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| Date: 16 December 2020 |



More than any other time, Christmas is when we make that extra special effort to look out for each other, to be with and remember family and friends, and make sure those who are lonely or isolated are given support. I am so proud that in North Yorkshire we have been making this extra special effort throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. We must now redouble these endeavours. Although infection rates have been coming down in North Yorkshire they are beginning to rise again, alarmingly so, in some parts of the UK, so we have to remain vigilant and act with safety in mind.

More than anything, after the hardships of the last few months, we are longing to be with family and friends to enjoy the celebration of Christmas together. But we also know that Covid-19 has no respect for Christmas and thrives best with household mixing. Although the four devolved governments of the UK have decided today to stick with the relaxation of lockdown regulations and allow mixing between three households over Christmas between 23 and 27 December, the best gift we can give our families and friends is to be cautious, kind and careful and to do everything we can to keep each other Covid-safe. Thanks to all our hard work, infections rates have been coming down consistently in North Yorkshire, but we must remember they are still four or five times higher than they were in August, that people are still dying from it in our hospitals and there is some evidence in some areas that the pace of the reduction is slowing. So just because we can mix with three households over Christmas, does not necessarily mean we should. Now more than ever the actions and efforts of every one of us to take responsibility to keep each other safe is critical if we are to avoid a third wave in January and many more deaths.

This week in North Yorkshire we have seen the first roll-out of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine in four locations across the county led by our colleagues in the NHS, with those over 80 and in care homes and care home staff being prioritised. Another site has gone live today and six sites will come on stream next week. This is great news for all of us across the county, but this is a logistically complex operation to get up and running. People need two doses of the Pfizer vaccine, so all the people being vaccinated at the moment will be called back again in three weeks’ time for their second dose. So people must be patient and maintain their vigilance about being Covid-safe in the meantime.

A big development will come when we manage to get the Oxford vaccine, which is much more useable, can be taken to more places and administered at greater speed and at that point the whole vaccination programme will really accelerate. Until then we must do everything we can to keep Covid infection rates down as our scientific experts warn us that another surge will only serve to hamper the vital vaccination programme.

There is light at the end of the tunnel, but with a difficult few months to come first, we must brace ourselves. We will get through it together. We have achieved so much to support our communities these last few months and we must hang on to that strong performance.

So this is my opportunity to say keep going with all your efforts and, above all, to say a big thank you for everything you have done so far. This week we launch our big Thank You message to Team North Yorkshire. As Christmas approaches, this is our chance to take some time to show our appreciation to all those right across the county who have gone the extra mile to support our communities through this historically challenging period. These heroes range from key workers in the care sector to our thousands of volunteers working through our Community Support Organisations to look out for neighbours, the vulnerable and isolated and collecting medication and shopping, to our partners in the NHS, police, fire and the military, to our teachers who have kept our children educated.

A few statistics illustrate the achievement. We have distributed four million pieces of PPE to 67 sites around the county; we have issued one million facemasks and 10,000 litres of hand sanitiser; We have given advice and guidance to 77,000 people, who have contacted the county council, and have helped to facilitate 80,000 hours of volunteer support with 22,000 shopping deliveries for those in need and 22,000 befriending calls. You have all been amazing and I am so proud of my county and what you have achieved. Thank you.

Finally, I want to wish you a peaceful and happy time over the coming Christmas period but, above all, a safe time.

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

* COVID-19 related news: <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-and-information>
* Devolution/Stronger Together: <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/stronger-together>

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





**North Yorkshire Coronavirus Data**

At 13 December, there have been 14,562 positive tests since 3 March, with 1,203 new cases reported in the past two weeks. Over the past week, the average number of new cases is approximately 79 per day. 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>.

**Change in Self-Isolation Guidance**

On 14 December, the isolation period for people who have tested positive for COVID-19 and their close contacts changed from 14 to 10 days. Anyone with COVID-19 symptoms or a positive test result must stay at home for the full isolation period. This is because they could pass it on to others, even if they don’t have symptoms.

