

WELCOME FROM **Richard Flinton, Chief Executive**

To paraphrase one of sport's most enduring quotes... don't think it's all over.

That applies to tonight's semi-final between England and Denmark in the European Football Championships, of course, but also to how we might continue to approach the Covid-19 pandemic.

In the tournament so far, we've seen Gareth Southgate's England play with care, control, confidence and, perhaps most of all, teamwork to progress to this stage.

If you'll allow me to stretch the metaphor, these are qualities we can use in our daily lives to protect ourselves, families, friends and neighbours and tackle the spread of coronavirus.

The average number of cases in North Yorkshire is 259 per 100,000 people, slightly above the England average of 258. As we await a Government decision next week on whether the data supports a move to Step 4 of the road map from 19 July, let's remember that Covid-19 has not gone away, so the precautions we have taken up till now remain important.

We do need to live with Covid. That will take time and we will all feel differently about it. Some may be confident, others worried, and we need to find a careful balance.

We can have confidence in the impact of the vaccination and the protection it gives, but need to be careful about how we work together in the next phase of the pandemic.

There will be many views, and people need to do what feels right for them while being mindful of loved ones and other people.

Face coverings, along with hand washing, meeting outdoors where possible and keeping places well ventilated, remain important tools to combat the spread of the virus, certainly until everyone is able to benefit from the same level of protection from the vaccine.

A final word on vaccination, and if you'll indulge another football reference, it's a game of two doses... It's vital that everyone eligible gets the vaccine and that everyone gets both jabs. That will give you and those around you the greatest protection.

I hope that wordplay is more excruciating than anything England fans see on the pitch in tonight's game. Please enjoy the football, do so safely, and let's continue to look after ourselves and each other.

Public health and social care

North Yorkshire Coronavirus Data

At 4 July 2021, there have been 33,819 positive tests since 3 March 2020, with 1,514 new cases reported in the past week. The weekly rolling average of new cases is 216 cases per day, allowing for incomplete data in the most recent days. The seven-day rate for North Yorkshire is 258.6 cases per 100,000 people, higher than the England seven-day rate of 257.9. 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 when out with friends and family, including work places, pubs, restaurants etc.
- Hands. Face. Space. Fresh Air.

Supporting our schools and childcare

Following the Government announcement this week, from July 19 the school bubble system will no longer be required, meaning schools assemblies can resume and children and young people can again mix at breaktimes and lunchtimes.

Most schools in North Yorkshire will not have begun their summer break by this date, but we have been told that schools can retain their existing bubble system until the end of term, if they wish.

The Government also announced that pupils, staff and visitors to schools will no longer have to wear face coverings after July 19 while in school classrooms or communal areas, or on school transport.

However, school risk assessments still 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, appropriate cleaning regimes in school buildings, good ventilation in classrooms and to follow public health advice on testing. Schools will also have outbreak management plans and can reinstate face masks and the bubble system for short periods in the event of an outbreak.

The Government announcement also specified that schools need to retain the capacity to provide remote education, which will cover the next academic year as well, in the event that there are large numbers of pupils self-isolating.

We currently have seven schools and early years settings closed in North Yorkshire.

Closures are not always due to confirmed cases in schools; some are due to operational reasons, where staff may be isolating while they wait for test results, or while a member of their family awaits results for suspected covid. We are confident schools are doing their best to keep closures to a minimum.

Throughout the past months, schools have managed to keep the balance between managing risks associated with covid and maintaining the focus on children's education. We feel very strongly that staff, governors and pupils have all gone the extra mile in their different ways to make this year a success and ensure the least disruption to children's education and we would like to thank them for their work.

Growing our local economy

LEP News: Peer Networks programme: Learn, share and grow

There has never been a more important time to invest in the future of your business. The Peer Networks programme allows you to do this by working with people who know business best – other business leaders.

Our professional facilitators will support you and your small cohort of fellow business leaders as you work together on important challenges, and the topics to be discussed, and come up with tangible solutions in a collaborative, non-competitive environment.

Interested? Find out more [here](#).

The Resource Efficient Business Programme

The Resource Efficient Business Programme (REBiz) offers advice and financial support to SMEs in York, Harrogate, Craven and Selby that are looking to reduce their energy usage, save water and cut waste. It can also help businesses in adopting circular business models, products and services.

The programme can provide eligible businesses hands on consultancy support to identify energy, waste, and water saving projects via fully funded resource efficiency audits. There is 40% capital support available for qualifying projects, up to a maximum total project value of £100,000. Examples of projects that can be supported with grant funding include: LED lighting, more efficient heating, compressor upgrades, insulation improvements, and variable speed drives.

[Find out more about the circular economy.](#)

Keeping in touch

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

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