

## WELCOME FROM **Richard Flinton, Chief Executive**

As we continue the national week of mourning following the death of Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh, it feels right to put on record our thanks to a man who leaves a remarkable legacy of public service, not only within his role in the Royal Family but also in the Royal Navy during the Second World War.

Prince Philip was a leading member of that remarkable generation who fought for our freedoms, built our NHS and, sadly, who in the last year, have been most impacted by Covid-19.

I wanted to take this opportunity to reflect on some of the things that Prince Philip felt very strongly about during his life and which are really important as we help each other through the current pandemic, too: the power of volunteering and the importance of fresh air and exercise.

That spirit of volunteering and helping others, alongside outdoor exploration and appreciation, are at the heart of The Duke of Edinburgh Awards, which have enriched the lives of many young people here in North Yorkshire, as they have elsewhere. We remain extremely grateful for the many ways Prince Philip has touched our lives through his dedication to public service.

This week has been a critical one in the Government's road map out of the pandemic. On Monday, we saw the easing of some restrictions allowing the reopening of outdoor hospitality, more shops, gyms, hairdressers and beauty therapy businesses and so on. As a result, our communities and high streets have blossomed in the spring sunshine. It is heart-warming and so welcome to see communities becoming more lively and vibrant again – there is a sense of relief and excitement that we have managed to get to this point. It's an achievement you should all be extremely proud of. Your collective efforts over an extended and most challenging period of time have delivered us some of those freedoms we have missed. We can now enjoy the company of others in more outdoors places and shop safely in our high streets. Every day sees more progress in the steps towards recovery and we must continue to nurture this delicate balance. The virus has not gone, but you have played your part in suppressing it. So, to everyone who has stuck to the rules, taken up the offer of a vaccination and supported their local businesses during the three lockdowns – North Yorkshire thanks you and your selfless team spirit.

Our Covid-19 transmission rates in North Yorkshire are, overall, below the England average and the lowest we have seen for six months. However, they remain higher than we saw here last summer and, as I write, surge testing is under way in areas of south London where the South African variant of the virus has been found.

So, to keep us on the right path, next week we will launch a campaign across North Yorkshire called Unlock Summer. We hope you will support this as an individual, a business, a school, organisation or community. Because by following the messages, which come straight from our Director of Public Health, that is exactly what we hope to do together – Unlock Summer. By working together to unlock the next steps we will help avoid a third wave of coronavirus and keep those hard-earned freedoms. So please look out for the Unlock Summer messages in our high streets and retail centres, listen out for the radio adverts, which are voiced by local people from across North Yorkshire, help to share the posts across your social media feeds. Most of all, please

stick to the hands, face, space and let fresh air in rules. I have absolute confidence in our Team North Yorkshire strength and focus to see this through together.

Along with those simple actions we can all continue to take, testing and vaccination continue to be at the heart of the route out of the pandemic and I am pleased to say vaccination take-up remains good here. More than 247,000 people in the county have had a first dose and 57,000 have received a second one. But, if you are one of the 35,000 people who have been offered a dose and not taken it for whatever reason, please do get advice and support from our NHS colleagues. They are clear they do not want anyone left behind and they are there waiting to understand how they can help you get that all-important vaccine. Meanwhile, the second phase is now also under way here – with people in their late forties being contacted and we saw the first use of the Moderna vaccine in the county yesterday. This is a programme to be proud of and we applaud our NHS colleagues and the many volunteers here, making it such a resounding success.

There is a great deal of information here on local testing availability, too, so please do take a look and find out how to access tests if you have symptoms and also how to get the free lateral flow tests now available to everyone without symptoms to help support the return to normality <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19-testing>

We all probably know by now that the virus finds it much harder to spread outdoors, particularly when we keep a safe space from others, and in many ways the lockdowns have helped us to reconnect to our communities and where we live. We understand that being able to enjoy all forms of exercise are important, so that's why we are currently asking you to help us work with partners across the county to see how we can support you to become or stay active. I would really welcome your thoughts on the consultation, which you can learn more about here <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/news/article/groups-urged-speak-ways-be-more-active>

Finally, there are just a few days left to take part in the Government's consultation on how local services should be delivered in York and North Yorkshire in the future. Please don't miss the chance to have your say.

