

WELCOME FROM **Richard Flinton, Chief Executive**

The coronavirus picture in North Yorkshire is stark.

The average number of Covid-19 cases is 570 per 100,000 people, the highest seen in the county, a significant rise on last week and above the England average of 520.

But in true Team North Yorkshire spirit, the message we hear time and again reflects our call for everyone to respect and protect themselves and others by continuing to wear face coverings where appropriate, understanding that some people still appreciate social distancing and sticking to regular hand sanitising and washing.

Remember that this virus can affect all age groups and is felt across our communities.

Today we heard from Eva Hanchard, head girl at Thirsk School and Sixth Form College, which had to close this week because of isolating staff and pupils. Eva herself is recovering from Covid.

She spoke about the impact on school life, from the loneliness and isolation of remote learning to the cancellation of social and fundraising events.

Her advice to young people applies to us all: "Just because we're allowed to do what we want doesn't mean we should, because it's impossible to know who around you could have Covid. Your actions could affect a lot of people, even if you don't realise. It's important we keep up with mask wearing. It's such an easy thing to do."

Many businesses are retaining Covid measures. Carolyn Frank of the Federation of Small Businesses told us of the challenges businesses face, including debt, staff recruitment and rising costs, and how they need our support.

"There are a lot of challenges for business owners, so if they ask you to wear a mask or follow a one-way system, please respect them and help businesses to get through this," she said.

David Moss, of the Wensleydale Heifer at West Witton, has kept measures in place. He surveyed 2,000 customers and found that while people were confident about going out they were wary of lifting safety measures.

"We are finding that the majority of guests are still wearing masks, still sanitising their hands," said David. "We think at the moment it would be silly to do anything different to what we have been doing, which has kept staff and customers safe."

Let's all keep taking the basic precautions, and get both doses of the vaccine as soon as you're eligible. Let's respect and protect each other.

Public health and social care

North Yorkshire Coronavirus Data

At 18 July 2021, there have been 39,553 positive tests since 3 March 2020, with 3,241 new cases reported in the past week. The weekly rolling average of new cases is 349 cases per day, allowing for incomplete data in the most recent days. The seven-day rate for North Yorkshire is 569.9 cases per 100,000 people, higher than the England seven-day rate of 520.4. 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.](#)

It remains vitally important that we continue with the key messages:

- Get your first and second dose of the jab
- Continue to think about the vulnerability of loved ones.
- Outdoors is always safer than indoors.
- Keep getting tested regularly, even without symptoms.
- Continue to follow social distancing where possible, when out with friends and family, including work places, pubs, restaurants etc.
- Hands. Face. Space. Fresh Air.

Working together towards recovery

Teamwork to support our residents

Some people are more at risk of becoming seriously ill from coronavirus than others, so we're encouraging all North Yorkshire residents to continue being careful and considerate and to respect and protect each other. Thank you for sticking to the basics of hands, face, space and fresh air. You're part of the Team North Yorkshire effort keeping our communities safe.

Government advice for people who are clinically extremely vulnerable is to continue taking extra precautions to protect themselves, such as meeting friends and family outside, using online deliveries for shopping or going at quieter times of the day.

[Read the full guidance.](#)

Lots of residents are nervous about going shopping or being around lots of people, and are still being supported by friends and family or in some cases volunteers.

For the last 17 months, we've been working alongside our partners with 23 community support organisations and the voluntary sector to provide a safety net of support during the pandemic. Thousands of volunteers have helped with shopping, collecting medication, walking pets, taking people to medical appointments and being there for a friendly chat.

If you need help with things like shopping, collecting medication or other essentials while you're self-isolating, please contact family, friends, neighbours or groups you belong to and let them know how they can support you. If you don't have anyone to lean on, you can contact our customer service centre on 01609 780780 seven days a week from 8am to 5:30pm.

Remember, if you're contacted directly by NHS test and trace via phone or email, you legally have to self-isolate for the full 10-day period. If you get 'pinged' by the NHS test and trace app, you are strongly encouraged to self-isolate and the app helps you with the length of time you should isolate for.

[Find information about the help available, including self-isolation support payments.](#)

Supporting our schools and childcare

The majority of schools in North Yorkshire are now on their last week of term. It has been a challenging year for parents, pupils and staff and we would like to thank everyone for their tremendous contribution and hard work.

Many schools in the county have continued with their existing bubble systems for the remaining days of term. The Government recently issued new guidance, meaning school bubbles are no longer required and school assemblies can resume and children and young people can mix again at breaktimes and lunchtimes. This system will be in place in schools in the county from the start of the autumn term in September.

Face coverings will also no longer be mandatory in classrooms, communal areas in schools, or on school transport.

But school risk assessments will remain a legal requirement and appropriate safety measures are expected to remain in place in schools. This includes measures around hygiene, such as regular hand washing, good ventilation in classrooms and cleaning regimes in school buildings. The Government has also asked that schools retain their capacity for remote learning over the next academic year for self-isolating pupils.

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Over the summer there will be a range of holiday club activities across the county, where children can learn new skills, stay active, healthy and socially connected. The holiday clubs have been funded by the Department for Education's Holiday Activities and Food

Programme and are available to all families, with free admission to children in receipt of benefits-related free school meals. Every club will offer a hot meal or packed lunch each day.

The County Council has commissioned North Yorkshire Together, a partnership between Rural Arts, North Yorkshire Sport and North Yorkshire Youth to run the programme in the county, under the banner of FEAST North Yorkshire. [Find more information about FEAST.](#)

We would like to wish our school communities a well-earned break over summer.

Growing our local economy

LEP News: Getting York on track to attract new rail HQ

We are working with partners locally and in Government to make the case for bringing the Great British Railways headquarters to York.

[Read Kevin Hollinrake MP in the Yorkshire Post on what makes York the perfect place.](#)

Kickstart Scheme Success Stories

The Kickstart Scheme has been a boost to the morale and productivity of young people and businesses. Open to businesses of all sizes and sectors, the government-funded scheme opens up six-month placements for 16-24-year-olds, allowing them to gain valuable work experience, and allowing businesses to receive the support they need in unprecedented times.

Here are just a few of many [York and North Yorkshire success stories that have come out of the Kickstart Scheme](#).

Keeping in touch

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

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