Issue 49 | 22nd October 2021

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)**.**

**Local vaccination overview**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Age Group** | **Total % received 1st dose** | **Total % received 2nd dose** |
| 80 + | 100% | 100% |
| 75-79 | 100% | 100% |
| 70-74 | 99.2% | 98.1% |
| 65-69 | 99.5% | 98.3% |
| 60-64 | 100% | 98.6% |
| 55-59 | 98.7% | 96.7% |
| 50-54 | 95.2% | 92.8% |
| 40-49 | 90.2% | 85.1% |
| 30-39 | 87.1% | 77.9% |
| 18-29 | 74.7% | 62.2% |
| 16-17 | 72.1% | 10.7% |
| 12-15 | 55.5% | 0.4% |

*Figures correct on 20 October 2021*

**Covid booster vaccinations**

More than 560,000 doses of Covid vaccine have now been administered across Fife, with over 13,000 people having received their full course and a booster vaccine. Booster vaccines have begun for those over the age of 80, the housebound population and hospital inpatients, whilst immunisation teams have now visited all care homes in Fife to offer both residents and staff a booster and flu jab. Almost 50,000 people over the age of 70 or considered clinically vulnerable have been appointed for their booster with vaccination beginning next week.

The JCVI has advised that the time between second doses and booster vaccinations should be 24 weeks.

The below table 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. These appointments are currently invite only, and not accessible via drop-in clinics:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Cohort** | **Approximate cohort size** | **Planned vaccination start date** | **Method of invite** | **Location** |
| Children’s flu vaccinations (including teaching staff) | 60,500 | Started 6th September 2021 | Postal or via schools. | Health centres or schools. |
| Adults in care homes | 2,773 | Started 27 September 2021 | Care home organised. | Delivered in care home. |
| Frontline health and social care workers (including care home staff) | 21,167 | Started 27 September 2021 | Local community clinics. Appointment or drop-in. Appointments can be booked [here](http://www.nhsinform.scot/hscwvaccination). | Community clinic. |
| Those aged 80+ | 12,000 | Started 4th October 2021 | Letter or phone call arranging GP surgery vaccination or nearby community venue. | GP surgery or nearby community clinic. Click [here](https://www.nhsfife.org/news-updates/campaigns-and-projects/coronavirus-information/vaccination-programme/over-80s-covid-19-vaccination-booster/) for more information. |
| Those aged 70+ | 60,215 | Starts 25th October 2021 | Postal invite. | Community clinic or GP surgery. |
| Those aged 16+ within an at-risk group | 12,724 | From late October/November. | Postal invite. | Community clinic. |
| Those aged 50+  (60-69 group will begin late October, appointed to a community clinic via postal letter). | 112,676 | November/December/January | Self-booking via online portal and then postal invite. | Community clinic. |
| Adults aged 16+ who are household contacts of immunosuppressed individuals, unpaid carers 16+, | TBC | November/December/January | Self-booking via online portal. | Community clinic. |

**12–15-year-old vaccination**

All appointments for 12–15-year-olds to have their first dose of Covid vaccine have now taken place, with drop-in centres remaining available for those who have yet to be vaccinated. Around 56% of local 12–15-year-olds have taken up the option. The position in Fife broadly mirrors the national picture where around 48% of 12-15-year-olds have been vaccinated.

**Drop-in vaccination clinic revision**

Due to staffing issues, we have had to [revise the provision of drop-in clinics](https://www.nhsfife.org/news-updates/latest-news/2021/10/revision-to-advertised-drop-in-clinics-from-friday-22nd-october/) this week. All scheduled appointments have been prioritised and are unaffected by the changes. All confirmed clinics, including opening times and criteria, are listed [**here**](http://www.nhsfife.org/dropinclinics).

**New vaccination venue in Levenmouth**

On Wednesday, we opened a new vaccination venue at the Studio on Den Walk in Methil. This venue will be used for both appointments and drop-ins and will replace the former vaccination site at the nearby Savoy Centre.

**Protesting at vaccination venues**

Across Scotland, there have been several incidents where anti-vaccination protestors have been making their presence known at vaccination clinics. Their activities have generally involved handing out ‘vaccination literature’ or challenging members of the public or immunisers over their choice to receive the vaccine/vaccinate. NHS Fife is aware of some local activity regarding the anti-vax movement, and we are both liaising with police and taking other proactive steps internally to ensure the continued safety and support of our staff at venues.

**Drop-in child flu vaccination sessions**

Across this week NHS Fife has been hosting a series of drop-in flu vaccination clinics for children aged 2-5 years old. These clinics have been put on for children who have received their eligibility letters but are yet to schedule an appointment and take place in Glenrothes, Leven, Benarty and Burntisland.

**Vaccine uptake data**

Public 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/).

