Issue 36 | 22nd 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 215,000,people in Fife have now completed their two-dose course of COVID-19 protection, including ever increasing numbers in the final groups of the adult population yet to be vaccinated. NHS Fife continues to sit above average nationally in the number of vaccinations delivered. Over 485,000 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% | 98.1% |
| 70-74 | 98.6% | 97.1% |
| 65-69 | 98.5% | 96.7% |
| 60-64 | 98.4% | 96.3% |
| 55-59 | 98.5% | 95.6% |
| 50-54 | 95.1% | 91.4% |
| 40-49 | 89.4% | 79.3% |
| 30-39 | 83.8% | 33.3% |
| 18-29 | 68.1%  | 19.1% |

**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 can be found [here](https://www.nhsfife.org/news-updates/campaigns-and-projects/coronavirus-information/vaccination-programme/find-vaccine-drop-in-clinics/). Across mainland Scotland, the options available for how and when people choose to be inoculated are also being extended to clinics out with local health boards. People can rearrange the location of their appointment online if, for example, it is more convenient for them to be vaccinated closer to work than home. Nearest drop-in clinics across Scotland are available by visiting NHS Inform, which directs you to the latest information from health boards.

**Cruise liner vaccination**

Earlier this week our immunisation team welcomed crews from Fred Olsen Cruise Liners, berthed and Rosyth, to Carnegie Conference Centre, where around 500 appointments were scheduled. The crew have been in Rosyth for several months. Photographs from the clinic are available [here](https://www.nhsfife.org/news-updates/latest-news/2021/07/covid-19-vaccinations-for-crew-members/).

**Agricultural worker vaccination**

On Wednesday and Thursday, our immunisation team visited a fruit farm near St Andrews to vaccinate seasonal workers. This two-day stint forms part of a wider programme to vaccinate harder to reach groups and seasonal workers

**Pop-up clinics to get underway at Starks Park**

As a means of increasing uptake of vaccination for the 18-29 age group, we are currently working to establish a series of temporary pop-up clinics. These clinics, of which the first will be this weekend at Starks Park, Kirkcaldy, for Raith Rovers Football Club’s home game against Alloa Athletic, will see temporary vaccination sites set up to various locations and workplaces across Fife. More information is available [here](https://www.nhsfife.org/news-updates/latest-news/2021/07/starks-park-drop-in-covid-19-vaccination-clinics/).

**St Andrews student vaccinations**

We continue to engage with the University of St Andrews ahead of their new semester, which will see around 10,000 students attending the institution from next month, 5000 of whom will be international students. We are working with the university to formulate a programme of vaccination beginning towards the end of August, via a combination of drop-in and scheduled clinics. Elements of this model will also be explored for students at Carnegie College.

**Vaccine 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/).

## **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**

**Ongoing challenges with capacity and flow**

High rates of local COVID-19 transmission, coupled with continued elevated attendance at our Emergency Department and the impact of self-isolation requirements on our workforce, mean that our hospital continues to experience challenges around capacity and flow. We remain committed to continuing scheduled surgery, where possible, mindful of the need to provide timely interventions for those who have previously been impacted by postponed procedures.

To help us navigate our capacity and flow challenges, and support colleagues in both primary and secondary care, we would appreciate the backing of Elected Members in sharing the key messages in the Scottish Government’s new ‘Right care, right place’ campaign (more information below). Campaign assets can be downloaded [here](https://www.nhsfife.org/media/34258/right-place-right-time.zip).

We have also published a video featuring staff members experiences of the last few weeks, which can be viewed [here](https://youtu.be/1RfxcW1bAkY).

**Helping people get the right care, in the right place, at the right time**

As more restrictions are lifted, our Emergency Department continues to experience growing numbers of people attending – many of whom would likely be more effectively treated elsewhere. 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/).

**Hospital visiting arrangements**

Despite the move to Level 0, hospital visiting in Fife remains restricted to at least 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. There are several areas which are exempt from the new visiting arrangements, where visiting is essential and will continue to be permitted. 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/)

**Call for bank staff**

As our health and care services continue to come under strain from emergency surgical and medical patient admissions, compounded with staff who are isolating, we are asking our bank staff to step forward.We are appealing to NHS Fife staff with a bank contract (not private agency staff) to help us to continue to deliver safe, patient centred care during this challenging time. More information is available [here](https://fife.link/2-bw). The Nurse Bank is a list of highly skilled, experienced workers who can work flexibly and sometimes at short notice. This means that their offer of work is not guaranteed, nor do they have to accept any shifts offered by one ward or area. The benefit of this to our patient care is that we can rely on having extra staff to guarantee high standards of patient safety and care, to complement the existing workforce.

## 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 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 24 September** at 9.30 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 27th July.Board papers 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). |

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