

Good afternoon

As usual you are invited to share this bulletin with anyone, or any organisation, who may be interested in the items and links it contains. Previous copies of the bulletin are available at <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/latest-news-north-yorkshire-coronavirus-covid-19>.

Kind regards

Annabel

Cllr. Annabel Wilkinson. Swale Division. North Yorkshire

WELCOME FROM Richard Flinton, Chief Executive

Many of you, like me, will be watching very closely the rise in the number of positive tests for Covid-19 nationally. Here in North Yorkshire we continue to see regular outbreaks, which are being managed by the Test and Trace team. I am sorry to say that cases here continue to rise, too, particularly in areas including Selby, Scarborough, Whitby and Harrogate. While cases here remain lower than the national average, and are certainly nowhere near the levels seen in some other areas of Yorkshire or indeed in places such as Bolton – we must all take this very seriously to keep it that way.

As Chair of the North Yorkshire Local Resilience Forum, which is at the forefront of managing impacts from Coronavirus here, I am monitoring daily the case rates and impacts. I am speaking very regularly to our Director of Public Health and, although we absolutely hope this won't be necessary, we are making sure that appropriate plans are in place to manage further outbreaks, should they happen.

There can be no doubt we are at a pivotal moment with this virus as we approach the winter months, so I am making a direct appeal to everyone today. Please, play your part. For the sake of our parents, grandparents, the many vulnerable people trying to resume some level of freedom in the new norm – for the sake of our economy and businesses – please stick to the guidance and follow the simple precautions that we know work the best. **I am going to repeat those here, because, although they are simple, their importance cannot be underestimated.**

Wash your hands regularly for 20 seconds with soap and water or use hand sanitiser (particularly when leaving home or work and returning)

Keep a safe two-metre distance, meet outside where possible, avoid crowded places, do not meet up with anyone outside your home if you have Covid-19 symptoms

Take extra precautions if two metres isn't possible – face coverings, avoiding face-to-face contact, try to stand or sit side by side.

Wear a face covering on public transport, in shops and in indoor public spaces

If you have Covid-19 symptoms, book a test immediately and self-isolate at home: visit www.northyorks.gov.uk/TestandTrace or call 119

Like many areas, we are pushing these messages hard. We have mobile digital screens touring communities, roadside signs and a constant stream of social media messages. Please help us keep North Yorkshire safe. One more point on testing. It is being widely covered in the media that nationally there are issues with testing capacity. Again, we can all play our part by alleviating some of this pressure. The testing programme is in place currently to support people who have symptoms and people in more vulnerable settings. We do hear that some people are regularly going to be tested, who don't have symptoms, for their reassurance. While this is entirely understandable in many settings, we need to ensure we do use the testing system appropriately so that those people with symptoms can be quickly tested and the Test and Trace team can follow up positive tests to manage the spread. You can find out more on our website here: <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-and-information>

Quite apart from the potentially very serious health impacts from the virus, the economy here is equally fighting hard to try to recover from the impact of lockdown. A second wave would be hard to bear for businesses, desperate to get back on their feet. We are doing all we can to help. One of the ways is via our free Buy Local directory, which matches local businesses to customers needing their goods and services. More than 750 North Yorkshire businesses have registered – if you have a business or know anyone who has, and they are Covid-secure, then please encourage them to make the most of this opportunity to join the growing number of business reaping the benefits of this free promotion. The latest case studies can be found here, including The Buck Inn at Thornton Watlass and Proper Pizzas of East Cowton: <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/news/article/countys-local-business-directory-hits-750-sign-ups>

We are also continuing to pursue devolution for North Yorkshire and York. I have said many times that the very significant sums of money and powers of local decision making that come with devolution would be a game-changer here. To be eligible, we are continuing to work on our proposal for a single, strong and sustainable council to service all of North Yorkshire. The abolition of the current two-tier system of districts and county councils are a requirement for devolution. As we develop our plan we are listening carefully to very many groups, sectors, partners and individuals. This morning we hosted a webinar with the community and voluntary sector and tomorrow we host one for business. If you have a business, please join us for a discussion about how this approach may benefit you. Businesses can learn more here: <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/news/article/chance-businesses-hear-plans-countys-future>

and sign up to join us here: <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/local-government-reorganisation-and-devolution-north-yorkshire-webinar-smes>

Everything is different now, isn't it? Thousands of pupils are getting used to new ways of being back at school and no doubt also enjoying face-to-face learning again. School is essential, not just for their future prospects but for their wellbeing and mental health. Vast amounts of planning have been undertaken by schools to ensure they are safe and we continue to support them. We are also grateful to you as parents for supporting the need to get children back learning – thank you.

