Issue 31 | 17th June 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. A new guide, which is hosted on NHS Inform, aims to provide awareness and options for those who believe their appointment has gone missing and those who are looking to reschedule an appointment. It can be accessed** [**here**](https://www.nhsinform.scot/vaccinejourney.)**.**

## Local COVID-19 vaccination overview

More than 244,000 people in Fife have now received their first vaccination, with more than 182,000 completing their two-dose course.

We were pleased with the number of people who attended our initial drop-in vaccination clinic at Lochgelly Centre last week, and as a result we have extended drop-in options across Fife.

Elsewhere, we continue our campaign to help ensure young people aged 18-29 take up the option of vaccination and we have also started to encourage people aged 40 and over to schedule their second-dose vaccine at eight weeks instead of 12, in line with a national directive.

## Midweek vaccination drop-in clinics

Last week we provided our first drop-in vaccination clinic at Lochgelly Centre. The clinic was for people over 40 years old and who had not received their first dose vaccination, or those who waited eight or more weeks for their second dose of AstraZeneca (in any age category). We were pleased to note that the clinic was well attended and 161 people dropped in for vaccination without an appointment. Following the success of the Lochgelly drop-in clinic, we are now extending the approach to large-scale vaccination venues in Dunfermline, Kirkcaldy, Glenrothes and Methil next week. More information, including dates, times and how to get to the venues, can be found [here](https://www.nhsfife.org/news-updates/latest-news/2021/06/drop-in-vaccination-clinics-from-tuesday-22nd-june/).

## Drop-in clinic for those who have waited 12+ weeks for second dose

This Saturday (19th June). We are providing an opportunity for anyone who has waited 12 weeks or more for their second dose to get vaccinated. People who meet this criterion can turn up at one of the large-scale vaccination venues below, between 9AM and 7PM, and receive their second dose. No appointment is necessary.

* St Andrews Community Hospital
* M&S, Kirkcaldy
* Argos, Glenrothes
* Savoy Sports Centre, Methil
* Carnegie Conference Centre, Dunfermline

Unscheduled vaccinations are limited by supply and people may be subject to a short wait during times when venues are busy. A news article on these clinics can be found [here](https://www.nhsfife.org/news-updates/latest-news/2021/06/second-vaccines-notice/).

## Second doses for over 40s brought forward

People aged 40 and over whose second vaccination appointment is scheduled more than eight weeks after their first are being encouraged to seek an earlier slot. They can do this by going online [here](https://www.nhsinform.scot/covid19vaccineappointments) where they can also check the status of their second appointment, by calling the vaccine helpline on 0800 030 8013, or attending one of our drop-in centres next week. It follows recent advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) recommending that the interval for second doses be brought forward from 12 to eight weeks - where supply allows. The national vaccination programme is already scheduling appointments to reflect the latest guidance. However, many people – particularly over 40s –  have already received an invitation in line with the previous recommendation of a 12-week interval, and they are now being invited to reschedule an earlier appointment.

## 18-29-year-old registrations

The deadline for 18-29-year olds to register for vaccination online or by phone expired on Friday, 11 June and we were pleased that almost 30,000 local people in this age group took advantage of the option to get details of their appointment sent to them by email or text.  Around 8,000 appointments have so far been scheduled for local 18-29-year olds up until the 20th of June. Those who did not register before the deadline will be sent their appointment details by letter later. A national media campaign will be launched shortly detailing how people can check their appointment details online, prior to receiving a letter.

## Vaccination of the homeless population

People experiencing homelessness in Fife can access their vaccine without having to be registered with a GP. We are working with colleagues across Fife to ensure everyone sleeping rough and in temporary accommodation can be offered the vaccine. One aspect of this work is the production of a small credit card sized flyer, which is being handed out to the homeless community by local outreach groups and advises that the card entitles them to a vaccination without an appointment at any local clinic.

Young carer vaccination

We continue to invite young people aged 16 and 17 who care for someone due to old age, physical or mental illness, disability, or an addiction to come forward and register for vaccination. They can do this by calling 0800 030 8013 or by joining the [Carers Register.](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Chamiltoncr%5CDesktop%5Cnhsinform.scot%5Ccarersregister)

Rescheduling appointments

For those who are unable to attend their assigned vaccination appointment, they can [reschedule online](https://vacs.nhs.scot/csp?id=csp_registration). The advice to people who are rescheduling their second dose vaccine is to book the next available appointment and that breach of the recommended 12-week period between first and second dose does not mean they have to restart their cycle. More information on rescheduling appointments is available [here](https://www.nhsinform.scot/covid-19-vaccine/invitations-and-appointments/rearrange-or-opt-out-of-your-coronavirus-vaccination-appointment).

