

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](#): or follow us on our social media channels -[Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#).

Local COVID-19 vaccination overview

Total doses: 518,897

Age Group	Total % received 1st dose	Total % received 2 nd dose
80 +	100%	99.7%
75-79	100%	100%
70-74	98.9%	97.6%
65-69	99.4%	97.9%
60-64	99.9%	98.1%
55-59	98.6%	96.2%
50-54	94.9%	91.8%
40-49	89.3%	82.7%
30-39	85.2%	72%
18-29	70.6%	39.9%
16-17	37.3%	7.3%

Figures correct on 25 August 2021

Drop-in vaccination clinics & Dunfermline Athletic link-up

Drop-in vaccination clinics have continued this week at locations in Dunfermline, Glenrothes, St Andrews, Oakley and Kirkcaldy. We have also announced a link-up with Dunfermline Athletic Football Club, which will see a mobile vaccination clinic deployed at East End Park stadium on Saturday to coincide with the club's Scottish Championship match with Arbroath. All confirmed clinics, including opening times and criteria, are listed [here](#).

St Andrews/Fife College student vaccinations

From Monday 30th August, NHS Fife will begin a series of drop-in vaccination clinics for students at the University of St Andrews. The clinics will take place at the Boys Brigade Hall on Kinnessburn Road and will generally run from midday until 8PM up to the 10th of September.

Elsewhere, drop-in clinics will also be available to students at Fife College at three of its main campuses next week. These clinics will take place 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](#).

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](#).

Test and protect

Test & Protect scams

We have been using social media to remind members of the public to remain vigilant over potential Test & Protect scams. A genuine contact tracer can be determined by the number that they call from, which will always be the same number - 0800 030 8012. A contact tracer will never ask for personal information or bank details. More information on contact tracing can be found [here](#).

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 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](#).

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](#) They

are also available from one of Fife's 85 pharmacies or can be picked up through our [community testing programmes](#). Further information on testing in Fife can be found [here](#).

Other news

Continued demand on healthcare services

Our healthcare services continue to experience significant pressure. Our Emergency Department at the Victoria Hospital has experienced very high numbers of people presenting over the last few days 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 have used social media to encourage people to show patience and understanding in relation to General Practice and the pressures they are facing, and we are working on a further campaign in the coming weeks.

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](#).

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](#).

New service supporting mental health of new mums

A new specialist service has been launched to support the mental health of pregnant women and those who have recently given birth. It is estimated that around 1 in every 20 pregnant women in Scotland will require mental health support. The new perinatal mental health team is a Fife-wide specialist service providing assessment and holistic treatment for women who are at-risk of developing significant mental disorder in pregnancy or the post-natal period. The team is based at Whyteman's Brae Hospital and includes specialist nurses, a consultant psychiatrist, consultant psychologist and will have close links with maternity colleagues, Vulnerable in Pregnancy (VIP) midwives, health visitors, family nurses, social work, and community mental health teams. More information is available [here](#).

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](#).

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](#).

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](#).

Winter flu vaccination

NHS Fife has received notice that more people than ever are to be offered the free flu vaccine this winter. The vaccination campaign will begin in September 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.

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](#) 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.

Keep in touch

We 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

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

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](#).

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](#).

COVID-19 statistics

Vaccine progress data update

Public Health Scotland publishes [daily statistical data](#) 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](#) 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](#).

General COVID-19 data

You can find the latest COVID-19 statistical report [here](#). The number of confirmed cases, people in hospital and ICU in Fife [here](#). 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](#). 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](#).

Going beyond level 0

Scotland is now beyond the initially laid out COVID-19 protection levels. The latest guidance can be accessed [here](#).

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