Issue 37 | 30th July 2021

Elected Members Update

for Fife’s MPs, MSPs and   
local 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)**.**

## **Local COVID-19 vaccination overview**

**Vaccination statistics**

Almost 213,000 people in Fife have now completed their two-dose course of COVID-19 protection. Over 486,000 doses have been administered in total.

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| **Age Group** | **Total % received 1st dose** | **Total % received 2nd dose** |
| 80 + | 97.8% | 94.3% |
| 75-79 | 100% | 98.2% |
| 70-74 | 98.6% | 97.1% |
| 65-69 | 98.5% | 96.7% |
| 60-64 | 98.4% | 96.4% |
| 55-59 | 98.5% | 95.7% |
| 50-54 | 95.1% | 91.5% |
| 40-49 | 89.6% | 79.9% |
| 30-39 | 84% | 33.6% |
| 18-29 | 68.6% | 19.2% |

**Vaccination drop-in clinics**

We continue to provide drop-in COVID-19 vaccination clinics for first and second doses at venues across Fife, in line with national direction. Upcoming clinics and criteria can be found [here](https://www.nhsfife.org/news-updates/campaigns-and-projects/coronavirus-information/vaccination-programme/find-vaccine-drop-in-clinics/).

**Vaccination of under 18s**

Drop-in clinic criterion has recently been extended to include those whose 18th birthday is on or before the 31st of October this year. Those who are eligible can also sign up to register for a scheduled appointment [here](https://t.co/mqH2g59sy1?amp=1).

**Starks Park pop-up clinics**

Last weekend our mobile vaccination clinic visited Starks Park in Kirkcaldy, for Raith Rovers’ home game against Alloa Athletic. Over 80 people took advantage of the opportunity to be vaccinated in one of our roaming welfare vehicles. Over the next few weeks these mobile clinics will visit various locations and workplaces where large numbers of people congregate. This work will be informed by the use of data and engagement with local communities.

## **Test and protect**

**Community testing**

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 and mobile testing units - available to the public on a drop-in basis. 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 one of Fife’s 85 pharmacies or can be picked up through our [community testing programmes](http://www.nhsborders.scot.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/community-testing/) Further information on testing in Fife can be found [here](http://www.nhsfife.org/testing).

**Other news**

**Pressures on local healthcare system**

At the NHS Fife Board meeting on Tuesday, our Chief Executive, Carol Potter, addressed the increasing demand being placed upon local healthcare services. In the statement, which was provided to local media, the Chief Executive outlined the challenges posed by increased admissions and Emergency Department presentations during July, as well as acknowledging the continued hard work and dedication of staff. The statement can be accessed [here](https://www.nhsfife.org/news-updates/latest-news/2021/07/nhs-fife-board-meeting-chief-executive-update/).

**Emergency department recording record attendances**

Record numbers of patients have been attending our Emergency Department at the Victoria Hospital over the last few weeks. Indeed, since May of this year, our Emergency Department has recorded five of its six highest daily attendances since records began. Our whole healthcare system continues to come under significant strain, including GP and other frontline services, and we would ask for the support of Elected Members to encourage people to only attend the Emergency Department if they have life or limb saving emergencies. Those with injuries that are not life or limb threatening should call NHS 24 on 111 to ensure they are directed to the most appropriate healthcare professional ,whilst also helping our clinical staff devote more time to those who need it most.

**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/).

**Innovation in breast cancer surgery**

NHS Fife is pioneering the use of a new surgical technique which enables patients undergoing a mastectomy to be safely discharged the same day. The new technique sees a form of tissue glue applied on the inside of the breast to seal the tissue, enabling patients to be safely discharged home the same day without the need for a drain. More information is available [here](https://www.nhsfife.org/news-updates/latest-news/2021/07/innovation-in-breast-cancer-surgery-enables-fife-patients-to-go-home-the-same-day/).

