

A message from Richard Flinton, Chief Executive

At 11am this morning, I took my place alongside County Council staff and LRF partners to stand on the steps of the Old Courthouse in Northallerton and to remember the NHS and other frontline staff who paid the ultimate price in the battle against COVID-19. I am sure you all did the same and shared equally sombre thoughts on the scale of the loss suffered and of the families everywhere mourning the loss of loved ones. If ever there was a painful reminder of why we need to keep our resolve and battle on with the lockdown rules, this 60 seconds of silence was surely it. To back up the efforts and drive the message home, we are placing roadside signs, along key routes, reminding motorists about the rules around essential only journeys. We hope these will help NYP officers who are having to issue fines to people who have driven from as far away as Kent to access our countryside. I cannot understand how a small number of people just don't seem to think it applies to them. We are grateful to the vast majority of you who are doing the right thing whatever the sacrifice – please keep it up for the sake of your family, friends, neighbours and our county.

There continues to be a very slow decrease in demand for our hospital trust critical care beds – specifically from people requiring treatment for COVID-19. This is some positive news and can be attributed to the tremendous efforts by so many of you in adhering to the lockdown rules. There is, however, an understandable focus on the increase in the number of suspected and positive cases in Care Homes nationally and in North Yorkshire. We continue to work really hard to support the care sector in a range of practical ways and work with Public Health and the NHS daily to understand the latest impacts and needs. To support the hospitals and care homes, we have a range of special measures in place. These include 'step down' beds which allow us to make sure that people discharged from hospital can get the care they need in a safe environment away from care homes until they can be tested for COVID-19 and those results are known.

The other important and fast-moving factor here, is the escalation by the Department for Health and Social Care in testing for key workers. Saturday saw the start of military-run drive-through mobile testing facilities in the county. This mobile facility is particularly important for North Yorkshire, given its geography. Starting in Scarborough at the weekend, the mobile unit is currently in Northallerton for a few days. Additional mobile units look set to supplement this in other Market Towns and communities too. The Government has big targets on testing of key workers and we will do what we can to support that effort in North Yorkshire. These drive-throughs are a valuable addition to the regional testing centre which opened near York yesterday. Together with a programme which will deliver Care Homes testing kits, and which is operated by Deloitte, these measures will enable many more of our key workers to get back to work safely and quickly. There is a broad definition of eligible key workers, and the criteria on who can book a test, available on the gov.uk website.

Many of you are playing a crucial role as part of 'Team North Yorkshire' in your communities by delivering food and medicine to neighbours, keeping in touch with vulnerable self-isolating people and offering other welcome acts of kindness. It is so well received and appreciated. For those who have no one – our customer service team continue to offer a helpline and to coordinate urgent

support to those who need it. We are also watching the Food Banks very carefully to try and assist them with access to food and other support during these tough times. They are also doing a phenomenal job and facing increasing demand.

Looking ahead, our collective focus must be on continuing to protect our most vulnerable residents, wherever they are living, to do our utmost to help them get the support they need and to stay safe. We are also seeing more businesses and tradespeople coming back into work, within the rules, so don't forget our Buy Local website to see who is offering deliveries and services you may need <https://buylocal.northyorks.gov.uk> Stay safe and stay well.



A message from Dr Lincoln Sargeant, Director of Public Health

World Health Organisation data shows that there have been 2,883,603 confirmed cases globally, with 198,824 deaths across 213 countries, areas or territories. At a national level, Public Health England data shows there were 157,149 cases in the UK on 27th April. Of those hospitalised in the UK who tested positive for coronavirus, 21,092 have died.

We currently have 836 confirmed cases of COVID-19 across North Yorkshire. However, this focuses on those who have been tested in hospital settings, which will only be a proportion of the total number. We expect that hospital cases are around 8% of the total number of cases across the community. This overall number of cases will continue to rise as we increase the amount of testing that is carried out in our communities, particularly around key workers and care homes.

There have been 384 deaths in hospital trusts covering North Yorkshire (Airedale, Harrogate, South Tees, and York) to date (27/04). Data are reported at trust level and it is not yet possible to determine deaths for North Yorkshire residents reliably as all trusts apart from Harrogate serve large populations outside North Yorkshire. However, estimates suggest around 151 of these deaths will be of North Yorkshire residents.

Over the last week the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in hospitals has continued to plateau. We are at the start of what appears to be a very gradual downward trend in terms of hospitalised cases, but the level of pressure on critical care services is likely to be sustained as it stands over the next few weeks.

Immunisations

To all new parents, please continue to take your babies for their routine vaccinations. We need to ensure children are protected from all diseases, and avoid any further outbreaks. Contact your GP. <https://www.nhs.uk/start4life/baby/vaccinations-and-immunisations-baby/>

Quit for COVID

North Yorkshire County Council is supporting the #QuitforCovid campaign to encourage smokers to quit the habit during the pandemic. Covid-19 is a respiratory condition affecting the lungs and airways, often causing a cough and shortness of breath.

