Issue 43 | 10th September 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)**.**

**Measures taken to reduce pressure on services**

NHS Fife has taken the difficult decision postpone all non-urgent surgical procedures and some outpatient appointments to help reduce the unprecedented pressures on healthcare provision and protect urgent care and cancer services. In recent months, services have come under increasing strain due to a sustained and significant rise in the number of patients requiring care for both COVID and non-COVID related conditions. Further, presentations to the Emergency Department at the Victoria Hospital over the summer months have far exceeded what would be expected during the busy winter months, with the service recording five of its six highest daily attendances since records began. NHS Fife is taking the following steps:

* **Postpone all non-urgent surgical procedures** – emergency procedures, trauma and cancer procedures will continue including individuals that require surgery within 12 weeks
* **Postpone some non-urgent outpatient appointments** **–** patients affected will be contacted directly to advise of the postponement. Those who are not contacted should attend their appointment as arranged.
* **Increased hospital footprint for Covid patient care –** clinical areas will be redefined and utilised to support the care of patients with Covid and optimise our clinical space.
* **Visiting restrictions to continue –**limited to one named individual.
* **Staff redeployment programme –**to areas of clinical priority.
* **Patient Complaints -** will continue to be acknowledged and registered, however compliant investigation and formal responses will be suspended.

Significant efforts are also ongoing to increase staffing levels across the healthcare system, with more than 150 qualified graduates being recruited and taking up clinical roles across Fife in the coming weeks. Furthermore, we are introducing top-up / fast track training to enable registered nurses no longer working in clinical settings to be redeployed to support wards. A full statement on these actions can be found [here](https://www.nhsfife.org/news-updates/latest-news/2021/09/measures-taken-to-reduce-unprecedented-pressure-on-healthcare-services/).

## **Local COVID-19 vaccination overview**

**Total doses: 527,956**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Age Group** | **Total % received 1st dose** | **Total % received 2nd dose** |
| 80 + | 100% | 99.7% |
| 75-79 | 100% | 100% |
| 70-74 | 99% | 97.6% |
| 65-69 | 99.4% | 98% |
| 60-64 | 99.9% | 98.2% |
| 55-59 | 98.6% | 96.3% |
| 50-54 | 95% | 92.1% |
| 40-49 | 89.5% | 83.5% |
| 30-39 | 85.8% | 74.4% |
| 18-29 | 71.8%  | 51.5% |
| 16-17 | 46.8% | 7.7% |

*Figures correct on 8 September 2021*

**Drop-in vaccination clinics**

Drop-in vaccination clinics have continued this week. All confirmed clinics, including opening times and criteria, are listed [here](http://www.nhsfife.org/dropinclinics).

**St Andrews student vaccinations continue**

Drop-in vaccination clinics for students at the University of St Andrews have continued this week at the Boys Brigade Hall on Kinnessburn Road. The clinics have been well attended and will continue to run at the venue until Friday 10 September. Further drop-in clinics will continue in St Andrews this weekend, based at the local community hospital site on both Saturday and Sunday.

**Moderna second dose arrangements**

Some students at the University of St Andrews, and other people who may have moved into Fife from elsewhere since their first vaccine, will require a second dose of the Moderna vaccine, which is not provided within the NHS Fife area. However, NHS Fife does have an arrangement in place where people requiring Moderna can be referred to NHS Lothian, who will allocate them an appointment at the Royal Highland Showground at Ingleston.

**Third dose vaccinations**

NHS Fife is working closely with national bodies to plan for any potential COVID-19 third dose vaccination programmes. Whilst no formal arrangements have been made, any approach will be informed by guidance from the JCVI, which we expect to receive in due course.

**Test & Protect**

**Community Testing**

Testing sites are available across Fife for members of the public with and without symptoms.

Anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 or has been advised to take a test should book a test via [www.nhsinform.scot](http://www.nhsinform.scot/)  If support is needed with the booking process, call 119.

