Issue 50 | 29th 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)**.**

**Covid booster vaccinations**

More than 573,000 doses of Covid vaccine have now been administered across Fife, with over 24,000 people having received their full course and a booster vaccine.

The local joint flu and Covid vaccination programme continues at pace and, in addition to the priority groups who have already been receiving appointments, people aged 60-69 began to be appointed this week.

Inpatient and housebound vaccination started last week and is due to be completed midway through next month.

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:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **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 | Started 25th October 2021 | Postal invite. | Community clinic or GP surgery. |
| Those aged 16+ within an at-risk group | 12,724 | Started 25th October 2021. | Postal invite. | Community clinic. |
| Those aged 50+(60-69 group started w/c 25th October week with people being 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. |

**80+ appointments**

We are aware that a number of people aged 80+ have yet to receive their appointment for the Covid booster vaccination. Scheduling is ongoing for this age group and those who have not yet received an appointment should expect one very shortly. Across Fife, over 10,000 booster vaccinations have been administered to the 80+ age group, but around one fifth of those eligible are still to be scheduled. Vaccination of the 80+ age group is being carried out in GP surgeries, where space allows, or in a community venue as close to their local practice as possible. Further information, including details of how to enquire about appointments, is available on our website [by medical practice](http://www.nhsfife.org/over80svaccinations).

**Queuing at vaccination centres**

We are aware there were instances of queuing at some of our larger vaccination venues during very busy periods last week. This was due to a considerable rise in the demand for drop-in appointments. While clinics have been busy again this week, we have taken proactive action to prevent a repeat of the type of queuing experienced previously. We have a high number of appointments scheduled for those most at risk of the effects of Flu and Covid, such as those aged 70 and over and people with certain health conditions, and for this reason we have reduced the availability of drop-in appointments this week on a temporary basis only. Drop-in vaccinations do represent only a small proportion of our overall vaccination appointments. This temporary reduction in drop-in capacity will enable us to deploy the workforce most effectively. Anyone without an appointment who still requires vaccination can continue to do so by booking an appointment using the national portal on the NHS Inform website or by calling 0800 030 8013.

**Drop-in vaccination clinics**

Drop-in clinics continue this week, although due to very high numbers of scheduled appointments for priority groups, these are provided at the weekend only. All confirmed clinics, including opening times and criteria, are listed [**here**](http://www.nhsfife.org/dropinclinics).

**Parking restrictions at former M&S site**

Following dialogue with external agents we have been unable to reach a solution which would allow Blue Badge holders to park on the High Street at any time throughout the week to attend for vaccination at the former M&S site in Kirkcaldy. Those with mobility issues who cannot access the venue via a nearby car park on days where Blue Badge access is restricted (such as any Fife Council operated car park or the multi-storey facility in the Mercat) are encouraged to amend their appointment times online or via the national portal on NHS Inform. Those with Blue Badges can park on the High Street at the following times:

***Monday****: Before 11AM and after 5PM*

***Tuesday****: All day access*

***Wednesday****: Before 11AM and after 5PM*

***Thursday****: All day access*

***Friday****: Before 11AM and after 5PM****Saturday****: Before 11AM and after 5PM*

***Sunday****: All day access*

**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.

**University of St Andrews drop-ins**

We are currently working with the University of St Andrews to finalise the provision of drop-in vaccination clinics at the nearby community hospital. These drop-in clinics will likely take place alongside scheduled appointments next week, as well as a dedicated drop-in on the 10th of November.

**Child flu vaccination appointments**

This week we have continued to use social media as a platform to encourage parents to schedule flu vaccination for their children who are aged between 2 and 5 years old. Clinics are being provided across Fife, including in the evening from the 1st of November. For those who have yet to schedule an appointment they can do so by calling 01383 565 456 between 8AM and 5PM.

**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**

**Ongoing challenges in Emergency Department**

Our Emergency Department at the Victoria Hospital continues to experience very high numbers of people presenting for medical care. 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.

**Reports of queued ambulances at the Emergency Department**

This week we were approached by local media to respond to reports that numerous ambulances had been queuing up outside our Emergency Department at the Victoria Hospital with patients waiting to be seen. As has been previously outlined, during particularly busy periods a small number of patients have remained within ambulances with trained paramedic staff for a short time before being seen within our Emergency Department; although we do recognise that on occasion this has been longer than we would have liked. During such times, ambulance crew remain in frequent contact with staff in the Emergency Department throughout. Importantly, ambulances may remain outside our Emergency Department after a patient has been admitted enabling ambulance staff to have well-deserved breaks or to complete the necessary administrative tasks.

**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.

**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%3A%5CUsers%5Chamiltoncr%5CDesktop%5Cwww.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).

## 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 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 12 November** at 11.00 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/).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/).  |

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