

WELCOME FROM **Richard Flinton, Chief Executive**

We're on a journey, one leading us towards living with Covid. We have to accept that the virus is still with us and will be for some time. We must adapt to living as well and as normally as we can in these circumstances.

In doing so, we must not lose sight of the qualities that have brought us this far through the pandemic: respect, consideration and kindness.

I know a large majority of people continue to wear face coverings where appropriate and respect others' desire for distance.

But we heard this week from a couple of businesses doing all they can to succeed in this new climate while keeping customers and staff safe, and some of what they had to say was uncomfortable.

Jessica Barker runs The Thief Hall, a wedding venue at Thornton-le-Moor. Since the easing of restrictions, she has a packed diary of weddings and has tripled her staff, from three to nine, to enable them to work in teams, with testing and time between each of their weddings to minimise the risk of infection to themselves and wedding guests.

As a precaution, Jessica asks all guests to provide a negative lateral flow test before attending. While all the couples she deals with have understood that a safe wedding for them means a safe wedding for the next couple, some guests have reacted angrily, refusing to take a test and swearing at Jessica and her staff.

Andrew Newton, owner of Twiggy's indoor play in Thirsk, tells a similar story. While the vast majority of customers understand the simple safety measures in place, he says a small minority react aggressively, turning on staff with abusive tirades.

This is not who we are in North Yorkshire, and certainly not who we need to be if we are to live well with Covid and see our communities and businesses flourish.

Respect, consideration and kindness take little effort and benefit us all. Those are three words to take into this bank holiday weekend, when residents and visitors will be enjoying the many attractions our beautiful county offers.

Please recognise that people are at different stages of the journey towards living with covid and may appreciate those around them taking simple hygiene and face covering precautions and giving them a little more space.

And if you find your destination crowded, perhaps look for somewhere quieter. Not only will that reduce the infection risk, you might have a better time, too. Please enjoy the best possible bank holiday, in the safest possible way.

## Public health and social care

### North Yorkshire Coronavirus Data

At 22 August 2021, there have been 48,722 positive tests since 3 March 2020, with 1,701 new cases reported in the past week. The weekly rolling average of new cases is 243 cases per day, allowing for incomplete data in the most recent days. The seven-day rate for North Yorkshire is 306.4 cases per 100,000 people, lower than the England seven-day rate of 326.6. 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

### Suicide Prevention webinar: Thursday 9 September – 1pm to 2pm

To mark World Suicide Prevention Day, which takes place on Friday 10 September, the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Adults Board (NYSAB), North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (NYSCP) and North Yorkshire Community Safety Partnership will host a webinar on suicide prevention on Thursday 9 September.

**This webinar is for professionals only.** However, it will be recorded and once reviewed, will be shared on the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Adults Board website.

[Book a place on the webinar.](#)

## **Root out racism**

North Yorkshire County Council is backing an anti-racism movement launched in West Yorkshire and Harrogate earlier this week.

The movement has been co-created by more than 100 ethnic minority colleagues from the West Yorkshire and Harrogate Health and Care Partnership (WY&H HCP), to challenge racism across all aspects of society.

This follows our own countywide commitment to diversity, inclusion and equality for all, made by county councillors at their most recent meeting.

Read more here [North Yorkshire gives backing to anti-racism movement | News | North Yorkshire County Council](#)

## **Supporting our schools and childcare**

Under updated guidelines from the Department for Education and Public Health England, there will no longer be a need for bubbles or classes to self-isolate, unless they have tested positive for Covid-19. As a result, we are expecting to see much less disruption to children's time in the classroom when the majority of schools return on September 7.

Schools will still have plans in place to manage an outbreak if necessary and will continue with updated health and safety assessments to make sure students and staff are as safe as possible. This should see hygiene measures such as increased hand washing and cleaning continue in school. But the bubble system and use of face masks will no longer be needed in day-to-day teaching. Staff and students of secondary school age will complete at least one coronavirus test before their return to school to reduce the risk of transmission.

Our education services are reviewing all Department for Education and Public Health guidance as it is updated to make sure our schools are fully supported as they plan for the new term.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school in September, hopefully rested and refreshed after the summer break.

## **Growing our local economy**

### **LEP News: New programme of business support webinars launched by the Growth Hub**

The [York & North Yorkshire Growth Hub](#) has launched a new programme of free business support webinars starting in September and running until March 2022. New events will be added to the website regularly. However, the following events in September are available to book now:

#### **7 September – Is starting a business right for you?**

Thinking of starting a business but not sure if now is the right time or whether you have a viable idea? Want to get an understanding of what it takes to run your own enterprise?

This webinar with start-up experts Blue Orchid aims to answer your questions, help you think about where to start and understand some of the nuts and bolts of getting started. [You can find out more and book your place here](#)

#### **15 September – Engaging and supporting a hybrid team**

As hybrid working becomes the new normal for many of us, it can be a challenge to effectively support and motivate your team.

This webinar with Michelle Mook, founder of employee engagement and people development support specialists Pro-Development, will identify strategies to help you engage your team, communicate effectively, and promote productivity when working remotely. [You can find out more and book your place here](#)

## Keeping in touch

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

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