Issue 42 | 3rd 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)**.**

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

**Total doses: 525,989**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Age Group** | **Total % received 1st dose** | **Total % received 2nd dose** |
| 80 + | 100% | 99.7% |
| 75-79 | 100% | 100% |
| 70-74 | 99% | 97.6% |
| 65-69 | 99.4% | 97.9% |
| 60-64 | 99.9% | 98.2% |
| 55-59 | 98.6% | 96.2% |
| 50-54 | 95% | 92% |
| 40-49 | 89.4% | 83.3% |
| 30-39 | 85.5% | 73.7% |
| 18-29 | 71.3% | 49.7% |
| 16-17 | 44.2% | 7.4% |

*Figures correct on 1 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).

**Third dose vaccinations**

NHS Fife is closely with national bodies to plan for any potential COVID-19 third dose vaccination programmes. Whilst no formal arrangements have been made, any approach will be informed by guidance from the JCVI, which we expect to receive in due course.

**St Andrews/Fife College student vaccinations begin**

On Monday, we hosted the first in a series of drop-in vaccination clinics for students at the University of St Andrews. The clinics are taking place at the Boys Brigade Hall on Kinnessburn Road and generally run from midday until 8PM, up to the 10th of September.

Elsewhere, drop-in clinics were also made available to students at Fife College at three of its main campuses from Wednesday. Clinics have taken place across this week at Dunfermline Halbeath Campus, Kirkcaldy St Brycedale Campus, and Glenrothes Stenton Campus.

**Vaccines administered abroad**

There are many vaccines being used across the world but not all of them are in use or accepted in Scotland. Currently there are three regulated vaccines for use in Scotland. Moderna, Astra Zeneca and Pfizer. Everyone eligible for a vaccine in Scotland will be offered the one most appropriate and in line with clinical guidance. If someone has had their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine out with Scotland they will still be able to receive their second dose in a vaccination centre. Vaccinators will discuss available options and determine the vaccine to be administered based on the latest clinical advice. NHS inform has further information on how clinical needs are assessed  [here](https://www.nhsinform.scot/campaigns/international-students-arriving-in-scotland). Individuals will not be required to provide proof of an international vaccine; however, we would urge them to ensure they are fully aware of the type of vaccine they received and the date it was administered. A vaccine status report will be issued on request however, only information on the vaccine administered in Scotland is provided. Further information on Vaccine Status reports can be found [here](https://www.nhsinform.scot/covid-19-vaccine/after-your-vaccine/get-a-record-of-your-coronavirus-covid-19-vaccination-status).

## **Test and protect**

**Fife contact tracer featured in Courier day-in-the-life article**

With a high number of COVID-19 cases being confirmed across Fife, our contact tracing teams have been at the forefront of identifying growing numbers of close contacts and providing them with appropriate support and guidance. As part of a drive to increase understanding of the role and why it is so important, a reporter from the Courier spent a morning shadowing one of our team at Cameron Hospital. The resulting feature can be viewed [here](https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/lifestyle/health-wellbeing/2484376/its-the-phone-call-nobody-wants-but-who-are-the-people-behind-test-and-protect/).

**Kind gesture at Leys Park Road, Dunfermline**

Earlier this week we received press and social media coverage regarding the generosity of our testing team at Leys Park Road in Dunfermline. A local man, who has been using the site regularly to attain the negative test he needs to continue visiting his wife in a nearby care home, was presented with flowers, chocolates, strawberries, and a card to celebrate their 67th wedding anniversary. The man said that the gesture ‘restored my faith in human nature and has given me a sense of pride that we have such wonderfully kind and caring young people in our local community’. The staff working in our community testing sites have long been a credit to both NHS Fife and Fife Council, and a kind and generous gesture such as this only serves to reinforce this.