Two proposals are being consulted on. North Yorkshire County Council has proposed a single unitary council on the footprint of the existing North Yorkshire boundary, which would operate alongside the City of York as a separate unitary council. This proposal has been supported by the City of York Council.

There is also an alternative model put forward by six of the seven district councils within North Yorkshire for an east/west option, which would divide North Yorkshire and York into two; with York forming part of the East side of the two new unitary authorities. Both proposals are available to view on this link, which will also take you to the consultation if you would like to take part before it closes on April 19. <https://consult.communities.gov.uk/governance-reform-and-democracy/northyorkshire>

## Keeping in touch

NYCC's website has a dedicated area for all the latest news, see link below:

- Covid-19 related news: <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-and-information>

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

## Public health and social care

## North Yorkshire Coronavirus Data

At 10 April 2021, there have been 29,394 positive tests since 3 March 2020, with 294 new cases reported in the past two weeks. The weekly rolling average of new cases is 23 cases per day, allowing for incomplete data in the most recent days. The seven-day rate for North Yorkshire is 20.2 cases per 100,000 people, which remains below the England seven-day rate. Work continues to ensure effective monitoring of all areas, with support for incidents being provided across a range of settings, which are reviewed daily.

Further information on North Yorkshire data provided at county, district and local area level can be found here: <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/coronavirus-data>.

## Coronavirus vaccination update and Frequently Asked Questions.

People aged 45 or over in England are now invited to get a Covid jab, to join the 32 million others in having a vaccine. Those booking appointments need to have two doses and the NHS asks individuals to book both appointments at the same time, with the second occurring 11 to 12 weeks after the first dose. You can book your appointments here: [Book a coronavirus vaccination - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk). Despite an expected dip in vaccine supply in April, the government says the country is still on track to offer a first dose to all adults by the end of July, with a third vaccine, Moderna, currently being rolled out in the UK.

### Why will under-30s be offered an alternative to the AstraZeneca vaccine?

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) says the benefit still far outweighs any risk for the vast majority of adults, despite reports of the extremely rare adverse events of blood clots and low platelet counts following vaccination with the first dose of the AstraZeneca. However, the government has stated it will follow the updated advice, which sets out that, as a precaution, it is preferable for people under the age of 30 with no underlying health conditions to be offered an alternative vaccine where possible, once they are eligible.

### Will the vaccine protect me?

The COVID-19 vaccination will reduce the chance of you suffering from COVID-19. It may take a week or two for your body to build up some protection from the first dose of vaccine. The vaccine has been shown to be effective and no safety concerns were seen in studies of more than 20,000 people. Like all medicines, no vaccine is completely effective – some people may still get COVID-19 despite having a vaccination, but it should be less severe.

### What are the side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine?

Like all medicines, COVID-19 vaccines can cause side effects. Most of these are mild and short-term, and not everyone gets them. Common side effects include a painful arm, feeling tired, headache, general aches and mild flu-like symptoms. However, these symptoms are normal and are a sign that your body is building immunity. These symptoms normally last less than a week. Further details can be found [here](#).

### Do the COVID-19 vaccines contain any animal products?

The MHRA has confirmed that the COVID vaccines do not contain any components of animal origin, including pork, gelatine and eggs.

### What if I have allergies, should I get the vaccine?

The COVID vaccines do not contain any common allergens like eggs, shellfish or penicillin. However, a small number of people have had an allergic reaction to the Pfizer vaccine (11 cases per million doses). As a result, people with a history of severe allergies resulting in anaphylaxis should talk to their doctor or vaccination team who may advise you to have the AstraZeneca

vaccine, and/or you may be vaccinated in a special facility that can look after you should you suffer a reaction.

