



# News

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## ICS update - 13 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](#).

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## Message from Alan Foster



### Financial support for our recovery plans

With the successful roll-out of more than two and a half million vaccines across the region – the highest number in the country – and the continued decline in cases across its hospitals and communities, we continue to focus on our recovery which includes speeding up access to treatments and reducing any backlog.

NHS England has [today announced](#) a £160 million initiative to tackle waiting lists and we have been chosen as one of the thirteen ‘accelerator’ areas to receive a share of this. This is welcome news and we are awaiting further details on how much of the £160m we will receive.

We recognised early on in the pandemic that we needed to respond as a region, and

this applies to our recovery too. Which is why our plans are based on us joining forces across our region to ensure a sustainable plan which enables us to meet future demands too – across all aspects of health and care.

Although we managed to maintain a significant amount of activity during the pandemic – a testament to our teams and the strength of joint working across the region – we cannot underestimate the challenges that lie ahead or indeed the personal impact for those patients, and their families, where treatment has been delayed. You can read our media release from the chairs of the Provider Collaborative [here](#).

### **COVID-19 vaccine update**

More good news on vaccines – thanks to everyone’s great work. Figures [released today](#) show our region has delivered more than 2.5 million vaccines. This continues to be the highest cumulative number of vaccines delivered in the country, a phenomenal achievement. Thank you to everyone involved for your dedication to ensure that as many people in our communities are protected against this virus.

A further boost on the vaccine front today comes in the form of our seventh large vaccination centre opening at Hexham Mart. All our large centres operate in conjunction with local vaccination services run by groups of GPs working together in primary care networks and services offered by some community pharmacies.

Now the programme has moved to cohort 10, the NHS is now asking those aged 38 and over to come forward for their vaccine. This is a message we are continuing to communicate on our [social media](#) channels and we encourage you all to do the same.

### **COVID-19**

I would like to send my best wishes to colleagues across social care who are getting ready to support changes to visiting in care homes. Residents will now be allowed five named visitors from Monday 17 May - which I am sure is much welcome news for residents, their loved ones and those working in care homes too.

The recent news of the Indian variant is a reminder to us all of the importance of continuing to be vigilant and as we see restrictions start to ease even further after Monday 17 May, when people can meet indoors. Our thoughts continue to be with our colleagues who have family and friends in India as they tackle the COVID-19 virus.

### **Queen’s speech**

The Queen’s speech took place earlier this week, outlining the government’s priorities for the year ahead. Health and care was at the heart of the Queen’s speech, and it confirmed plans for a new health and care bill, which would establish integrated care systems on a statutory footing as well as setting out plans to help us beat COVID-19 and deliver a national recovery from the pandemic. If you would like to read in more

detail, the full briefing notes are available [here](#).

### **#DoYourBit – bring your own medicines**

As part of our #DoYourBit campaign, we are reminding patients who are coming into hospital for planned treatment to bring their own medicines with them. This element of the campaign has been commissioned by lead pharmacists at trusts across the region. Patients bringing in their own medicines with them into hospital means clinical teams know immediately what medication they are taking which is safer. It also means the medication doesn't need to be re-supplied again which helps to reduce waste and saves time. We have shared a toolkit with communication leads and we will start to share content on our social media channels from next week.

### **Bright Ideas in Health Awards 2021**

After a year's break, the Bright Ideas in Health Awards are returning for 2021 and will be celebrating the achievements of innovators from across the region and beyond. Recognising the expertise, passion and collaborative approaches being taken across our region to improve patient care has never been more important, which is why we are honoured that our ICS will be the lead sponsor of this year's awards. To find out more about these awards, visit [here](#).

### **International Nurses Day 2021**

It was great to see so many tributes to all our incredible nurses as part of International Nurses Day this week. We know how tough this year has been, but the dedication of our nurses, and indeed all health and care staff, to continue to deliver outstanding care to our communities has continued to shine through. You can watch our short film on International Nurses Day [here](#) which we shared on social media.

Keep up the great work.

Best wishes,

Alan

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

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## **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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