Your isolation period includes the day your symptoms started (or the day your test was taken if you do not have symptoms), and the next 10 full days. This means that if, for example, your symptoms started at any time on the 15th of the month (or if you did not have symptoms but your first positive COVID-19 test was taken on the 15th), your isolation period ends at 23:59 hours on the 25th. You must complete your full isolation period. Your isolation period starts immediately from when your symptoms started, or, if you do not have any symptoms, from when your first test was taken.

You can return to your normal routine and stop self-isolating after 10 full days if your symptoms have gone, or if the only symptoms you have are a cough or anosmia, which can last for several weeks. If you still have a high temperature after 10 days or are otherwise unwell, stay at home and seek medical advice.

If you are isolating because of a positive test result, but did not have any symptoms, and you develop COVID-19 symptoms within your isolation period, start a new 10-day isolation period from the day your symptoms began. Most people with COVID-19 will experience a mild illness. Seek prompt medical attention if your illness or the illness of someone in your household is worsening.

While you are isolating, stay as far away from other members of your household as possible, especially if they are clinically extremely vulnerable. Wherever possible, avoid using shared spaces such as kitchens and other living areas while others are present and take your meals back to your room to eat. Wear a face covering or a surgical mask when spending time in shared areas inside your home.

As a reminder, the most important symptoms of COVID-19 are recent onset of any of the following:

* a new continuous cough
* a high temperature
* a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

**Staff and exposed patients or residents in health and social care settings**

Staff who have tested positive for COVID-19 in the community or at work should self-isolate for at least 10 days after illness onset. If, however, they have been admitted to hospital they should be isolated in hospital (or continue to self-isolate on discharge) for 14 days from their first positive test result. For the same reasons, the 14-day isolation rule also applies to other (non-staff) COVID-19 cases admitted to hospital.

Asymptomatic staff (i.e. usually not hospitalised) who have tested positive for COVID-19 should self-isolate for 10 days following their first positive test.

Residents who are known to have been exposed to a confirmed COVID-19 patient (an exposure similar to a household setting), should be isolated or cohorted only with residents who do not have COVID-19 symptoms but also have been exposed to COVID-19 residents, until 14 days after last exposure.

**If you are a close contact of someone with COVID-19**

A contact is a person who has been close to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 with a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test. You can be a contact anytime from two days before the person who tested positive developed their symptoms, and up to 10 days after, as this is when they can pass the infection on to others. A contact can be:

* anyone who lives in the same household as someone with COVID-19 symptoms or who has tested positive for COVID-19
* anyone who has had any of the following types of contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 with a PCR test:
* face-to-face contact, including being coughed on or having a face-to-face conversation within one metre
* skin-to-skin physical contact for any length of time
* been within one metre for one minute or longer without face-to-face contact
* sexual contacts
* been within two metres of someone for more than 15 minutes (either as a one-off contact, or added up together over one day)
* travelled in the same vehicle or a plane

If you are a contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 you will be notified by the NHS Test and Trace service via text message, email or phone and should follow this guidance closely.

If you are a close contact, you must stay at home and self-isolate. Do not go to work, school, or public areas and do not use public transport or taxis. Your isolation period includes the day the first person in your household’s symptoms started (or the day their test was taken if they did not have symptoms) and the next 10 full days. This means that if, for example, your 10-day isolation period starts on the 15th of the month, your isolation period ends at 23:59 hours on the 25th and then you can return to your normal routine.

If you do not have symptoms of COVID-19 yourself, you do not need a test. Only arrange a test if you develop COVID-19 symptoms or if you are asked to do so as part of a wider testing scheme. If for any reason you have a negative test result during your 10-day isolation period, you must continue to self-isolate. Even if you don’t have symptoms, you could still pass the infection on to others. Stay at home for the full 10 days to avoid putting others at risk.

