



News

ICS update - 6 May 2021

This bulletin provides an update from the Integrated Care System in the North East and North Cumbria regarding our latest information and plans to care for patients, staff and our communities. This Integrated Care System is led by Alan Foster, executive lead. If you have any questions or would like us to send vital information to partners through this bulletin, please contact us [here](#).

Message from Alan Foster



Bank holiday

I'd like to start this week's update by thanking everyone who was working over the bank holiday weekend. Your continued hard work is much appreciated. For those of you who weren't working, I hope you managed to get some much-needed down time.

Over the weekend we continued to remind people on social media that, although people can spend time outdoors with friends and family, they should continue to stick to the rules, particularly around hands, face, space and fresh air. You can watch our animation [here](#).

Covid-19 vaccination programme

Across the North East and North Cumbria we have now delivered more than [2.3 million](#)

[vaccines](#). This continues to be the highest number of cumulative doses in the country, a feat we should all be incredibly proud of.

We are continuing to focus on ensuring people are able to receive their second doses of the vaccine and, subject to supply, also vaccinate those aged 40 and over. More Pfizer/BionTech vaccine is expected to come on 10 May which will allow some community pharmacies to vaccinate as many of the eligible groups as possible.

There are still some areas across the region that have opted out of vaccinating cohorts 10–12 as they concentrate on returning GP practices back to pre-pandemic levels. This means there is more of a reliance on the community pharmacies and large vaccination centres to vaccinate the younger parts of the population. Those aged 40 and over can contact the national booking service for appointments at a community pharmacy or large vaccination centre.

We now have our seventh large vaccination centre for the region in Hexham, which will open on 13 May. It will be called 'Hexham Mart Vaccination Centre' and it is based at Hexham Mart, Tyne Green, Hexham, Northumberland. NE46 3SG. This joins our six other centres which are at Newcastle's Centre for Life; the NHS Nightingale Hospital North East, Sunderland; the Arnison Centre, Durham; Darlington Arena; The Riverside Stadium in Middlesbrough and the Auction Mart in Penrith.

There are some pop-up vaccination sites across the region to support vaccinations of some of our harder to reach areas. It's hoped that this will increase the uptake in workplace settings. People don't need an appointment for the pop-up clinics but must be within the correct JCVI cohort to be eligible for a vaccine. For all other clinics - community pharmacy, vaccination centres and primary care networks sites – we are reminding people they cannot attend without an appointment.

We are continuing to share messages with our communities to ask them to turn up for their second vaccination and remind them that they are not fully vaccinated until they have had their second dose.

At programme level, planning has started to consider how a COVID-19 vaccine booster programme might work. There is still a lot of elements that are unknown and as soon as more information is available it will be shared.

Latest picture in our region

As of Wednesday 5 May, there were 43 patients with COVID-19 in our hospitals – with some of our trusts reporting zero patients. As ever we must all remain vigilant but this continues to be welcome news.

Support health and care staff

Our staff continue to work tirelessly and it's important we continue to ensure they are all

supported. Please do share information about our staff wellbeing hub for all health and care staff. There's lots of support available with some new offers coming up soon including [free webinars](#) and [therapeutic gardening](#), and of course access to a range of clinical experts. You can read more about these [here](#).

Local elections

Today polling stations across the region opened to allow us all to vote in a series of elections. I'd like to thank all of our local authority colleagues and the army of volunteers who have worked tirelessly to ensure that all polling stations across the region are COVID secure allowing the public to feel safe when they come to vote. I'd also like to wish all candidates the best of luck.

Best wishes,

Alan

Alan Foster is the executive lead for the North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care System

Other news and updates

The R number in the UK: The latest reproduction number (R) and growth rate of coronavirus (COVID-19) in the UK can be found here on [GOV.UK](#).

Public Health England dashboard: The Public Health England (PHE) dashboard can be found [here](#). Daily reporting includes deaths that have occurred in all settings where there has been a positive COVID-19 test, including hospitals, care homes and the wider community. The report also includes case rates per 100,000 resident population at lower-tier local authority level.

National flu and COVID-19 surveillance reports: A link to the weekly national flu and COVID-19 report, monitoring COVID-19 activity, seasonal flu and other seasonal respiratory illnesses can be found [here](#).

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North of England Commissioning Support Unit

NHC-TR.NENCCOVID19@NHS.net

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