Issue 49 | 14th October 2021

Elected Members Update

Local Covid and flu vaccine arrangements

*This update is* *a stand-alone communication to advise and inform Elected Members of local covid booster and flu vaccination arrangements, which started in September 2021 and will continue into next year.*

*Covid booster and flu vaccination is a joint campaign, and most people will be able to access both vaccines at the same appointment, where appropriate. This follows guidance from the JCVI around the safety of* [*co-administered vaccination.*](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/jcvi-statement-september-2021-covid-19-booster-vaccine-programme-for-winter-2021-to-2022/jcvi-statement-regarding-a-covid-19-booster-vaccine-programme-for-winter-2021-to-2022)

**Booster/flu Vaccination**

Like the initial roll out, access to both booster and flu vaccination is being prioritised according to JCVI guidance – beginning with the most vulnerable.

For the Covid booster, those who have not had their first or second doses of protection eight weeks apart should follow this path before they are eligible. Only those who have waited over six months since their second dose will be eligible for a booster.

Flu vaccination will be offered at the same appointment as a booster – where appropriate. These appointments are currently invite only, and not accessible via drop-in clinics.

**What vaccine will be administered for the booster?**

Most people in Fife will be offered a booster dose of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine.

This means that booster doses may differ from the vaccine used for someone’s first and second dose. Some people may be offered a booster dose of the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine if they cannot have the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine.

**When will people be vaccinated, where, and how will they be invited?**

The below table provides the latest information on who is being vaccinated, when and where this will be, and how they will be invited:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Cohort** | **Approximate cohort size** | **Planned vaccination start date** | **Method of invite** | **Location** |
| Children’s flu vaccinations (including teaching staff) | 60,500 | Started 6th September 2021 | Postal or via schools. | Health centres or schools. |
| Adults in care homes | 2,773 | Started 27 September 2021 | Care home organised. | Delivered in care home. |
| Frontline health and social care workers (including care home staff) | 21,167 | Started 27 September 2021 | Local community clinics. Appointment or drop-in. Appointments can be booked [here](http://www.nhsinform.scot/hscwvaccination). | Community clinic. |
| Those aged 80+ | 12,000 | Started 4th October 2021 | Letter or phone call arranging GP surgery vaccination or nearby community venue. | GP surgery or nearby community clinic. Click [here](https://www.nhsfife.org/news-updates/campaigns-and-projects/coronavirus-information/vaccination-programme/over-80s-covid-19-vaccination-booster/) for more information. |
| Those aged 70+ | 60,215 | Starts 25th October 2021 | Postal invite. | Community clinic or GP surgery. |
| Those aged 16-49 within an at-risk group | 12,724 | From late October/November. | Postal invite. | Community clinic. |
| Those aged 50+ | 112,676 | Mid November/December | Self-booking via online portal and then postal invite. | Community clinic. |
| Adults who are household contacts of immunosuppressed individuals. | TBC | Mid November/December | Self-booking via online portal. | Community clinic. |

*\*visits will take place in a person’s home where they are housebound*

**Third doses**

In addition to booster vaccination, 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 via online portal from late October. After a period of online booking, appointment letters will be sent to anyone in these groups who has not self-booked.

**Further information**

* For more information on the local flu and covid vaccine campaign, including a helpful list of Frequently Asked Questions, please click [here](https://www.nhsfife.org/news-updates/campaigns-and-projects/coronavirus-information/vaccination-programme/covid-19-booster-and-flu-vaccination-programme/).
* Covid booster [leaflet](http://www.healthscotland.com/uploads/documents/60144-COVID-19%20important%20information%20about%20your%20booster%20vaccine%20leaflet-Sep2021-English.pdf).