If you develop symptoms while you are isolating, arrange to have a COVID-19 PCR test. If your test result is positive, follow the advice for people with COVID-19 to stay at home and start a further full 10-day isolation period. This begins when your symptoms started, regardless of where you are in your original 10-day isolation period. This means that your total isolation period will be longer than 10 days.

If you are identified as a contact and asked to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace, including by the NHS COVID-19 app, you may be entitled to a payment of £500 from your local authority under the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme.

Failure to comply with self-isolation may result in a fine, starting from £1,000. Parents or guardians are legally responsible for ensuring that anyone under 18 self-isolates if they test positive for COVID-19 and are contacted by NHS Test and Trace and told to self-isolate.

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.**

Indications are that lab testing capacity is improving but, if you are unable to book a test at a local site straight away, please keep checking as availability varies during the day.

We are also supporting the Department in asking the public only to get a test if they are directed to do so by NHS Test and Trace or other NHS services OR if they have symptoms, to ensure that those people who need tests the most can be prioritised.

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

Testing sites operated and managed by the Department of Health and Social Care will be running at the following locations over the coming days between 11am and 3pm:

* **Every day - Harrogate -**Dragon Road Car Park, Dragon Road, Harrogate, HG1 5DB
* **Every day - Scarborough -**William Street Car Park, Scarborough. YO12 7PL
* **Every day - Northallerton –**The Forum, Bullamore Road, Northallerton, DL6 1LP
* **Every day - Selby –**Portholme car park, Crescent Carpark, Selby, YO8 4QH
* **Every day - Skipton -**Cavendish Street Car Park, Skipton, BD23 1RP
* **Thursday 17 December - Whitby** - Whitby Marina Car Park, Langbourne Road, Whitby, YO21 1YW
* **Thursday 17 December - Malton -** Wentworth Street Car Park, Smithson Ct, Malton, YO17 7BQ
* **Thursday 17 December - Catterick -**Catterick Race Course, Catterick Bridge, Richmondshire, North Yorkshire, DL10 7PE
* **Friday 18 December - Sherburn in Elmet**- Pasture Way Carpark, Sherburn in Elmet, LS25 6LY
* **Friday 18 December - Thornton Le Dale** - National Trust Car Park, No.5. Chestnut Avenue, Thornton Le Dale, Pickering, YO18 7RR
* **Friday 18 December - Easingwold -** Easingwold Town AFC, Stillington Rd, Easingwold, York, YO61 3DZ
* **Saturday 19 December - Selby** - South Entrance, DRAX Power Station, New Road, Selby, YO8 8PH
* **Saturday 19 December - Settle -**Greenfoot Car Park, Settle, BD24 9RW
* **Saturday 19 December - Filey -** Filey Country Park, Church Cliff Drive, Filey, YO14 9ET
* **Sunday 20 December - Scarborough** **-** Scarborough Park and Ride, Seamer Road, Scarborough, YO12 4LW
* **Sunday 20 December - Richmond** - Round Howe car park, Reeth Road, Richmond, DL10 4T
* **Sunday 20 December - Thirsk -**Millgate Car Park, Marage Road, Thirsk, YO7 1PE
* **Sunday 20 December - Thornton Le Dale** - National Trust Car Park, No.5. Chestnut Avenue, Thornton Le Dale, Pickering, YO18 7RR

Watch this video to find out what to expect and how to prepare for the test: <https://youtu.be/QawyKwIIfKQ>

See the latest dates and locations, find out more and how to book at [www.northyorks.gov.uk/testing](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/testing)



The vast majority of our schools will be closing for the Christmas break on Friday this week.

The Government recently announced that schools could add an inset day to the end of term, allowing some to close on the slightly earlier date of Thursday, December 17.

