

Briefing note on COVID vaccination in Fife

This briefing note has been produced by the Fife COVID Vaccination Inclusion Group, building on a webinar held 1/3/22 'Having Confident COVID vaccine conversations'. Thank you for the ongoing work you have undertaken and for your continued support. Please share with your community group/organisation. We welcome your feedback – please send to fife.nhsfifvcvpmo@nhs.scot

Vaccine effectiveness

- The vaccine is the best protection against COVID infection
- All doses significantly reduce your risk of hospitalisation or death compared to those unvaccinated
- Those who are unvaccinated are 4 times more likely to be hospitalised than those who have had a booster
- To protect yourself you need all the doses you are offered
- It is important to get your next dose when it is due and not delay, as vaccine protection reduces over time
- The vaccine is the best way to protect both mother and baby from getting severely ill with COVID infection in pregnancy

Vaccine safety

- All medicines, including vaccines, are tested to make sure they are safe to use; the vaccine would not be used by the NHS unless it was safe
- The vaccine does not cause COVID infection; the side effects you might get from the vaccine usually go away in a few days
- It is extremely rare to have a medical reason you can't get the vaccine; any concerns can be discussed with the staff at the vaccination centre
- The vaccine is safe to use in pregnancy, breastfeeding and if you are trying to get pregnant

Getting your vaccine in Fife

- Information about drop-in clinics for those aged 12 and over in Fife is available at www.nhsfife.org/dropinclinics; dates and venues are updated regularly
- You can also book an appointment at www.nhsinform.scot/vaccinebooking

Useful information sources

- NHS Fife website: <https://www.nhsfife.org/coronavirus>
- NHS Inform website: www.nhsinform.scot/covid-19-vaccine
- Alternative language leaflets/videos: www.nhsfife.org/about-us/equality-and-human-rights/accessible-information/covid-19-accessible-information/
- Resources for community organisations and workplaces: www.nhsfife.org/covidresources

COVID vaccine uptake in Fife

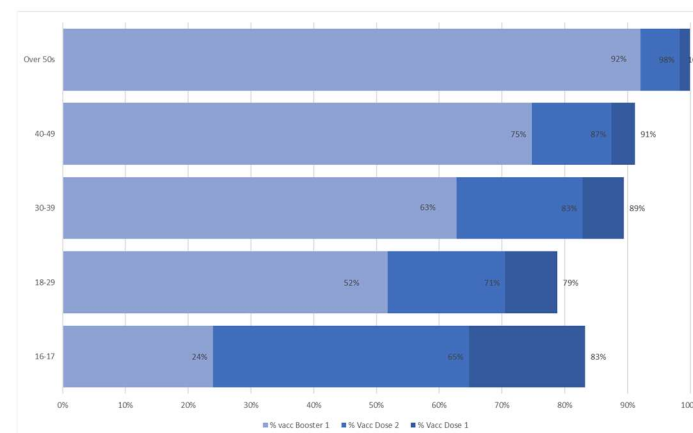
So far, the COVID vaccination programme has vaccinated over 300,000 Fife residents with a 1st dose of vaccine, over 280,000 with a 2nd dose and over 230,000 with a booster dose or 3rd dose. The population in Fife is 374,130 (NRS Mid-Year Estimate 2020).

The chart on the right shows the uptake of dose 1, dose 2 and the booster for Fife residents by age groups. It shows that there is very high uptake of all doses in the older age groups, however the booster uptake hasn't been as high in the under 50s population.

There is also evidence that uptake is lower in some ethnic minority groups, such as the Polish, African and Gypsy Traveller populations.

The table below looks at the difference between the uptake of the booster vaccine compared with the uptake of dose 2. Using the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) measure it shows that there is a bigger difference between uptake of dose 2 and the booster in the most deprived population, and this difference is larger in younger more deprived populations (shaded in red).

COVID vaccine uptake of Fife residents by age group (as at 09/05/22)



% difference between dose 2 and booster uptake by deprivation and age group (as at 08/04/22)

Age group	SIMD 1 = Most Deprived	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	SIMD 10 = Least Deprived
80+	6%	9%	6%	5%	4%	4%	4%	5%	4%	1%
75-79	3%	2%	2%	2%	0%	1%	1%	2%	0%	2%
70-74	4%	2%	2%	2%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%
65-69	3%	2%	1%	1%	0%	1%	0%	0%	2%	1%
60-64	5%	5%	3%	2%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%
55-59	10%	7%	7%	4%	4%	3%	2%	2%	1%	0%
50-54	13%	12%	10%	8%	8%	6%	5%	3%	3%	1%
40-49	21%	19%	17%	15%	14%	11%	11%	8%	7%	5%
30-39	33%	32%	28%	27%	24%	22%	18%	16%	15%	11%
18-29	40%	36%	36%	30%	28%	28%	22%	22%	18%	7%

Vaccination teams have been working to target these more deprived areas and since February 2022 have managed to reduce the difference in uptake of the booster compared with uptake of dose 2 in a number of age groups. For example, in February 2022 the difference in uptake for the 18-29 years age group was 50%, through the work of the vaccination teams the difference is now 40%.