### **If I've already had COVID-19 do I still need to have the vaccine?**

Yes! If you have a confirmed case of COVID-19 you should wait at least four weeks after you had symptoms (or four weeks since your positive test if you didn't have any symptoms) and until you have recovered from your COVID-19 infection, before having the vaccine.

### **I've had the flu vaccine, why do I need the COVID-19 vaccine?**

The flu vaccine does not protect you from COVID-19. If you are eligible for both vaccines, you should have them both.

### **After I've had the vaccine will I still need to follow all of the infection prevention and control advice?**

Yes! No vaccine is 100% effective, and it will take a few weeks for your body to build up protection. While the approved vaccines provide protection to a vaccinated person from becoming seriously ill from COVID-19, we do not yet know if they prevent someone from passing on the virus to others. To continue to protect yourself, your family, friends and colleagues you should follow the general advice at work, at home and when you are out and about:

- practise social distancing
- wear a face mask
- wash your hands carefully and frequently
- follow the [current guidance](#)

## **Working together towards recovery**

### **Testing**

Everyone can now get coronavirus tests:

- if you have symptoms you must self-isolate and book a test for people with symptoms
- if you do not have symptoms you are encouraged to get tests to carry out at home twice a week

### **Tests for people with symptoms**

Testing sites in 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 mobile testing site locations and hosting information on how people with symptoms can book a test via the national government portal. We do not manage the national booking system or laboratory testing process.

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

Permanent sites are open **every day** for testing between 8am and 1:30pm:

- **Harrogate** – Dragon Road Car Park, Dragon Road, Harrogate, HG1 5DB
- **Scarborough** – William Street Car Park, Scarborough. YO12 7PL
- **Northallerton** – The Forum, Bullamore Road, Northallerton, DL6 1LP
- **Selby** – Portholme Crescent Car Park, Selby, YO8 4YR
- **Skipton** – Cavendish Street Car Park, Skipton, BD23 1RP

The new permanent sites at Malton and Catterick are open 8am to 8pm **every day**, currently for administering tests only.

- **Malton** – Wentworth Street Car Park, Wentworth Street, Malton, YO17 7JR
- **Catterick** – Ypres Lines, Richmond Road, Catterick Garrison, DL9 3JF

Mobile sites are open for testing from 9am to 3pm on the following days:

- **Thursday 15 April – Leyburn** - Harmby Road, Car Park, Leyburn, DL8 5EE
- **Thursday 15 April – Easingwold** - Easingwold Town AFC, Stillington Road, Easingwold, York, YO61 3DZ
- **Friday 16 April – Sherburn in Elmet** - Pasture Way Carpark, Sherburn in Elmet, LS25 6LY
- **Friday 16 April – Stokesley** - Stokesley Sports Club, Broughton Road, Stokesley, Middlesbrough, TS9 5JG
- **Friday 16 April – Richmond** - Round Howe Car Park, Reeth Road, Richmond, DL10 4TL
- **Saturday 17 April – Selby** - South Entrance, DRAX Power Station, New Road, Selby, YO8 8PH
- **Saturday 17 April – Thornton Le Dale** - North York Moors National Park Authority car park, No.5. Chestnut Avenue, Thornton Le Dale, Pickering, YO18 7RR
- **Saturday 17 April – Filey** - Filey Country park, Church Cliff Drive, Filey, YO14 9ET
- **Sunday 18 April – Richmond** - Round Howe Car Park, Reeth Road, Richmond, DL10 4TL
- **Sunday 18 April – Thirsk** - Millgate Car Park, Marage Road, Thirsk, YO7 1PE

### Tests for people who do not have symptoms

If you do not have symptoms, you can get tests to use at home in several ways:

