Issue 67 | 4th March 2022

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** [**we0bsite**](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)**.**

**Covid vaccination**

**Local vaccination overview**

Across Fife, almost 300,000 first dose Covid vaccinations have now been delivered, whilst more than 230,000 people have received their initial two doses, plus a booster.

**First dose:** 296,615

**Second dose**: 278,948

**Booster dose:** 230,881

Over the last week, our immunisation teams have been focussed on appointing and vaccinating adults aged 18-59 who have received their first two doses but have not yet taken advantage of a booster dose. Whilst this group are in a small minority, we have been heartened that more than 5,600 have attended their scheduled appointment and, whilst this was around 14% of all those who were contacted, this is within expectation. Indeed, Fife managed to deliver the second highest number of total vaccinations last week for the first time since the vaccination programme began.

We remain in dialogue with Scottish Government colleagues about the delivery of targeted Spring booster vaccinations for at-risk groups - including older age groups and those with underlying illness - and work is well underway to begin delivery of these in a planned and effective manner from mid-March. These vaccinations will be delivered in line with initial doses for those aged 5-11 , of which more information is available below.

Our [outreach work](http://www.nhsfife.org/dropin) is ongoing, with mobile vaccination clinics scheduled to visit sites including Halbeath Leisure Park, Morrison’s supermarket in Kirkcaldy, and Linton Lane Centre foodbank over the next week.

**Vaccination of children aged 5-11 years old**

NHS Fife will shortly begin scheduling children aged 5-11 for vaccination via appointment letters sent to those with parental responsibility. As per the guidance issued by the JCVI, this will be a ‘non-urgent’ offer and this age group will be invited in a structured, managed roll-out, alongside the additional Spring dose vaccinations for those considered at greater risk.

Alongside dedicated clinics for this age group – where venues will continue to be made child-friendly as they have been during sessions for the at-risk 5–11-year old’s - NHS Fife is also working to accommodate ‘family clinics’, where siblings and other family members will be able to attend together, reducing the need for multiple visits. We are working hard to try and foster as positive an experience of vaccination for young people and families as possible.

Where possible, 5–11-year-olds will be appointed to clinics in evenings, weekends and during the Easter holidays to both minimise any disruption to education and ensure that first and second doses are offered prior to schools returning in August after the summer holidays.

**Community and workplace resource**

We have developed an [online resource](https://www.nhsfife.org/news-updates/campaigns-and-projects/coronavirus-information/covid-resources-for-local-workplaces-and-community-organisations/) that is being made available to local businesses, hospitality, and other community organisations to help them promote the benefits of vaccination and testing to clients and staff. The resource includes social media graphics, posters, videos, and other helpful assets to outline the importance of maintaining good practice and playing a role in keeping both individuals and businesses safe from the effects of the virus.

**Getting vaccinated**

We continue to encourage anyone eligible for a first, second or booster dose to book their vaccination appointment via the [online booking portal](https://vacs.nhs.scot/csp) (people who need to recover their username can do so [here](https://vacs.nhs.scot/csp?id=recover_username)) or by calling 0800 030 8013. Alternatively, the latest [drop-in clinics](https://www.nhsfife.org/dropinclinics/) are updated regularly on our website.

**Further information**

[This table](https://www.nhsfife.org/media/36300/nhs-fife-covid-19-vaccination-summary.pdf) provides the latest information on who is being vaccinated, when and where this will be, and how they will be invited. Flu vaccination is being offered at the same appointment as a booster – where appropriate. Further information about the joint Covid booster and flu vaccination programme can be found [here](https://www.nhsfife.org/news-updates/campaigns-and-projects/coronavirus-information/covid-19-vaccination-programme-in-fife/covid-19-booster-and-flu-vaccination-programme/). The current number of confirmed cases, people in hospital and intensive care in Fife can be viewed [here](https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-daily-data-for-scotland/).

