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Elected Members Update   
for local MPs, MSPs and Councillors

This fortnightly update is part of our on-going commitment to keep elected members 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.

**suggests this may be as high as one third of the adult population with 50% of those**

Launch of the High Risk Pain Medicines (HRPM) 3 year patie

**Enquiries**

To ensure accurate and timely responses from NHS Fife, all enquiries from elected members 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). Members are politely asked not to approach services or individual members of staff directly for responses.

**Main updates**

**Ongoing pressure on services**

Our acute and community hospitals remain extremely busy due to an increased demand for inpatient care caused by both Covid and non-Covid-related conditions.

Attendances at our Emergency Department continue to be well beyond anything we have seen before, with our highest daily attendances on record having come in recent weeks and months. Covid-related absence across our health and social care system - as well as difficulties in ensuring the timely discharge of patients to social care services and local care homes due to the virus - is further exacerbating the pressure upon our beds, leading to patients often waiting longer within the Emergency Department as a result.

We continue to deliver urgent surgical procedures and most of our non-urgent surgical programme, however, the increase in pressure we are seeing has required us to temporarily postpone some elective procedures.

**Hospital visiting restrictions relaxed**

Patients in most areas of our hospitals are now allowed visits from two people at any time. In areas where this cannot be accommodated due to distancing requirements, patients are able to receive two visitors per day, with one visitor permitted at a time. All visitors should regularly apply hand sanitiser and continue to wear a fluid-resistant surgical face mask, which are available at hospital entrances. For more information on the changes, click [here](http://www.nhsfife.org/visiting).

**Breast screening services in High Valleyfield and Kelty**

The Southeast Scotland Breast Screening Service operates several mobile screening units and provides high quality care for patients throughout the southeast of Scotland area. The service’s mobile units have recently been upgraded and require larger physical space as well as access to electricity and wireless connectivity for image transfer, client records, and clinic appointment lists. As part of the breast screening programme in Fife, NHS Fife's Public Health service has been working with the Southeast Scotland Breast Screening Service to identify locations across Fife to accommodate the upgraded mobile units. Unfortunately, no suitable sites have been identified in Kelty or High Valleyfield that meet the specific mobile screening unit requirements, with eligible women in these communities instead being invited to attend the mobile screening unit located in Halbeath. The Halbeath mobile screening unit location provides suitable space, free parking, and public transport links along with good wireless connectivity, and appropriate facilities for staff and patients. This new site will also be offering weekend screening in the Autumn to give a wider range of times women can attend for this vital screening service. Attendance will also be closely monitored to ensure that women who are eligible for screening continue to be able to access their appointments.

**Pupils in Fife offered flu vaccine**

All primary and secondary school pupils in Fife are being offered the flu vaccine at school. Consent forms are being sent home from school and parent are being encouraged to keep an eye out for these and return them as soon as possible. information on the flu vaccine for school pupils is available [here](https://www.nhsfife.org/.../flu/child-flu-vaccination/).

**Anne Haston appointed to NHS Fife Board**

General dental practitioner, Anne Haston, has been appointed to the NHS Fife Board. The appointment has been confirmed by Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care, Humza Yousaf MSP, and Anne will serve for a period of four years. Anne has 14 years’ experience delivering NHS care and brings a strong focus on patient-centred initiatives. More information is available [here](https://fal.cn/3qQGV).

**National Clinical Director visits Fife**

National Clinical Director, Professor Jason Leitch, recently visited staff at the Queen Margaret and Victoria Hospitals to thank them for their ongoing efforts caring for patients in Fife. For more information on his visit, please see a [video message](https://www.facebook.com/nhsfife/videos/716093346153864/) from Professor Leitch and a [gallery of photographs](https://fife.link/3x9o).

**Near Me community hubs**

NHS Fife has launched a series of new Near Me community hubs, which give patients access to our simple, safe, and secure video appointment service for planned health and social care appointments at sites close to their home. The community hubs, which build upon the existing service provided to patients in their homes via video call, are available by appointment only, and support those who do not readily have access to digital devices, or who do not have an appropriate environment to join a call at home. Community hubs are available in four locations:

* Fife Voluntary Action, 16 East Fergus Place, Kirkcaldy
* Fife Voluntary Action, Pentland Park, Saltire Centre, Glenrothes
* Methil Customer Service Centre, Wellesley Road, Methil
* St Andrews Community Hospital

More information is available [here](https://www.nhsfife.org/news-updates/latest-news/2022/08/new-community-hubs-established-to-improve-access-to-virtual-health-appointments/).

