Issue 40 | 20th August 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**

**Over half a million vaccines administered**

A significant milestone has been reached in the local vaccination programme with more than half a million vaccines having been administered (517,000+). The scale of the local programme is unlike anything NHS Fife has ever undertaken and we continue to see the positive impact of vaccination in helping to reduce spread, hospital admissions and the harm being done to some of the most vulnerable in our communities.

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| **Age Group** | **Total % received 1st dose** | **Total % received 2nd dose** |
| 80 + | 97.8% | 94.4% |
| 75-79 | 100% | 98.4% |
| 70-74 | 98.6% | 97.3% |
| 65-69 | 98.6% | 97.1% |
| 60-64 | 98.6% | 96.8% |
| 55-59 | 98.7% | 96.3% |
| 50-54 | 95.3% | 92.3% |
| 40-49 | 90.1% | 83.3% |
| 30-39 | 85.2% | 71.4% |
| 18-29 | 70.6%  | 36.4% |

*Figures correct at 18th August 2021*

**Pop-up vaccination clinics**

We have announced a series of new pop-up vaccination clinics at locations not yet visited during the campaign. This week, our vaccination teams travel to the Cadham Neighbourhood Centre and Glenwood Health Centre in Glenrothes, Forth Street Hall in Leven, and High Valleyfield Health Centre. All confirmed clinics, including opening times and criteria, are listed [here](http://www.nhsfife.org/dropinclinics).

**Vaccination of 16 and 17-year-olds**

We continue to promote drop-in opportunities for 16-17-year-olds at clinics across Fife. Anyone who has not visited a drop-in clinic or registered an interest via the [national online portal](https://www.nhsinform.scot/vaccineregistration) will be sent an appointment through the post, with the expectation that all first doses will have been offered by the end of September. The JCVI has advised that 16 and 17-year olds should be offered a first dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine. This group will not have an automatic second dose at 8 weeks post first dose. The JCVI will review further data and evidence before deciding about the second dose offer for this group and will provide a subsequent update of this advice before second doses are due at approximately 12 weeks after the first dose. A second vaccine dose is anticipated to be offered later to increase the level of protection and contribute to longer term protection

**Vaccination of other eligible 12-15-year-olds**

Vaccination of eligible 12-15-year olds who are [considered at a greater risk of COVID-19](https://www.nhsinform.scot/covid-19-vaccine/invitations-and-appointments/vaccinating-12-to-15-year-olds) is now well underway There are approximately 290 people within this cohort and, in line with JCVI guidance, this group is being offered the Pfizer vaccine.

**St Andrews/Fife College student vaccinations**

Planning is now well underway to offer vaccinations to students at the University of St Andrews ahead of their new semester and arrangements for clinics are due to be announced very shortly. The upcoming semester will see around 10,000 people arrive in phases, with the majority making the trip to St Andrews in the first week of September. We are also working with Fife College to support their communications and encourage uptake for those eligible ahead of the start of its new term.

## **Test and protect**

**Community testing**

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**

**Demand on healthcare services**

Over the last week, our healthcare services have continued to experience significant pressure across the board. Our Emergency Department at the Victoria Hospital has experienced very high numbers of people presenting and there continues to be a minority of people attending the ED inappropriately – i.e. with injuries that are not considered life or limb threatening, or as part of an unnecessarily large entourage. We are using social media to encourage people to attend alone, where possible, or to restrict their party to the bare minimum, as well reminding them to use alternative routes of care if their need is not an emergency (more information below). By reducing the number of inappropriate presentations, it will reduce both the workload on our staff, and the waiting times of our patients. Over the last three months we have recorded five of our six highest daily attendances since records began.

We are also aware of the challenges being experienced by colleagues in Primary Care who continue to work through a backlog of priority consultations. We have used social media to encourage people to show patience and understanding in relation to General Practice appointments.

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

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/).

