Issue 66 | 28th February 2022

Elected Members Update

for local MPs, MSPs and   
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** [**we0bsite**](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)**.**

**Covid vaccination**

**Local vaccination overview**

Last week, the JCVI published [interim guidance](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/joint-committee-on-vaccination-and-immunisation-statement-on-covid-19-vaccinations-in-2022/joint-committee-on-vaccination-and-immunisation-jcvi-statement-on-covid-19-vaccinations-in-2022-21-february-2022) on precautionary Spring/Autumn 2022 booster vaccinations following the evidence that the previous delivery of booster vaccinations last year provided high levels of protection from severe disease.

As such, the JCVI has recommended that some at-risk groups – including older age groups and those with underlying illness - will benefit from additional booster vaccinations from Spring 2022, prioritising delivery to those considered most at greatest risk, including people over the age of 75, those in care homes, and those who are immunosuppressed; these boosters will be delivered at least six months after their last vaccine dose.

NHS Fife is in regular dialogue with Scottish Government colleagues about the delivery of these booster vaccinations and, whilst dates and venues for vaccination are to be formally confirmed, work is already underway to ensure we are both prepared and agile to deliver these in a planned and effective manner from mid-March.

Locally, we continue to offer vaccination opportunities to as many people as possible and over the last week our scheduled clinic time was broadly targeted towards reaching those aged 18-59 who had not attended for booster vaccination.

Our outreach work also continued last week, with mobile vaccination clinics visiting sites including Cadham shopping centre in Glenrothes and Cowdenbeath Leisure Centre. Recent mobile clinics have been considered a success and during our most recent visit to Dunfermline Leisure Park the demand meant that all vaccines were used by half past two; 113 people were vaccinated that day without an appointment. Regular [drop-in clinics](http://www.nhsfife.org/dropin) have been ongoing.

Finally, planning is ongoing for the upcoming delivery of vaccinations to everyone aged between 5-11 years old, as well as booster vaccination for all 16–17-year-olds, and boosters for 12–15-year-olds considered at greater risk.

**Community and workplace resource**

We have developed an [online resource](https://www.nhsfife.org/news-updates/campaigns-and-projects/coronavirus-information/covid-resources-for-local-workplaces-and-community-organisations/) that is being made available to local businesses, hospitality, and other community organisations to help them promote the benefits of vaccination and testing to clients and staff. The resource includes social media graphics, posters, videos, and other helpful assets to outline the importance of maintaining good practice and playing a role in keeping both individuals and businesses safe from the effects of the virus.

**Scottish Ambulance Service vaccination vehicle**

The Scottish Ambulance Service has agreed to provide NHS Fife with access to a large vaccination bus, which will visit sites across Fife as part of our accessible outreach activity. The service has previously worked with other Scottish health boards to drive uptake in places of high footfall and, whilst details have yet to be confirmed about local involvement, we are likely to begin utilising the bus within the next fortnight.

**Getting vaccinated**

We continue to encourage anyone eligible for a first, second or booster dose to book their vaccination appointment via the [online booking portal](https://vacs.nhs.scot/csp) (people who need to recover their username can do so [here](https://vacs.nhs.scot/csp?id=recover_username)) or by calling 0800 030 8013. Alternatively, the latest [drop-in clinics](https://www.nhsfife.org/dropinclinics/) are updated regularly on our website.

**Further information**

[This table](https://www.nhsfife.org/media/36300/nhs-fife-covid-19-vaccination-summary.pdf) provides the latest information on who is being vaccinated, when and where this will be, and how they will be invited. Flu vaccination is being offered at the same appointment as a booster – where appropriate. Further information about the joint Covid booster and flu vaccination programme can be found [here](https://www.nhsfife.org/news-updates/campaigns-and-projects/coronavirus-information/covid-19-vaccination-programme-in-fife/covid-19-booster-and-flu-vaccination-programme/). The current number of confirmed cases, people in hospital and intensive care in Fife can be viewed [here](https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-daily-data-for-scotland/).

**Test & Protect**

**Self-isolation, close contact and testing guidance**

Up to date guidance around isolation periods, rules for close contacts and further testing information, including a walk-through guide, can be found [here](https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/coronavirus-covid-19/test-and-protect/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-individuals-with-possible-coronavirus-infection).

**Community testing**

Alongside symptomatic testing, our community testing sites operate across Fife, seven days a week, providing LFD tests, and PCRs where needed. Members of the public can drop-in at any time during opening hours to access testing and a variety of support.

Fixed testing sites are currently based at Glebe Centre, Kirkcaldy; Leys Park Road Car Park, Dunfermline; and Parkgate Centre, Rosyth, with mobile units visiting communities around Fife. Locations of our sites are based on the latest Public Health data.

A targeted approach is also now being taken to distribute LFD home testing kits directly to members of the public at selected venues including food banks, supermarkets and local shops, with staff on hand to signpost to further support. As well as these targeted distribution sites, home LFD kits continue to be available to pick up from testing sites, participating community pharmacies, and online for home delivery. Further information is available [here](http://www.nhsfife.org/communitytesting).

**Other news**

**Screening awareness messaging**

NHS Fife has joined other health organisations across the country in raising awareness of the role that screening plays in helping to find signs of serious conditions before any symptoms develop. We have been using our social media channels to highlight the free tests that are offered in Scotland and the conditions they look for. Constituents can find out more about the various screening programmes and if they are eligible for them [here](http://www.nhsinform.scot/screening).

**Emergency Department raise thousands in memory of former colleague**

Staff from our Emergency Department at the Victoria Hospital have raised more than £7,000 in memory of their former colleague, Alistair Dewar, who sadly passed away following illness last year. Colleagues took part in triathlon sporting challenges to raise money for the Support in Mind, Scotland, charity. Photos from their incredible fundraising efforts can be viewed [here](https://www.facebook.com/nhsfife/posts/320762326757392).

**Hospital visiting**

The current hospital visiting arrangements in Fife are that patients can receive at least one visitor per day. This position remains under regular review and the latest provisions can be found [here](https://www.nhsfife.org/visiting/).

## 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.

## 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 as possible across Fife in a timely manner.

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| **Keep in touch**We 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 meetings for 2022 are:  Friday 18th March  Friday 17th June  Friday 23rd September  Friday 16th December 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/). 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 can be found [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/).  General statistical publications The latest local health and social care performance statistics, including emergency department, cancer, and delayed discharge, are published [here](https://publichealthscotland.scot/publications/). |
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