Issue 33 | 2nd July 2021

Elected Members Update

for Fife’s MPs, MSPs and   
local Councillors

**This weekly 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)**.**

**We ask that Elected Members do not contact our staff directly with any queries around the national vaccination programme. Instead, please consult the Scottish Government’s** [**vaccination programme webpage**](https://www.gov.scot/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-vaccination/)**, the national vaccination information phone number on 0800 030 8013, or our own webpage for** [**local updates**](https://www.nhsfife.org/news-updates/campaigns-projects/coronavirus-information/nhs-fife-covid-19-vaccination-programme/)**. We endeavour 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, your email should be directed to the** [**NHS Fife Chief Executive Office**](mailto:fife.chiefexecutive@nhs.scot) **for response and co-ordination. A new guide, which is hosted on NHS Inform, aims to provide awareness and options for those who believe their appointment has gone missing and those who are looking to reschedule an appointment. It can be accessed** [**here**](https://www.nhsinform.scot/vaccinejourney)**.**

**Further information on the Scottish Government’s COVID-19 response strategy (Strategic Framework) can be accessed** [**here**](https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-scotlands-strategic-framework-update-june-2021/)**.**

## Local COVID-19 vaccination overview

Over 260,000 people in Fife have now received their first COVID-19 vaccination, with over 192,000 completing their two-dose course.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Priority order** | **NHS Fife Status** |
| 1. Residents in a care home for older adults and their carers | Second doses provided to all care homes in Fife. |
| 1. All those 80 years of age and over and frontline health and social care workers | Majority of second doses complete. |
| 1. All those 75 years of age and over | Majority of second doses complete. |
| 1. All those 70 years of age and over | Majority of second doses complete. |
| 1. All those 65 years of age and over | Majority of second doses complete. |
| 1. All those 60 years of age and over | Majority of second doses complete. |
| 1. All those 55 years of age and over | Majority of second doses complete. |
| 1. All those 50 years of age and over | 88% of second doses complete. |
| 1. All those aged 40-49 | 88% first doses administered 41% of second doses complete. |
| 1. All those aged 30-39 | 82% first doses administered. 28% of second doses complete. |
| 1. All those aged 18-29 | 50% first doses administered. 16% of second doses complete. |

## Growing number of COVID-19 cases linked to hospitality sector

NHS Fife is asking local people to be extra vigilant, after a growing number of COVID-19 cases were linked to indoor hospitality venues. We are urging local people who have visited venues such as bars, pubs and restaurants, particularly where time has been spent indoors, to be especially vigilant of the signs and symptoms of the virus– these are a new, continuous cough; a fever; or a loss or change in the sense of smell or taste. Should anyone develop any of these symptoms, they should self-isolate immediately and book a test as soon as possible.

## Mobile testing unit deployed in Lochgelly

A new mobile COVID-19 testing unit has been deployed in Lochgelly after a sharp rise in cases in Central Fife. The test site in the Lochgelly Centre car park opens today and will operate Monday to Friday from 9am to 3.30pm, and Saturday and Sunday from 10am to 4pm. The deployment follows an increase in COVID-19 cases in Lochgelly, Cowdenbeath and Kelty in recent days, and people living and working in the area are being urged to take up the offer of free COVID-19 testing. A number of positive cases in the area are linked to Shardy’s Bar in Lochgelly. Anyone who visited the bar following a funeral in the town on Thursday 24 June 2021 is being strongly urged to arrange a PCR test at a local test site as soon as possible. More information is available [here](https://www.nhsfife.org/news-updates/press-releases/2021-june/people-in-central-fife-urged-to-get-tested-after-rise-in-covid-19-cases-in-the-area/).

