



A message from Richard Flinton, Chief Executive

With another glorious weather forecast for the weekend ahead, at the risk of repeating myself, we need to continue to emphasize the message that we should all 'think ahead to limit the spread'. Now that we can drive further and have an increased amount of physical freedom, it gives us more scope than ever to find space to relax and exercise away from potential crowds and, therefore, away from the risk of inadvertently contracting or spreading the virus which remains amongst us. With further relaxation to the lockdown rules due to come into play next week, I would ask you to, please, make sure you stick to the very simple, but proven to be effective, measures of staying two metres apart and washing your hands frequently and thoroughly.

A particular issue that is always present in summer months but is, perhaps, more of a potential danger during lengthy periods of good weather and the current lockdown, is the temptation to cool off in rivers, reservoirs and the sea. We know that most people behaved responsibly during the last sunny weekend and avoided busy areas but some large groups did gather to swim and drink in places like the Threshfield Quarry lagoon near Skipton in the Yorkshire Dales and Richmondshire Falls on the River Swale.

We have over 100 scenic and beautiful reservoirs that we want walkers, cyclists, runners, picnic-goers and others to enjoy this summer within the agreed guidelines but we really need people to obey the signs and not swim in them. Open water may look tempting to cool off in warmer weather but they can be full of hidden dangers, including submerged items and vegetation that you can get caught up in. It's also likely to be much colder than you expect - some reservoirs have temperatures as low as 12°C, which is colder than rivers in summer time and they are much deeper with depths of up to 50m. Although they have fewer currents than rivers, there are still underwater currents generated by pipework, which is an invisible danger. Even strong swimmers can be affected by cold water shock. So, please, if you are spending time near water this weekend, make sure you read all the local safety information.

Monday will see a big step forward towards the new normal as we see many of our primary schools reopen their doors, with new social-distancing in place, to children in reception, Year 1 and Year 6. Each school has carried out a risk assessment to plan bespoke safety measures. So far 110 primary schools in North Yorkshire – just over a third - have confirmed they will be opening on Monday, June 1 and an additional 24 primary schools are planning to open from June 8; other schools are initially opening so staff can plan how teaching will take place in their individual settings with social distancing rules in place.

Schools in North Yorkshire are using a variety of approaches to make sure that the children's well-being and safety is protected as an absolute priority. In some schools, children will be taught in small "bubbles" – spending the day with the same, small group of other children and teacher, who stay separate from other bubbles in school. Teaching tools, toys, surfaces and any other items that the children will touch will all be sanitised with everybody continuing to do regular hand-washing.

Schools are working to make sure that the children are properly settled in and that they feel secure and ready to begin formal learning again. We do encourage parents to send their children to school but those who decide to keep them at home won't be penalised.

We are working with all other primary schools towards their reopening in the coming weeks. Secondary schools will be opening from June 15 to allow students in key year groups – Year 10 and Year 12 – to have contact with teachers as they study for exams they will sit next year.

So, a busy time for all of us and, while we work at such pace, I will finish this message as I started, with a strong reminder that we mustn't forget how essential it is that we all continue to follow the 2 metre social distancing rule. If you are bored with hearing that from me, why not take a couple of minutes to hear it from five-year-old, Henry Sangster, from Richmond Methodist Primary School which will be re-opening on Monday. If Henry can get his two-year-old sister to comply instantly, I'm sure we can all do the same! Thank you, Henry – you have a bright future ahead of you!

<https://youtu.be/iRaoP3W3h7s>



A message from Dr Lincoln Sargeant, Director of Public Health

Current World Health Organisation data shows that we have now passed 5.5 million confirmed cases globally, with over 353 thousand deaths across 216 countries, areas or territories.

At a national level, yesterday's (28/05) Public Health England data show there were 269,127 lab-confirmed cases in the UK, with 37,837 COVID-associated deaths. To date, there have been 1286 confirmed cases of COVID-19 across North Yorkshire.

The number of people currently in hospital with COVID-19 continues to decrease slowly. Sadly, there have been 598 deaths from COVID-19 across Airedale, Harrogate, South Tees and York NHS Trusts to date, of whom an estimated 231 will be North Yorkshire residents.

Since the last bulletin the government has announced the start of the new NHS Test and Trace programme. The test and trace service is one strand of the overall approach for management of COVID-19 outbreaks. Whilst the core contact tracing elements will be managed by the regional and local teams of NHS Test and Trace, there is a significant role for local authorities and partners to support the overall programme. As part of this we are developing a COVID-19 Outbreak Control Plan, which builds on our recent work with care homes to help prevent and manage outbreaks in a wider range of settings.

Staying Active

PHE and Sport England have released an Active at Home booklet aimed at older people. It offers guidance and exercises to do at home, to keep strong and steady, as well as prevent further decline in mental and physical health.

