Issue 65 | 18th 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** [**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)**.**

**Covid vaccination**

**Local vaccination overview**

This week, much of our emphasis has been placed upon targeting those aged 12-17 who were due to receive a first or second dose, but never attended their appointments. Appointments were generated and sent out to this group via letter, with vaccinations scheduled from the 14th onwards; this age group has a lower rate of uptake for initial first dose vaccination than all older groups, and a second dose uptake lower still – particularly those from areas of greater deprivation. Alongside local and national colleagues, we continue to look at ways of positively engaging with the younger age group and addressing some of the concerns, hesitancies, or misinformation they may have.

Appointments have also been generated and sent out to around 40,000 people aged 18-69 who are due their booster and this group will begin receiving their boosters from next Monday (21st Feb).

Some 16- and 17-year-olds in Fife are now eligible for their Covid booster vaccination. For those who have waited 12 weeks or more since their second dose of vaccine, they should book [online](https://vacs.nhs.scot/csp) or call the National Vaccination Helpline on 0800 030 8013. Those who are in this age group and due a booster should not turn up to centres without a booked appointment. For 16- and 17-year old's who have yet to have their first or second doses, they are also encouraged to book online, via the helpline or they can also visit one of our [drop-in clinics](http://www.nhsfife.org/dropin.).

Although it has yet to be published officially by the JCVI, NHS Fife is mindful of the advice which recommends vaccination for all children aged 5 to 11-years-old and that the Scottish Government is very likely to formally adopt this advice. We await further information and details around logistics and timings will be made available in due course.

Our mobile vaccination clinics continue to visit venues across Fife and have experienced particular success during targeted visits to large scale retail venues. The team’s visit to ASDA in Dunfermline resulted in 117 drop-in vaccinations, whilst 99 people turned up for vaccination without appointment outside Dobbie’s Garden Centre in Dunfermline. We continue link in with local and national businesses to help locate our mobile vaccination clinics in visible, populated areas and have several further visits lined up, including Morrisons in Kirkcaldy, Linton Lane Centre in Kirkcaldy, and the Fife Leisure Park. More information, including regular drop-ins and criteria, is available [here](https://www.nhsfife.org/dropinclinics/).

Finally, the adverse weather has impacted some appointments over the last couple of days and we have taken precautions to protect both members of the public and our staff from the worst of its impact. On Wednesday afternoon a decision was taken to [close vaccination centres](https://www.facebook.com/nhsfife/posts/319609530206005) a few hours early ahead of the beginning of the amber/yellow warning periods. Those who were affected can reschedule, attend their appointed clinic at any time over the next few days, or visit a drop-in clinic.

**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**

**Important milestone in mew orthopaedic centre**

NHS Fife has reached an important milestone in the construction of our new elective orthopaedic centre at the Victoria Hospital. A topping out ceremony has taken place to mark completion of its highest point. Work started on construction in March last year, with the facility forming part of a network of treatment centres across Scotland. The £33million project will see the creation of a state-of-the-art facility hosting three operating theatres, a supporting inpatient ward and associated outpatient facilities. More information, including photographs and a video, is available [here](https://www.nhsfife.org/news-updates/latest-news/2022/02/topping-out-ceremony-marks-significant-milestone-in-construction-of-new-orthopaedic-centre-in-fife/).

**Claire Steele named President of Association of Pharmacy Technicians UK**

Claire Steele, NHS Fife’s Head of Pharmacy for Medicines Supply and Quality, has been announced as the new President of the Association of Pharmacy Technicians UK. APTUK is the professional leadership body for Pharmacy Technicians across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Claire brings a wealth of experience to her prestigious new role, and as the Professional Secretary for the National Pharmacy Technician Group Scotland, has been instrumental in strengthening the link with APTUK and NPTGS and the subsequent creation of a Joint National Branch for Scotland. Claire will undertake her role from 1st March 2022 alongside her substantive position within the NHS Fife Pharmacy Senior Leadership team.

**Chief Nursing Officer visits NHS Fife**

The Chief Nursing Officer, Professor Alex McMahon, visited NHS Fife on Wednesday 16th February to meet with staff and teams at Queen Margaret and Lynebank Hospitals. During a virtual meeting Professor McMahon heard directly from several teams who highlighted their work and discussed the challenges of the pandemic alongside the innovations they have made to support patients and service delivery. His visit included meeting with the immunisation team, witnessing first-hand the benefits of our state-of-the-art simulation centre, as well as visits to the Urology Diagnostic and Treatment Centre, Wards 5 and 6 at Queen Margaret and Daleview Ward at Lynebank.

**New ways to engage with children and young people’s SLT service**

Our children and young people’s speech and language therapy service continues to work hard to meet the needs of children and families across Fife. However, like many of our services, Covid and its impact is adding additional pressure to staffing and waiting times. Throughout this period, the speech and language therapy service has developed several ways in which professionals, parents and carers can access immediate support without the need to wait. These include:

* Parent advice line: Tuesday 2-4pm and Thursday 10am-12, 01592 226699.
* The online parent information sessions about speech and language development ‘Let’s Be Clear’ and ‘Let’s Talk’.
* Professional’s enquiry line: Monday and Thursday 2-4pm, 01383 674055
* Advice and ideas on Facebook [#banter4bairns](https://www.facebook.com/hashtag/banter4bairns?__eep__=6&__cft__%5b0%5d=AZWEddWNoIUP0XuexPDTWIOwhERFqkVLfqYpG-jiGhL_88a79F_NYRjzHqiP5Io3XsIUhpHssGpMCkPnRsNpHYp5wBW12eS1YRWOvfXIB5UdKZU8RNn_f40YBTvxMW5GsdDqSIuaJDogLLmw1USDooph&__tn__=*NK-R).
* SLT web pages: <http://www.nhsfife.org/.../speech-and-language-therapy/>.

**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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