Issue 64 | 10th 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**

Across Fife, almost 228,000 people have now received their booster dose of Covid vaccine, and we continue to see people coming forward for first and second doses.

All children aged 5-11 who are at greater risk of the effects of Covid have now been offered the vaccine, along with those living with adults who are immunosuppressed. We are heartened to be one of Scotland’s top performing Health Boards for delivery of vaccine to this group with only NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde and NHS Lothian – both of which are far bigger health boards - delivering more vaccines; this is testament to the hard work and organisation of those delivering the programme locally.

Mindful of the risks associated with Covid during pregnancy, we continue to encourage the uptake of vaccination amongst pregnant women – however this remains lower than we would like it to be. Further promotional work will be undertaken imminently via social media and our midwives are being encouraged to raise vaccination during conversations at appointments.

Following the success of mobile drop-in clinics at supermarkets last week, they will once again take to the road from Saturday 12th when they visit Dobbies Garden Centre in Dunfermline. From there they will then visit Kincardine Community Centre on Tuesday 15th, before parking up at Fife Leisure Park on Saturday 19th. More information, including regular drop-ins and criteria, is available [here](https://www.nhsfife.org/dropinclinics/).

**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**

**New Director of Pharmacy and Medicines appointed**

Benjamin Hannan has been appointed as NHS Fife’s new Director of Pharmacy & Medicines. Ben will take over from Scott Garden who will be leaving NHS Fife to take up a new post with NHS Lothian. Pharmacy is an important part of the NHS Fife healthcare family and as Director of Pharmacy & Medicines, Mr Hannan will be responsible for leading, directing and managing the pharmacy service on behalf of NHS Fife and the Fife Health & Social Care Partnership. More information on the appointment is available [here](https://www.nhsfife.org/news-updates/latest-news/2022/02/new-nhs-fife-director-of-pharmacy-medicines-appointed/).

**Covid related absence at local GP Practices**

GP Practice continues to come under significant strain at present, which, as is the case across healthcare services, is being compounded by Covid related staff absence. Over the last week we have been asked by three medical practices – Lochgelly, Burntisland and Park Road in Rosyth – to assist in communications related to staff absence and helping to inform patients that these centres will be moving to a temporary and short-term ‘emergency only’ model. While this measure is in place, we have encouraged patients whose care is a non-emergency matter to consider using pharmacy, optician, or other community services, where appropriate.

**Chief Nursing Officer to visit NHS Fife**

The Chief Nursing Officer, Professor Alex McMahon, will visit NHS Fife on Wednesday 16th February to meet with staff and teams at Queen Margaret and Lynebank Hospitals. His visit is expected to include meeting with the immunisation teams, as well as trips to find out more about innovations in the delivery of endoscopy and physio services during the pandemic.

**Relaxation of home working in NHS**

Aligned with the First Minister’s announcement around the relaxation of the ‘work from home’ recommendation, NHS Fife has issued guidance to office-based staff, which encourages the safe adoption of a hybrid model, where appropriate, mindful of safety measures such as distancing and face coverings. Whilst large numbers of our workforce have remained on-site throughout the pandemic due to the nature of their work, many office staff and those who have been able to carry out their duties remotely have observed the work from home guidance, which was a model that was successfully adopted in many areas across the organisation.

**SAMH Sunflower Hub**

NHS Fife is working with the Scottish Association for Mental Health (SAMH) to promote the Sunflower Hub, which is a free community project that helps people connect with others, chat, and take part in activities such as arts, crafts, and board games. Sessions take place in Cupar, St Andrews and Lochgelly, and people can take the opportunity to chat with support workers and others who have been experiencing feelings of isolation. For more information, constituents can call 01383 623 179 or email sams.cafe@samh.org.uk. More information is available [here](https://www.nhsfife.org/services/childrens-services/the-sunflower-hub/).

**Long-term pain management pilot launches in Leven and Cowdenbeath**

A pilot pain management project, funded by the Chronic Pain Winter Support Fund, has launched in Cowdenbeath and Leven. The free support service is aimed at people with long-term pain that is getting in the way of them doing what matters most to them and helps by providing community-based information and self-management strategies. Sessions will run on Thursdays at Leven and Cowdenbeath Leisure Centres (midday – 2PM) up until the 31st of March 2022. Constituents can find out more by calling 01383 674 106.

**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.

|  |
| --- |
| **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 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 meetings for 2022 are:Friday 18th MarchFriday 17th JuneFriday 23rd SeptemberFriday 16th DecemberElected 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/).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 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 publicationsThe latest local health and social care performance statistics, including emergency department, cancer, and delayed discharge, are published [here](https://publichealthscotland.scot/publications/). |
|  |

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