**Community testing**

Testing sites are available across Fife for members of the public with symptoms. Anyone with the symptoms of COVID-19 should book a test at [www.nhsinform.scot](http://www.nhsinform.scot/) or call 0800 028 2816. If support is needed with the booking process, call 119. Testing for individuals without symptoms is available through our community testing sites and mobile testing units - available to the public on a drop-in basis. 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 one 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**

**Continued demand on healthcare services**

Our healthcare services continue to experience significant pressure. Our Emergency Department at the Victoria Hospital is experiencing sustained high numbers of people presenting and there continues to be a minority of people attending inappropriately – i.e. with injuries that are not considered life or limb threatening, or as part of an unnecessarily large entourage. We are continuing to use social media to encourage people to attend alone, where possible, or to restrict their party to the bare minimum, as well reminding them to use alternative routes of care if their need is not an emergency. Colleagues in Primary Care are also experiencing significant workload pressure as they work through a backlog of priority consultations. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic Fife’s medical practices have remained open, both seeing patients in person and making use of new and innovative technologies. Face-to-face appointments remain a key element of the service provided by general practice with more than 10,000 appointments carried out in this way each week in Fife. Importantly, local medical practices continue to follow current government guidance, including the necessity for enhanced infection control measures and social distancing within waiting areas, to ensure safe provision of primary medical services. We continue to use social media to encourage people to show patience and understanding in relation to General Practice and the pressures they are facing.

**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/).

**Specialist unit to move temporarily ahead of maintenance works**

Fife’s specialist neuro-rehabilitation unit will shortly be temporarily relocating to Randolph Wemyss Memorial Hospital as work begins on maintenance for the facility. The Sir George Sharp Unit, which is based at Cameron Hospital, is more than 20 years old and provides outpatient and inpatient care for those requiring neurorehabilitation. With maintenance works now required in The Sir George Sharp’s Unit in-patient ward, a temporary move to Randolph Wemyss Memorial Hospital is required. The works are intended to improve the ward and support the continued delivery of high-quality care for the people in Fife requiring neurorehabilitation. Out-patient services will continue to be delivered at the existing Unit at Cameron Hospital during the works. The space at Randolph Wemyss was chosen because it has sufficient bed capacity, space for day rooms and a gym area, and has full lift access. The planned works, which has been delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, will commence in the coming weeks, and are expected to be completed by October 2021. More information is available [here](https://www.nhsfife.org/news-updates/latest-news/2021/08/specialist-unit-to-move-temporarily-ahead-of-maintenance-works/).

**Fife elective orthopaedic centre update**

The latest newsletter update, providing the latest information on the progress of the Fife Elective Orthopaedic Centre, can be found [here](https://www.nhsfife.org/news-updates/latest-news/2021/fife-elective-orthopaedic-centre-progress-update/).

**Winter flu vaccination begins this month**

More people than ever are to be offered the free flu vaccine this winter. The local vaccination campaign will begin later this month and will run until March next year as a joint Flu Vaccine/ COVID Vaccine (FVCV) programme, in line with Scottish Government direction, building on the infrastructure already in place nationally and locally for the COVID vaccine programme and the lessons learned from the Seasonal Flu Programme locally during 2020. Consent packs are being issued to both primary and secondary school pupils to take home and we are linking in with national communications to encourage uptake.

**Hospital visiting arrangements**

Hospital visiting in Fife remains restricted to one named visitor per patient per day. This position will be kept under review and we are committed to returning to patient centred visiting as soon as it is appropriate and safe to do so for our patients, staff and visitors. Current arrangements, including guidance on visiting criteria and FAQS, can be found [here](https://www.nhsfife.org/services/patients-carers-and-visitors/visiting-arrangements-during-covid-19-pandemic/).

**Significant donation to Intensive Care Unit**

The family and friends of a late Cardenden man have made a generous donation in his memory to the Intensive Care Unit at the Victoria Hospital. Craig Abercrombie was admitted to the Victoria Hospital in November 2020 after contracting COVID-19, but sadly died several weeks later. Led by Craig’s good friend, Donald Anderson, and with the support of Craig’s family, a Kilt Walk was organised in his honour with all monies raised going to the unit that cared for him. The Kilt Walk took place on 31st July 2021 in Craig’s home village of Cardenden, with £8,260 raised. More information is available [here](https://www.nhsfife.org/news-updates/latest-news/2021/08/generous-donation-made-to-improve-the-care-of-patients-in-the-intensive-care-unit/).

## 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 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 meetings  NHS 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 am Elected 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](mailto: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 online The 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 update 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/). General COVID-19 data You 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/). Protection levels The latest guidance on protection levels can be accessed [here](https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-staying-safe-and-protecting-others/). NHS Scotland recovery plan The Scottish Government has published its recovery plan for the health service in Scotland, which details several reforms across primary and acute care in a bid to tackle the backlog caused by COVID-19. The five-year plan is available to view [here](https://www.gov.scot/publications/nhs-recovery-plan/). |

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