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Elected Members Update   
for local MPs, MSPs and Councillors

This fortnightly update is part of our on-going commitment to keep elected members 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.

**suggests this may be as high as one third of the adult population with 50% of those**

Launch of the High Risk Pain Medicines (HRPM) 3 year patient

**Enquiries**

To ensure accurate and timely responses from NHS Fife, all enquiries from elected members 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). Members are politely asked not to approach services or individual members of staff directly for responses.

**Main updates**

**Heatwave**

Last week heralded a significant rise in temperatures across Fife, in line with the amber weather warning that was issued by the Met Office.

Our [Stay Summer Safe](https://www.nhsfife.org/news-updates/campaigns-and-projects/stay-summer-safe/) campaign was heavily promoted externally to help the public take the simple steps that would, firstly, help them stay safe in the heat, and, secondly, help reduce the pressures being felt by our Emergency Department. Internally, the same campaign was tailored to staff and provided regular reminders to our teams to take breaks, pace themselves, and stay hydrated and cool - especially whilst wearing PPE.

We were pleased to learn that our Emergency Department reported no significant additional pressures due to the high temperatures, however the service remains exceptionally busy as described further below.

**Ongoing pressure on services**

Local hospitals remain extremely busy due to an increased demand for inpatient care caused by both Covid and non-Covid-related conditions. We have also seen an increase in staff absence due to the virus, which is in line with the rise in case numbers within communities. The numbers of people in our care having recently tested positive for the virus has also increased in recent weeks and we are seeing a considerable number of patients admitted for other conditions, who go test positive for Covid as part of the admission process.

We continue to deliver urgent surgical procedures and most of our non-urgent surgical programme, however, the increase in pressure we are seeing has required us to temporarily postpone some elective procedures.

**Hospital visiting stays at one visitor per patient**

Hospital visiting remains at one visitor per patient. Essential visiting continues to be applied in areas where patients are being treated whilst positive – this includes where a patient is receiving end of life care, or to support someone with a mental health issue, learning disability, autism, or dementia where not being present would likely cause the patient to become distressed.

**Accessible wayfinding at hospital sites**

NHS Fife is currently engaged in a process of reviewing wayfinding solutions, such as maps and signage, that are available to patients and visitors for inside and outside our hospital sites. This will involve a suite of actions, including exploring digital solutions such as working with CAD (computer aided design) technology. Part of this project will also include a review of accessible wayfinding options for those with special needs or limited access to online information.

**New sexual health service web pages**

NHS Fife has recently added a new section on [sexual health services](https://www.nhsfife.org/services/all-services/sexual-health/) to our website. The service information used to sit on an external website, but it has now been brought in-house to nhsfife.org to not only ensure improved resilience and stability, but also to allow NHS Fife to continually improve the user experience – for instance making the service pages more accessible on mobile phones. The section features information on topics, including contraception, STI’s pregnancy, LGBTQI+, and a range of helpful resources.

**Scottish Health Awards**

We are encouraging people to celebrate someone from NHS Fife who has gone the extra mile by nominating them for a Scottish Health Award. The national awards are an opportunity to shine a light on those who have made a positive difference in the lives of those that they care for, or who support the wider NHS in crucial non-patient facing roles. Nominations close on the 21st of August and more information can be found [here](http://www.scottishhealthawards.com).

**Covid**

**Autumn booster programme**

Following final advice on the Autumn Covid-19 booster programme from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI), the following groups will be offered an additional booster in the Autumn:

* residents in a care home for older adults and staff working in care homes for older adults
* frontline health and social care workers
* all adults aged 50 years and over
* those aged 5 to 49 years in a clinical risk group, including pregnant women
* those aged 5 to 49 years who are household contacts of people with immunosuppression
* carers aged 16-49 years

**Those not in the groups identified in guidance are not eligible for an Autumn booster at this time.**The Scottish Government and NHS Boards are considering how best to implement the guidance as effectively as possible and more information around the arrangements in Fife will follow in due course.

**Care home visitors reminded to follow latest guidance**

Visitors to care homes are being reminded to follow the latest guidance to help reduce the numbers of vulnerable residents contracting Covid. Visitors are being encouraged to test for the virus before visiting elderly loved ones. Home Covid test kits remain free-of-charge for those visiting care homes and hospitals, and information on how to order test kits is available [here](https://test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/order-lateral-flow-kits/eligibility-scotland). Visitors are also being reminded not to attend if they have any cold or flu-like symptoms, regardless of how mild, and even if they test negative for Covid. Advice for people visiting care homes has changed and general information is available [here](https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/coronavirus-covid-19/care/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-visiting-loved-ones-in-an-adult-care-home). Friends and family are encouraged to check any additional protections with individual Care Homes before they visit.

**Drop-in vaccination clinics and appointments**

A mixture of child and adult drop-in clinics are being held this week. More information on mobile clinics and drop-in sessions can be found [here](http://www.nhsfife.org/dropin). We continue to encourage anyone eligible for any dose of the vaccine to book their appointment via the [online booking portal](https://vacs.nhs.scot/csp) or by calling 0800 030 8013.

**Testing**

Most people no longer need to take a covid test and should follow guidance on staying at home if unwell. The community asymptomatic testing service concluded at the end of April. Testing remains available to [specific groups](https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-covid-19#testing) in order to protect highest risk settings and support clinical care. The latest information on testing, isolation, and further support is available [here](https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-covid-19/).

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.

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/).

Additional vaccination information/stats

You can find out about the numbers of people in Scotland who are vaccinated along with data about case numbers, and hospitalisations by accessing the Scottish Government [Daily Update](https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-daily-data-for-scotland/) or by visiting Public Health Scotland’s [Daily Dashboard](https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/phs.covid.19/viz/COVID-19DailyDashboard_15960160643010/Overview)

All Information correct at time of publishing. Issued by the communications team.