**Test & Protect**

**Self-isolation, close contact and testing guidance**

Up to date guidance around isolation periods, rules for close contacts and further testing information, including a walk-through guide, can be found [here](https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/coronavirus-covid-19/test-and-protect/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-individuals-with-possible-coronavirus-infection).

**Community testing**

Alongside symptomatic testing, our community testing sites operate across Fife, seven days a week, providing LFD tests, and PCRs where needed. Members of the public can drop-in at any time during opening hours to access testing and a variety of support.

Fixed testing sites are currently based at Glebe Centre, Kirkcaldy; Leys Park Road Car Park, Dunfermline; and Parkgate Centre, Rosyth, with mobile units visiting communities around Fife. Locations of our sites are based on the latest Public Health data.

A targeted approach is also now being taken to distribute LFD home testing kits directly to members of the public at selected venues including food banks, supermarkets and local shops, with staff on hand to signpost to further support. As well as these targeted distribution sites, home LFD kits continue to be available to pick up from testing sites, participating community pharmacies, and online for home delivery. Further information is available [here](http://www.nhsfife.org/communitytesting).

**Other news**

**Diagnostic waiting times**

Following the publication of statistics by Public Health Scotland, we were asked to comment on the increase in people awaiting diagnostic tests, since February 2020. We responded by stating that diagnostic testing is used to assist clinicians in diagnosing, and ruling out, a huge range of conditions in addition to cancers. We are seeing a considerable increase in demand for all aspects of diagnostic testing at present and continue to prioritise those at greatest clinical need. Importantly, those referred to radiology as urgent, or with an urgent suspicion of cancer, continue to have imaging performed within two weeks of referral. Furthermore, we continually review those patients referred as routine to determine whether they need to be seen more quickly. Fife’s radiology service continues to work in partnership with colleagues in the Early Cancer Diagnostic Centre at the Victoria Hospital to ensure those referred with a possible cancer can receive a diagnosis quickly and have treatment initiated very soon after. Similarly, all of those referred for chest x-ray imaging continue to be seen within two weeks in line with the national Detect Cancer Early campaign.

**Support for Ukraine**

To support the people of Ukraine and those displaced by the crisis, we are encouraging our staff, where they can, to consider contributing to the appeal launched yesterday by the [Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC)](http://www.dec.org.uk/) Ukrainian fund. The DEC brings together 15 leading UK aid charities to raise funds quickly and efficiently to ensure that the appropriate help can reach those that have fled their homes to escape the conflict in Ukraine. DEC charities and their local partners are already in Ukraine and in neighbouring countries providing food, water, shelter, and medical assistance. Alternatively, we are also highlighting the work being done by Fife Voluntary Action, which has set up a dedicated webpage outlining local donation points and the donations being accepted for refuges [here](https://www.fva.org/news.asp?id=15342).

**Testing service recognised with civic award**

Fife’s Covid testing staff have been recognised for their efforts at the Fife Civic Recognition Awards. The local testing team has been working throughout the pandemic to test those with coronavirus symptoms and help reduce its spread. More information on the award is available [here](https://www.nhsfife.org/news-updates/latest-news/2022/03/covid-testing-service-recognised-with-civic-recognition-award/).

**Nursery nurses win national practice improvement award**

NHS Fife’s maternity ward nursery nurses have won the Neonatal Nurses Association's (NNA) Practice Improvement Award 2022. The NNA board reported being very impressed with the nursery nurse roles and the impact they have on care delivery and improvement. More information about the NNA awards can be found [here](https://nna.org.uk/nna-awards/).

**Hospital visiting**

The current hospital visiting arrangements in Fife are that patients can receive at least one visitor per day. This position remains under regular review and the latest provisions can be found [here](https://www.nhsfife.org/visiting/).

## 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.

## 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 touch**We 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 meetings for 2022 are:Friday 18th MarchFriday 17th JuneFriday 23rd SeptemberFriday 16th DecemberElected 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 can be found [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/). General statistical publicationsThe latest local health and social care performance statistics, including emergency department, cancer, and delayed discharge, are published [here](https://publichealthscotland.scot/publications/). |
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