Routine testing for anyone without symptoms is available through our community testing sites and mobile testing units. Fixed sites are currently available at the Glebe Centre, Kirkcaldy and Leys Park Car Park, Dunfermline. Our fixed site at the Savoy Centre, Methil, will close this weekend as we move to a model which takes testing into the very heart of communities, providing responsive, localised testing based on the latest Public Health data. Additional mobile units are being deployed across Fife to reach as many communities as possible. 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 any 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**

**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/).

**18-week referral to treatment standard (April-June 2021)**

With reference to the latest 18 week [referral to treatment statistics](https://publichealthscotland.scot/publications/nhs-waiting-times-18-weeks-referral-to-treatment/nhs-waiting-times-18-weeks-referral-to-treatment-quarter-ending-30-june-2021/), we were asked to respond to figures published by Public Health Scotland, which showed that 68.7% of patients in Fife begun treatment within 18 weeks of their initial referral – against the national target of 90%. Importantly, whilst there has been a small decrease in the number of patients seen nationally over the quarter, this has not been replicated in Fife, where there has been a near 50% increase in activity. Despite the pressures on services, as have been referenced earlier in this update, we are working to minimise the time people wait to be seen and clinicians across specialities are triaging patients to ensure those with the greatest clinical need are prioritised to be seen most quickly.

**Technical issue with GP booking system**

A technical issue impacted access to patient records and booking systems at GP surgeries throughout Fife on Tuesday morning. The matter was resolved by the afternoon, however in the interim some practices took longer to answer phone calls. Appointments were unaffected.

**Hospital Hill surgery reduced service**

Earlier this week, Hospital Hill Surgery in Dunfermline had to operate a reduced service after several administrative staff within the practice were required to isolate, following contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19. The practice remained open and those requiring urgent review or assessment have continued to be seen as normal. A small number of routine face-to-face appointments were postponed for staffing reasons, however those affected have since been contacted directly by the practice to rearrange.

**Specialist unit to move temporarily ahead of maintenance works**

Fife’s specialist neuro-rehabilitation unit will shortly be temporarily relocating to Randolph Wemyss Memorial Hospital as work begins on maintenance for the facility. The Sir George Sharp Unit, which is based at Cameron Hospital, is more than 20 years old and provides outpatient and inpatient care for those requiring neurorehabilitation. With maintenance works now required in The Sir George Sharp’s Unit in-patient ward, a temporary move to Randolph Wemyss Memorial Hospital is required. The works are intended to improve the ward and support the continued delivery of high-quality care for the people in Fife requiring neurorehabilitation. Out-patient services will continue to be delivered at the existing Unit at Cameron Hospital during the works. The space at Randolph Wemyss was chosen because it has sufficient bed capacity, space for day rooms and a gym area, and has full lift access. The planned works, which has been delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, will commence in the coming weeks, and are expected to be completed by October 2021. More information is available [here](https://www.nhsfife.org/news-updates/latest-news/2021/08/specialist-unit-to-move-temporarily-ahead-of-maintenance-works/).

**Winter flu vaccination begins this month**

Flu vaccination has now begun and will run until March next year as a joint Flu Vaccine/ COVID Vaccine (FVCV) programme, in line with Scottish Government direction. The programme builds upon the infrastructure already in place nationally and locally for the COVID vaccine programme and the lessons learned from the local Seasonal Flu Programme during 2020. Consent packs are being issued to both primary and secondary school pupils to take home and we continue to encourage uptake.

**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/).

**Temporary changes to traffic system at Victoria site**

From 13th September to Sunday 19th September, Graham Construction will be operating a priority traffic system from the Hayfield Road traffic light junction onto the Victoria Hospital site. This system is being introduced to aid the construction of the Fife Elective Orthopaedic Centre and will give priority to vehicles coming onto the Victoria Hospital site off the Hayfield Road junction, including ambulances and other emergency vehicles. We are asking that ask drivers to adhere to the priority system.

**Mental wellbeing and suicide prevention campaign**

NHS Fife has been supporting the local workforce mental wellbeing and suicide prevention campaign 2021. Businesses and organisations have faced challenging times throughout the pandemic, and this will more than likely have had an ongoing impact on their workforce. The local campaign, which provided [online resources, training and support](https://www.nhsfife.org/news-updates/campaigns-and-projects/workforce-mental-wellbeing-and-suicide-prevention-campaign-2021/), emphasised the importance of supporting each other through difficult periods. The campaign was also featured in the local media and widely on social media.

## 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/). Protection levelsThe latest guidance on protection levels can be accessed [here](https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-staying-safe-and-protecting-others/).NHS Scotland recovery planThe Scottish Government has published its recovery plan for the health service in Scotland, which details several reforms across primary and acute care in a bid to tackle the backlog caused by COVID-19. The five-year plan is available to view [here](https://www.gov.scot/publications/nhs-recovery-plan/).  |

Issued by NHS Fife Communications, all information correct at time of publishing.