- online at [www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests](https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests)
- through your employer if they're registered for workplace testing
- at participating pharmacies, you can find local ones at <https://maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/>
- collecting them from one of the sites below

Testing kits can be collected **every day** between 2:30pm and 8pm from the following permanent testing sites:

- **Harrogate** – Dragon Road Car Park, Dragon Road, Harrogate, HG1 5DB
- **Scarborough** – William Street Car Park, Scarborough. YO12 7PL
- **Northallerton** – The Forum, Bullamore Road, Northallerton, DL6 1LP
- **Selby** – Portholme Crescent Car Park, Selby, YO8 4YR
- **Skipton** – Cavendish Street Car Park, Skipton, BD23 1RP

Testing kits can also be collected between 9am and 3pm from our mobile distribution unit, which will be at the following locations in the coming days:

- **Thursday 15 April – Settle** - Greenfoot Car Park, Settle, BD24 9RW
- **Friday 16 April – Thornton Le Dale** - North York Moors National Park Authority car park, No.5. Chestnut Avenue, Thornton Le Dale, Pickering, YO18 7RR
- **Saturday 17 April – Richmond** - Round Howe Car Park, Reeth Road, Richmond, DL10 4TL
- **Sunday 18 April – Filey** - Filey Country park, Church Cliff Drive, Filey, YO14 9ET

Find more information and the latest dates and locations at [www.northyorks.gov.uk/testing](https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/testing)

**Supporting our schools and childcare**

We are continuing with our extensive engagement on the future of outdoor learning in North Yorkshire, which will take into account the views of schools, teachers, young people, members of the public and other organisations.

The pandemic has had a significant financial impact on the County Council's two residential sites at Bewerley Park in Nidderdale and East Barnby near Whitby, which has resulted in the service losing the majority of its £2.25m annual income since March 2020, when the Government issued guidance to close outdoor activity centres. The closure has resulted in the service losing nearly £1m over the last financial year, 2020 to 2021.

The buildings on the two estates, which were built as temporary structures many decades ago, are also in need of considerable investment.

The review will determine what North Yorkshire's outdoor learning service should look like in the future, what services and facilities people think the service should provide for the county's young people, when and how.

The County Council is currently engaging with individuals and organisations with an interest in outdoor learning services, including young people and other North Yorkshire residents who contacted the council after the review was announced to share their opinions, along with existing outdoor learning staff and other stakeholders.

A user group is being set up, along with a project board.

A questionnaire is also being sent to all schools in North Yorkshire, include primary, secondary, special schools and Pupil Referral Services to establish if and how they use the Outdoor Learning Service, any barriers to providing outdoor learning and how important it is for different Key Stage groups, child development and the curriculum.

Secondary and college students are continuing to test at home twice a week during term time and we anticipate continuing with the high take-up of tests which we experienced in schools prior to Easter.

The Department for Education will be reviewing the current arrangements for the use of voluntary face coverings in schools and other arrangements in place for schools at the May half-term.

## Teamwork to support our residents

Volunteers have come forward in their thousands to help those in need across the county since the start of the pandemic. Yet some organisations have existed thanks to people getting involved in their own communities for many decades.

One area where people have happily been giving their time is community transport, with Boroughbridge Community Care (BCC) helping people to get out and about, access services and see friends and family since 1974.

In normal times, BCC would take people on days out to the coast and other places of interest. However, when lockdown came into force, all day trips came to an abrupt halt.

The team evaluated what they could do to continue offering transport to medical appointments. Karen Parker, general manager at the charity said: "We installed screens around drivers and gave them full PPE, including face shields, masks and hand sanitiser."

When Covid vaccinations began, the organisation linked up with Church Lane doctor's surgery to ensure those who were offered vaccinations were also able to get there.

Karen said: “Normally we have 100-plus volunteers, but when lockdown came, all volunteers over 70 were stood down.

“It brought in a much younger demographic and I think we will retain a lot of those. They are finding it really rewarding.”

