

WELCOME FROM **Richard Flinton, Chief Executive**

We're entering a new phase in how we deal with the Covid-19 pandemic. The virus is still with us, so as we reach step 4 on the Government's roadmap on Monday we each need to consider our approach to living with Covid in the coming weeks and months.

We'll be appealing to that great Team North Yorkshire spirit that we have witnessed so clearly and in so many ways over the past 16 months to keep the county strong and resolute in its efforts to stop the spread of this illness.

The number of cases is rising. North Yorkshire's average is 355 per 100,000 people, a little above the England average of 345. We are seeing more than 300 new cases in the county each day, the highest rate since 12 January. More than 80 Covid patients are in the main hospitals that serve the county, compared with 400-plus in January, but that number has doubled in five days.

Those numbers alone tell us that we need to continue to act responsibly.

I can sum up our approach in two words: respect and protect. We can show respect for and offer protection to ourselves and those around us by continuing to do the simple things.

Please continue to wear your face covering in crowded spaces outdoors or indoors.

Businesses and shops need to do all they can to protect their staff, as well as customers. They don't want to have to close because staff are self-isolating, so wearing a facemask not only protects you, it protects other people and supports local business.

Likewise with social distancing, some people may not feel as confident as you, so giving them space is important. Regular hand washing and sticking to well-ventilated places remains important, too.

Above all else, it is crucial that you have your vaccination. Get your first jab as soon as you're able – and make sure you get your second jab, too. That continues to be our best line of defence.

As the vaccination programme moves to younger people, our NHS colleagues are seeing greater use of walk-in and pop-up clinics. These take place across North Yorkshire and require no booking – just drop in.

[Find a walk-in clinic near you.](#)

We've come a long way and we're making progress through the vaccine. There's a way to go, but we've shown we can do this together. Stay strong, stay safe, and let's stop the spread.

Public health and social care

North Yorkshire Coronavirus Data

At 12 July 2021, there have been 36,405 positive tests since 3 March 2020, with 2,084 new cases reported in the past week. The weekly rolling average of new cases is 298 cases per day, allowing

for incomplete data in the most recent days. The seven-day rate for North Yorkshire is 354.7 cases per 100,000 people, higher than the England seven-day rate of 345.1. 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

It has been a difficult year, but school communities have managed to overcome the many challenges brought about by the pandemic. As this is the last week of term, we would like to wish school staff, governors, parents and children a really happy summer and thank them for pulling together to make sure the academic year passed with the least disruption possible.

Over the summer, a diverse holiday club programme is being rolled out across the county. Organisations will be providing a mixture of activities that help children to stay active, healthy and socially connected which will give them an opportunity to develop new skills and try new experiences.

The activities are available to all families and are free to those who receive benefits-related free school meals and will include a hot meal or packed lunch each day. Activities on offer include summer sports camps, sessions on growing and cooking vegetables, music, libraries activities, art, dance and drama sessions.

There will also be activities for families of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), which will include day trips to North Yorkshire venues and attractions.

Funding for the scheme has come from the Department for Education's Holiday Activities and Food Programme. 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.

There is also food voucher help available for families in North Yorkshire who are likely to struggle with the additional cost of food and other essentials over the summer holidays.

The Covid Local Support Grant provides food voucher payments to parents and carers in receipt of free school meals, or other families impacted financially by the pandemic.

The Department for Work and Pensions has awarded the County Council grant funding of £1,350,900, which we have allocated to schools and academies and early years providers. Care leavers will also be eligible for food vouchers.

The vouchers amount to £75 to cover the length of the summer holiday.

Growing our local economy

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.](#)

BioYorkshire Survey

How would you like to see agritech and biotech SMEs and entrepreneurs supported in Yorkshire? Help BioYorkshire (a ten-year plan to cement the Yorkshire region as the UK's centre of innovation and commercialisation in the bio-economy) map the opportunities, challenges and useful interventions by taking part in a [short five-minute survey](#). Participants will go into a draw to win a bio-based goody bag.

Keeping in touch

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

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