Taking action to #QuitforCovid can reduce the likelihood of complications from Covid-19 and aid a faster recovery, as well as being an excellent move for overall health. It can also help to protect the health of others in a household where people might be around second-hand smoke. This all would help to relieve some of the pressure on the NHS as stopping smoking means a healthier lifestyle with less chance of needing healthcare for smoking-related reasons.

There is a Twitter Quit Clinic every day between 7.30pm-8.30pm hosted by expert, Louise Ross. People can ask a question about stopping smoking by using: #QuitforCovid on Twitter.

More info at: www.todayistheday.co.uk

North Yorkshire County Council

A Schools and childcare

Children and Young People's Services are working with local head teachers on how best to support pupils and their families when the time comes to return to school. A team of school leaders and advisers, education psychologists and colleagues from the young people's mental health organisation, Compass Buzz, are looking at the issue and considering what support and advice can be put in place for schools in North Yorkshire.

Judith Kirk, Assistant Director for Education and Skills, said: "There are not yet any indications on when or how the majority of students will return to traditional schooling, but we do know some children may find the adjustment difficult after time in lockdown. It is expected some pupils will feel anxiety about mixing again in large groups after such a long period with little social interaction, while others may have concerns about catching up with school work. There will be a range of mental health and wellbeing issues to consider after such upheaval.

"Our priority will be supporting school leaders to help their pupils make the transition back to school."

The team is initially focusing on collecting questions from schools and then providing points to consider when developing 'returning to school action plans'.

Their work will also involve identifying wellbeing material which can be used in school and sharing the work that other schools are developing on the transition. A focus group of school leaders and other colleagues has been set up to provide feedback on the material.

Support for people in isolation

Working with district councils, we have telephoned 9,019 people who are particularly vulnerable to being hospitalised as a result of COVID-19. If people cannot be contacted by telephone, we deploy a Ready for Anything volunteer to do a welfare check and make sure people being shielded have support in place.

Andrea Watson, Ready for Anything volunteer and lawyer working for North Yorkshire County Council, said: "I've been a Ready for Anything volunteer for just over a year and helped out following the floods last year. I am pleased to be able to help out again during the COVID-19 outbreak; I have been out and about in the area, checking up on those in our community who may be vulnerable.

This involves ensuring they are ok, that they have any support they may need or details of where to access such support, including signposting them to the County Council's customer service centre if they need it. It's great to be able to help out in such difficult times and, on a personal level, I am also checking on my elderly neighbour every day and doing her shopping for her as she has no family locally. I joined to help out in times of emergency and to be able to give something back to the community and I find it very rewarding."

Last week, volunteers coordinated through the community support organisations (CSOs), helped 3,006 people with shopping and other essentials including picking up 761 prescriptions. This support is crucial for those in need who do not have local networks or help from family, friends and neighbours.

Paul Bettison is in his 70s and lives in Sheffield. He's arranged shopping deliveries for his 91 year old mum Lorna through Tadcaster Volunteer Cars and Services Association, one of 23 CSOs helping people in North Yorkshire alongside local partners.

Paul said "Initially, I drove up and left the shopping outside of mum's apartment door but I'm in my 70s so it wasn't ideal. We didn't know what to do. I got in touch with the volunteer car scheme; they already knew mum from when she was a bit more mobile. They used to take her to hospital appointments and things like that, and they said they could do her shopping. Top of the list was a packet of chocolate éclairs! We are so grateful and it's helped mum feel safe and confident. They've been really helpful, exceptionally flexible and it's put our minds at rest."

People in need of help, who don't have the support of family, friends or neighbours, or, anyone concerned about the welfare of someone else, should call North Yorkshire County Council's customer service centre on 01609 780780. The centre is open seven days a week 8am-5:30pm.

For more information, including links to the main supermarkets detailing arrangements for people who can shop safely for themselves, go to www.northyorks.gov.uk/help-you-during-coronavirus-covid-19

Feeding the County: Major Tom's Pizza

A bar in Harrogate has delivered hundreds of pizzas to key workers – and plans to carry on through the duration of the pandemic.

Lee Bellwood and Toby Smith, owners of Major Tom's Social, first gave away 200 pizzas to workers at the Nightingale Hospital and then last week, a further 60 to staff at The Cuttings and Station View care home.

Lee was in the kitchen prepping from 8am for a midday delivery.

The food went down well with staff, who said it boosted morale and they felt appreciated.

Samantha Westwood, registered manager at Station View, said: "It was just fantastic. It was really good to boost morale at a time when everyone is working hard and doing brilliantly. The staff were so happy, you could see them all lift.

"As no-one can go out for meals at the minute it was a welcome boost to get some food delivered. It helped to bring everyone together as well and created a lovely ambience for the afternoon. At the minute, all our staff are putting in 150 per cent and this provided a wonderful boost."

Sue Cawthray, CEO of Harrogate Neighbours Housing Association, added: "The pizzas were delicious and the staff feel appreciated. It was a real morale booster."

Lee Bellwood said: "We are also planning to deliver again to the Nightingale Hospital in Harrogate if it needs the support. When they were building, we donated and delivered 200 pizzas in two hours to the engineers, builders and key workers. It felt like the right thing to do as those people are risking their life to keep the country going. The least we can do is give them some hot food."