Nic Holmes, from Upper Dunsforth, has been a volunteer for six years and a trustee for four.

Nic said: “In normal times I’ve taken the minibus to Lindisfarne, Whitby, Skegness, Holy Island. These day trips are usually for the elderly with no other form of transport. Most of the enjoyment seems to be sitting on the bus with their mates.”

Clive Wilson, 89, lives in Kirby Hill near Boroughbridge. A former volunteer driver himself, he knows first-hand the value of the service the charity provides.

Clive said: “I go to York Hospital for treatment for macular degeneration and they literally take me from front door to front door. It is a superb service and we are so lucky to have it in Boroughbridge.”

Maggie Fink, 86, used to go on the various day trips BCC offered.

She said the service allows her to maintain her independence: “I’ve had several appointments during lockdown. They pick me up, wait for me until the appointment is finished and take me home again. I think they are very special.”

North Yorkshire residents without local support networks who need help with shopping and other essentials, or anyone concerned about the welfare of someone else, can contact North Yorkshire County Council’s customer service centre on 01609 780780 seven days a week 8am to 5.30pm. People can also complete an online form to let us know what help they need at [www.northyorks.gov.uk/covidhelp](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/covidhelp).

## Growing our local economy

### **Buy Local: Support local businesses as they re-open**

As lockdown eases, Buy Local is building on its role as a great way for businesses serving North Yorkshire to reach new customers.

Some of the businesses registered on the site who re-opened this week spoke to us about how they have adapted during the last year, and their hopes for the future. Alex Smith, owner of The Treatment Rooms in Harrogate, Sam Spence, owner of Crafts of Thirsk, and Karen Mortimer of Sandside Café in Sandsend told us their stories. Read more and listen here: [County’s Buy Local site marks first year as more businesses reopen | News | North Yorkshire County Council](#)

Search and shop on [www.northyorks.gov.uk/buylocal](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/buylocal) and tell your friends to do the same! If you know anyone that owns a business, please encourage them to register – anyone can set up a profile, no matter what line of business they are in.

Please like and share our campaign to support businesses on @northyorksc.

### **LEP News: Intelligence Update**

The latest intelligence update is now available with contributions by representatives from county and district councils, businesses organisations (such as the Chamber, FSB & CBI), key high street organisations (i.e. local BIDs) and DIT.

The report shares business sentiments around lockdown easing, COVID passports and government support:

<https://www.businessinspiredgrowth.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/YNYS-COVID19-intel-report-08.04.21.docx>

### **Labour Market Analysis 2021**

We are delighted to announce today the publication of the [York and North Yorkshire Labour Market Analysis – LMA 2021](#).

This analysis builds on the first LMA we produced in 2019. It is informed by the most recent data available on education, training and employment and also considers the current and likely impact of Covid-19 on the demand for and supply of skills.

This analysis explores our regional strengths and the challenges we face alongside recommendations to support us in meeting our ambitions as set out in our post COVID-19 recovery vision – [“Greener, Fairer, Stronger”](#) and our [Skills Strategy 2021-2026](#).

You can access the [Executive Summary](#) here and the [full report](#) here.

### **What businesses need to know about COVID restrictions easing**

We have summarised what businesses need to know about COVID restrictions easing in a new blog post on the Growth Hub website: <https://www.ynygrowthhub.com/blog/news/5-things-businesses-need-to-know-about-further-easing-of-covid-restrictions-on-monday-12-april/>

Please share on Twitter here: <https://twitter.com/YNYGrowthHub/status/1380439340459962369>

Or LinkedIn here: <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:6786203904011997184>

### **Watch again – supporting the return to work webinar**

With an increasing number of businesses reopening, you may be looking at how best to support your employees' wellbeing as they return to the workplace. [This webinar from the University of York aims to help managers with practical tools and support staff through change](#), and is available to watch on demand via our website.

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