

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

Vaccination statistics

Over 200,000 people in Fife have now completed their two-dose course of COVID-19 protection, including ever increasing numbers in the final groups of the adult population yet to be vaccinated. NHS Fife continues to sit above average nationally in the number of vaccinations delivered. Over 470,000 doses have been administered in total.

Priority order	NHS Fife Status
1. Residents in a care home for older adults and their carers	Second doses provided to all care homes in Fife.
2. All those 80 years of age and over and frontline health and social care workers	Majority of second doses complete.
3. All those 75 years of age and over	Majority of second doses complete.
4. All those 70 years of age and over	Majority of second doses complete.
5. All those 65 years of age and over	Majority of second doses complete.
6. All those 60 years of age and over	Majority of second doses complete.
7. All those 55 years of age and over	Majority of second doses complete.
8. All those 50 years of age and over	Majority of second doses complete.
9. All those aged 40-49	88% first doses administered 72% of second doses complete.
10. All those aged 30-39	83% first doses administered. 29% of second doses complete.
11. All those aged 18-29	55% first doses administered. 17% of second doses complete.

Vaccination drop-in clinics

We continue to provide an increasing number of drop-in vaccination clinics for first and second doses at venues across Fife, in line with national direction. Drop-in clinics are available for everyone aged 18 or over requiring a first dose or – if eight weeks have passed - their second dose. Separate queues will be in operation for those with a scheduled appointment, more information on upcoming clinics can be found [here](#). Across mainland Scotland, the options available for how and when people choose to be inoculated are also being extended to clinics out with local health boards. People can rearrange the location of their appointment online if, for example, it is more convenient for them to be vaccinated closer to work than home. Nearest drop-in clinics across Scotland are available by visiting NHS Inform, which directs you to the latest information from health boards.

Former M&S site returns to action

Following rain damage over the weekend of the 4th of July, a decision was taken to close the vaccination site at the former M&S building on Kirkcaldy High Street. The team relocated to the Templehall Community Centre while repairs were undertaken and the venue reopened to the public on Monday the 12th of July.

Planning for pop-up clinics underway

As a means of increasing uptake of vaccination for the 18-30 age group, we are currently working to establish a series of temporary pop-up clinics. These clinics, of which arrangements will likely be confirmed in the very near future, will see temporary vaccination sites set up to various places across Fife where young people are more likely to be present. People will be able to be vaccinated without an appointment.

St Andrews student vaccinations

We have been engaging with the University of St Andrews ahead of their new semester, which will see around 10,000 students attending the institution from August, 5000 of whom will be international students. We are working with the university to formulate a programme of vaccination beginning towards the end of August, via a combination of drop-in and scheduled clinics.

Self-registration portal

The [Self Registration Portal](#) is open to all adults and will enable anyone, for example, new to Scotland or did not have an up-to-date registered home address, to come forward. For those who have previously received an appointment and could not, or decided not to, attend, the portal provides the opportunity to now take up the offer of a vaccine and ensure protection against COVID-19. Those who sign up will receive a text or email with details of their appointment which they can change if the time or location is unsuitable. If they don't have online access the national helpline is still available. They will complete the registration process and arrange for information to be sent via SMS.

Rescheduling appointments

For those who are unable to attend their assigned vaccination appointment, they can reschedule online. More information on rescheduling appointments is available [here](#).

Vaccine safety

Health boards across Scotland have been approached regarding concerns expressed about vaccines imported from India. All vaccines used in the UK have been subject to rigorous safety and quality checks, including individual batch testing and physical site inspections, by the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA).

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](#).

Test and protect

Community testing

Several 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

Ongoing challenges with capacity and flow

High rates of local COVID-19 transmission, coupled with continued elevated attendance at our Emergency Department and the impact of self-isolation requirements on our workforce, mean

that our hospital continues to experience challenges around capacity and flow. Earlier this week a decision was taken to commit a further ward area to COVID-19 admissions as there are now more than 20 patients in hospital requiring care because of the virus.

We remain committed to continuing scheduled surgery, where possible, mindful of the need to provide timely interventions for those who have previously been impacted by postponed procedures.

To help us navigate our capacity and flow challenges, and support colleagues in both primary and secondary care, we would appreciate the backing of Elected Members in sharing the key messages in the Scottish Government's new 'Right care, right place' campaign (more information below). Campaign assets can be downloaded [here](#).

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

As more restrictions are lifted, our Emergency Department continues to experience growing numbers of people attending – many of whom would likely be more effectively treated elsewhere. 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](#).

Hospital visiting restricted to one named person

Hospital visiting is currently restricted to one named visitor per patient. There are several areas which are exempt from the new visiting arrangements, where visiting is essential and will continue to be permitted. For those visiting a patient in hospital, infection control measures will remain in place, including face coverings, hand hygiene stations, restricted movement around the hospital, and a clear instruction that visits should not take place if the visitor has COVID-19 symptoms or is isolating. Current arrangements, including guidance on visiting criteria and FAQs, can be found [here](#)

Call for bank staff

As our health and care services continue to come under strain from emergency surgical and medical patient admissions, compounded with staff who are isolating, we are asking our bank staff - registrants and nursing auxiliaries - to step forward. We are appealing to staff with a bank contract to help us to continue to deliver safe, patient centred care during this challenging time. More information is available [here](#). The Nurse Bank is a list of highly skilled, experienced workers who can work flexibly and sometimes at short notice. This means that their offer of work is not guaranteed, nor do they have to accept any shifts offered by one ward or area. The benefit of this to our patient care is that we can rely on having extra staff to guarantee high standards of patient safety and care, to complement the existing workforce.

Lochgelly and Kincardine Health and Wellbeing Centres

The current Lochgelly and Kincardine Health Centres are older sites and to provide a flexible range of services, including GP's and their teams, social care, and community and voluntary services, more modern purpose-built facilities are required. NHS Fife is preparing an Outline Business Case for Scottish Government funding for two new centres in the towns. More information can be viewed in the latest newsletter [here](#).

Oxford University PRINCIPLE trial

Oxford University's PRINCIPLE trial is looking for treatments that can help people with COVID-19 to get better quickly at home and reduce the need to go into hospital. People who have been experiencing COVID-19 symptoms for 14 days or less may be eligible join the PRINCIPLE trial's volunteers in the search for new treatments. The PRINCIPLE trial is funded by UK Research and Innovation and the Department of Health and Social Care through the National Institute for Health Research as part of the UK Government's rapid response fund. More information is available [here](#).

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 enquiries 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

Board papers from previous meetings can be accessed online [here](#).

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