Issue 7 | 27 November 2020

Local update

for Fife’s MPs, MSPs and   
local Councillors

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# Introduction

This 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, this includes information on our on-going response to the COVID-19 pandemic, remobilisation of our services, service changes and operational updates, along with signposting to the latest media updates issued by NHS Fife. Updates are also issued on our refreshed website [www.nhsfife.org](http://www.nhsfife.org) which provides a   
hub of information and guidance as well as our established Facebook, Twitter and Instagram pages.

# Coronavirus

## Vaccination planning underway

With the prospect of an approved COVID-19 vaccine on the horizon, significant local logistical planning is now well underway as part of a national approach, to ensure that NHS Fife is prepared to begin a programme of vaccination as soon as possible. A dedicated Silver Command Group has been established to oversee the roll out of the vaccination programme within Fife, which is likely to take the form of a targeted roll-out, beginning as soon as a vaccine is available and approved for use.

## Fife in Level 3 of COVID-19 framework

Fife is currently in Level 3 of the Scottish Government’s COVID-19 Framework. This means a number of local restrictions have been put in place to help reduce the transmission of coronavirus, most notably around hospitality, exercise and travel. We have been using local and social media platforms to communicate Level 3 guidance and its implications, taking the opportunity to reemphasise the importance of continuing to follow public health guidance. National information around Level 3 restrictions can be found [here](https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-protection-levels/pages/protection-level-3/), and further insight into the science and data behind the decision to move Fife into Level 3 restrictions can be accessed [here](https://www.nhsfife.org/news-updates/news-and-updates/2020/11/nhs-fife-and-fife-council-provide-more-information-on-the-move-to-covid-19-level-3/).

## New signage on windows at the Victoria Hospital

We have installed new colourful, clear, graphic signage on the windows of the Victoria Hospital to make sure people coming into hospital adhere to national guidance. These messages are prominently displayed on the windows at the main entrance and serve as a reminder to follow the guidelines set out by Scottish Government to ensure safe movement around our estate. Further information can be found [here](https://www.nhsfife.org/news-updates/news-and-updates/2020/11/new-vinyls-at-the-victoria-hospital/).

## Social media campaign reinforcing guidance on car sharing

Car sharing continues to be one of the main ways that coronavirus is spreading in Fife. As such, we have been using social media to reinforce what to do to stay safe when journeying by car. Guidance states that a vehicle should only be shared with those from a person’s own or extended household. However, where there is no alternative but to travel with people from out with a household, this should be limited to essential journeys only - such as a hospital appointment. Our social media campaign uses eye-catching graphics to reinforce the following guidance:

* Keep to small groups of people
* Keep your distance and take care entering and exiting the vehicle
* Sit as far apart as possible in the vehicle, avoiding face-to-face
* Maintain good ventilation by keeping the car windows open#
* Wear a face covering, unless you are exempt
* Clean your hands before and after your journey
* If the vehicle is your responsibility, clean the door handles and other areas that people touch
* Try and share with the same people each time.

The campaign started earlier this week and can be viewed [here](https://www.facebook.com/nhsfife/photos/a.10150168443112246/10158911463812246/?type=3&theater).

## Encouraging Fifers to ‘take the test’

We are working closely with colleagues in Fife Council and the Fife Health and Social Care Partnership to raise awareness of the importance of early coronavirus testing and subsequent isolation. Our Take the Test campaign on social media emphasises the importance of getting tested as soon as you develop any of the main coronavirus symptoms, and once you have tested to self-isolate until further notice. A key strand of the campaign is also signposting to support that is available for those who need to self-isolate, whether it is help paying bills, walking the dog, collecting prescriptions or other help. An example of the campaign can be found [here](https://www.facebook.com/nhsfife/photos/a.10150168443112246/10158913694222246/?type=3&theater), whilst information on community support and assistance can be viewed [here](IwAR1LBsk0OM1d81BUb_gZe5l3Sws6vZrixvU8cWtfZtnKVFxA9l6lQOOnzDg).

## Self isolation awareness messaging

NHS Fife is seeking the support of Elected Members to raise awareness of the importance of self-isolation, what this means, and when people should isolate. We are keen to reemphasise in particular that:

* Self-isolation means you must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days.
* It is very important that you follow this advice even if you feel well, as symptoms can take up to 14 days to appear from your last contact with the person who has tested positive.
* You should isolate immediately and request a test if you develop the symptoms of coronavirus.
* If you have taken a test you should isolate immediately and until the results of a test come back negative.
* That there is financial support available in the form of self isolation support grant – more information is available [here](https://www.fife.gov.uk/services/form-pages/apply-for-a-covid-19-self-isolation-support-grant).

