

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

Almost 216,000 people in Fife have now completed their two-dose course of COVID-19 protection. Over 496,000 doses have been administered in total.

Age Group	Total % received 1st dose	Total % received 2 nd dose
80 +	97.8%	94.3%
75-79	100%	98.2%
70-74	98.6%	97.2%
65-69	98.5%	96.9%
60-64	98.5%	96.5%
55-59	98.6%	95.9%
50-54	95.2%	91.8%
40-49	89.7%	81.3%
30-39	84.4%	47.6%
18-29	69.3%	20.8%

Vaccination drop-in clinics

We continue to provide drop-in COVID-19 vaccination clinics for first and second doses at venues across Fife, in line with national direction. Upcoming clinics and criteria can be found [here](#).

Vaccination of under 18s

Drop-in clinic criterion has recently been extended to include those whose 18th birthday is on or before the 31st of October this year. Those who are eligible can also sign up to register for a scheduled appointment [here](#).

Vaccination of 16 and 17-year-olds

In line with the latest guidance issued by the JCVI, all young people aged 16 and 17 years old are to be offered COVID-19 vaccination via the Pfizer vaccine. From Friday (6th August 2021), this age group will be able to register their interest via a national online portal at NHS Inform, before being sent an appointment via text message or email. Drop-in vaccination will also be available. Anyone who does not register an interest or attend a drop-in clinic will be sent an appointment through the post, with the expectation that all first doses will have been offered by the end of September.

Vaccination of other eligible 12-17-year-olds

NHS Fife has received guidance from the Chief Medical Officer to begin vaccinating newly eligible 12-17-year olds. This group, who are in the process of being appointed for vaccination beginning next week, includes:

- 12 to 15-year-olds with severe neuro-disabilities.
- 12 to 15-year-olds with Down's syndrome.
- 12 to 15-year-olds with underlying conditions resulting in immunosuppression.
- 12 to 15-year-olds with profound and multiple learning disabilities (PMLD).
- 12 to 15-year-olds with severe learning disabilities.
- 12 to 17-year-olds who have a diagnosed learning/intellectual disability (mild or moderate).
- 16-year-olds who have any of these above conditions or underlying conditions that place them at higher risk of serious COVID-19 (that were not 16 at the time of the previous invite for all 16 and 17-year-olds in March 2021).
- Young people aged 12 years and above who live in the same household of persons (adults or children) who are immunosuppressed (we previously invited over 16s who are household contacts of those on the shielding list).

There are approximately 290 people within this cohort requiring vaccination and, in line with JCVI guidance, this group will be provided with the Pfizer vaccine. We aim to complete first dose vaccination prior to the beginning of the new school term on 18th August.

St Andrews/Fife College student vaccinations

Planning is now well underway to offer vaccinations to students at the University of St Andrews ahead of their new semester. The upcoming semester will see around 10,000 people arrive in phases, with the majority making the trip to St Andrews in the first week of September. We are currently working with the University to finalise staffing and location requirements ahead of providing a combination of drop-in and scheduled clinics. In addition, we are also working with

Fife College to support their communications and encourage uptake for those eligible ahead of the start of its new term.

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

Moving beyond Level 0 restrictions

On Tuesday, the First Minister announced that COVID-19 restrictions will be further eased as we move beyond Level 0. The changes take effect from Monday 9th August and further detail can be viewed [here](#).

Changes to self-isolation rules for health and social care staff

The Scottish Government has announced changes to the self-isolation rules, which provide an exemption for health and social care staff. This is a limited change, to be applied in extreme circumstances, with staff who voluntarily agree not to self-isolate. It will allow essential staff in critical roles to return to work to maintain lifeline services and critical national infrastructure. Exemption to self-isolation will only be granted for members of staff who voluntarily agree not to self-isolate, and our duty of care to all our employees will be key. The exemption to self-isolate will last only for as long as there is an immediate risk to service continuity and strict conditions will apply:

- Staff must be double-vaccinated having received their second dose at least two weeks prior to the request.
- Staff will be required to have a negative PCR test before the return to work and to agree to undertake daily lateral flow tests.
- Staff would also be required to limit their social contact when they return home after work.

The policy would ordinarily only apply to those who are a passing close contact and not those who are a close contact of a case within their own household. A passing close contact can be described as a contact a staff member has encountered that is COVID-19 positive, but who is out-with their immediate household and who they don't have on-going exposure to.

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](#).

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](#).

Unison staffing survey

The Public Service Union, Unison, has sent out a survey to its members working in NHS Fife around current staffing levels. NHS Fife Chief Executive, Carol Potter, met with the Unison Fife Branch, along with the staff-side chairs of the Local Partnership Forums earlier this week, where a number of topics were discussed. The talks were considered positive and constructive by all parties and we look forward to reviewing the results of the survey. NHS Fife is committed to working in partnership with staff side representatives to address any matters that are raised via the survey, and to best support the wellbeing of both staff and patients.

Winter flu vaccination

NHS Fife has received notice that more people than ever are to be offered the free flu vaccine this winter. In addition to those who normally receive it, the vaccine will also be offered to:

- Secondary school pupils.
- Independent contractors, including GP, dental and optometry practices, community pharmacists, and laboratory staff working on COVID-19 testing.
- Teachers, nursery teachers and support staff in close contact with pupils (in both a local authority and independent setting.)
- The prison population, including prison officers and support staff who deliver front facing detention services.
- All those aged 50-59 years old.

The vaccination campaign will begin in September and will run until March next year and will run 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.

Liver pathways

Earlier this week, the British Liver Trust released a media statement, which stated that some parts of Scotland do not have effective ways of identifying people with liver disease. NHS Fife is currently in the process of establishing a streamlined approach to the investigation of abnormal liver function tests and will be the second Health Board in Scotland to adapt the Intelligent Liver Function Testing (iLFT) lab system, which was first developed in NHS Tayside. Patients in Fife who have liver disease or the suspicion of liver disease are seen by one of our three Hepatologists and are managed in a multi professional team of doctors, nurse specialists and dietitians.

New patient language identification leaflet

NHS Fife has produced a [handy pocket size leaflet](#) to help patients with language identification. The leaflet is used by patients to let staff know what they need to help them with any communication at appointments. It includes the top 12 languages spoken locally, as well as British Sign Language information and advice for those with a hearing impairment, or those that need communication support.

Scottish healthcare awards

With the deadline of 26 August approaching, we are continuing to encourage both the public and our staff to nominate their local healthcare heroes at the Scottish Health Awards. There are 16 categories that people can nominate NHS staff and those working for other partnership organisations. If you have someone in the areas that you represent who you believe should be celebrated for their work, please consider nominating them online. More information can be found [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

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](#).

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