None of our schools in North Yorkshire have closed for the Christmas holiday prior to these dates, due to the importance of keeping children and young people in education. By doing so, we are avoiding any detrimental impact on pupils’ wellbeing and social development and making sure they don’t miss out on opportunities later in life.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our school staff who have worked so hard to get children back to school this September and the work they have done on risk assessments, putting covid-secure measures in place and ensuring schools are safe places to be.

It has been a difficult year with very few opportunities for rests or breaks for staff and we hope they all get the rest they deserve over Christmas.



North Yorkshire residents are being reassured that help is available throughout the Christmas period for those who need it. The County Council’s customer service centre will act as an emergency community support line every day from 9am to 5pm on 01609 780780. People are being urged to plan ahead and keep checking on family, friends and neighbours, but council staff and Team North Yorkshire volunteers will be on standby for anyone who needs help while many of the community support organisations take a well-deserved break.

Almost everyone in North Yorkshire has adapted in one way or another this year. Community support organisations and voluntary groups across the county are no exception.

From befriending services to delivering shopping and prescriptions, people in North Yorkshire have pulled together to accommodate the needs of their neighbours.

The Bedale community minibus service has picked up delivering prescriptions to those in the community who have been limiting their outside contacts but need to get their medication. Under normal circumstances, the Bedale Community Minibus team organise trips out for those in the area.

Malcolm Bloor, a member of the organisation, said: “Our small organisation is really unique. We are independent and provide community transport. We were originally given a minibus for use in the Bedale area which was used to arrange day trips and take people out.”

He said one of the local pharmacies in Bedale has provided a home delivery service for a number of years, but became overwhelmed with requests during Covid. A local volunteer group helped at first, but Bedale Community Minibus were approached by North Yorkshire County Council to see if they could pick up the service.

Malcolm added: “We go to the chemist, the driver shows their ID and they get a box of medication and then drive round delivering it to people in the community. We make sure someone at the house, either the person themselves or a carer, take the medication from us so it’s delivered and we can report back any problems to the pharmacy.”

People who need support with shopping, prescriptions and other essentials but don’t have anyone to call on, or anyone concerned about the welfare of someone else, can contact North Yorkshire County Council’s customer service centre on 01609 780780. The centre is open seven days a week 8am to 5.30pm. People can also contact us by email or live chat at [www.northyorks.gov.uk/contactus](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/contactus).

To find local businesses offering food deliveries and takeaways, go to the Buy Local directory at [www.northyorks.gov.uk/buy-local](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/buy-local).

People can also find details of local voluntary and community groups offering support at [www.northyorkshireconnect.org.uk](http://www.northyorkshireconnect.org.uk).

For more information about the help available go to [www.northyorks.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/coronavirus).



**Buy Local: Shopping local isn’t just for Christmas**

We are asking everyone to think long term about shopping local.

The run up to Christmas can be the most important trading period of the year for some businesses, but this year it has been curtailed by the pandemic, leaving some struggling to survive.

[Buy Local](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/buylocal) provides more than 800 businesses and tradespeople, all in one place, so searching for what you need is easy. Whether you need a last-minute Christmas gift, or an emergency plumber!

Businesses and tradespeople can register free, to showcase their goods and services to new audiences.

Many of the retailers on Buy Local are offering Christmas gifts, food and drink deliveries and festive treats, but the Dale Christmas Market [www.daleschristmasmarket.com](http://www.daleschristmasmarket.com) has gone one step further by creating a virtual Christmas market.

Organiser Sharon Davis wanted to recreate something as close as possible to a real-life Christmas market on screen, to try to make up for the lack of local markets this year due to Covid.

Sharon, founder of the Dales Business Women networking group and a business owner herself, is a passionate advocate of supporting the local economy. She added: “What I have been particularly impressed by every year is just the talent of local businesses, I mean people are producing quality goods that are on par, if not better than, things made by the big brands. It might be more expensive, but I think if we can just keep the micro, small business economy going, it’s better in the long run.