Self-isolating will help protect your family, friends, the wider community and the NHS, and we would appreciate your support promoting these messages.

## Schools and nurseries updates

We continue to report positive coronavirus cases directly associated with schools and nurseries on our social media pages. We are committed to ensuring local people are kept informed of positive cases in our schools and nurseries and, to assist this, we have been publishing regular updates on confirmed cases locally. This update does not replace the Group Call messages issued by Fife Council directly to parents/carers/staff at affected schools or nurseries and our Test and Protect team continues to perform a vital role in contacting those who we believe to be close contacts of confirmed cases, We will continue to issue further updates and statements in relation to specific schools and nurseries if additional Public Health guidance or advice is required.

## Statements on specific coronavirus cases

There continues to be significant media coverage of coronavirus cases across Fife. Statements relating to specific incidents, information on how best to reduce the chances of contracting the virus, and what you should do if someone develops symptoms, can be found on [our website](https://www.nhsfife.org/news-updates/campaigns/coronavirus-information/).

## Local data

You can find 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/).

# Flu Vaccination

***Over 90,000 vaccines delivered so far***

New report detailing lessons learned for future vaccination programmes

Earlier this week a detailed report went before our Board, outlining the lessons learned around our planning and processes for any future mass vaccination programmes. The report outlines the changes in the national seasonal flu delivery model this year, the impact this has had on local resources, and covers the range of mitigating arrangements that were rapidly deployed to address the initial issues associated with the first round of flu vaccinations. To date more than 90,000 flu vaccinations have been carried out across Fife. As the country is mobilised to embark on the biggest ever mass vaccination programme, detailed planning is already underway for the phased and safe delivery of the covid-19 vaccine across Fife, prioritising those most at risk from the effects of the virus. We will use the lessons learned from the review of our seasonal flu programme to ensure we are ready to respond when the COVID-19 vaccine becomes available. For more information on the review, please visit Item 13 [here](https://www.nhsfife.org/media/34192/board-papers-251120.pdf).

Walk-in clinics for children up to Primary 7

This week we began a series of children's walk-in flu vaccination clinics, which are available to children from the age of two up to Primary 7. The targeted clinics took place in a number of areas, including major population hubs such as Leven, Kirkcaldy, Dunfermline and Glenrothes. You can attend one of the below clinics. The clinics are for children who have not yet been vaccinated and no appointment is necessary.

Community drop-in clinics for over 65s and at-risk groups

As part of efforts to make the flu vaccine as accessible as possible to those who need it most, we continue to host drop-in vaccination clinics across the region. These clinics, which are promoted by local GP practices for their practice population only, are available to those who have received a letter advising them of their eligibility for the vaccine – appointments are not required but those attending must bring their eligibility letter with them. The clinics are staffed by our Immunisation Team and adhere to strict infection control procedures.

Under 65s with eligible health conditions

The flu vaccination programme for for under 65’s living in Fife with an eligible health condition has commenced and letters advising of eligibility have been sent out. Further information is available on [nhsinform.scot/flu](https://www.nhsinform.scot/flu" \t "_blank) and the 'How to get the flu vaccine in your area' guide on this site. These appointments cover November and December. Please be reassured that there is no shortage of appointments.

Enhanced advice and flu guidance online

We have enhanced our [online information](https://www.nhsfife.org/news-updates/campaigns/seasonal-flu-vaccination-programme/#faqs) to assist those eligible for a flu vaccination. This includes a detailed FAQ section to address many of the questions that our call handlers have been answering. This section is updated on a regular basis and we hope that it will also assist our elected members in addressing any questions that your constituents may ask.

