



Update

ICS update - 16 July 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



From Monday 19 July further restrictions will be lifted across the country and as much as we all want life to get back to normal, some of us – including our frontline teams – may be feeling cautious about what lies ahead. Supporting our teams across health and care will be crucial in the weeks ahead as they continue to provide the very best care for our communities in challenging circumstances.

Just as we think we might be betting back to some normality, this virus seems to find another way to challenge us. The number of Covid-19 cases are continuing to rise across our region and in some areas they are the highest they have ever been.

Thankfully hospital admissions are not as high as in previous waves but they are growing, so we must remain vigilant.

Whilst restrictions are being lifted in many other areas of our lives we are asking the public to keep doing their bit - to wear a mask, wash their hands and socially distance when visiting any healthcare settings to help keep our staff and patients safe. Healthcare settings provide a different challenge than public areas and it's clear that our current robust infection prevention control measures will continue to be vital in protecting people into the future. You can read our media release [here](#) and we are sharing these messages via our [social media](#) channels. National guidance has also been published and you can read it [here](#).

Across the region our communications network has been working with local and regional media to raise awareness of some of the challenges we are facing and to ask the public for their continued support - you can read our media release [here](#). North Tees and Hartlepool Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust hosted BBC health reporter Hugh Pym with interviews with deputy medical directors Chris Tulloch and Cath Monaghan, which you can read more on [here](#). Earlier in the week there was also substantial coverage on BBC Look North and ITV Tyne Tees including interviews with staff from [South Tyneside and Sunderland Foundation NHS Trust](#), as well as powerful messages on [social media](#).

COVID-19 and the vaccine

The vaccine continues to be our best protection against this virus. As ever, there are huge efforts across the region to ensure as many people are getting vaccinated as quickly as possible. We are continuing to stress the importance of people booking and attending for their second jab to ensure they have the strongest possible protection against the virus.

Thank you again to everyone who has been involved in our vaccination programme for your incredible hard work and dedication to protecting our communities. We are now focusing on plans for the Covid booster and the flu vaccination season.

This weekend locations across the region will open up and offer people the chance to 'grab a jab' as we seek to maximise protection from Covid before restrictions are lifted on Monday.

Any adult will be able to turn up and get their vaccine if they have not already taken up the offer. People can find details of their nearest vaccination session by checking their local authority or CCG website, or by visiting www.nhs.uk.

Health and care bill

The Health and Care Bill has now been formally introduced to the House of Commons and went through its first reading last week. There was a further reading this week and we are waiting for guidance following the outcome of this but will update you as soon as we can.

This is big step in setting out the operating model for integrated care systems (ICSs) from April 2022 and we are already thinking about how we can continue to build on the already excellent work underway to further integrate health and care across the region.

As you are aware from my previous updates, myself and Sir Liam Donaldson have been meeting colleagues in each ICP area to hold discussions and understand how place-based working works well in the different areas of our region. Thank you to colleagues who took the time to meet us in Tees Valley earlier this week. We look forward to discussing this further with colleagues so we can continue to work together to deliver our ambition to improve the health of all our communities.

Finally, thanks again to everyone for all they are doing to care for and protect our communities. And to our communities for all they are doing to support us.

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](https://www.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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