## Vaccination drop-in clinics

We continue to provide an increasing number of drop-in vaccination clinics for first and second doses at venues across Fife, in line with national direction. Fife is well placed to meet this directive and our drop-in clinics to date have been targeted at groups where we wanted to encourage uptake of vaccination or support accessibility. From next week this criterion will be extended to include everyone aged 18 or over requiring a first dose or – if eight weeks have passed - their second dose. Separate queues will be in operation for those with a scheduled appointment, More information on upcoming clinics can be found [here](https://www.nhsfife.org/news-updates/campaigns-and-projects/coronavirus-information/vaccination-programme/find-vaccine-drop-in-clinics/).

Across mainland Scotland, the options available for how and when people choose to be inoculated are also being extended to clinics out with local health boards. People can rearrange the location of their appointment online if,  for example, it is more convenient for them to be vaccinated closer to  work than home. Nearest drop-in clinics across Scotland are available by visiting NHS Inform, which directs you to the latest information from health boards.

## Self-registration portal launched to help increase vaccine uptake

Earlier this week the new [Self Registration Portal](http://www.nhsinform.scot/vaccineregistration), which was used successfully to encourage unpaid carers and 18-29 year olds to come forward, was made available to every adult in Scotland. The self-registration system is open to all adults and will enable anyone, for example, new to Scotland or did not have an up-to-date registered home address, to come forward. For those who have previously received an appointment and could not, or decided not to, attend, the portal provides the opportunity to now take up the offer of a vaccine and ensure protection against COVID-19. Those who sign up will receive a text or email with details of their appointment which they can change if the time or location is unsuitable. If they don’t have online access the national helpline is still available. They will complete the registration process and arrange for information to be sent via SMS.

Rescheduling appointments

For those who are unable to attend their assigned vaccination appointment, they can reschedule online. More information on rescheduling appointments is available [here](https://www.nhsinform.scot/covid-19-vaccine/invitations-and-appointments/rearrange-or-opt-out-of-your-coronavirus-vaccination-appointment).

## Vaccine progress data update

Public Health Scotland is now publishing [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 on 24/03/21 included a new section on ‘Equality of COVID-19 vaccination’ this week. This included 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/).

## Local 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 [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/).

## Community testing in Fife

Several 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.

Scottish Ambulance Service Mobile Units are also based at Hall Street Cowdenbeath and Kirkcaldy Town House, providing testing for individuals with and without symptoms. Appointments can be made in advance at any of these sites. Individuals who drop-in will need to register details before they leave. 

Testing for individuals without symptoms is available through our community testing sites - available to the public on a drop-in basis. Community testing sites are currently available at Glebe Centre, Kirkcaldy; Savoy Centre, Methil; Tryst Centre, Dunfermline, with a mobile site currently at the YMCA, Kirkcaldy.

In addition, mobile community testing will be held on a weekly basis over the next month at Links Car Park, Burntisland; Kinghorn Community Centre; Aberdour Community Centre; Dalgety Bay Leisure Centre and Civic Centre, Inverkeithing. These are drop in testing sites for those without symptoms. Non need to book

## Rapid home testing Kits

COVID-19 rapid home testing kits are also now available to individuals who do not have symptoms, with members of the public encouraged to test themselves twice weekly. These free kits can be ordered online and delivered through the post, alternatively they can be picked up from testing sites at Glebe Centre, Kirkcaldy; Victory Memorial Hall, St Andrews; Overton Community Centre, Kirkcaldy; Regional Drive-Through Centre, Bankhead Car Park, Glenrothes; Glenrothes Miners Charitable Society, Glenrothes and the Dell Farquharson Community Centre, Dunfermline. Further information on testing in Fife can be found [here](http://www.nhsfife.org/testing). The COVID-19 rapid home testing kits are also being extended for pick up at community pharmacies across Scotland. Participation is voluntary and it is for pharmacy owners to opt-in to provide the service. To date, more than 60 Fife pharmacies have signed up to the scheme and people can find their nearest participating outlet [here](https://maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/findatestcenter.html).

## Helping people get the right care, in the right place

As more restrictions are lifted, our Emergency Department continues to experience growing numbers of people attending – many of whom would likely be more effectively treated elsewhere. 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/).