# Service updates

## Helping people get the right care, in the right place

The Scottish Government is currently redesigning the way that urgent healthcare services are accessed across Scotland, supporting the public to access the right care, in the right place, at the right time, and keeping people and the NHS safe this winter. As part of this, a new approach to the way people access urgent care is currently being tested in NHS Ayrshire and Arran. The pilot is being evaluated throughout November and will help to inform a national roll-out planned for December. Under the arrangements being tested, people with non-life threatening conditions, who would usually attend A&E, are asked to call NHS 24 first, during the day or at night. NHS 24 will assess people by telephone and refer them to the right care by the right healthcare professional as close to home as possible. This could include self-care, a GP practice or primary care, Pharmacy, Minor Injuries or referral into a flow and navigation hub within their NHS board for a clinical assessment.  Following this assessment, if the patient still needs to attend A&E the flow and navigation hub will schedule an appointment. Emergency 999 calls will continue to be transferred to the Scottish Ambulance Service as normal. In NHS Fife we have formed a Redesign of Urgent Care programme board to prepare for local implementation ahead of the national roll-out, with a number of workstreams across key service areas feeding in. Colleagues from Acute, Primary Care, Community, eHealth, Communications and Staff Side are all involved. As part of our planning process have held a ‘go live’ exercise this week to test assumptions and refine our plans further ahead of the planned national roll-out. More information on the redesign of urgent care services is available [here](https://www.gov.scot/policies/healthcare-standards/unscheduled-care/).

## Community health and wellbeing centres in Kincardine and Lochgelly

We are encouraging local communities to share their views on plans for new Community Health and Wellbeing Centres in Kincardine and Lochgelly. It is recognised that the current centres are no longer fit for purpose and new centres are intended to flexibly meet the needs of the local population, providing a range of services including those provided by GPs, social care and the voluntary sector.  The Initial Agreement Document (IAD) was approved by Scottish Government in January and involved working closely with communities and staff in both areas.

NHS Fife is now in the process of completing the Outline Business Cases (OBCs), part of the process to support decisions on how public funding is allocated.  As part of that work it is important that we continue to work closely with local communities and services to look further at how the centres could support the health and wellbeing of the populations of Lochgelly and Kincardine. A number of engagement activities will be held over the next month, providing the communities with the opportunity to have their say and help shape the new centres.  With Covid-19 restrictions in place, activities will be conducted mainly via online forums including Practice websites, through voluntary organisations and discussion and engagement with interested groups. In addition an online survey launched on Monday, 16th November and runsuntil Monday 14th December. The following links can be used:

Kincardine Survey - <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/Kincardinecentre/>

Lochgelly Survey - <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/Lochgellycentre/>

## Hospital visiting restrictions

Following an increase in coronavirus transmission rates across Fife, the difficult decision was taken to restrict hospital visiting. **Visiting is limited to essential visits only and will be reviewed regularly. Further information on arrangements, including guidance on essential visiting criteria and FAQS on services we frequently receive enquiries around, such as maternity and children’s, can be found** [here](https://www.nhsfife.org/services/patients-carers-and-visitors/visiting-arrangements-during-covid-19-pandemic/)**.**

# In the media

## Board agrees business case for new elective orthopaedic centre

The development of the new Fife Elective Orthopaedic Centre took another step forward as the Full Business Case for the project was approved by the NHS Fife Board earlier. The proposed new centre is set to be constructed at the Victoria Hospital. Pending final approval from Scottish Government, the project is expected to take around 18 months to complete and will see the creation of a state-of-the-art facility hosting 3 operating theatres, a 33 bed supporting ward and associated outpatient facilities. The Full Business Case has now been submitted to the Scottish Government’s Capital Investment Group, with formal approval expected in the coming weeks. At a cost of £33 million, the build would be the largest capital project that NHS Fife has undertaken since the opening of the new wing of the Victoria Hospital in 2012. The new centre will ensure that our orthopaedic services are able to meet the increasing demand for orthopaedic interventions, like hip or knee replacements, with such interventions now amongst the most common surgical procedures undertaken by the NHS in Scotland. Further information on the project can be found [here](http://nhsfife.org/feoc/).

## Milestone reached on new £2.5m electronic prescribing system

A full business case for a new electronic prescribing and medicines administration system has been approved, which will improve patient safety by transforming the way medicines are prescribed and administered in hospitals. Most medicines used in hospitals are still prescribed and administered using a paper-based chart system, and with the increasing range and complexities of medicines available the safe and effective prescribing and administration of medicines is increasingly challenging. The Hospital Electronic Prescribing and Medicines Administration System (HEPMA) is designed to replace existing paper-based systems and make prescribing and administration processes more efficient, freeing up clinical staff to carry out face-to-face care. Prescribing decisions for individual patients will be improved by giving prescribers access to a complete medication prescribing and administration record containing up-to-date historical and current information. The HEPMA software will also improve patient safety by producing real-time alerts to inform prescribers of previous drug allergies or adverse drug reactions reported for the patient. Electronic prescribing is the last major area of clinical information not available electronically and the new system will effectively ensure patients in Fife have a complete electronic health record. Further information can be found [here](https://www.nhsfife.org/news-updates/news-and-updates/2020/11/major-milestone-reached-on-new-electronic-prescribing-system-for-fife-s-hospitals/).