The booklet can be downloaded via the campaign resource centre:

<https://campaignresources.phe.gov.uk/resources/campaigns/50-resource-ordering/resources/5118>

(there is also access to a print friendly version)

If printing isn't available, hard copies can be ordered on the following

link: <https://sabinapal.wufoo.com/forms/active-at-home-booklet-order-form/>

World No Tobacco Day

31 May marks World No Tobacco Day and we are promoting the benefits of quitting smoking and the services and support available.

Quitting smoking reduces your risk of illness, disability or death caused by cancer, heart or lung disease. It will protect the health of the people around you by reducing their exposure to second-hand smoke and will also save you money – the average smoker saves £150 a month when they quit.

Early in the Covid-19 pandemic smokers were advised in the #QuitforCovid campaign that stopping smoking could be one of the best things they could do.

Covid-19 is a respiratory condition affecting the lungs and airways, often causing a cough and shortness of breath. Smoking weakens the immune system and damages the lungs, meaning smokers are more likely to get complications if they get ill and will recover more slowly.

The County Council's public health grant funds Living Well Smokefree to help smokers who wish to stop. It provides personalised, one-to-one support over six to 12 weeks. The service is operating remotely throughout the Covid-19 pandemic.

To access the Living Well Smokefree service visit <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/stopping-smoking> call 01609797272 or email stop.smoking@northyorks.gov.uk

North Yorkshire County Council

Planning for recovery

County prepares for safe reopening of our high streets

As Covid-19 lockdown restrictions are relaxed, we are putting measures in place in preparation for the safe reopening of many of North Yorkshire's high street businesses in June.

Our highways teams are working with partners in district and borough councils, the police and the national parks to help businesses to open safely and to enable residents to shop with confidence.

To keep the public and businesses informed with up to date details of the steps being taken, we have created dedicated web pages at www.northyorks.gov.uk/socialdistancing

Measures can include putting out cones that will temporarily remove some on-street parking spaces and temporary road closures to make it easier for pedestrians to observe social distancing to tackle the spread of Covid-19. Some such measures have already been seen over recent weeks, particularly on bank holidays, in some of North Yorkshire's busier towns.

National guidance to avoid the use of public transport where possible has also meant that people have chosen to use more active travel measures such as walking and cycling and the measures will look to build on this where possible.

People can also contact us with any questions about highways-related social distancing measures at www.northyorks.gov.uk/socialdistancing

Testing

As part of the national testing programme for coronavirus, drive-through Mobile Testing Units, run by the Department for Health and Social care, will be operating in the following locations over the coming days between 11am and 3pm:

- **30 May - Leyburn** - Tennants Auctioneers Car Park, Harmby Road, Leyburn, DL8 5SG
- **30 May - Settle** - Greenfoot Car Park, Ingfield Lane, Settle, BD24 9RW
- **30 to 31 May - Drax** - Drax Social Club, Main Road, Selby, YO8 8PJ
- **31 May - Harrogate** - Hydro Leisure Centre, Jenny Field Drive, Harrogate, HG1 2RP
- **31 May - Scarborough** - Scarborough Park and Ride, Seamer Road, Scarborough, YO12 4LW

Before you attend you must book a test. There are two ways to do this depending on which testing group you are part of. Tests can be booked from 8pm the night before.

Anyone in the country who is showing coronavirus symptoms can register at <http://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus>

People who don't have access to the internet, or who have difficulty with the digital portals, can ring the new 119 service to book their test.

Essential workers and members of their household can register at: www.gov.uk/apply-coronavirus-test-essential-workers

You can see the full list of essential workers at: www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested

Schools and childcare

We have been working closely with head teachers, governing bodies and teaching unions on the reopening of schools, which the Government has said can take place from June 1 the earliest for certain year groups.

All schools have carried out a risk assessment to plan safety measures for their specific circumstances and decide whether they can open safely.

Just over a third of primary schools – 110 - will be opening their doors to children in key year groups the week beginning Monday, June 1 and a further 24 will be accepting children back the following week. We are working with the remainder of other primary schools towards their reopening in the coming weeks.

Secondary schools will be opening from June 15 to allow students in key year groups – Year 10 and Year 12 – to have contact with teachers as they study for exams they will sit next year.

Schools are using a variety of approaches to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children in school, including staggered times for parents dropping-off and collecting children from school, one-way corridors and regular disinfecting of surfaces and items which are handled by children.

Some schools will be teaching in small groups of about five children, who will remain with each other – and the same teacher – for the rest of term, but won't come into contact with other "bubbles". There will be a strong emphasis in schools on helping children feel settled and secure in the new routine.

