Issue 44 | 17th September 2021

Elected Members Update

for Fife’s MPs, MSPs and
local 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)**.**

**CR Testing shortages claims**

NHS Fife would like to reassure our elected members are not experiencing any shortages impacting on PCR testing and we do not have shortages within NHS Fife laboratory system. We are also not aware of anyone who requires an NHS PCR diagnostic test and has been unable to access it.

We are aware of high demand in the UK Government Lighthouse laboratories, but NHS Fife does not oversee this laboratory system. NHS Fife has a continuity strategy in place to ensure diagnostic and general surveillance of Covid and over the course of the Pandemic NHS Fife has built and continue to build additional capacity on a range of different platforms using different equipment, reagents, and consumables so a single failure on any one system will not prevent us from running Covid testing.

**COVID vaccination programme for young people aged 12-15 years**

The Scottish Government has confirmed that children and young people aged 12 -15 years old in Scotland who are not already covered by existing advice from the JCVI will be offered a dose of the COVID-19 vaccine following advice provided by the UK’s four Chief Medical Officers.

Around 16,000 eligible 12–15-year-olds across Fife will shortly begin receiving appointment letters, and these will arrive in the same blue envelope as previous age groups. Appointments will be available to 12–15-year-olds from 2nd October and will be automatically scheduled for after 3.30pm on weekdays and at weekends to minimise any disruption to education. Appointments will be offered at the closest available vaccination centre to each young person’s home and details will be included on how to reschedule, should this be necessary.

The appointment letter will also include advice and guidance for parents or guardians around the process of informed consent and allocated appointment slots have been extended to allow vaccinators to discuss the process of informed consent and address any questions associated with this requirement.

12–15-year-olds in Fife will also have the option to attend one of our drop-in vaccination clinics from Wednesday 22nd September. Details the locations and opening times will be **available at www.nhsfife.org/dropinclinics** and promoted via our social media channels and more information on the 12–15-year-old vaccination programme in Fife and FAQs are available at: [**www.nhsfife.org/**](http://www.nhsfife.org/)**12to15**

**Measures taken to reduce pressure on services**

NHS Fife recently announced that it had taken the difficult decision postpone all non-urgent surgical procedures and some outpatient appointments to help reduce the unprecedented pressures on healthcare provision and protect urgent care and cancer services. These were some of a range of measures introduced to reduce the significant strain on our services, the detail of which was included in the previous Elected Members Update.

Due in no small part to the hard work and diligence of healthcare staff, we have been able to continue with some elements of our non-urgent surgical programme, though not in the volumes that we have been performing earlier this year. We want to ensure that as few people as possible are required to wait for their procedure, and despite the well-documented strain on healthcare services, we will 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.

**Nursing vacancies**

Throughout the pandemic response NHS Fife has been recruiting extensively for nursing and support staff. There are, however, undoubted pressures on nursing staffing at present as we care for a greatly increased number of people requiring inpatient treatment. In the coming weeks NHS Fife will welcome more than 150 newly qualified graduates who will take up clinical posts across Fife. Our recruitment drive is also focusing on a range of newly created roles intended to boost staffing numbers in areas such as critical care and our vaccination programme, rather than backfilling existing positions and we are working closely with academic institutions to support former nursing and midwifery staff to return to practice, and a Higher National Certificate programme to enable healthcare assistants to train as registered nurses.

**Helping people get the right care, in the right place, at the right time**

The Scottish Government has redesigned 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. Under the arrangements, 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. Further information about the redesign of urgent care services is available [here](https://www.nhsfife.org/services/right/).

## **Local COVID-19 vaccination overview**

**Total doses: 532,886**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Age Group** | **Total % received 1st dose** | **Total % received 2nd dose** |
| 80 + | 99.8% | 100% |
| 75-79 | 100% | 100% |
| 70-74 | 97.8% | 99.1% |
| 65-69 | 98.0% | 99.4% |
| 60-64 | 98.3% | 99% |
| 55-59 | 96.4% | 98.6% |
| 50-54 | 92.3% | 95.0% |
| 40-49 | 84.1% | 89.7% |
| 30-39 | 75.7% | 86.2% |
| 18-29 | 57.5% | 72.6% |
| 16-17 | 7.9% | 49.5% |

*Figures correct on 15th September 2021*

**Drop-in vaccination clinics**

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

**St Andrews student vaccinations continue**

Drop-in vaccination clinics for students at the University of St Andrews have now been completed. The clinics were well attended and those students who could attend can continue to be vaccinated at our community clinic within St Andrews Community Hospital.

