHS 24 first, during the day or at night. Further information about the redesign of urgent care services is available [here](https://www.nhsfife.org/services/right/).

## 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 as possible across Fife in a timely manner.

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| Keep in touchWe endeavor 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, please let us know.Elected member meetingsNHS Fife facilitates regular informal group meetings with our elected representatives on a quarterly basis, via TEAMS. These meetings are open to all Fife’s MP’s and MSP’s to ensure parity and consistency of feedback. The dates for the remainder of 2021 are:**Friday 8 October** at 11.00 am and **Friday 10 December** at 9.30 amElected 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 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 an Elected Members Update (EMU) on a weekly basis. This will be emailed directly to you and available to access online at: [www.nhsfife.org/emu](http://www.nhsfife.org/emu)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/).Covid-19 statisticsVaccine progress data updatePublic Health Scotland publishes [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 includes 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/).General Covid-19 dataYou 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/).  |

Issued by NHS Fife Communications, all information correct at time of publishing.