So there is a great deal going on. It continues to be a relentless year – testing us all in many ways. Don't give up. We will get through this – I really mean that. Let's show everyone just what North

Yorkshire can do when everyone sticks together – Team North Yorkshire is strong and resilient!
Please stay safe.

Keeping in touch

NYCC's website has a dedicated area for all the latest COVID-19 related news. Visit:
<https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-and-information>

Follow us on social media: @northyorkscc on Facebook and Twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram.

UPDATE FROM Dr Lincoln Sargeant, Director of Public Health

There has been an increase in cases of Covid-19 across the UK over the last week, particularly among young adults. North Yorkshire has seen a similar rise, although the number of cases in the county remains lower than in neighbouring areas such as Middlesbrough and Leeds, who have recently been added to the Public Health England watch list.

Case numbers have increased in all North Yorkshire districts, but most particularly in Selby district, Harrogate district and Scarborough district (mostly around Whitby). The week from 1st to 7th September saw 129 new cases in North Yorkshire, including 28 in Harrogate district, 31 in Scarborough district and 36 in Selby district. The majority of recent infections appear to be among younger people under 30 years old. Most of the cases are spread within households and close social groups, although we are aware of a number of small outbreaks related to workplaces and the hospitality sector.

A crucial step in controlling the spread of the virus is for people to limit unnecessary interactions with others. Avoid socialising outside of your social bubbles. In going about daily activities remember to wash your hands frequently, observe social distancing guidance and wear face coverings where it is not possible to maintain 2m social distance. Social gatherings both indoors and outdoors should be limited to a **maximum of 6 people**.

Guidance for businesses

We have produced guidance for workplaces, communal accommodation, hospitality, leisure and tourism settings that covers both preventing COVID and also what actions to take and who to inform should any possible or confirmed cases be identified. For more information, please visit:
<https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/covid-19-prevention-and-outbreak-support-settings>.

Testing

Demand for testing has increased nationally in recent weeks. To manage the increase in demand, capacity at sites across the country has been adjusted. In North Yorkshire we continue to offer the same number of mobile testing sites during the week, although the number of bookable slots may be reduced. Slots will be open for booking from around 8pm the evening before for morning slots and 8am for afternoon slots.

Eligibility for testing has not changed – people who have COVID symptoms (one or more of a new continuous cough, fever or loss/change in sense of taste/smell) and key workers are encouraged to book tests through the national system. In North Yorkshire we have also continue to have access to locally-directed swabs we can use to support the investigation of outbreaks where needed, including in care homes and workplaces.

What happens if you have a positive test:

You must self-isolate for 10 days and members of your household must self-isolate for 14 days from when you started having symptoms. Self-isolation means remaining at home and not going outside for any reason.

You will be contacted by NHS test and Trace who will send you a text or email alert or call you with instructions of how to share details of people with you whom you have had close recent contact and places you have visited. You will be told this online via a secure website or you will be called by a contact tracer.

You will be sent a link to the NHS Test and Trace website and asked to create a confidential account where you can record details about recent close contacts. If you do not have internet access or if you don't complete the online process, a contact tracer will phone you to gather this information.

When NHS Test and Trace contact people to advise them to self-isolate, they will not be told your identity.

Close contact means:

- having face-to-face contact with someone less than one metre away, including when you wore a face covering;
- spending more than 15 minutes within two metres of someone
- travelling in a car or other small vehicle or close to someone on a plane.

If you need support while self-isolating and have no other support available, you should call the County Council's customer services on 01609 780780.