## Discharge of patients to care homes

NHS Fife continues to follow national guidance around the discharge of patients to care homes. Those in our care homes are amongst the most vulnerable to the effects of COVID-19, and alongside our colleagues in the Fife Health and Social Care Partnership we are working closely with local care homes to help prevent clusters of the virus from developing. Where there are positive cases, we are providing tailored support to prevent further transmission and ensure that local care homes can maintain the standard of care offered to all residents. Importantly, residents admitted to care homes in Fife require to have two negative COVID-19 tests before discharge from hospital – these should be taken 24 hours apart and preferably within 48 hours of discharge, in accordance with national guidance. The guidance does allow for an element of clinical decision making and risk assessment, but this would only be exercised in a small number of extreme circumstances.

## NHS Fife finalists in Scottish Health Awards

NHS Fife has two finalists in this year’s Scottish Health Awards. Our Vulnerable in Pregnancy (VIP) team, who provide antenatal and postnatal care support to pregnant women, their unborn babies and their families, are finalists in the Midwife category. The team is made up of specialist midwives, nurses and nursery nurses who work with health, social care, justice and third sector groups. Working collaboratively they provide care for women through their whole pregnancy journey. Helen Hagan, a well loved and respected volunteer in the Children’s Ward at Victoria Hospital has been posthumously recognised for her work in the Volunteers category. Helen, a former nursery nurse, wanted to continue working with children after retiring and began volunteering in 1984. One of our longest serving volunteers, Helen sadly passed away last year at the age of 93 having given many years of devoted service. Helen made a huge difference to countless children and families, supporting them during difficult and worrying times. This year the awards ceremony will be held virtually on the 9th December at 7pm by Fred MacAulay. You can watch it online at [www.scottishhealthawards.com](http://www.scottishhealthawards.com/?fbclid=IwAR3D94E4cTHHLx_gPN7veZJpJgq_--oLjJvqPINRx3cNJJpE9ThIoBGot28)

## Community midwifery team wins national award

The North-east Fife Community Midwifery Team won the Scotland Maternity and Midwifery Team Award earlier this week. The team were honoured at a virtual ceremony as part of the Scotland Maternity and Midwifery Festival. The community service makes a huge difference to the lives of the families they support and often helps women who live in places where transport is difficult or where they have to travel long distances for appointments. The team were given special commendation for the key support they continue to provide to newly qualified midwives throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. To watch a short video of the team in action, click [here](https://youtu.be/np-eLiyjpEQ).

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| Keep in touchElected members enquiries NHS Fife tries at all times to be open and transparent with elected members. However, we need to manage enquiries to ensure that urgent work is not disrupted. To help you and to help us we are asking that all emails are directed in the first instance to a central email address. To ensure accurate and timely responses all political enquiries - letters and emails - should be directed to the NHS Fife Chief Executive Office for response and co-ordination. Enquiries should be emailed to a dedicated email address: [fife.chiefexecutive@nhs.scot](mailto:fife.chiefexecutive@nhs.scot)  The Chief Executives’ Office will formally acknowledge receipt of all letters and emails and coordinate a response from services to ensure that all enquiries are responded to in a timely manner. 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 NHS Inform and the Scottish Government website and only come to us if the request relates specifically to Fife. Accessible information and translation NHS Fife continues to provide interpreting and translation services for patients despite there being no face to face interpretation at this time. These assets and further information can be found [here](https://coronavirus.nhsfife.org/accessible-informationtranslation/). Board papers accessible online Board papers from previous meetings can be accessed online [here](https://www.nhsfife.org/nhs/index.cfm?fuseaction=nhs.pagegroup&p2sid=E44DBB1B-5056-8C6F-C013BB57547CE2B1&themeid=E44C37C3-5056-8C6F-C003CD63C15D8FF0&GroupOrg=270004AD-BB72-8519-4F4524B7837B36DD). |

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