

## A message from Richard Flinton, Chief Executive

The weather is not the only thing which has changed considerably in the past few days.

Since then, we have seen many national announcements which will bring about very significant easements to the previous lockdown rules over the coming days. Many of our primary schools continue to expand their pupil numbers – some are reaching capacity, given the need for these settings to adhere to the public health guidance on social distancing and hygiene. Our highways teams continue to progress significant work with partner agencies to understand the potential impacts from the reopening of non-essential shops across our communities from next week and to see how we might support social distancing on the high streets and elsewhere.

We have learned there will now be a review by Government of those people placed on their shielded list. This is due next week. At the start of the outbreak, those are the people who were advised to stay inside for at least 12 weeks because they were most clinically vulnerable to being hospitalised if they developed Covid-19. There are currently more than 24,000 people on the shielded list in North Yorkshire and around 3,500 of those have been receiving nationally organised support with things like essential food and medical supplies. We have been supporting the wider community piece, with thousands of regular outbound calls via our customer service team to ensure no one in our county is alone during this global crisis. Since the start of the lockdown, we have been working with 23 Community Support Organisations and an army of volunteers to deliver welfare checks, food and medicines and we have just extended that arrangement for another 3 months. Despite the easements to the lockdown and progress towards the new norm – we will continue to support those people who need it the most to ensure they are not more vulnerable during this very early period of the road to recovery. You will find more on that, here <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/news/article/support-isolated-and-shielded-continues>

Looking ahead, one of the most significant weapons we have in our battle against this virus is the newly launched test and trace service. In North Yorkshire, the County Council is at the heart of this and we are finalising our Outbreak Management Plan as I write. Our Director of Public Health, Dr Lincoln Sargeant, is taking a lead role and is supported by our Public Health Consultants. Our role will be to support the NHS system in ensuring that when we are notified of an outbreak we have the right resources, skills set, plans, processes and powers (if necessary) to respond rapidly. We have worked incredibly hard to ensure we are well positioned for this. Next week we hope to trial a pilot testing initiative with the Department of Health and Social Care which could enable us to offer broad ranging workforce testing capability. This will be massively important in tracing the virus through employment and other settings where groups of people may share work space, transport or even living accommodation. Tracking and tracing people who are established as close contacts of those who test positive, supporting them while they self-isolate and getting them access to timely swab tests - this is a big logistical challenge but we are up for it and ready for this next stage.

You all have a big part to play in this latest stage of the fight. Regular and thorough hand washing and social distancing remain the best deterrents but, if test and trace is to work and we are to beat

this virus, we need you to book a test if you have symptoms. If you have any of the symptoms associated with Covid-19 such as a new and persistent cough, a temperature or changes to your sense of smell or taste, it's absolutely vital you book a test and self-isolate. If you are contacted by the Test and Trace Team, please follow their instructions carefully. There are a variety of ways to book a test; there are home test kits, a regional centre near York and regular mobile testing units visiting communities across the county. There is good capacity at the sites so please take a look at the information here so you are aware what to do if you, or someone in your household, has symptoms:

<https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19-test-sites-north-yorkshire>

By booking a test and self-isolating, you will be doing your critical bit for Team North Yorkshire and helping our wonderful county return to normality safely. It's so important for our lifestyle and economy that we stick together to beat Coronavirus.

I will leave you with that thought and ask you to stay safe. We will bring you updates on all these important projects as they progress so please keep an eye on our social media feeds and website. Thank you for your help.

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## A message from Dr Lincoln Sargeant, Director of Public Health

World Health Organisation data shows that we have now passed 7.1 million confirmed cases globally, with over 407 thousand deaths across 216 countries, areas or territories.

At a national level, yesterday's (09/06) Public Health England data show there were 289,140 lab-confirmed cases in the UK, with 40,883 COVID-associated deaths. To date, there have been 1,327 confirmed cases of COVID-19 as part of Pillar 1 testing across North Yorkshire. You can see the [latest confirmed cases of coronavirus by area](#) on the Government's website.