Working together towards recovery

Testing

As part of the national testing programme for coronavirus, drive-through Mobile Testing Units, run by the Department for Health and Social care, will be operating in the following locations over the coming days between 11am and 3pm:

- **Thursday 10 September** - Whitby - Whitby Park and Ride, Whitby, YO21 1TL
- **Thursday 10 September** - Richmond - Round Howe Car Park, Reeth Road, Richmond, DL10 4T
- **Friday 11 September** - Northallerton - Newby Wiske Hall, Northallerton, North Yorkshire, DL7 9HA
- **Friday 11 September** – Harrogate - Harrogate Old Education Offices, Ainsty Road, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, HG1 4AP

- **Saturday 12 September** – Selby – South Entrance, Drax Power Station, New Road, Selby, YO8 8PH
- **Sunday 13 September** – Scarborough – Scarborough Park & Ride, Seamer Road, Scarborough YO12 4LW
- **Monday 14 September** - Skipton - Coach St car park, Skipton, North Yorkshire, BD23 1LH
- **Monday 14 September** – Northallerton - Newby Wiske Hall, Northallerton, North Yorkshire, DL7 9HA
- **Tuesday 15 September** - Thornton Le Dale - National Trust Car Park, No.5. Chestnut Avenue, Pickering, YO18 7RR
- **Tuesday 15 September** – Harrogate - Dragon Road Car Park, Dragon Road, Harrogate, HG1 5DB
- **Wednesday 16 September** - Scarborough - Scarborough Park & Ride, Seamer Road, Scarborough YO12 4LW

Before you attend you must book a test. Tests can be booked from 8pm the night before.

Watch this video to find out what to expect and how to prepare for the test:

<https://youtu.be/QawyKwllfKQ>

See the latest dates and locations, find out more and how to book at

www.northyorks.gov.uk/testing

Supporting our schools and childcare

Schools have reopened to all year groups in North Yorkshire this week, with early indications showing pupils seem to be adapting well to the new routines.

Each teaching establishment has its own arrangements in place to limit interactions between pupils to their own teaching bubbles, as well as other hygiene measures. These have been based on a risk assessment template developed by the County Council in conjunction with headteachers and the unions.

Mill Hill Primary School in Northallerton was one of those schools which reopened yesterday. Headteacher Rebecca Bainbridge said: “The children have all been excited to get back and parents seem to be reassured by our systems and routines. The children have all enjoyed seeing each other and sharing news and the teachers have been pleased to get back to a routine.

“Our week is starting with having a good look at where all of the children are, so that we can ensure that everyone catches up to where they need to be.”

Teaching staff at schools in North Yorkshire are now assessing where pupils are in their learning and then planning the most appropriate catch-up education. For children and young people with any anxieties or mental health issues, extra support will be in place.

North Yorkshire County Council received a Government grant of £126,000 for Wellbeing for Education Return, to better equip schools and colleges to promote children and young people’s wellbeing, resilience and recovery in response to Covid-19.

As well as strengthening and building wellbeing and resilience, the grant aims to prevent the onset of mental health problems and ensures those with pre-existing or emerging difficulties access the right support.

Schools will receive training through the funding and local authorities can use the funding to appoint local experts to adapt the training for a local area, as well as provide ongoing advice and support until March 2021.

We would like to thank parents, headteachers, staff and governors for their hard work over the past few weeks in making sure their schools are as safe as possible ahead of the start of the new term.

Teamwork to support our residents

Organisations helping communities recover by supporting the most vulnerable and those facing hardship as a result of the coronavirus pandemic in North Yorkshire will receive extra funding to boost their efforts. The funding comes after the Government, through Defra's Local Authorities Emergency Assistance Grant for Food and Essential Supplies, provided £63m to be distributed to local authorities across the country to help those who are struggling to afford food and essentials following the Covid-19 crisis.

The County Council has been allocated £530,000 from this fund to aid food providers, hardship payments, and benefits advice and support.

Twenty-four community organisations across the county, including food banks, hot meal delivery, community kitchens and community fridges, have been granted extra money to help people and families get food and hot meals, totalling around £175,000.

Many of these organisations have worked tirelessly to support the community throughout lockdown and beyond, from delivering prescriptions and food to simply being a friendly face.

Michelle Hayes is the director of Resurrected Bites in Harrogate, one of the organisations that will receive a grant. Michelle said: "We are anticipating that demand is going to grow as the furlough scheme winds down leading to more people being made redundant and facing food poverty whilst waiting for their Universal Credit payments to start.