## Fife college vaccination videos

We have been working with Fife College to produce a series of short videos to encourage uptake of vaccination by young people. The videos, the first of which can be viewed [here](https://fb.watch/6siPKph0UK/), feature short chats with students to find out why they are getting vaccinated and what they have missed most since restrictions were introduced.

## Hospital visiting restrictions

Everyone in hospital can now receive at least two named visitors from the same household without the need to physically distance. For those visiting a patient in hospital, infection control measures will remain in place, including face coverings, hand hygiene stations, restricted movement around the hospital, and a clear instruction that visits should not take place if the visitor has COVID-19 symptoms or is isolating. 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/)**.** When visiting arrangements are made, clinical care teams will point out that optional testing prior to a visit is a valuable way to promote safety. Universal lateral flow testing is available for anyone in Scotland either through [community testing programmes](http://www.nhsborders.scot.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/community-testing/) or home delivery by calling 119 or [ordering online](https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested/pages/no-covid-symptoms/).

## Ministerial visit to Early Cancer Diagnostic Centre (ECDC)

On Monday, the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care, Humza Yousaf MSP, visited the Victoria Hospital to see work that has been carried out since the launch of our Early Cancer Diagnostic Centre, which provides a new clinical pathway to support the earlier diagnosis of patients with non-specific symptoms of cancer. NHS Fife is one of three Health Boards in Scotland who are piloting the development of such centres, which will see patients receiving a diagnosis – cancer or not – within 21 days of referral. More information is available [here](https://www.nhsfife.org/news-updates/latest-news/2021/06/cabinet-secretary-for-health-and-social-care-visits-nhs-fife-s-early-cancer-diagnostic-centre/).

## Advanced glaucoma trial participation

NHS Fife is participating in the first randomised controlled trial comparing medical versus surgical treatments for patients with advanced glaucoma. Patients were picked at random to have medical treatment (eye drops) or glaucoma surgery (early trabeculectomies). At the end of the trial the information gathered will be analysed to see which treatment led to the best outcomes over time for our patients. Professor Roshini Sanders, who is Research Specialty Lead for Ophthalmology in Scotland, led this important trial which will help to inform future treatment choices for patients. More information is available [here](https://www.bmj.com/content/373/bmj.n1014).

# Fife integrated performance and quality report

At the last meeting of the NHS Fife Board, the Fife Integrated Performance and Quality Report (FIPQR) was published. The publication documents local performance in detail against standards and key performance indicators, as well as benchmarking against other mainland NHS Boards. The FIPQR can be viewed in the Board papers [here](https://www.nhsfife.org/media/35152/board-250521.pdf) (page 406).

# Patient flow and navigation survey

We’re looking to gauge the experiences of patients who have contacted NHS 24 on 111 for any illness or injuries recently and were diverted to our Flow and Navigation Centre. Patients can help us improve the patient experience by filling out this [survey](https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/Patientjourney/).

# LGBT+ survey

NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, NHS Lothian and Public Health Scotland are undertaking a national survey to gain insight from LGBT+ individuals on their health and well-being. They are looking to find out more about the health and wellbeing of people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or non-binary who live in Scotland. The responses will help make sure the health service in Scotland can meet the health and wellbeing needs of LGBT+ people, not just in how it provides inclusive health services, but also in the way that ill health prevention and promotion of positive health is delivered. Please consider sharing the survey, which can be accessed [here](https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/ScotlandLGBT2021):

## 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.

|  |
| --- |
| Keep in touchElected 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 or Elected Members briefing on a weekly rather than fortnightly basis. This will be emailed directly to you and available to access online at: [www.nhsfife.org/emu](http://www.nhsfife.org/emu)  This update will also collate and address any common or shared requests for information from Elected members, received via the Chief Executive's Office, rather than us having to address each individual enquiry. 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 online Board papers from previous 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). |

Issued by NHS Fife Communications