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# Update

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## ICS update - 6 August 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



## Latest picture across the region

We are starting to see a drop in the number of Covid-19 cases in the community and it's reassuring to see a drop in hospital cases too, which I'm sure will come as welcome news. As ever though, we must not become complacent and rates are still higher than we would like. It remains very busy for everyone working across health and care right now with demand for services high across the region. We are continuing to remind the public to

## **Covid-19 vaccine**

Huge efforts continue to be made across the region to ensure as many people are vaccinated against Covid-19.

As a region we have been encouraging expectant mums to ensure they are fully vaccinated against Covid-19. This advice follows new data which shows the overwhelming majority of pregnant women hospitalised with the virus have not had a jab. You can read more on this [here](#).

The government this week released [updated guidance](#) on vaccination of young people aged 16 and 17. The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) is advising that all 16 and 17 year olds receive their first dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine. It is expected that all 16 and 17 year olds will start being offered their first dose within the next few weeks and we will share further information on this when it becomes available.

At the same time there's lots of work happening across the region to get our flu vaccination programme underway and to look at how this will align with covid booster programmes.

## **Welcome to new juniors doctors**

It has been great to see pictures and messages of support across social media this week welcoming our new doctors and dentists in training throughout the region.

The Find Your Place website has a dedicated welcome page for our newest medical trainees and includes a welcome video message from Professor Namita Kumar which you can watch [here](#).

I'd like to thank all of our new trainees for finding their place in our region and all those that support them, and of course all our doctors and dentists in training across the region for their hard work, especially over the last year.

Year-on-year we are seeing more trainees choosing the north east and North Cumbria which is a real credit to those people supporting them including our colleagues at Health Education England North East and the Lead Employer Trust.

results in the country. I know teams will be looking at the survey results in more detail and I am sure that, once again, we will see some positive results and feedback from our trainees.

### **Gateshead to make FFP3 masks**

Our colleagues at Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust and Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust have joined forces to become the first collective NHS body to start to manufacture FFP3 masks in the country. It is great to see our region at the forefront of innovation and this represents another great example of our region's ability to collaborate for the good of our staff and communities. You can read more about this [here](#).

### **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.

We look forward to helping showcase the continuous innovation being made by truly dedicated individuals and teams who are developing solutions for our healthcare challenges both now and in the future. To find out more about these awards, visit [here](#).

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)

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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