**Elective procedures**

Like all Health Boards across the country, the higher prevalence of COVID in Fife in the early part of this year led to a significant increase in the number of people requiring inpatient hospital care.   Our clinical staff continue to work diligently to triage patients to ensure those with the greatest clinical need are prioritised. We recognise that the pandemic has led to many people waiting longer for elective procedures and we are working to minimise the time that patients wait to be seen. For that reason, we have not cancelled our elective programme and we continued to perform as many procedures as we can carry out safely under current circumstances and in line with our Scottish Government approved Remobilisation Plan.

**Hospital visiting arrangements**

Hospital visiting in Fife remains restricted to 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. 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 increased number of face-to-face GP consultations**

NHS Fife was asked by a local media outlet to respond to a press release from an Elected Member calling for the removal of the two-metre distancing requirement as a means of increasing the number of face-to-face consultations.

Whilst medical practices are independent contractors and, as such, responsible for their own appointment systems, we responded by reinforcing that practices have remained open throughout the pandemic, both seeing patients in person and making use of new and innovative technologies. Face-to-face appointments remain a key element of the service provided by General Practice with more than 10,000 appointments carried out in this way every week in Fife with more taking place as restrictions continue to ease.

Medical practices continue to follow national guidance, including the necessity for enhanced infection control measures and two-metre social distancing within waiting areas, to ensure safe provision of primary medical services. These measures remain under continual review. While in many instances face-to-face appointments will be the most appropriate means by which GPs can offer appointments, there are some patients who prefer the flexibility offered by technology such as Near Me, and such systems will likely become part of a blended approach moving forward, supporting local practices to offer longer consultations for those people who need them most.

**Audit of critical care in Scotland report**

The [Audit of Critical Care in Scotland Report 2021](https://www.publichealthscotland.scot/publications/audit-of-critical-care-in-nhsscotland/audit-of-critical-care-in-nhsscotland-scottish-intensive-care-society-audit-group-10-august-2021/) was recently published, in which pharmacy support to the Intensive Care Unit at the Victoria Hospital is referenced. Support to our Intensive Care Unit is currently provided on a referral basis by senior clinical pharmacists and plans are in the final stages of development which will increase the support provided to our critical care teams, and enable us to meet the Scottish Intensive Care Society standards..

**Winter flu vaccination**

NHS Fife has received notice that more people than ever are to be offered the free flu vaccine this winter. The vaccination campaign will begin in September and will run until March next year as a joint Flu Vaccine / COVID Vaccine (FVCV) programme, in line with Scottish Government direction, building on the infrastructure already in place nationally and locally for the COVID vaccine programme and the lessons learned from the Seasonal Flu Programme locally during 2020.

**Oncology team recruits 100th UK participant in cancer trial**

NHS Fife has successfully recruited the 100th participant for the national Multimodal-Exercise, Nutrition and Anti-inflammatory medication for Cachexia (MENAC) Trial. The Fife team, led by Dr Joanna Bowden, Dr Alan Christie, Dr Melanie MacKean, and Fiona Adam, has now recruited 11 patients locally. The study aims to help in the development of better treatments to support advanced lung and pancreatic patients undergoing systemic chemotherapy and prevent the development of cancer cachexia.

**Scottish healthcare awards**

With the deadline of 26 August approaching, we are continuing to encourage both the public and our staff to nominate their local healthcare heroes at the Scottish Health Awards. There are 16 categories that people can nominate NHS staff and those working for other partnership organisations. If you have someone in the areas that you represent who you believe should be celebrated for their work, please consider nominating them online. More information can be found [here](https://www.scottishhealthawards.com/).

## 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 28th September.Board papers for 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).COVID-19 statisticsVaccine progress data updatePublic 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 dataYou 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/). Going beyond level 0Scotland is now beyond the initially laid out COVID-19 protection levels. The latest guidance can be accessed [here](https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-staying-safe-and-protecting-others/). |

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