The number of people currently in hospital with COVID-19 continues to decrease slowly. Sadly, there have been 637 deaths from COVID-19 across Airedale, Harrogate, South Tees and York NHS Trusts to date, of whom an estimated 244 will be North Yorkshire residents. The number of deaths from COVID-19 each week continues to decrease.

The NHS Test and Trace programme has been running for almost two weeks. Anyone who receives a positive swab test result will be contacted by the Test & Trace system – for more information see <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nhs-test-and-trace-how-it-works>.

The NYCC Outbreak Control Plan is taking shape. We are building on our work with care homes to increase the support given to schools, workplaces and other settings around preventing and managing outbreaks. This work will be overseen by a Member-led advisory Board, who will hold their first meeting next week.

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North Yorkshire County Council

 Planning for recovery

## Testing

As part of the national testing programme for coronavirus, drive-through Mobile Testing Units, run by the Department for Health and Social care, will be operating in the following locations over the coming days between 11am and 3pm:

- **12 June - Whitby** - Whitby Park and Ride, Guisborough Rd, Whitby, YO21 1TL
- **12 to 13 June - Northallerton** - Allertonshire School, Brompton Road, DL6 1ED
- **13 June - Selby** - Drax Social Club, Main Road, Selby, YO8 8PJ
- **13 June - Settle** - Greenfoot Car Park, Ingfield Lane, Settle, BD24 9RW

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

Find out more and how to book at [www.northyorks.gov.uk/testing](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/testing)

## Free advice for businesses

New businesses and those that are diversifying as a result of the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic are being urged to make sure they take the right advice before committing their time and money.

To support the economic recovery from the pandemic, North Yorkshire Trading Standards service is currently offering all its advice services free to any businesses, with particular focus on those that are starting up or changing the products or services they sell as a result of Covid-19. A specialist team can provide advice on all aspects of trading standards law.

The aim is to offer as much support as possible to businesses at this time. Anyone planning to start or diversify a business needs to consider such things as product safety regulations and their responsibilities as a manufacturer or importer. Our Trading Standards team can help business people to understand and meet the requirements.

Businesses can contact the team on 01609 780780 or at [business.advice@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:business.advice@northyorks.gov.uk). Information about product safety, including imports, can be found at [www.northyorks.gov.uk/product-safety](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/product-safety)

## Free resources for business in online library

With business start-ups in mind, North Yorkshire's library service has recently invested in COBRA (the Complete Business Reference Adviser), a free online business reference resource with a wealth of easy to find, practical information.

COBRA provides access to reports, guides and more than 4,000 factsheets. This includes:

- Business opportunity profiles, short reports on more than 600 business types;
- Factsheets covering all aspects of starting a business;
- Sector guides;
- Local area profiles, identifying sources of support in the region, down to district level within North Yorkshire;
- A business legal library; and
- A calendar of upcoming business events.

COBRA can be found at [www.northyorks.gov.uk/libraries-online-information-resources](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/libraries-online-information-resources). All customers need to do is input their library card number and PIN. To join the library or get a PIN number, call 01609 533878

## Schools and childcare

The Government has this week released new guidelines on the full reopening of primary schools, announcing they will be given more flexibility on whether or not to admit more pupils over the next few weeks. A total of 268 of North Yorkshire's 300 primary schools have now reopened to reception, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils since June 1, in addition to vulnerable children and the children of key workers who were already attending. We are now supporting schools in their individual decisions on whether to reopen to more pupils prior to the school summer holidays.

We have had positive feedback from primary schools which have already reopened, which have found their arrangements have worked well and children have settled back into school quickly.

One of those to reopen last week was Whitley and Eggborough Community Primary School, which has adapted to the new conditions by putting in place activities classes where tasks can be done in groups but alone, providing each child with a pack of resources such as pencils, whiteboards, pens and using resources which can be washed on a regular basis.

Children have been in bubbles, including family groups, so there's no crossover in each bubble with children or staff and yellow footprints in the school playground remind children to social distance.

Head Sarah Langridge said the number of children returning to school increased as the week went on.

Sarah added the teachers have adapted to the new circumstances and are all aware of the emotional side of the pandemic and how it might affect their students, which has been the primary focus in the early days of the return of each year group.