**Other news**

**Military support**

NHS Fife was asked by a national newspaper this week to confirm whether we had requested assistance from the military to support our acute services in the lead up to winter. We confirmed that we had not made any formal request via the Scottish Government for military support to assist delivery of our acute services at this time. This position remains under review as part of our resilience and winter planning. Like other Boards, NHS Fife has applied for some military assistance in relation to our joint flu and Covid vaccination campaign, which, if approved, will likely take the form of vaccinators and registrants being made available.

**Ongoing challenges in Emergency Department**

Our Emergency Department at the Victoria Hospital continues to experience very high numbers of people presenting for medical care. Since records began, only 10 times have 250 or more people attended our Emergency Department in a day – this happened three times in August alone. These unprecedented and sustained presentations, when combined with growing numbers of patients with complex needs, the significant challenges posed by Covid demand, and Covid’s effect on our environment and staff, means that our Emergency Department and staff are under considerable strain at present. Like elsewhere in our hospitals, staff are working incredibly hard to continue to provide patients with the best possible standard of care and we are extremely grateful for their efforts. We would appreciate if Elected Members took the time to share a variation on our messaging around [‘right care, right place’](https://www.facebook.com/nhsfife/posts/10159468279712246) to ensure those who do not have life threatening emergencies seek more appropriate care elsewhere or call 111. Further information about the redesign of urgent care services can be found [here](https://www.nhsfife.org/services/right/).

**GP pressures**

In addition to our Emergency Department, General Practice in Fife continues to perform under considerable pressure. Throughout the pandemic local medical practices have remained open and have been required to follow current government 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 for the people of Fife. These measures remain under continual review. To ensure GP practices adhere to national guidance they have had to offer a range of consultations including seeing patients with greatest clinical need in person or by making use of telephone and video consultation to ensure people continued to have access to local healthcare. We appreciate that this government guidance has resulted in longer waits for appointments at some practices and the frustration this causes, and we thank patients for their continued understanding during this unprecedented time.

**Care at home packages**

Earlier this week the Fife Health and Social Care Partnership released a statement relating to challenges that are being experienced around the demand for care at home services. The statement read:

*“Covid-19 continues to impact across the whole health and social care system and the demand for care at home packages is unprecedented. Ensuring our most vulnerable people have the care at home they need is a priority and our staff are working extremely hard to meet the needs of service users during this extremely challenging time. It may not always be possible for visits to be carried out by usual carers and the timings of visits may vary – we apologise for this, and we appreciate the support and patience from those receiving the care at home services at this time. There is a recruitment drive in place to attract more home carers and 40 new carers are currently being recruited to grow the service. We will continue to progress further recruitment and work with partners and private providers to test different models to optimise person-centred care to ensure we meet the needs of the people in Fife.”*

**Managed retraction of some services**

All non-urgent surgical procedures and some outpatient appointments remain postponed to help reduce the pressures on our services and protect urgent care and cancer treatment. This retraction of some services has been both managed and phased to prioritise safety and ensure redeployed staff are given appropriate time to both prepare for and undertake any transitions. We want to ensure that as few people as possible are required to wait for their procedure, and despite the well-documented strain on our services, we continue to carry on with as much of our non-urgent surgical programme as we can perform safely - with those in greatest clinical need prioritised to be seen most quickly.

**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 who has been advised to take a test should book a test via [www.nhsinform.scot](file:///C:\Users\hamiltoncr\Desktop\www.nhsinform.scot). If support is needed with the booking process, call 119. 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 programme. Further information on testing in Fife can be found [here](http://www.nhsfife.org/testing).

**Other news**

**Scotland’s young thinker of the year**

Specialist clinical pharmacist for medicine, Louise McCafferty, has been crowned Scotland’s Young Thinker of the Year 2021. The Young Scotland Programme exists to develop the communication skills and broaden the horizons of people in the early stages of their working lives. Through discussion and dialogue, as well as the delegates' own presentations on questions of 'current interest or controversy', the programme helps to build confidence, stimulate debate, and increase awareness of the world around us. Louise attended on behalf of NHS Fife, and on the final evening of the programme was named Scotland Young Thinker of the Year for her paper on feminism. More information is available [here](https://www.nhsfife.org/news-updates/latest-news/2021/10/scotland-s-young-thinker-of-the-year-2021-winner-louise-mccafferty/).

**Scottish health awards nominations**

Katrina Wilson and the NHS Fife Birth at Home team have been nominated for a 2021 Scottish Health Award. The Scottish Health Awards are the most prestigious and recognised awards for those working across NHS Scotland and its partners to deliver high quality health and social care services. Community diabetes specialist nurse, Katrina, has been shortlisted for Leader of the Year, whilst our Birth at Home service has been nominated for the Midwife Award. Their deserved nominations are yet more fantastic news for NHS Fife, after our Community Listening Service volunteers were nominated for the People's Choice Award. More information about the awards can be found [here](http://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 as possible 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 meetings  NHS 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 12 November** at 11.00 am and **Friday 10 December** at 9.30 am Elected 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 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 update Public 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 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/). |

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