

WELCOME FROM **Richard Flinton, Chief Executive**

I think it is safe to say we have all been through changes since I introduced the first of these bulletins at the start of the Covid-19 lockdown in March last year.

Some will have been traumatic, and we must always remember the lives lost or changed during this pandemic. Through it all, I have been humbled by the tireless, selfless efforts of the thousands of volunteers, the community groups, our own staff and those of our partners to look after those who have needed help.

I've also been impressed by the way in which our businesses have adapted and how local people have rallied to support them.

I hope that over the past 18 months these bulletins have helped in a small way, informing, advising, encouraging and celebrating the Team North Yorkshire spirit of our communities.

As we now look ahead and learn to live with Covid, we have decided to pause and review these bulletins, and we would welcome your feedback on how best to communicate in future.

In the meantime, Covid-19 remains a threat. The seven-day infection rate in North Yorkshire stands at 434 per 100,000 people, significantly above the England rate of 332.

Everyone should still take sensible precautions and consider others who are not as confident about going out into public and will be grateful to you for wearing a facemask and giving them extra space in busy places. Remember, respect and protect.

Simple actions like regular hand washing are still important to keep us safe. And, of course, our best protection is the vaccine, so if you are eligible and have not yet had both doses, please do so.

In signing off, I encourage you to get in touch with any comments about this bulletin. We are keen to know whether you have found it helpful and would like to see it return. If so, please help us to understand which aspects have been valuable and what topics you would like to see covered.

We are keen to communicate, but want to ensure we do so in an informative, relevant and timely way. Please send your feedback to media@northyorks.gov.uk marked "bulletin" in the subject line.

Thank you for taking the time to read this bulletin over the months. Stay safe, and I look forward to talking to you again in future.

Public health and social care

North Yorkshire Coronavirus Data

At 5 October 2021, there have been 62,624 positive tests since 3 March 2020 among North Yorkshire's residents. The weekly rolling average of new cases across the county is 327 cases per day, allowing for incomplete data in the most recent days. The seven-day rate for North Yorkshire is 433.9 cases per 100,000 people, higher than the England seven-day rate of 331.5. Work

continues to ensure effective monitoring of all areas, with support for incidents being provided across a range of settings, which are reviewed daily.

[Find further information on North Yorkshire data provided at county, district and local area level.](#)

Testing Update

If anyone has symptoms, they must book a PCR test. Testing sites across North Yorkshire, as elsewhere in England, are operated and managed by the Department of Health and Social Care and private contractors employed by them. We try to help the Department by promoting the testing site locations and hosting information on how people with symptoms can book a test via the national government portal.

[Find information about where you can get a PCR test on our website.](#)

Everyone is encouraged to test themselves twice a week with home testing kits and report the results to NHS Test and Trace. You can order rapid lateral flow device (LFD) tests online or collect them from participating pharmacies.

[Find out how to order or collect free LFD tests.](#)

Close contacts and isolation

Individuals are no longer required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with Covid-19, or are a close contact of someone with Covid-19, and any of the following apply:

- they are fully vaccinated
- they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months
- they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved Covid-19 vaccine trial
- they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Instead, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, and informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a [PCR test](#). Everyone is encouraged to take a PCR test if advised to do so.

Schools update

We continue to work closely with schools so that we can provide advice and support where needed. Reporting of linked cases of coronavirus within school communities (staff and students) enables resources and attention to be focused in areas of greatest need in a timely manner.

Pupils and staff are encouraged to continue to test twice weekly at home.

Close contacts will now be identified via NHS Test and Trace, and education settings will no longer be expected to undertake contact tracing.

We have taken the opportunity of the start of the school term to remind education settings to refresh the key messages, which remain vitally important in reducing the risk of Covid transmission within schools.

- Ensure good hygiene for everyone
- Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes, using standard products such as detergents
- Keep occupied spaces well ventilated
- Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of Covid-19
- Asymptomatic testing

Supporting our schools and childcare

Schools in North Yorkshire are continuing to use proportionate measures to prevent the spread of Covid-19, including increased hygiene such as regular hand washing, robust, additional cleaning regimes and ventilation in classrooms.

They also have Covid-19 risk assessments in place, which are based on Department for Education guidance and provide each school with a bespoke plan relevant to their buildings, school population, location and other factors. The plans are continually being reviewed and updated. The County Council provides support to schools in updating the risk assessment templates and advising on the plans in line with the latest Public Health and Government guidance.

The Government has not yet made a formal announcement on how long Covid testing will be extended, but for now, staff and secondary school pupils should continue to test twice weekly at home with lateral flow device (LFD) test kits, three to four days apart. The testing remains voluntary, but we strongly encourage families to continue with testing for now.

Growing our local economy

York & North Yorkshire LEP & Growth Hub Webinars

[14 Oct - Cyber risk - what's it all about?](#)

It is more important now than ever before for all businesses to understand current cyber risks in order to work safely online. Learn more about cyber security, the threats businesses face, and how to mitigate cyber risk with this webinar.

[19 Oct - Cyber security for start-up businesses](#)

For start-up businesses, cyber security doesn't need to cost much to be effective. Learn the basics of defending your business from cyber-attacks with this free webinar.

[20 Oct - Innovate UK: Innovate Local Yorkshire, Humber & the North East](#)

If you are running a business and wish to go one step further with your ideas and innovation, join this event and open the door to limitless opportunities.

Keeping in touch

[Keep up to date with Covid-19 news for North Yorkshire.](#)

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