**National treatment centre for orthopaedic care**

The new National Treatment Centre for orthopaedic care continues to take shape at the Victoria Hospital. Due for completion later this year, and opening early 2023, the state-of-the-art centre will provide care for elective orthopaedic patients and consist of three theatres, seven bedded recovery areas, a 34-bedded inpatient ward, and a dedicated orthopaedic outpatient department. Click [here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jpDZhxs7d9M&feature=youtu.be) to watch a video charting some of the construction progress that was made last month and [here](https://www.nhsfife.org/feoc/) for more information and updates on the National Treatment Centre.

**Queen Margaret volunteer awarded Order of Mercy**

Queen Margaret Hospital based volunteer, Muriel Bremner, has been awarded the Order of Mercy from the League of Mercy Foundation. The Order of Mercy celebrates those who have made a difference in their communities by dedicating themselves to volunteering. Muriel, from Crossgates, was the only Scottish-based recipient of the award, which was presented by Lord Lingfield during a ceremony in London. Having volunteered on Ward 16 for the past 11 years, Muriel would spend her time chatting to patients, playing games, and serving them lunches. However, following Covid, she was unable to resume her volunteering duties but continued to support neighbours and those around her.

**Hazardous Material Test**

NHS Fife will be staging a live major incident response event at the Victoria Hospital Emergency Department between 10AM and 12PM on Thursday 25th August. This planning event, which will be observed by Scottish Government, is a training exercise and will have no impact on emergency department services. A public communication will go out ahead of the event to inform the public.

**Thank You event**

On Saturday the 3rd of September, NHS Fife will host a “Thank You” event to reflect upon the contribution and resilience shown by all colleagues across the organisation throughout our response to the global pandemic. The event was formulated from the results of a staff survey earlier this year, where we asked our staff several questions about an event, including what format it would take. The resulting garden party will be funded by the Fife Health Charity and will take place at Blackhouse Rossie Estate. NHS Fife will also be offering the option of free coach transfer from our main hospital sites, for those that require transport, to and from the event. With buses running from QMH Dunfermline, VHK Kirkcaldy (Via Glenrothes Hospital) and Stratheden Hospital, Cupar. The Fife Health Charity has also agreed to make funds available to hold localised ward or departmental events in September.

**Covid**

**Winter booster vaccination**

People in Fife aged 65 and over will be first in line for a winter booster jab to protect the most vulnerable from Covid-19 and help ease the pressure on hospitals. Letters with appointment started landing on doormats this week so NHS Fife can get ahead of any potential surge in infections. The booster jabs will be given at the same time as the flu vaccine to those eligible where possible – evidence shows that administration of both vaccines together is a safe and efficient way to deliver maximum protection over the winter months. Frontline health and social care workers are also eligible for the winter booster jab, with the online portal to book vaccination appointments available from Monday (22 August). Appointments for all other priority groups will be made available as the programme progresses – people in those groups should wait until they are contacted or called forward. The programme follows advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccinations and Immunisation (JCVI) which recommended vaccinating people as soon as possible to have the best chance of mitigating the impact of Covid-19 over the winter. More information on winter vaccination is available [here](https://www.nhsinform.scot/winter-vaccines).

**Care home visitors reminded to follow latest guidance**

Visitors to care homes are being reminded to follow the latest guidance to help reduce the numbers of vulnerable residents contracting Covid. Visitors are being encouraged to test for the virus before visiting elderly loved ones. Home Covid test kits remain free-of-charge for those visiting care homes and hospitals, and information on how to order test kits is available [here](https://test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/order-lateral-flow-kits/eligibility-scotland). Visitors are also being reminded not to attend if they have any cold or flu-like symptoms, regardless of how mild, and even if they test negative for Covid. Advice for people visiting care homes has changed and general information is available [here](https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/coronavirus-covid-19/care/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-visiting-loved-ones-in-an-adult-care-home). Friends and family are encouraged to check any additional protections with individual Care Homes before they visit.

**Drop-in vaccination clinics and appointments**

A mixture of child and adult drop-in clinics are being held this week for those who have not completed their initial or booster doses. More information on mobile clinics and drop-in sessions can be found [here](http://www.nhsfife.org/dropin). We continue to encourage anyone eligible to book their appointment via the [online booking portal](https://vacs.nhs.scot/csp) or by calling 0800 030 8013.

**Testing**

Most people no longer need to take a covid test and should follow guidance on staying at home if unwell. Testing remains available to [specific groups](https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-covid-19#testing) in order to protect highest risk settings and support clinical care. The latest information on testing, isolation, and further support is available [here](https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-covid-19/).

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.

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/).

Additional vaccination information/stats

You can find out about the numbers of people in Scotland who are vaccinated along with data about case numbers, and hospitalisations by accessing the Scottish Government [Daily Update](https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-daily-data-for-scotland/) or by visiting Public Health Scotland’s [Daily Dashboard](https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/phs.covid.19/viz/COVID-19DailyDashboard_15960160643010/Overview)

All Information correct at time of publishing. Issued by the communications team.