

**Issue 2 | 16 April 2020**

## **Introduction**

**As part of efforts to keep you informed, NHS Fife is issuing weekly update dedicated to our response to the Coronavirus pandemic. This weekly briefing is circulated to Fife’s MP’s , MSP’s and Councillors.**

##### This digital update includes information on matters including planning and resilience, operational updates, along with signposting to the latest media updates issued by NHS Fife to ensure clear, consistent and timely sharing of information.

##### Updates are also issued on our new public facing Coronavirus micro site which provides a hub of information and advice as well as our established, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram pages.

## [**https://coronavirus.nhsfife.org**](https://coronavirus.nhsfife.org/)

## **Hot Topics**

**Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

NHS Fife continues to work round the clock with partners across the public sector to ensure both patients and staff in both our acute and community hospitals remain protected and supported throughout this pandemic. Last week, NHS Fife established a new hub to distribute quantities of personal protective equipment to healthcare sites across Fife. This enables NHS Fife to provide supplies of important PPE quickly and efficiently to healthcare staff working in the Kingdom’s communities and in its hospitals

**Importance of seeking timely emergency care**

NHS Fife is experiencing a significant reduction in the number of patients presenting at our Emergency Department. We are aware that there are some seriously unwell patients that are delaying coming to hospital or dialling 999. This morning we put out a video on our social media channels stating that our Emergency Department remains open, and encouraging those who are seriously unwell to seek help as early as possible to ensure their chances of a positive outcome are as high as possible.

**Resuscitation policy**

NHS Fife’s policy on resuscitation (DNA CPR) remains unchanged despite the spread of coronavirus and there are no protocols in place preventing staff from performing resuscitation on patients with COVID-19. The care we provide is to all patients is person-centred, with any clinical decisions made based entirely on the individual and their particular circumstances.

## **Media**

**New local hub to distribute PPE**

Fife has established a new hub to distribute quantities of personal protective equipment to healthcare sites across the Kingdom. Ensuring that healthcare staff have the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) is crucial, both as a means of protecting staff and patients and in reducing the spread of the virus. Over recent weeks a significant logistical operation has been undertaken to distribute large amounts of PPE to healthcare workers the length and breadth of Fife. The latest development in this operation has seen the opening of a new PPE distribution hub at Whyteman’s Brae Hospital. This enables NHS Fife to provide supplies of important PPE quickly and efficiently to healthcare staff working in the Kingdom’s communities and in its hospitals. National guidelines were recently published setting out the specific protective equipment requirements in each clinical environment. NHS Fife is operating in accordance with these guidelines to ensure that neither staff nor patients are exposed to potential harm at any stage.

**Reinstatement of services**

NHS Fife is following national guidance on the postponement of routine outpatient appointments and elective surgery. Similarly, any decision on when such services can be reinstated is likely also to be taken nationally. While it would be premature to predict any specific timescales at present, the people of Fife should be assured that planning for the reinstatement of these services is well underway, and we are clear that we will recommence these as soon as this can be done safely.

## **Clinical updates**

**Changes to services**

The latest information around changes to services, access and visiting can be found in a new area of our new micro site (<https://coronavirus.nhsfife.org/changes-to-services/>)

**Visiting**

To limit the spread of Covid-19 and to protect our patients and staff, visiting is suspended at all hospitals in Fife. The suspension of visiting will be applied with the exception of the neonatal unit, maternity services, children’s ward, and hospices, which will be restricted to the following:

* **Maternity Services**
	+ **Antenatal** – Only expectant women are permitted for antenatal appointments and scans.
	+ **Delivery** - One birthing partner is permitted and must remain with the delivering mother at all times.
		- In cases where a woman cannot be cared for in a single room due to their clinical condition, their partner cannot remain with them. We will attempt to accommodate these women within a single room as soon as it is safe to do so, at which point a partner can attend and remain with them providing they are not showing any symptoms consistent with covid-19.
* **Neonatal/ Special Care Baby Unit**

– Only one parent is permitted to visit at any time and must remain with the child at all times.

