



# Update

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## ICS update - 11 June 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](#).

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## Message from Alan Foster



### Picture across the region

It's very busy for everyone working across health and care right now – with demand for services back to the levels they were before the pandemic, and in some cases much higher. At the same time, we have to maintain social distancing and infection control which makes things even more challenging for us all.

Our emergency departments and ambulances services have seen a dramatic increase in attendances over the last few weeks. And across primary care, appointments and attendances are higher than they were before the pandemic too. I thought it was important to recognise this and pay tribute to all our teams who are working so hard.

Ahead of the weekend - which will see the start of the Euro football tournament – we

will be reminding our communities of the importance of sticking to the rules while enjoying time out with friends and family safely, and to use services sensibly. This includes not over doing it when it comes to drinking alcohol which we know often results in further pressure for our services.

### **Our recovery**

A key priority for us in the coming weeks and months ahead is to continue to work together to support our recovery from the pandemic – which includes reducing waiting times for treatment.

As you know our Provider Collaborative, working with colleagues across primary care and other partners, is continuing to focus on recovery and recently we welcomed some additional resources to support us when we were awarded accelerator site status [a few weeks ago](#).

NHS performance against waiting times have been published today by NHS England and you can view the information [here](#).

Generally speaking, we perform well compared to other areas which is a reflection of the hard work of our frontline teams, our collaborative approaches and strong clinical networks. But there remains a lot to do to speed up access to treatments and address the backlog. Across the North East and North Cumbria there are a total of 269,000 people on our waiting lists. Those waiting more than 52 weeks has fallen to 15,894 in April, from over 18,000 in March. As of April, 73.8% of patients were treated within 18 weeks (against a standard of 92%).

### **Covid-19 vaccine update**

While we are seeing a rise in the number of COVID-19 cases in the community, hospital admissions remain low which is welcome news. That said, we are still asking people to remain vigilant and to get their vaccine.

It is now six months since the first vaccine was administered in our region. Since then, more 3.2 million vaccines have been given, which continues to be a tremendous achievement. Thank you everyone.

It was great to see the vaccine programme being extended to those aged 25 and over this week and to see our younger generation continuing to come forward so enthusiastically for their jabs. Which goes to show how united we all remain to beating this virus.

North Tyneside's additional COVID mobile testing services - which were introduced to help tackle the rise of cases the Delta variant - will come to an end [this weekend](#). This is to allow the service to move to other areas of the country where there is greater need. More than 4,000 tests have been carried out at these mobile testing sites and

thousands of extra vaccinations were made available to people who live and work in the borough. I would like to thank everyone who has worked across the borough during this time to protect the local community, your efforts are greatly appreciated.

As we know, being fully vaccinated – having two doses - provides really high protection against current and emerging strains, including the delta variant. A [recent study from PHE](#) found that vaccine effectiveness against the Delta (B.1.617.2) variant first identified in India, is similar after 2 doses when compared to the Alpha (B.1.1.7) variant first identified in Kent.

It is very important that we continue to remind the public of the importance of attending both of their vaccine appointments to ensure they receive maximum protection against the virus. Please do share this message.

It was great to see both Eugene Milne and Professor Neil Watson push this message on BBC Look North earlier this week. You can watch that [here](#).

There is a new vaccine hesitancy campaign launching next week - across the seven local authorities in the north east - which we will be supporting on our social media channels to remind the public why it is important that they book in for their vaccine.

Health organisations and councils across the region are also working closely with charities, faith organisations and community groups to target local communities who need a bit more support to get vaccinated.

We know vaccine buses in local communities are really well attended and appreciated by people who find it more difficult to go to mainstream services.

### **Supporting our staff**

With all this in mind I would again like to highlight the support on offer for all health and care staff from our regional staff wellbeing hub. You can find out more about the support available [here](#). I would really encourage people to listen to a special music event on Sunday 20 June being organised by the Hub which is collaboration between NHS singer and songwriters world-renowned composers and musicians. You can read more [here](#).

Thank you again for all that you are doing.

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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