Issue 23 | 23rd April 2021

Elected Members Update

for Fife’s MPs, MSPs and   
local Councillors

This weekly 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).

We ask that Elected Members do not contact our staff directly with any queries around the national vaccination programme. Instead, please consult the Scottish Government’s [vaccination programme webpage](https://www.gov.scot/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-vaccination/), the national vaccination information phone number on 0800 030 8013, or our own webpage for [local updates](https://www.nhsfife.org/news-updates/campaigns-projects/coronavirus-information/nhs-fife-covid-19-vaccination-programme/). We endeavour 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, your email 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)

NHS Fife does not have access to appointments, so individuals are asked not to contact us directly and instead call the national helpline on 0800 030 8013**.** NHS Fife also has no local capacity to inform members of the public when their appointment is booked for. Anyone eligible for vaccination under the definition of the national priority cohorts who has not received a letter, or who may have lost their letter, can arrange an appointment by providing details [here](https://invitations.vacs.nhs.scot/) or by calling the national helpline to have the form filled out over the phone. **The current timescale given by the national team for investigation can be up to three weeks**. These submissions require to be investigated locally and nationally prior to an appointment being allocated. Those aged 80 and over living in the community should contact their GP Practice.

# Election guidance has been issued in relation to the Scottish Parliament elections on Thursday 6th May. Until then, we will continue to publish our weekly update with information focused solely on our ongoing response to COVID-19.

The Scottish Government that has made further changes to restrictions from Monday 26thApril. The latest guidance from Scottish Government can be found [here](https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/advice-and-guidance/2020/10/coronavirus-covid-19-protection-levels/documents/covid-19-protection-levels-summary-information-on-what-you-can-and-cannot-do/covid-19-protection-levels-summary-information-on-what-you-can-and-cannot-do/govscot%3Adocument/COVID-19%2Bprotection%2Blevels%2B-%2Bsummary%2Binformation%2Bon%2Bwhat%2Byou%2Bcan%2Band%2Bcannot%2Bdo.pdf).

## Local vaccination update

We have now vaccinated almost 193,000 people with their first dose of protection against COVID-19, with nearly 42,000 people having completed their course.

With first dose vaccinations for the majority of those included in the nine JCVI priority groups completed towards the end of last month, the increase in vaccine supply means we have now been able to begin appointing those in group 10 (40-49 year -olds) to four new mass vaccination clinics in Kirkcaldy, Dunfermline, Glenrothes and Methil. Each site will operate two test-days next week with 5,000 appointments scheduled across them, allowing us to embed the new systems and processes.

Elsewhere, second doses for those in priority groups 3-5 commenced this week and 70,000 vaccinations are scheduled to be administered to this cohort up until the 10th of May.

GPs are expected to complete second dose vaccination of those over the age of 80 in the coming weeks.

We continue to make progress appointing those who have not automatically received a vaccination letter and are working with the national project team to schedule these people as soon as possible.

Priority vaccination group update

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Priority order** | **NHS Fife Status** |
| 1. Residents in a care home for older adults and their carers | Second doses provided to all care homes in Fife. |
| 1. All those 80 years of age and over and frontline health and social care workers | Second doses now being delivered through general practice and staff clinics. |
| 1. All those 75 years of age and over | 14,000 people vaccinated. 6,000 completed courses. |
| 1. All those 70 years of age and over | 20,000 people vaccinated. 4,000 completed courses. |
| 1. All those 65 years of age and over | 19,000 people vaccinated. Second doses commenced 19th April. |
| 1. All individuals aged 16 years to 64 years with underlying health conditions which put them at higher risk of serious disease and mortality | 44,000 people vaccinated. |
| 1. All those 60 years of age and over | 12,500 people vaccinated. \* |
| 1. All those 55 years of age and over | 11,500 people vaccinated. \* |
| 1. All those 50 years of age and over | 13,000 people vaccinated. \* |
| 1. All those aged 40-49 | Vaccinations will begin 26th April at mass centres. Due to vaccine supply, this group will be called in a staggered manner and, as such, we would ask for patience as we progress through it. This is in line with the national programme roll out and we will issue clear communications once all letters for this cohort have been issued. Please do not contact us regarding missing appointments for people in this age group yet. |

\*Revised figure due to error during compilation of last week’s update.

Carnegie Conference Centre, Argos and Savoy Centre announced as mass vaccination sites

The Carnegie Conference Centre in Dunfermline, the former Argos in the Kingdom Centre, Glenrothes, and the Savoy Sports Centre in Methil are the latest venues to be announced as mass COVID-19 vaccination sites. The trio join M&S on Kirkcaldy High Street and will initially welcome around 5,000 people from the 40-49 age group for vaccination next week. These appointments will be spread across the sites and ensure we are able to prepare for greater volumes in the coming week. More information on the venues is available [here](https://www.nhsfife.org/news-updates/press-releases/2021-april/remaining-mass-covid-vaccination-sites-in-fife-confirmed-in-glenrothes-and-levenmouth/).