North Yorkshire County Council leader Cllr Carl Les, said: “I make no apology for continually urging everyone to shop locally now, and keep it up next year if you can. We have some really fantastic businesses in North Yorkshire which contribute so much to our world famous identity – now is the time to use them or lose them.”

Sharon added: “I think it's important to think long term. Buying local isn’t just for Christmas, but it would be very easy to go back to buying products from the big guys in the New Year. My advice would be, try and build sustainable shopping habits, even if you start in a small and manageable way, that’s better than going back to old habits. Make sustainable, small changes, for the long term.”

The Dales Christmas Market will be live until 31 December 2020 and Buy Local will continue to support businesses and customers well into the future.

Register your business or search for goods and services on Buy Local at <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/buy-local>

**LEP News: York & North Yorkshire LEP ‘Plan for Skills 2021-2026’: *Empowering people for a greener, fairer, stronger economy***

The York & North Yorkshire LEP vision is ambitious: we want to become England’s first carbon negative, circular economy that increases productivity and provides higher paid jobs.

Please join us for our annual Skills Conference 2021 as we present our five-year skills strategy. Sign up here: [skillsconference2021.eventbrite.co.uk](https://email.ynygrowthhub.com/e2t/tc/VXjBV54F6LZvW3qDv8X5mCbZhW5b9Bvk4kqMFxN5ZDtVr3p_9LV1-WJV7CgSK2W6QfP1M59lcG2VGbJhH5CqqfHW724Gfs62ps0KW1nHP5V64RRHbW2cJHQp5x2ZlzVVb_f0272jdyW64ZLXr80q809W1xYDgM2xSjVZW7kTsTX6-d-DNW8f2hXt3yMRNVW3J2b1J1XhLLyW1gkmGY86TytzVbtYwQ6S3tPmW2jB3kT1p-rxMW8VT8Kd66XNRyW4TL2MT8pCyqXW5vzSG09ljR6bW7MVy8C78N5y3VCt4-_6xs68zW7_BGW-7sn2Z6W53jPLp2H4yj1W90vs2R2kxGLqVnWzqF8hSc1FMFqJgb-FFHXW1qT3nf3cvN3kW4Z1YfF2Cf9jHW6qQ0R21m6qlKW7Ffkb7416Nwt2q61)

**Time is running out**

The transition period will end in a few weeks: New rules for businesses and citizens will come into force on 1 January 2021, no matter the outcome of EU negotiations.

Direct businesses to [GOV.UK/transition](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gov.uk%2Ftransition&data=04%7C01%7Cjoann.palmer%40mobile.trade.gov.uk%7C92d72f3d633a42f7d8af08d89b7d3beb%7C30a433250df24fd49779721acafb960e%7C1%7C0%7C637430309486258840%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=eVcuMaP7agIb7%2BpoSyYBzVTNd1fJ%2FVI9mMcS1Auoas4%3D&reserved=0)

HMRC has published guidance on:

* [Trading and moving goods in and out of Northern Ireland from 1 January 2021](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gov.uk%2Fguidance%2Ftrading-and-moving-goods-in-and-out-of-northern-ireland-from-1-january-2021&data=04%7C01%7Cjoann.palmer%40mobile.trade.gov.uk%7Ce29ed60470ff4f5c816c08d89c43fd58%7C30a433250df24fd49779721acafb960e%7C1%7C0%7C637431163135656648%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=3%2FfZo9JjQ2gL%2ByT4hoymjG0x3wOJrs5sDvO4zsW24FA%3D&reserved=0)
* [Moving goods through ports that use the Goods Vehicle Movement Service](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gov.uk%2Fguidance%2Fcheck-how-to-move-goods-through-ports-that-use-the-goods-vehicle-movement-service&data=04%7C01%7Cjoann.palmer%40mobile.trade.gov.uk%7Ce29ed60470ff4f5c816c08d89c43fd58%7C30a433250df24fd49779721acafb960e%7C1%7C0%7C637431163135666641%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=TOKAesDI0pERSjvnNm%2Bg40XnWB3nhOSEn%2FnTdlUmVIo%3D&reserved=0)
* [Registering for the Goods Vehicle Movement Service](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gov.uk%2Fguidance%2Fregister-for-the-goods-vehicle-movement-service&data=04%7C01%7Cjoann.palmer%40mobile.trade.gov.uk%7Ce29ed60470ff4f5c816c08d89c43fd58%7C30a433250df24fd49779721acafb960e%7C1%7C0%7C637431163135666641%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=OfjqEBLIljlnUd%2BglTaTnNoFkZn4l%2FQ65VbyxGNdV8E%3D&reserved=0)