* **Children’s Ward** – Only one parent is permitted to visit at any time and must remain with the child at all times.
* **Hospices/ End of Life Care** – Visiting arrangements are unchanged.

**Social Mitigation Work**

It is important to recognize that there are impacts on our population beyond the direct impact of the virus on the health of the population. There is concern about the ongoing impact of the pandemic on our economy and the lives of people in Fife who are unable to return to work. We are already aware of significant levels of poverty in Fife that could increase during this time. Whilst we already have significant efforts underway to ensure that people have access to food and things they need immediately, we also need to consider how we mitigate potential increases in inequality through our partnership working in Fife. This work is underway through public health and the local resilience partnership.

## **Workforce updates**

**Staff Support Hubs**

New support hubs for staff have opened across NHS Fife. The hubs provide a calm and welcoming space for staff to take time out from work during a demanding time. Staff are encouraged to use it as a quiet space with no need for interaction, however, psychology staff will be on hand to provide support, with a variety of easily accessible staff resources also available for use.

**Staff Listening Service**

A new Staff Listening Service is available to staff and provides a space for staff to confidentially reflect on their experience and consider how the current situation affects them personally and professionally voice their concerns, worries and hopes without criticism.

**Recruitment Area on Coronavirus micro site**

As part of ongoing Covid-19 resilience, NHS Fife is recruiting additional staff to complement its existing workforce. Details on how we are recruiting to these additional roles can be found on our dedicated Coronavirus micro site at [**https://coronavirus.nhsfife.org/opportunities/**](https://coronavirus.nhsfife.org/opportunities/)

**Home working**

In line with current Scottish Government advice around social distancing, and to help slow the spread of COVID-19, NHS Fife has been supporting staff who can work at home to do so. The only staff travelling for work purposes are those who cannot work from home and are involved in delivering and directly supporting front line care.

**Public Health Update**

**Population health challenge**

Whilst the Covid 19 pandemic is primarily a physical health challenge, there will also be significant challenges posed by the socio-economic effects of the virus and the subsequent local and national responses to these. The NHS Fife Public Health Department would appreciate the support of all Elected Members in re-enforcing the key messages around issues such as hand washing, respiratory hygiene, and physical distancing in communication with constituents.

## **National Guidance**

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| **Health Protection Scotland Guidance**Available at:  [www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/a-to-z-of-topics/covid-19](http://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/a-to-z-of-topics/covid-19) |
| **Information and Guidance for Non-Healthcare Settings**<https://hpspubsrepo.blob.core.windows.net/hps-website/nss/2973/documents/1_COVID-19-Guidance-for-non-healthcare-settings.pdf>  |
| **Information and guidance for social or community care residential settings** [www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/web-resources-container/covid-19-information-and-guidance-for-social-or-community-care-residential-settings/](http://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/web-resources-container/covid-19-information-and-guidance-for-social-or-community-care-residential-settings/) |
| **Ready Scotland Information**<https://www.readyscotland.org/coronavirus/> |
| **NHS Inform**[www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/coronavirus-covid-19](http://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/coronavirus-covid-19)   |
| **NHS Inform Covid-19 translated materials**NHS Inform has created a toolkit of accessible versions and translated Coronavirus information.  [Download the Coronavirus (COVID-19) communication toolkit (ZIP, 20 MB)](https://www.nhsinform.scot/media/3011/coronavirus-communication-toolkit-18032020.zip)[Download translated versions of our COVID-19 posters (ZIP, 22MB)](https://www.nhsinform.scot/media/3021/coronavirus-covid-19-posters_-7_-languages19032020.zip) |
| **Free Helpline for those who do not have symptoms**A free helpline has been set up for those who do not have symptoms but are looking for general health advice Tel: 0800 028 2816. |
| **Helpline for small businesses**A helpline providing businesses across Scotland with advice and guidance on COVID-19 is open Monday to Friday, between 8.30am to 5.30pm.Tel: 0300 303 0660. |

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