



Update

ICS update - 24 June 2021

This bulletin provides an update from the Integrated Care System (ICS) in the North East and North Cumbria regarding our latest information and plans to care for patients, staff and our communities. The 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



Covid-19

This week Cumbria County Council and NHS Test and Trace asked every person living and working in Cumbria, between the ages of 12 and 30, to get a PCR test for Covid-19 because infections are rising in the county. Full details can be found [here](#). As ever teams across the county pulled together to help share this message and to support plans to ramp-up testing, and I would like to pass on my thanks to everyone.

Infections have risen from 35 cases per week at the end of May to 250 per week. Many of those confirmed cases are in the younger age groups who are not yet eligible - or only just eligible - for vaccinations. The vaccination programme is making great progress with four more community pharmacies joining their bookable options this

month.

#DoYourBit

We are continuing to see high numbers of people attending our emergency departments and accessing primary care. So, we are continuing our appeal to the public to ask them to think about the alternative services available to them – especially ahead of England's next football match on Tuesday. Please do like and share our messages about this on social media.

Reducing waiting times and our recovery

BBC Politics North have been filming this week at Sunderland Eye Infirmary and Northumbria Healthcare about their innovative approaches which have enabled them to maintain care and treatment during the pandemic, as well as our plans across the region to reduce waiting times.

Across the North East and North Cumbria we perform well compared to many other parts of the country with about 73.8% of people treated within 18 weeks compared to an average nationally of 64%. That said there's lots to do to get us back to where we were before the pandemic but we do come from a strong position, thanks to our collaborative working and the hard work of our teams. You can read more about the elective programme and the recent establishment of an inequalities board at Northumbria Healthcare [here](#) and the recent announcement that we were chosen as an accelerator site which will support our plans to reduce waiting times [here](#). We expect the programme to be broadcast on Sunday.

Covid-19 vaccine update

Our fantastic efforts across the region to get more people vaccinated against the Covid-19 virus continue at pace, with around 3.5m million doses now given across the North East and north Cumbria.

Pop-up vaccination centre

On Tuesday, a pop-up vaccination centre for 18-30-year-olds opened behind the Centre for Life in Newcastle with 500 walk-in appointments available daily from 8.30am until 7pm - making it even easier for people over 18 to get their vaccine. The large vaccination centre based inside the Centre for Life continues to vaccinate people who have booked through the national booking service and has increased its capacity to around 1,500 people a day.

Grab a jab

This weekend hundreds of walk-in NHS Covid-19 vaccination sites will be operating across the region so that adults can turn up and 'grab a jab' – this is for first and second

doses. Anyone aged 18 or over can turn up at the sites, which include football stadiums, theatres, supermarket, car parks and shopping centres, and get vaccinated without needing to book in advance. Sites offering walk-in vaccinations can be found easily via a new online service at www.nhs.uk/grab-a-jab.

Second jabs can only be offered if it has been at least eight weeks since the first dose for people aged over 40, and 12 weeks for people aged under 40. Getting the second dose is vital to getting longer-lasting and maximum protection, with recent research also showing vaccines are highly effective against the Delta/Indian strain of the virus.

More than one million tests processed at the regional Lighthouse Lab

Last week our regional Lighthouse Lab marked a significant milestone when the millionth Covid sample was processed at the lab in Baltic Park. Since March this year, lab staff – like all NHS colleagues - have been responding to the ever-changing pressures of the pandemic. The flow of Covid samples into the lab, which is managed by Newcastle hospitals, is linked with the prevalence of the virus in the community and the milestone comes at a time when the lab is processing an increased number of tests, including a new contract for variant testing. A remarkable effort and achievement.

Bio-medical science day

Today is bio-medical science day so I would like to take this opportunity to formally acknowledge the work achieved by our colleagues within this profession. As we all appreciate, the last year has been significantly challenging and what our teams have been able to achieve is incredible. So, it's great to see so many messages of support across social media reflecting these achievements and raising the profile of this profession. So, a big thank you from me for your commitment and dedication.

Notes from the frontline event

I am delighted that so many people (more than 450) tuned in to the free online music event last Sunday called Notes from the Frontline. It was brought together by Connection through Music volunteers and our Wellbeing Hub. Composers, musical mentors and engineers worked with some of our NHS staff and co-created fantastic songs that represent our lives and experiences over the last year. If you didn't catch it, you can watch it here [Notes from the Frontline - Join Our Journey](http://nhsjoinourjourney.org.uk) (nhsjoinourjourney.org.uk).

Signpost North East and North Cumbria

It's great to see our mental health network working with others to ensure our local communities have access to support during these difficult times, with the launch of SignPostNE. The [website](#) brings together help available locally to support people's

wellbeing and has been developed in partnership with our mental health programme and Media Savvy (a north east based social enterprise that provides education, volunteering and employment opportunities for people with mental health needs). The website is funded by our mental health clinical network and covers topics from debt to anxiety, bereavement to physical health issues, which can all influence our day-to-day lives and mental health. Check out the website [here](#).

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.

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

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