

WELCOME FROM **Richard Flinton, Chief Executive**

We've seen so much kindness across North Yorkshire during this pandemic. That has been uplifting – though not surprising from North Yorkshire folk. So I know it's not too much to ask for a little more. As we know, a little kindness goes a long way.

We're launching a campaign, Respect & Protect, calling for that kindness to ease us through the next phase of the pandemic during autumn and winter. Covid-19 is still with us. North Yorkshire's infection rate is 270 people per 100,000, higher than the England average of 264.



So as we go about our daily lives, some people will need reassurance that they are as safe as can be, they are supported and their choices – for example, to wear a face covering or maintain distance – are respected. That's reassurance we can all give, at no cost to ourselves.

Simple steps we can take include:

- Accept that some people want to carry on with social distancing.
- Help people find their feet by looking out for neighbours and friends.
- Suggest meeting outdoors in a quiet place for people who feel anxious.
- Help people to go at their own pace and to seek support if they are lonely.
- Get both doses of the vaccine, continue to test regularly and isolate if necessary.

Businesses, many having a tough time themselves, are giving customers confidence through safety measures, so please respect their efforts when deciding about facemasks and distancing.

Emma Simmons, owner of Salon 54 in Thirsk, tells us: "Most of our clients have been happy to respect other people in the salon. A lot of people who walk in without a mask see us wearing masks and other clients wearing masks and automatically put their mask on." The salon uses alternate workstations, to give clients space, and limits appointments. "It has had an impact on business, but I feel for us and our clients that's the best way at the moment," says Emma.

It's important to support the businesses that support us. Lucy Currie, who runs Evolve NCA gym in Northallerton, says: "Lots of us, including me, became a little reliant on major online retailers. If we can get people back onto the high street and show that we are being respectful of each other and are trying to protect each other, we can support local businesses."

[Read more about Respect & Protect.](#)

Public health and social care

North Yorkshire Coronavirus Data

At 19 September 2021, there have been 56,708 positive tests since 3 March 2020, with 1,599 new cases reported in the past week. The weekly rolling average of new cases is 228 cases per day, allowing for incomplete data in the most recent days. 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

Working together towards recovery

Teamwork to support our residents

People previously considered to be clinically extremely vulnerable and at higher risk of being hospitalised as a result of Covid-19 will not be advised to shield again, after the Government announced last week that the shielding programme is ending following expert clinical advice. The closure of the shielding programme follows a pause to shielding guidance in April this year.

Since July, the guidance for people who were previously considered to be clinically extremely vulnerable has been to follow the same advice as everyone else, but with the suggestion of additional precautions such as avoiding crowded spaces.

The Government will write to people on the shielded patient list to let them know about the changes. They will also continue to assess the risks posed by Covid-19 and respond accordingly to keep people safe based on clinical advice.

Shielding was introduced in March 2020 to protect those most at risk of severe illness from Covid-19. In North Yorkshire, we made sure the thousands of people on the shielded patient list got the help they needed and continue to support people to regain their confidence.

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

Anyone who needs help with things like shopping, collecting medication or other essentials because they are self-isolating and don't have family, friends or neighbours to lean on can still contact our customer service centre on 01609 780780 seven days a week 8am-5:30pm.

[Find information about the help available.](#)

Supporting our schools and childcare

We are working closely with school leaders and Public Health to provide a range of support for schools in dealing with issues relating to the ongoing management of Covid in schools and the offer of vaccinations for 12 to 15-year-olds.

On Monday of this week, Public Health's immunisation team held a webinar for education leaders to talk through the vaccination process and the part schools will play in it.

The offer of vaccinations for 12 to 15-year-olds is Government policy and an NHS programme and schools are required by the Government to provide a site for the vaccinations and to distribute information and consent forms about the programme.

Parental consent is required for any pupil to receive the vaccination. If a parent or carer consents to their child having the vaccination, the response will be sent electronically to the immunisation team and the immunisation team will not vaccinate anyone where there are differences in view from parents or young people.

National guidance around the follow-up arrangements which may offer different opportunities in this scenario is expected, but parents are assured that in the first round of Covid-19 vaccinations for 12 to 15-year-olds, parental consent will be necessary for the vaccination to go ahead.

We are reminding parents, via communication from schools, that any objections to the programme should be made appropriately through the correct channels. While we recognise people have the right to express their views in a peaceful way, any behaviour which impacts on children's feelings of safety in school, disrupts their education or involves threats to school staff will not be tolerated and will be a matter for the police.

North Yorkshire County Council has shared a designated email address for school leaders where they can find advice or guidance on protests and are working closely with educational settings and North Yorkshire Police to make sure the response to any protest is proportionate.

Growing our local economy

LEP News: New LEP website and Festival of Engagement launch

Bring your voice to a greener, fairer and stronger future – join York & North Yorkshire LEP at one or more of our many events across our [Festival of Engagement](#), which runs until January.

Save the date for the LEP Annual Conference – 26 November, 10am to noon. More information and booking details to follow. Find out more by visiting our newly refreshed website at ynylep.com

New email addresses

Along with our new website address ynylep.com, the email addresses for the York & North Yorkshire LEP team will be [forename.surname]@ynylep.com

General enquiries can be sent to enquiries@ynylep.com

As well as this change, the Growth Hub team's email addresses will now be [forename.surname]@ynygrowthhub.com

General business support enquiries can be sent to support@ynygrowthhub.com

Don't worry, we'll also receive emails on our previous addresses for the time being.

Keeping in touch

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

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