Secondary schools will be opening from June 15 to allow students in key year groups – Year 10 and Year 12 – to have contact with teachers as they study for exams they will sit next year. Only a quarter of each of those two year groups will be in school at a time.

We have so far been allocated 830 laptops from the Government to distribute to children and young people in the county who have a social worker, to help with their studies, and are currently waiting to place orders for a further 119 laptops or 4G routers for eligible young people in Year 10.

We have extended the deadline for schools to tell us how many laptops they need for eligible pupils from Monday (June 8), until Friday (June 12). Laptops for children with social workers are expected to arrive later this week and we will be distributing them in stages over the next couple of weeks once the devices are ready. The Government will be announcing soon when we can place orders for laptops for Year 10 pupils

## Social care, the NHS and Public Health services

As part of our support for care homes, extra care facilities and supported living during the Covid-19 pandemic we moved ahead of government guidance to create new care teams to make daily calls to check on any outbreaks and to give back-up support and channel resources on issues such as staffing and recruitment, help with sourcing PPE, infection control, zoning of care homes, cohorting of staff and residents, safe hospital discharge, clinical advice, registered manager support and more. These teams have been working at full tilt over the past month and thankfully this is leading to reductions in Covid-related deaths in our care settings. In another best practice development to

aid rapid and efficient testing processes to reduce outbreaks further, we hope we have reached agreement with the Department for Health and Social Care to establish a satellite testing unit for the care sector in Scarborough. Once operational this will give the sector access to up to 500 testing swabs a day and a more rapid turnaround in results. This site will serve the east of our large county and complement the testing service for the care sector in the west which is based in Bradford.

### **Visitor arrangements for care settings**

We appreciate that these are difficult times and people really want to see family and loved ones in care settings. However, we are still trying to manage transmission and outbreaks of Covid-19 within care settings and communities in North Yorkshire, so we need to continue with existing arrangements for the meantime. This means that only essential visitors can go into care settings e.g. carers and families providing end of life support, health staff, and essential contractors. Care settings must also ensure that all essential visitors adhere to infection control policies and confirm that they are not displaying any symptoms associated with COVID-19 - including a temperature and/or new and persistent cough or loss of smell or taste.

We are actively encouraging care settings to use electronic devices or social media to help to make sure that people can keep in contact with their loved ones and we have delivered a number of these devices to care homes.

We will continue to review the situation in the light of national guidance and local arrangements, and we will work jointly with care sector representatives and the regulator to prepare for further easing of the visiting restrictions, in accordance with Government direction.

### **PPE**

Our operational guidance on PPE to support social care staff during the outbreak has also been cited as good practice by the Local Government Association <https://www.local.gov.uk/covid-19-adult-social-care-commissioning-practice-resource> Our guidance is intended to help with local interpretation of government guidelines and outlines clear steps for social care staff to take across a range of scenarios in community and social care settings as well as the types of PPE that might be used. A 4-stage flowchart covers self-assessment, initial risk-assessment, PPE requirements and specific requirements for facilities with sustained disease transmission.

### Support for people in isolation

Over the next few days, people in North Yorkshire who are shielding to protect themselves from COVID-19, and need help getting food and medication, will receive a letter from North Yorkshire County Council giving them reassurance that our support will continue.

Anyone at higher risk from coronavirus remains vulnerable and should still stay at home as much as possible. Although people who are being shielded are now able to go outside once a day for fresh air and exercise, Government advice for anyone in this group is not to go shopping, attend gatherings or visit other people's homes.

Our network of community support organisations will continue to help people, who have no one else to call on, with shopping, picking up prescriptions and other essentials. We will also continue to carry out telephone welfare checks, in partnership with district councils, to make sure people have support in place.

The Government has scheduled to carry out the next review of shielding measures in England during the week beginning June 15. They will then write to people, on the shielded list, with advice and information about the next steps and the support that will be available following the review.