**CAMHS and psychological services waiting times**

Earlier this week, the Fife Health and Social Care Partnership released a statement relating to waiting times for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS). They advised that:

“T*here is recognition nationally of the need to improve ​access to CAMHS and that the Scottish Government’s Mental Health Division's Performance Improvement Team has supported both CAMHS and Psychological Therapies (PTS) in Fife to develop an improvement plan with associated recruitment requirements. CAMHS in Fife has received £1.8m funding, which will be invested into resources that will significantly reduce waiting times and help meet the national waiting time target. Psychological Therapies provides a number of therapeutic services, and again there is a national challenge in recruiting to these services. Fife PTS service has also received additional funding to invest in the workforce with recruitment underway and we are committed to meeting the referral to treatment target by 31 March 2023.”*

**Changes to self-isolation rules for health and social care staff**

The Scottish Government has announced changes to the self-isolation rules, which provide an exemption for health and social care staff. This is a limited change, to be applied in extreme circumstances, with staff who voluntarily agree not to self-isolate. It will allow essential staff in critical roles to return to work to maintain lifeline services and critical national infrastructure. Exemption to self-isolation will only be granted for members of staff who voluntarily agree not to self-isolate, and our duty of care to all our employees will be key. The exemption to self-isolate will last only for as long as there is an immediate risk to service continuity and strict conditions will apply:

* Staff must be double-vaccinated having received their second dose at least two weeks prior to the request.
* Staff will be required to have a negative PCR test before the return to work and to agree to undertake daily lateral flow tests.
* Staff would also be required to limit their social contact when they return home after work.

The policy would ordinarily only apply to those who are a passing close contact and not those who are a close contact of a case within their own household. A passing close contact can be described as a contact a staff member has encountered that is COVID-19 positive, but who is out-with their immediate household and who they don’t have on-going exposure to.

**Director of Acute Services appointed**

We have appointed Claire Dobson to the post of Director of Acute Services. The Director of Acute Services provides strategic and operational leadership of over planned care, emergency care, women and children’s care, and clinical support services. Claire took up the role of Interim Director of Acute Services in September last year, having previously held the position of Divisional General Manager in Fife's Health and Social Care Partnership for six years. She started her NHS career in 1995 in Fife, having graduated as a Physiotherapist from Glasgow Caledonian University, and has worked across acute, primary care and social care in clinical, managerial, and strategic roles.

**Reports of nurse scam in west Fife**

We were made aware of a series of incidents where a nurse, claiming to be from NHS Fife, had targeted elderly residents in West Fife by cold calling at their door and attempting to sell them healthcare products. The person advised that they are visiting as an ‘appointed nurse’ and attempts to sell products such as beds, mobility scooters and stairlifts on behalf of a company called Saltire Scotland. More information can be found [here](https://www.nhsfife.org/news-updates/latest-news/2021/07/people-in-west-fife-urged-to-be-vigilant-following-reports-of-scam/).

**Distribution of COVID-19 misinformation**

We were notified of misinformation relating to the COVID-19 vaccine being posted through resident’s letterboxes in Glenrothes.  In response to a media enquiry from a local newspaper, we thanked local people who have come forward to get the vaccine and help protect themselves and the wider community and reinforced that vaccination offers the best available protection against COVID-19 and its effects.

**Hospital visiting arrangements**

Despite the move to Level 0, hospital visiting in Fife remains restricted to one named visitor per patient per day. This position will be kept under review and we are committed to returning to patient centred visiting as soon as it is appropriate and safe to do so for our patients, staff and visitors. Current arrangements, including guidance on visiting criteria and FAQS, can be found [here](https://www.nhsfife.org/services/patients-carers-and-visitors/visiting-arrangements-during-covid-19-pandemic/)

## 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 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 meetings  NHS 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 24 September** at 9.30 am and **Friday 10 December** at 9.30 am Elected 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 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 online The 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). Board papers accessible online The next NHS Fife Board meeting. COVID-19 statisticsVaccine progress data update Public 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 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/). |

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