## 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).

## Community testing in Fife

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 - available to the public on a drop-in basis. Community testing sites are currently available at Glebe Centre, Kirkcaldy; Savoy Centre, Methil; Tryst Centre, Dunfermline, with mobile sites currently at Bowhill Bowling Club, Cardenden, and the YMCA, Kirkcaldy.

Scottish Ambulance Service Mobile Units are also based at Hall Street Cowdenbeath, Kincardine Community Centre and Kirkcaldy Town House, providing testing for individuals with and without symptoms. In addition, the testing site at Victory Memorial Hall, St Andrews, is now also open to individuals without symptoms. Appointments can be made in advance at any of these sites. Individuals who drop-in will need to register details before they leave.

## Rapid home testing kits

COVID-19 rapid home testing kits are also now available to individuals who do not have symptoms, with members of the public encouraged to test themselves twice weekly. These free kits can be ordered online and delivered through the post, alternatively they can be picked up from testing sites at Glebe Centre, Kirkcaldy; Victory Memorial Hall, St Andrews; Overton Community Centre, Kirkcaldy; Regional Drive-Through Centre, Bankhead Car Park, Glenrothes; Glenrothes Miners Charitable Society, Glenrothes and the Dell Farquharson Community Centre, Dunfermline. Further information on testing in Fife can be found [here](http://www.nhsfife.org/testing). The COVID-19 rapid home testing kits are also being extended for pick up at community pharmacies across Scotland. Participation is voluntary and it is for pharmacy owners to opt-in to provide the service. To date, 46 Fife pharmacies have signed up to the scheme and people can find their nearest participating outlet [here](https://maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/findatestcenter.html).

## Seasonal testing of agricultural workers

As Scotland enters its busiest agricultural period, the industry relies on foreign seasonal workers to meet production demands. A testing approach for seasonal workers, which enables farms to operate whilst also reducing the risk of COVID-19 outbreaks has now been agreed. In line with existing public health measures for all international travellers coming to Scotland, people arriving from outside the UK to work on Scottish farms need to go into self-isolation for 10 days. The testing approach agreed with the industry is that all workers will take a Polymerase Chain reaction (PCR) test on days two and eight of self-isolation so that new strains of COVID-19 can be identified quickly and effectively to break any potential chains of transmission. The [Seasonal Workers Testing information document](https://www.nhsfife.org/media/34996/seasonal-agricultural-workers-testing-info.pdf) contains key information about the approach including details for farms and their employees and support channels available to staff who have to self-isolate because they test positive or are identified as a close contact.

## Update to hospital visiting restrictions

Everyone in hospital can now receive at least two named visitors from the same household without the need to physically distance. For those visiting a patient in hospital, infection control measures will remain in place, including 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 visiting criteria and FAQS, can be found [here](https://www.nhsfife.org/services/patients-carers-and-visitors/visiting-arrangements-during-covid-19-pandemic/)**.**

## Self-testing prior to hospital visiting

When visiting arrangements are made, clinical care teams will point out that optional testing prior to a visit is a valuable way to promote safety. Universal lateral flow testing is available for anyone in Scotland either through [community testing programmes](http://www.nhsborders.scot.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/community-testing/) or home delivery by calling 119 or [ordering online](https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested/pages/no-covid-symptoms/).

## EU settlement scheme

Our European Union and European Economic Area (EEA) staff remain a highly valued and appreciated group within the team that make-up the hard working and committed workforce that is NHS Fife. We are actively encouraging staff and their families, if they have not already done so, to apply under the EU Settlement Scheme for either Settled Status (indefinite leave to remain) or Pre-Settled Status (limited leave to remain for five years), before the end of the Brexit transition period on 30th June. A detailed guide to making an application under the settlement scheme can be [here](https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families/applying-for-settled-status).

# Remobilisation of services

The Board has formally approved our remobilisation plan, following confirmation of approval by Scottish Government. 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/).

# Board member recruitment

We are looking for three new members to join our Board. As non-executive members of the Board, they will be expected to play a central role in guiding the strategies which address the health priorities and health care needs of communities across Fife. They will also be offered the training they will need to make a strong contribution. More information is available [here](https://www.nhsfife.org/work-with-us/recruitment-spotlight/2021/members-nhs-fife-board/).

# Men’s Mental Health Week

For Men’s Mental Health Week (w/c 14th June) our Specialist Perinatal Mental Health Midwife, Katie Potton, sat down for a video chat with Alex McLintock from Andy’s Man Club about men’s mental health, support for new dads and how the group is helping men across the country. The video can be viewed [here](https://www.facebook.com/nhsfife/videos/151418660373381).

## 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 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 onlineBoard 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