Issue 51 | 4th November 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 & flu vaccination overview**

This week we surpassed the landmark achievement of administering more than 600,000 doses of Covid vaccine across Fife, with over 45,000 people having received their full course and a booster vaccine. Last week was amongst the busiest on record for our immunisation and logistics teams with around 25,000 people scheduled for vaccination.

Guidance from the JCVI in relation to second dose intervals for the 16–17-year-old age group is expected imminently, whilst guidance for the 12–15-year-old age group is expected early next year.

[This table](https://www.nhsfife.org/media/36137/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. These appointments are currently invite-only, and not accessible to the public via drop-in clinics unless specified. 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/).

**Military support for vaccination programme underway**

NHS Fife has received confirmation that we will be allocated 12 members of the armed forces to support the delivery of our local vaccination programme. The support, which will take the form of ten vaccinators and two nurses, is being primarily deployed to vaccination sites in St Andrews and Dunfermline and will commence as soon as possible. More than 100 members of the armed forces are being deployed across Scotland’s 11 territorial health boards to increase vaccination capacity.

**University of St Andrews drop-ins confirmed**

We continue to work closely with the University of St Andrews to provide access to drop-in vaccination clinics for students. In addition to regular clinics at the nearby community hospital, a bespoke pop-up clinic will also be provided at the [Students Union](https://www.google.com/maps/%4056.3403113%2C-2.7998288%2C3a%2C75y%2C73.01h%2C99.18t/data%3D%213m7%211e1%213m5%211sv8j2CEXTSxDw4xb-0O1fig%212e0%216shttps%3A//streetviewpixels-pa.googleapis.com/v1/thumbnail%3Fpanoid%3Dv8j2CEXTSxDw4xb-0O1fig%26cb_client%3Dmaps_sv.tactile.gps%26w%3D203%26h%3D100%26yaw%3D86.85218%26pitch%3D0%26thumbfov%3D100%217i16384%218i8192) next Wednesday (10th November).

**Vaccination error**

A number of people have been identified as having received the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine for their third or booster dose vaccination, whereas usual procedure is to offer Pfizer vaccination. No clinical harm is deemed to have been caused to patients. Almost all these people had previously received the Oxford/Astra Zeneca vaccine for their first and second dose and, while Pfizer/Biotech is the usual vaccine for third or booster doses, the Oxford/Astra Zeneca vaccine is an acceptable alternative and will continue to provide protection against Covid. We have written to those impacted to apologise and have invited them to get in touch should they wish to discuss the matter. We have also reviewed our process and have introduced new measures to prevent such an error from reoccurring in future.

**Issue with health and social care staff unable to rearrange appointment**

We are aware there was an issue with the national appointment booking system last week, where a small number of health and social care staff were unable to rearrange the date and time of their Covid booster or flu vaccination; staff were also unable to rearrange using the national phoneline. This issue affected staff who had only received either flu or Covid booster at their appointment and needed to book the other vaccine at a follow-up. A local solution was implemented while the issue was addressed by the national team and this scheduling challenge has now been resolved.

**Child flu vaccination appointments**

We continue 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 this week. For those who have yet to schedule an appointment they can do so by calling 01383 565 456 between 8AM and 5PM.

**Drop-in vaccination clinics**

Drop-in clinics are ongoing. All confirmed clinics, including opening times and criteria, are listed [**here**](http://www.nhsfife.org/dropinclinics).

**Other news**

**New national guidance for Emergency Departments**

The Scottish Government has published new guidance for emergency department teams to ensure people are being seen by the right person in the right place for their healthcare need. The guidance has been developed in response to a request from NHS Boards to support hospitals to safely refer people to the most appropriate place for treatment if they do not need emergency care. With the level of people self-referring to hospital emergency departments returning to pre-Covid levels, hospitals are seeing more patients whose needs can be better met closer to home by local pharmacies or GP practices. The new guidance can be accessed [here](https://bit.ly/EDguidance).

**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.

## 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/).  |

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