"This money will enable us to continue to provide a high-quality service to those most in need and continue to provide free food packages to people who are struggling to access food from themselves."

£80,000 has been granted to Citizens Advice Bureau North Yorkshire for increased support and financial advice, with the capacity to increase hours on their cross-county phone line. Funding has also been made available for people on low incomes through the provision of additional hardship payments from the North Yorkshire Local Resilience Fund, offering even more vital support for those people in our communities who have been hit hard by Covid-19.

These services, working alongside our 23 community support organisations, have already been providing invaluable support to thousands of people and families since the start of the pandemic in March and this will enable them to go even further.

Help is still there in every community where it's needed. People who need support with shopping, prescriptions and other essentials but don't have anyone to call on, or anyone concerned about the

welfare of someone else, can contact North Yorkshire County Council's customer service centre on 01609 780780. The centre is open seven days a week 8am to 5.30pm.

People can also find details of local voluntary and community groups offering support at www.northyorkshireconnect.org.uk

For more information go to www.northyorks.gov.uk/help-you-during-coronavirus-covid-19

Growing our local economy

LEP News: 'Bounce-back' trade plan announced to help boost retail exports

This plan for the consumer and retail industry outlines new measures to boost exports and increase British retail firms' readiness to sell overseas. It includes the creation of a Consumer and Retail Export Academy to help businesses export, via digital learning.

E-commerce will be at the heart of the plans, with measures tailored to help consumer and retail businesses develop international, multi-channel, e-commerce strategies fit for the changed retail environment. For more information, read [here](#)

National Apprenticeship Awards 2020 are now open for entries!

The National Apprenticeship Awards are an opportunity to showcase the apprentices, employers and champions who have gone above and beyond this past year.

Entries to the digital awards are open until 25 September 2020. It is free to enter the awards, and all entries must be made through the application website: appawards.co.uk

Free Apprenticeships Webinar for Employers this week

The Government Apprenticeship service is running an expert-led apprenticeship service webinar on Thursday 10 September 2020.

In the webinar, employers will find out:

- what the incentive payments are
- how and when they'll get paid
- how to apply using the apprenticeship service, including a step-by-step walkthrough

Click [here](#) to sign up.

Kickstart jobs scheme: The new Kickstart scheme in Great Britain is a £2 billion fund to create hundreds of thousands of high-quality six-month work placements aimed at those aged 16 to 24 who are on Universal Credit and are deemed to be at risk of long-term unemployment.

Funding available for each job will cover 100% of the relevant National Minimum Wage for 25 hours a week, plus the associated employer National Insurance contributions and employer minimum automatic enrolment contributions.

To help smaller businesses, employers offering fewer than 30 placements will be asked to make a bid through an intermediary, such as a local authority or chamber of commerce, which will then bid for 30 or more placements as a combined bid from several businesses.

Find out more here: <http://bit.ly/kickstart-jobs>

Businesses invited to give their views on local government reorganisation.

Events are being hosted by NYCC and the District and Borough councils to enable businesses to understand more about proposed local government changes.

North Yorkshire County Council Proposal:

- Thursday 10th September 1-2pm: [Single council and devolution in North Yorkshire: NYCC webinar for SMEs](#)

District & Borough Council Proposals:

- Wednesday 16th September 4-5pm: [Get change right for business 3](#)

York & North Yorkshire LEP and Growth Hub remain impartial to all proposals.

Register for the LEP annual conference

Registration for the York & North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership Annual Conference 2020 is now open.

The conference will focus on a Greener, Fairer, Stronger vision for economic recovery in the region and how we can work together to achieve this.

Hosted online, the programme will include speakers, webinars, Q&As and a marketplace full of inspiring content.

To access the conference website, attendees must register in advance here:

<https://ynylepannualconference2020.register-me.uk/>

Stay informed

- GOVERNMENT: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus/business-support>
 - Y&NY LEP: <https://www.businessinspiredgrowth.com/covid-19/>
 - Y&NY GROWTH HUB: <https://www.ynygrowthhub.com/how-we-can-help/coronavirus/>
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