**Moderna second dose arrangements**
Some students at the University of St Andrews, and other people who may have moved into Fife from elsewhere since their first vaccine, will require a second dose of the Moderna vaccine, which is not provided within the NHS Fife area. However, NHS Fife does have an arrangement in place where people requiring Moderna can be referred to NHS Lothian, who will allocate them an appointment at the Royal Highland Showground at Ingleston.

**Third dose vaccinations**

NHS Fife is working closely with national bodies to plan for any potential COVID-19 third dose vaccination programmes. We expect to be able to confirm these local arrangements shortly, with any approach will be informed by guidance from the JCVI, which we expect to receive in due course.

**New COVID-19 vaccination to open in the Kingsgate Shopping Centre in Dunfermline**

The new vaccination clinic, which will open later this month, will be based within the former DW Sports store in the centre. The new site was chosen due to its considerable size, its location in the centre of Dunfermline, good public transport links and good availability of parking nearby. Kingsgate Shopping Centre will play an important role in helping protect local people against COVID-19 and its effects.

The new vaccination site will replace the existing vaccination clinic at Carnegie Conference Centre, which opened in April 2021 and was offered to NHS Fife by Fife College to assist in the delivery of the vaccination programme.

**Covid cases in Fife Schools**

We are continuing to see cases of COVID-19 linked to Fife’s schools with the case numbers reflective of the rate on infection we are seeing within the wider community. Parents in Fife continue to be reminded of the signs of symptoms of COVID-19, and what do should their child develop symptoms, in order to help reduce the spread of the virus both within schools and out with.

Throughout the pandemic Fife’s Health Protection Team has worked closely with colleagues in education to help mitigate the impact of the virus in our local schools. NHS Fife and Fife Council continue to follow the national guidance where there are cases of COVID-19 linked to schools, with any specific actions taken dependent on the circumstance in individual schools and with staff and parents updated and informed using established school communication channels including “Group Call” text message updates when applicable.

**Test & Protect**

**PCR Testing shortages claims**

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**Community Testing**

Testing sites are available across Fife for members of the public with and without symptoms.

Anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 or has been advised to take a test should book a test via [**www.nhsinform.scot**](http://www.nhsinform.scot/) If support is needed with the booking process, call 119.

Routine testing for anyone without symptoms is available through our community testing sites and mobile testing units. Fixed sites are currently available at the Glebe Centre, Kirkcaldy and Leys Park Car Park, Dunfermline. Our fixed site at the Savoy Centre, Methil, will close this weekend as we move to a model which takes testing into the very heart of communities, providing responsive, localised testing based on the latest Public Health data. Additional mobile units are being deployed across Fife to reach as many communities as possible. 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 programmes](http://www.nhsborders.scot.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/community-testing/). Further information on testing in Fife can be found [here](http://www.nhsfife.org/testing).

**Other news**

NHS Fife Community Listening Service Volunteers Shortlisted for Scottish Health Award 2021

The NHS Fife Community Listening Service Volunteers have been shortlisted for the People's Choice Award at The Scottish Health Awards 2021.

Community Chaplaincy Listening is a national service offered to patients who need emotional and spiritual support. During the Pandemic, when the volunteers were unable to carry out any face-to-face work, a telephone listening service was set up and offered to venerable patients who needed someone to talk to.

The People’s Choice Award recognises individuals and teams who have responded to the challenge of caring for people during the pandemic, while at the same time maintaining a range of essential services and continuing to provide essential care.

To vote online for the People’s Choice Award visit the website: [**www.scottishhealthawards.com**](http://www.scottishhealthawards.com). Voting will close on **Friday 8th October 2021.**

The finalists in the other categories will be announced on 4 October and all winners – including the winner of the People’s Choice Award – will be announced on 4 November at the awards ceremony.

**Temporary changes to traffic system at Victoria site**

From 13th September to Sunday 19th September, Graham Construction will be operating a priority traffic system from the Hayfield Road traffic light junction onto the Victoria Hospital site. This system is being introduced to aid the construction of the Fife Elective Orthopaedic Centre and will give priority to vehicles coming onto the Victoria Hospital site off the Hayfield Road junction, including ambulances and other emergency vehicles. We are asking that ask drivers to adhere to the priority system.

For more information, click here. For details of the various drop-in clinics available across Fife, visit: [**www.nhsfife.org/dropinclinics**](http://www.nhsfife.org/dropinclinics)

## 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 24 September** at 9.30 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/).Board papers accessible onlineThe next NHS Fife Board meeting will be held via TEAMS on Tuesday 28th September.Board papers for 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).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.