Local economy

Buy Local

North Yorkshire Buy Local is the one-stop shop to find businesses, products and services in North Yorkshire during the Covid-19 outbreak.

The free online marketplace brings together all businesses and tradespeople eligible to trade during Covid-19 with the people who need their services. Go to www.northyorks.gov.uk/buy-local to see the range of local businesses who have signed up so far.

There are currently 327 businesses registered and new business registrations are averaging 20 per day.

Read our case studies from businesses and customers here <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/buy-local>.

Please share our social media messages encouraging businesses to register, and directing the public to the site. **Follow @northyorksc on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram.**

LEP News: New 100% government backed loan scheme for small business

Small businesses will benefit from a new fast-track finance scheme providing loans with a 100% government-backed guarantee for lenders, the Chancellor announced yesterday.

Businesses will be able to borrow between £2,000 and £50,000 and access the cash within days. Loans will be interest free for the first 12 months, and businesses can apply online through a short and simple form.

Further information can be found [here](#)

Government provides online digital learning during lockdown

Adults at home during the coronavirus lockdown, including millions furloughed from their jobs, are being offered free online courses in digital and numeracy skills.

The Department for Education is launching a collection of job-related online courses, teaching numeracy, coding and internet skills. The Open University and Google are among the providers.

Workers who have been furloughed are encouraged to improve their knowledge, build their confidence and support their mental health so they have skills they need to succeed after the coronavirus outbreak.

The training is focused on improving skills for online jobs, in the expectation more people will be working remotely. **Further information can be found [here](#)**

The LEP is also looking to provide a regional guide of online training through its York & North Yorkshire Growth Hub in the coming week.

Stay informed on local support during and post COVID-19

The LEP, its Growth Hub and many partners are working hard to support the businesses in our region. We are updating all information on a regular basis and are keen to promote the following as main sources of local business support information:

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

Social care and the NHS

The priorities for adult social care and public health services remain:

- supporting the wider care sector and, in particular, those care providers where there are Covid-19 outbreaks
- supporting the NHS to work with people with Covid-19 in the community, through hospital and community teams
- continuing to provide as near normal a service as possible (albeit with some changes) to people who already use services as well as to people who are making contact about non-Covid-19 issues

A broad range of key public health services continue to be provided as well (<https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/public-health-services-during-coronavirus-covid-19>)

We continue to work with care home providers to ensure everything possible is done to protect vulnerable residents and frontline staff through a combination of actions and support.

These include zoning affected homes so that they can protect people from COVID-19 and ensuring that patients discharged from hospital – both those who test positive for COVID-19 and those who are negative – can be cared for in appropriate surroundings to meet their needs and to protect other people.

In addition, there is help with training, implementation of national guidance on safe practice and infection control.

Advice is also being offered to families who may be concerned about relatives living in care homes.

The roll-out of testing for key workers continues for County Council and care provider staff with a mobile testing unit in Scarborough at the weekend, moving on to Northallerton during the week, as well as access to major sites in York, Leeds, Keighley and Lancashire.

Work continues to source PPE so that frontline care workers are protected. Government PPE guidance has been further updated and we will provide further advice and training to ensure frontline teams follow the guidance with appropriate equipment.

Richard Webb, Corporate Director for Health and Adult Services

Communications

NYCC's website has a dedicated area for all the latest COVID-19 related news visit:

<https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-and-information>

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

Advice on things to do

Virtual links:

Lots of museums, zoos and other tourist spots are live-streaming their days and most are offering virtual tours as something to do whilst staying at home. See links below to find out what is going on across the county. Take a look and see if somewhere local to you is live-streaming their day:

- Natural History Museum- virtual activities: <https://www.nhm.ac.uk/visit/virtual-museum.html>
- Edinburgh Zoo- <https://www.edinburghzoo.org.uk/webcams/penguin-cam/>
- Chester Zoo- <https://www.facebook.com/pg/chesterzoo1/videos/>
- Forestry England- <https://www.forestryengland.uk/blog/10-ways-keep-the-kids-entertained-through-covid-19>

Find my Past:

You can now access Find my Past from home using your NYCC library card and pin, allowing you to search our parish registers and some school log books. Follow the link and click on ancestry resources: <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/libraries-online-information-resources>

Sport England:

A new campaign has been launched called 'Stay In, Work Out' which provides advice on physical activity during this lockdown period at <https://www.sportengland.org/stayinworkout>

Food Waste:

Reduce food waste and make your food go further, by using Love Food Hate Waste's leftover recipe search <https://www.lovefoodhatewaste.com/>

Free Language Lessons:

Children can continue to expand their horizon by learning a new language, and parents can ensure that the kids are using their time wisely. Rosetta Stone is giving free access for schoolchildren to use its language courses for the next three months, saving parents the usual £50 fee. Visit:

<https://www.rosettastone.co.uk/lp/freeforkids/>



GOV.UK

The P.M. is holding daily press conferences the highlights from the latest one can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