DEFRA has updated guidance for UK businesses on:

* [How farming is changing in England from 1 January 2021](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gov.uk%2Fgovernment%2Fpublications%2Ffuture-farming-changes-to-farming-in-england&data=04%7C01%7Cjoann.palmer%40mobile.trade.gov.uk%7C92d72f3d633a42f7d8af08d89b7d3beb%7C30a433250df24fd49779721acafb960e%7C1%7C0%7C637430309486418158%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=iPklJ2T%2BVkgq%2BTNdHYcewq2VYN2GTliUxb9YNIQH1tM%3D&reserved=0).

**Loan Fee Fraud**
The Financial Conduct Authority have launched their Loan Fee Fraud Campaign to raise awareness of the issue and encourage people to go through the three-step loan fraud checklist to protect themselves.

Loan-fee fraud is a type of scam which targets people who are looking for loans online. Scammers then contact the victims to offer them a loan but ask for an upfront fee.

Due to the COVID-19, household incomes are being squeezed, therefore this campaign is important. A campaign toolkit, which includes a staff briefing sheet, can be found [here](http://go.pardot.com/l/851633/2020-12-11/284k2/851633/1607694765bZ488BMC/FCA_Loan_Fee_Fraud_Partner_Toolkit_2_5__1_.pdf).

Please direct towards the FCA’s Financial Services register using the trackable link: [bit.ly/3ndDsv6](http://bit.ly/3ndDsv6).

**Hundreds of small businesses to provide ‘Kickstart’ placements to young unemployed**

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has backed a scheme that will enable small employers and sole traders to provide work placements to unemployed people aged 16 to 24 under the government’s Kickstart programme.

More than 700 small firms have so far come forward to offer placements through a gateway set up by the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB), alongside Adecco Working Ventures (AWV), which will be the intermediary employer.

More details: <https://www.fsb.org.uk/resources-page/hundreds-of-small-businesses-to-provide-kickstart-placements-to-young-unemployed.html>

**DfE's National Skills Fund Announcement**

The Department for Education have announced the publication of free Level 3 qualifications available to eligible adult learners from April 2021 under the Lifetime Skills Guarantee.

**Level 3 adult offer**

From April 2021, any adult aged 24 and over who wants to achieve their first full [level 3 qualification](https://www.gov.uk/what-different-qualification-levels-mean/list-of-qualification-levels), the equivalent of a technical certificate or diploma, or 2 full A levels, will be able to access almost 400 fully funded courses.

**Skills boot camps**

Complementing the level 3 adult offer, skills boot camps offer free, flexible courses of just 12 to 16 weeks. They give people the opportunity to build up sector-specific skills and fast-track to an interview with a local employer.

Toolkit and assets are [here](https://we.tl/t-MI3AbDJMBq) ​​​​​and for more details, visit: [bit.ly/37KgwNF](http://bit.ly/37KgwNF)

**Staying informed**

As always, we are keen to promote the following as main sources of business support information:

* GOVERNMENT: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus/business-support>
* Y&NY LEP: <https://www.businessinspiredgrowth.com/covid-19/>
* Y&NY GROWTH HUB: <https://www.ynygrowthhub.com/how-we-can-help/coronavirus/>

