Issue 34 | 7th 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)**.**

Current challenges with capacity and flow

Like many boards across Scotland we are seeing a rise in COVD-19 infection rates, resulting in an increase in hospitalisation. We currently have 14 patients in hospital requiring care for COVID-19 and unfortunately, we expect this number to increase over the next few weeks.

Our GPs are also very busy, seeing an increase in those who are feeling very unwell with the virus and a proportion of these do require hospital admission.

What is different at this time is that there are more emergency surgical and medical patient admissions than during the previous waves and as a result, we are operating our surge wards to provide additional capacity.

Hospital visiting limited to one named person

Due to increasing prevalence of community transmission, the requirement to increase bed numbers, while maintaining safe physical distancing for our patients, staff, and visitors we are having to restrict patients to one name visitor.

There are a number of areas which are exempt from the new visiting arrangements, where visiting is considered to be essential and will continue to be permitted:

* **Maternity** - Pregnant women may identify a designated visitor to accompany them to their scans, antenatal appointments, during in labour on the postnatal/ maternity
* **End of Life Care** – To visit a person receiving end-of-life care.
* **Mental Health/ Learning Disabilities** - To support someone with a mental health issue, or those with a learning disability or autism where not being present would cause the patient to be distressed.
* **Children’s Services** - To accompany a child in hospital.

This position will be kept under regular review.

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/)

Helping people get the right care, in the right place

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/).

Autism Assessments

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the principles of Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) were followed to ensure that children and young people who have autism, and require specific support from professionals, could continue to be supported. Fife has a multi-agency pathway for children and young people who require assessment if there is a suggestion of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

Like very many healthcare services, face-to-face autism assessments could not be safely carried out during the COVID-19 pandemic. While some assessments were carried out using the Near Me video appointment system, not all assessments could be carried out this way.

To ensure that families awaiting autism assessment were supported throughout, a helpline was established to provide advice on any issues that were causing concern to parents and carers at that time. “Face-to-face assessments will resume this month, and we are finalising plans to enhance assessment capacity with additional staffing resources to ensure that those waiting to be formally assessed can be seen as quickly as possible.

## Local COVID-19 response – Vaccination Programme

**Water damage to former M&S Retail Unit Vaccination Venue**

Following the torrential rain this week, the former M&S retail unit on Kirkcaldy High Street, being used as a community vaccination clinic was forced to closed due to water damage. Remedial repairs are currently under way, with the venue expected to re-open on Monday 12th July. Those with appointments scheduled at the former M&S venue have been rescheduled to attend

Templehall Community Centre**,**Beauly Place, Kirkcaldy, KY2 6EX [Directions](https://goo.gl/maps/1XXuJZG47uT9wKdj7)**,** with drop-in appointments also available at the Templehall clinic through-out this week for those affected by the closure.

**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/).

**Current vaccination statistics**

Over 265,000 people in Fife have now received their first COVID-19 vaccination, with over 195,000 completing their two-dose course.

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| **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
 | Majority of second doses complete. |
| 1. All those 75 years of age and over
 | Majority of second doses complete. |
| 1. All those 70 years of age and over
 | Majority of second doses complete. |
| 1. All those 65 years of age and over
 | Majority of second doses complete. |
| 1. All those 60 years of age and over
 | Majority of second doses complete. |
| 1. All those 55 years of age and over
 | Majority of second doses complete. |
| 1. All those 50 years of age and over
 | 89% of second doses complete. |
| 1. All those aged 40-49
 | 88% first doses administered 46% of second doses complete. |
| 1. All those aged 30-39
 | 83% first doses administered. 29% of second doses complete. |
| 1. All those aged 18-29
 | 53% first doses administered. 17% of second doses complete. |

**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/).

**Vaccination drop-in clinics**

We continue to provide an increasing number of drop-in vaccination clinics for first and second doses at venues across Fife, in line with national direction. Drop-in clinics are available for everyone aged 18 or over requiring a first dose or – if eight weeks have passed - their second dose. Separate queues will be in operation for those with a scheduled appointment, more information on 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.

**Self-registration portal launched to help increase vaccine uptake**

The [Self Registration Portal](http://www.nhsinform.scot/vaccineregistration)is now open to all adults and will enable anyone, for example, new to Scotland or did not have an up-to-date registered home address, to come forward. For those who have previously received an appointment and could not, or decided not to, attend, the portal provides the opportunity to now take up the offer of a vaccine and ensure protection against COVID-19. Those who sign up will receive a text or email with details of their appointment which they can change if the time or location is unsuitable. If they don’t have online access the national helpline is still available. They will complete the registration process and arrange for information to be sent via SMS.

**Rescheduling appointments**

For those who are unable to attend their assigned vaccination appointment, they can reschedule online. 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).

Local COVID-19 response – Test and Protect

**Growing number of COVID-19 cases linked to hospitality sector**

NHS Fife is asking local people to be extra vigilant, after a growing number of COVID-19 cases were linked to indoor hospitality venues. We are urging local people who have visited venues such as bars, pubs and restaurants, particularly where time has been spent indoors, to be especially vigilant of the signs and symptoms of the virus– these are a new, continuous cough; a fever; or a loss or change in the sense of smell or taste. Should anyone develop any of these symptoms, they should self-isolate immediately and book a test as soon as possible.

**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 and mobile testing units - 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 a mobile site currently at the YMCA, Kirkcaldy.

In addition, mobile community testing will be held on a weekly basis over the next month at Links Car Park, Burntisland; Kinghorn Community Centre; Aberdour Community Centre; Dalgety Bay Leisure Centre and Civic Centre, Inverkeithing. These mobile units are for those without symptoms and there is no need to book.

**Universal lateral flow testing kits**

COVID-19 rapid home testing kits are also now available to anyone in Scotland who do 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).

## 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 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). |

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