Issue 45 | 23rd September 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**

**Vaccination arrangements for local 12–15-year-olds**

People aged 12 -15 years old who are not already covered by existing advice from the JCVI are being offered the Covid-19 vaccine, following advice provided by the UK’s four Chief Medical Officers. Around 16,000 local 12–15-year-olds will shortly receive appointment letters, which will arrive in the familiar blue envelope. NHS Fife’s preferred model for vaccination is via appointments arranged through the national scheduling system. Appointment letters will begin arriving on the 29th of September for venues across Fife and efforts will be made to ensure these are as close to the person’s home as possible.  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/>

**Postponement of non-urgent and outpatient procedures**

All non-urgent surgical procedures and some outpatient appointments are currently postponed to help reduce the unprecedented pressures on our services and protect urgent care and cancer treatment. We have been able to continue with some elements of our non-urgent surgical programme, though not in the volumes that were performing earlier this year. We want to ensure that as few people as possible are required to wait for their procedure, and despite the well-documented strain on healthcare 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.

**Emergency department challenges**

Staff working in our Emergency Department are working incredibly hard, and under significant pressure, to continue to provide patients with the best possible standard of care. During this summer we have seen presentations in our Emergency Department far exceed what we would normally expect at this time of year, and even well beyond what we would see during the busy winter months. This comes at a time when our hospitals are already under considerable strain due to a sustained increase in the number of patients requiring inpatient care. Despite these unprecedented pressures, the staff in our Emergency Department continue to provide good quality care, with the majority of patients still seen within the 4-hour standard. Crucially, patients are triaged to ensure those who require the most urgent treatment are seen quickly.

**Local flu vaccination campaign arrangements**

Arrangements for the local flu vaccination campaign are currently being finalised, with people aged 80 and over and the clinically vulnerable being the first groups offered appointments. These groups will be appointed to their local medical practices, where possible, or to a community venue nearby.  In addition, those who are also eligible for their third Covid-19 vaccination will be able to receive it at the same time as their flu vaccine if it has been six months or more since their second dose. The flu programme will run until March 2022 with more people than ever being offered the vaccine; those aged 50 to 65 and young people in secondary education are amongst those added for the first time.

**Flu and Covid vaccine registration portal open for health and social care workers**

A new portal where health and social care workers can register for their flu vaccine and third dose of Covid-19 protection opened earlier this week. All NHS Fife staff are eligible for flu vaccination, along with all frontline social care staff. Many staff will also be eligible for their third Covid-19 vaccination if they are at least six months since their second dose. The third dose can be given at the same time as the flu jab without the need for a separate appointment.

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

**Total doses: 534,962**

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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 | 99.4% | 98.1% |
| 60-64 | 100% | 98.4% |
| 55-59 | 98.6% | 96.5% |
| 50-54 | 95.1% | 92.4% |
| 40-49 | 89.9% | 84.4% |
| 30-39 | 86.4% | 76.4% |
| 18-29 | 73.2% | 58.9% |
| 16-17 | 60% | 8.5% |

*Figures correct on 22nd September 2021*

**Drop-in vaccination clinics**

Drop-in vaccination clinics have continued this week – for the first time including 12–15-year-olds. All confirmed clinics, including opening times and criteria, are listed [**here**](http://www.nhsfife.org/dropinclinics).

**New Kingsgate clinic to host first drop-in**

A new vaccination clinic at the former DW Sports store in the Kingsgate Shopping Centre, Dunfermline, will host its first drop-in session on Sunday 26 September. The site, which was chosen due to its size, location, transport links and availability of parking, will replace the existing clinic at Carnegie Conference Centre.

**Third dose vaccinations**

NHS Fife remains in close contact with national bodies to plan for any potential Covid-19 third dose vaccination programmes. As referenced in previous updates, we expect to be able to confirm local arrangements shortly.

**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>. 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**

**Three new members appointed to NHS Fife Board**

The Scottish Government has confirmed the appointment of three new non-executive members to the NHS Fife Board. The appointments of Alastair Grant, Mansoor Mahmood and Arlene Wood have been confirmed by the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care, Humza Yousaf MSP, with each member appointed to serve for a period of four years. Further information on the appointments can be found [here](https://www.nhsfife.org/news-updates/latest-news/2021/09/three-new-members-appointed-to-fife-nhs-board/).

**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/).Board papers accessible onlineThe next NHS Fife Board meeting will be held via TEAMS on Tuesday 28th September.Board papers for 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).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/).  |

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