



# Update

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## ICS update - 2 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](#).

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## Message from Alan Foster



### Future system working for the future

This week Sir Liam Donaldson and myself are meeting with partners across each of our four Integrated Care Partnerships (ICPS) to explore thinking around how future ICS arrangements will work - both at regional and place-based level, following the publication of the design framework the other week.

Many thanks to those who were able to take time to meet with us yesterday in North Cumbria, which was our first session. As always, there were some great conversations about how we build on the excellent work already underway to join-up health and care across North Cumbria, and to ensure our future system working enables us to improve the health and wellbeing of all our communities. Today we will be joining colleagues in the Central ICP area and we will be meeting with the two other ICP areas – North and

Tees – over the next two weeks.

## **New Secretary of State for Health and Care**

As you will be aware the Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP was been appointed as the new Secretary of State for Health and Social Care on 26 June. You can read his recent speech on the vaccination programme and the move to step 4 of the roadmap [here](#).

## **NHS 73rd birthday**

Next Monday will be the 73rd birthday of the NHS and there are various activities across the region planned to mark this important day and reflect on the year that has passed.

Without a doubt, it has been our most challenging year ever but I could not be prouder of what our teams have achieved during these difficult times. Thank you to everyone. It really has been a privilege to have worked with you and serve the NHS during this time.

We will be re-sharing our #NHSBrothersinArms film on 5 July to recognise the efforts of our teams and thank our local communities for their unwavering support. You can view it [here](#).

As always, our thoughts continue to be with those that have lost loved ones to Covid-19 and those that continue to be effected by the pandemic.

I wanted to use this opportunity to remind people of the importance of supporting each other. The regional [staff wellbeing hub](#) is there for anyone working across health and care in the region and offers great support. Please do encourage people to seek help if they need it.

## **Our services**

It continues to be very busy for many of our services, including primary care, with activity levels back to where they were before Covid-19, and in some cases even higher.

These are challenging times. We still need to adhere to strict social distancing and infection control measures to ensure we reduce the risk of the virus spreading. This means the physical space we have in waiting and treatments areas has also reduced. Some of our workforce has also been affected by the increasing numbers of children who are off school needing to self-isolate. It is a difficult balance.

We continue to remind our communities that the NHS is here if they need us and to ask them to choose the right service for their needs. This week, with the big Euro football matches on, we have again reinforced these messages across our social media channels and on outdoor advertising screens across the region. You can read our release [here](#). The media have supported us to share these messages and you can

[watch coverage](#) on Tyne Tees this week, when Helen Ford spoke to the team working in the emergency department at The Northumbria in Cramlington.

### **Covid-19 and the vaccine**

Across the region we are seeing a significant increase in the rates of Covid-19, especially among younger age groups. Hospital admissions remain low which is much welcome news. There are huge efforts across the region to get as many people vaccinated as possible and this continues to be our best defence against the virus and our route back to some normality. There's lots of local targeted work as we push to ensure that all adults have been offered a vaccination by 19 July.

The good news is that we are seeing more people than ever come forward and take up the offer of a vaccine when it is their turn. The NHS and local authorities are working together with their voluntary and community sector, faith leaders and with the communities themselves to continue to build confidence in the vaccine.

Last weekend saw many walk-in sites open up across the region to make it easier and more convenient than ever for people who haven't had a jab to come forward. The 'Grab a Jab' weekend encouraged all adults to come forward without the need of an appointment or NHS number.

Locations across the region showed where you can be vaccinated either by having an appointment or by visiting a drop-in service. There were seven large vaccination centres, 67 primary care networks (local GPs working together), 68 community pharmacies, various vaccine buses, and pop up and walk in clinics – that's no mean feat. Fantastic work everyone!

We are continuing to focus on ensuring that people book their second jab. Specifically, for those aged over 40 who had their first dose at least eight weeks ago, or those 40 and under who had their first doses at least 12 weeks ago.

Following advice from JCVI the second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine has been brought forward from 12 to eight weeks for the remaining people in their 40s who have yet to receive their second dose. This is to ensure priority groups have the strongest possible protection from the Delta variant of the virus at the earliest opportunity possible. We are also reminding people to keep their appointment and if they can't to let us know so we can offer it to someone else.

Finally, thank-you for all you are doing for our communities. If you're an England football fan, please enjoy the big match on Saturday and stay safe.

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.

**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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