Michelle Sherriff has been shielding to protect herself from coronavirus. Michelle said: “I have mixed feelings about the changes. I’m shielding because I have asthma, diabetes and take immunosuppressant medication. What worries me about leaving home isn’t so much who you’re going to meet, it’s who they’ve been in contact with and have they got it. That’s what scares me.”

During isolation Michelle has been helped by volunteers through Hambleton Community Action, one of 23 community support organisations helping people across the county. Community support organisations (CSOs), and the partners they are working alongside, continue to make sure that nobody in North Yorkshire feels alone or is left without food, medicines or other essential supplies.

Michelle added: “They have been amazing, I cannot believe what they do. People are giving their time to help others. I have a friend next door, and she does little bits of shopping for me, but it was too heavy for her. She was struggling and isn’t in good health. When I contacted them the lady said to write a list out, then they came and took the list, did all my shopping, then you just pay over the phone. They have been absolutely amazing.”

Throughout May CSO volunteers collected 3,445 prescriptions and delivered 5,129 lots of shopping, providing a lifeline to people in North Yorkshire during this challenging time. Other types of support include telephone befriending calls, pet care, organising meal deliveries and helping people continue their hobbies by delivering supplies.

Gill Sayer volunteers with Ripon Community House, another community support organisation helping people across the county. Despite shielding to protect herself from coronavirus, Gill has been working on plans for a meal delivery service.

Gill said: “When you volunteer you realise there is a lot of goodness out there. It gives you a sense of wellbeing. People were falling over themselves to help friends and neighbours here. People in need had help coming from every direction. It’s been a positive situation in the very darkest of times.”

The Covid-19 support grant scheme is also providing much needed reassurance to people in need of financial assistance to pay for food and household essentials during isolation. 512 grants have been approved since March and awarded to eligible applicants through the community support organisations. The majority of people receiving these grants have long-term health conditions or weakened immune systems and the average amount awarded is under £100.

Those who need help 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.

For more information, including links to the main supermarkets for people who can shop safely for themselves, and a link to the Buy Local site, go to [www.northyorks.gov.uk/help-you-during-coronavirus-covid-19](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/help-you-during-coronavirus-covid-19)

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

## Buy Local

North Yorkshire Buy Local ([www.northyorks.gov.uk/buy-local](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/buy-local)) is the online marketplace to bring together businesses and customers.

There are now 642 businesses registered on the site, many of whom have adapted their ways of working and found new avenues to trade during the coronavirus outbreak.

During the pandemic, many businesses have also gone out of their way to support their local community.

Stuart's Foods in Scarborough found new audiences on Buy Local when they opened up their wholesale food business to take online orders from the public.

Damian Howarth, Managing Director said "We started to help those who are self-isolating and in the vulnerable category,"

"I was under no illusions – the general public will buy where it's easiest, in a supermarket they can get everything they want; it's easy and convenient. However, even though more shops are re-opening we have new customers who are buying products, and some who are placing repeat orders."

Read more about Stuart's Foods and Buy Local here [www.northyork.gov.uk/buy-local](http://www.northyork.gov.uk/buy-local)

We're urging all businesses to register on the site - especially if they are re-opening next week - to let as many customers as possible know their doors are open. The site also allows businesses to outline the safety measures they have in place to protect the public.

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: Re-opening of retail businesses

All non-essential retail including shops selling clothes, shoes, toys, furniture, books, and electronics, plus tailors, auction houses, photography studios, and indoor markets can reopen from **15 June** if they follow the COVID-19 secure guidelines.

Businesses can access guidance on this by signing up to BEIS free webinars [here](#)

As high streets and businesses start to re-open in York & North Yorkshire, this will present a number of challenges for both them and their customers. We want to support these businesses through this process and have developed a Communications Pack which includes some key messages that would be helpful to promote at this time, as well as signpost to further useful information.

The messages focus on 3 key themes:

1. **SAFE**- we want to support businesses and residents to work together and take responsibility as individuals to practice social distancing and safety precautions relating to COVID19
2. **KIND**- we want to promote community spirit and cohesion – bring an optimistic tone to the reopening of the high street.
3. **LOCAL**- we want to encourage residents to continue the local shopping campaigns they've developed during COVID-19 and to support their local high-street

You can access this Communications Pack [here](#) and we encourage you to share this with your wider business networks.

### Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme Important Dates

Note key dates below relating to the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS).

- **The scheme will close to anyone who hasn't been furloughed for 3 weeks by 30 June**, so employers will only be able to claim for employees after that if they have been furloughed for a full three-week period at any time before the end of June.
- If employers intend to furlough an employee who hasn't been furloughed before, they will need to agree that with them and start their period of furlough on or before **10 June – TODAY is the last day on which someone who has never been furloughed before can start a period of furlough and qualify for the scheme** – this ensures the minimum three-week period is complete by 30 June.
- Employers will then have until **31 July** to make a claim for any periods of furlough up until 30 June – this applies to both employees furloughed for the first time and those you have previously furloughed and claimed for.

**Regarding the future of the scheme, HMRC will publish on 12<sup>th</sup> June** full guidance on all future scheme changes and this will include a programme of webinars.

### Employer guidance for Test and Trace service

HM Government has now launched the Test and Trace service to help reduce the spread of coronavirus and save lives. Full details and guidance for employers can be found here:

<https://bit.ly/testandtracenorth>.

### 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/>

## 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

### Summer Reading Challenge

The Summer Reading Challenge has gone digital. The challenge is open to children aged four to 11 and the theme is the Silly Squad, so children are invited to read anything that makes them



happy – a comic, joke book, poetry, fiction or non-fiction, in digital or print, an e-book borrowed from the library or what they already have at home.

Children can sign up for free at [summerreadingchallenge.org.uk](https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk), where they will find brilliant book suggestions, super silly activities, quizzes, videos, games, a place to keep track of their books and rewards to unlock along the way.

Last year, almost 10,000 children took the challenge in North Yorkshire through local libraries. The county's library service has a huge selection of children's e-books and e-audiobooks that are free to borrow at [northyorks.gov.uk/digital-library](https://northyorks.gov.uk/digital-library), so we hope to encourage just as many children to join in this year.

Library members just need their library card and PIN to download books. If you are not a member, call 01609 533878 to join for free.

### **Have a read: Great North Yorkshire Sons and Daughters – Bridget Talbot**

Great North Yorkshire Sons and Daughters is a North Yorkshire County Council project to highlight and celebrate figures from the past who were immensely influential within the county. It draws on County Record Office archives and the work of local history groups.

The latest nominee is Miss Bridget Elizabeth Talbot, the last owner of Kiplin Hall, near Scorton. She spent her life channelling her energy, innovative mind-set and influence into addressing injustices.

Read more about Miss Bridget Talbot and Made in North Yorkshire at: [www.northyorks.gov.uk/made-in-north-yorkshire](https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/made-in-north-yorkshire)

### **Host a games night**

Organising a games night is a sure-fire way to keep the whole family or your friendship group entertained this weekend. Here's a few tips...

- Play a good old game of charades
- Assign someone the 'happy hour host' and ask them to give a live cocktail/ cooking master class
- Get one person to mute themselves and mime phrases and see who can read their lips the best
- Ask guests to submit a surprising fact about themselves beforehand and see who can guess which fact correlates to which person on the Zoom
- Play a good old game of Bingo. Ask everyone to mock up their own Bingo card based on a Google template and use this number generator to kick things off.

### **Enjoy the fresh air with some gardening**

With all the amazing weather we have had recently, why not turn your hand to gardening? Many recent studies have shown the benefits of gardening for our mental health, especially during lockdown where many of us are isolated from friends and family. Visit <https://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/health-and-wellbeing> for more information and tips on gardening.

### **Cook up a storm at home**

Many of our favourite restaurants are unfortunately closed, if you're bored of eating the same things and need some inspiration visit <https://tasty.co> for amazing recipes and ideas.

### **Go to the aquarium**

Although they're closed to the public, Monterey Bay Aquarium has added a number of live cams to let you keep an eye on the jellyfish, kelp forest, coral reef, and even the penguins, completely free: <https://www.montereybayaquarium.org/animals/live-cams>



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