Self-registration for unpaid carers

From Monday 26 April, the online self-registration system for unpaid carers will no longer be available. Eligible unpaid carers will still be able to register for their coronavirus vaccine after this date and are asked to do this via the national helpline on 0800 030 8013.

Vaccination of pregnant women

A bespoke pathway for the vaccination of pregnant women has been agreed, which recommends the use of the Pfizer vaccine for this group, regardless of age. Plans are currently being finalised with maternity colleagues and further details will be made available as soon as possible.

## Inclusivity group

NHS Fife is working to ensure that our approach to COVID-19 vaccination is inclusive as possible, and that we take every opportunity to vaccinate those groups who require additional or often bespoke pathways to vaccination. As such, our formation of an Inclusivity Group has been central to developing strategies to vaccinate people such as those with learning difficulties, hard to reach community groups, and the local homeless population. Indeed, the group has been referenced at national level as an example of best practice.

Use of alternative vaccination venues

Wherever possible, COVID-19 vaccination appointments are scheduled by location to ensure that people are appointed as close to their home as possible. However, on a small number of occasions, in order to expedite appointments, some appointments have been offered at alternative vaccination venues. This is an infrequent issue and used only to appoint people when they need to be vaccinated as quickly as possible. We understand due to individual circumstances this may not be suitable for some people, where this is the case a system is in place to phone the helpline and request to change the allocated location or help with transport.

## Hospital visiting restrictions update

From the 26th of April, local visiting restrictions will be relaxed from essential visits only to everyone in hospital being able to receive at least one named visitor. For those visiting a patient in hospital infection control measures will remain in place, including physical distancing in communal areas, face coverings, hand hygiene stations, restricted movement around the hospital, and a clear instruction that visits should not take place if the visitor has COVID-19 symptoms or is isolating. Current arrangements, including guidance on essential visiting criteria and FAQS, can be found [here](https://www.nhsfife.org/services/patients-carers-and-visitors/visiting-arrangements-during-covid-19-pandemic/)**.**

# Remobilisation of services

The latest version of our remobilisation plan is currently with the Scottish Government and is expected to be presented to the NHS Fife Board in May. As COVID-19 related admissions to our acute hospital continue to reduce, we are gradually remobilising elective and out-patient programmes. More information is available [here](https://www.nhsfife.org/services/resuming-health-and-care-services-in-fife/).

## Vaccine progress data update

Public Health Scotland is now publishing [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 on 24/03/21 included a new section on ‘Equality of COVID-19 vaccination’ this week. This included 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/).

## Local 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/).

## Schools and nurseries updates

During the last school term, NHS Fife and Fife Council jointly published information on COVID-19 cases connected to nurseries and schools. For this new school term NHS Fife and Fife Council will be publishing a weekly update on cases within local schools and nurseries.

More information is available [here](https://www.nhsfife.org/news-updates/latest-news/2021/03/weekly-reporting-of-covid-19-cases-linked-to-schools-and-nurseries/?fbclid=IwAR3cTD2G_Lj0dyliA1Bn_frxQGDBEA2RajGLgp-9qIXlsdLW9BTz-odMNDY).

## Home test kits

From Monday 26th April lateral flow home test kits will be available to anyone who does not have coronavirus symptoms. They can be picked up from local walk/drive-through test sites for people to test themselves twice-weekly, or [ordered online](https://test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/order-lateral-flow-kits/condition) and delivered through the post. Asymptomatic community test sites will continue to operate as they do currently.

## Asymptomatic and symptomatic testing in Fife

Alongside the vaccination programme, testing is an important part of the response to COVID-19. Over the last few weeks, several testing sites have opened across Fife providing symptomatic and asymptomatic testing for members of the public. Asymptomatic testing sites are available to the public on a drop-in basis except for mobile units operated by the Scottish Ambulance Service, which require an appointment. More information can be found [here](http://www.nhsfife.org/testing).

## 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.

|  |
| --- |
| Keep in touchElected 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 or Elected Members briefing on a weekly rather than fortnightly basis. This will be emailed directly to you and available to access online at: [www.nhsfife.org/emu](http://www.nhsfife.org/emu)  This update will also collate and address any common or shared requests for information from Elected members, received via the Chief Executive's Office, rather than us having to address each individual enquiry. 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 Board papers from previous 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). |

Issued by NHS Fife Communications