During the lockdown, we had provided weekend and bank holiday childcare provision via hubs, which have been mainly based in local schools.

As schools are being asked by the government to begin re-opening to key year groups from the Monday, June 1 at the earliest, the hubs will close after today, May 29, so those schools can be cleaned ahead of the reopening. The increased numbers of children likely to return to schools from June 1 onwards means we will be unable to sustain the hubs beyond this date, but alternative arrangements have been found for the small number of children affected by this.

The latest information on home to school transport can be found at:

www.northyorks.gov.uk/schoolsupdate

Social care, the NHS and Public Health services

We are now undertaking critical work to implement the Government's Covid-19 Outbreak Plan which includes systems for contact testing and tracing. The primary objectives of the Test and Trace service will be to control the Covid-19 rate of reproduction (R), reduce the spread of infection and save lives, and in doing so help to return life to as normal as possible, for as many people as possible, in a way that is safe, protects our health and care systems and releases our economy.

Achieving these objectives will require a co-ordinated effort from local and national government, the NHS, GPs, businesses and employers, voluntary organisations and other community partners, and the general public. Local planning and response will be an essential part of the Test and Trace service, and we have a central role to play in the identification and management of infection through the development of a local outbreak control plan.

£300m in national government funding will be provided to local authorities in England to develop and action their plans to reduce the spread of the virus in their area – we await what our share will be.

We already have experience across North Yorkshire of local outbreak management and during the pandemic, we have put in place targeted work already to support care homes. Test and trace will now encompass key themes which include schools, work places, people who may be vulnerable because of their health or social circumstances. The good practice we have already established within the LRF area in the provision of community support for vulnerable people during the national lockdown must be incorporated into the management of any local lockdowns.

There is need for a national steer on how to implement potentially controversial measures such as local lockdowns, if they were ever to be needed, and the extent of local lockdown powers and enforcement. Working pro-actively with the public will be an important part of the programme. Likewise, there will be an important role for democratic accountability and, in line with other councils, we are looking at how we might establish an Elected Member-led, multi-agency Outbreak Management/Health Protection Board for the duration of the Test and Trace programme in North Yorkshire.

It is crucial to realise that a test and trace system, no matter how well implemented, is not enough on its own to contain the coronavirus pandemic. Without vigilance in maintaining social distancing rules and the regular washing of hands, the test and trace system is unlikely to be as effective as it needs to be: 2 metres means 2 metres!

We have also today sent our care market resilience plan to the Department for Health and Social Care. We anticipated the DHSC would require local authorities to step up support for the care home sector in managing Covid-19 outbreaks and have been implementing our plan for some weeks. Although there are still, sadly, outbreaks in our care homes, we are working at speed with the care sector and with individual homes to take the necessary action to support residents and to halt any further spread of the virus. As a result of this the number of homes affected and number of cases of people with the virus is reducing slowly. As part of this approach, we are about to receive North Yorkshire's share of the national £600m infection control fund and are writing to care home providers from today to confirm their allocations from the first wave of that national funding.

From day one we have been providing practical support to care providers, including help with staffing and HR, help with safe hospital discharges, advice on infection control and a dedicated email address for advice and support: But as a result of a new service set up to implement the plan we have been working in close partnership with the Independent Care Group (ICG), which represents most care providers in North Yorkshire, and NHS colleagues, as well as Public Health England (PHE), which is leading nationally on Covid-19, and the Care Quality Commission (CQC), which is the regulator for care providers.

We created new care teams to spearhead this enhanced service and each home in North Yorkshire is receiving a daily call from a care home contact officer with a welfare checklist. They find out from each setting how they are coping and if they have any issues related to Covid-19 and whether they need additional support from the Council or the NHS. Homes experiencing problems are then supported by a care home liaison officer who will channel resources to meet requirements such as support on HR, staffing and recruitment, reducing agency usage if possible, help with sourcing PPE, infection control, zoning of care homes, cohorting of staff and residents, safe hospital discharge, clinical advice, registered manager support and more. This work is proving effective and is constantly being refined.

Support for people in isolation

Volunteers have been helping thousands of North Yorkshire residents every week during the COVID-19 pandemic. There are also countless examples of neighbours looking out for each other and an army of volunteers who have formed groups where they live. During Volunteers Week (1-7 June), we will be celebrating the selfless acts of kindness that have made a huge difference to people across the county.

Mick Hawes helps to run a football team in Sherburn, Selby. When players volunteered to donate their subs to help people in the community, Mick and others were invited to join the Sherburn Coronavirus Aid Group. Mick said: "We had a number of people willing to support us with vans doing deliveries, leaflet dropping and running errands. Also the befriending scheme, meals on wheels and other kinds of general support. It's been a massive team effort. I think we get tied up with the negative stuff that goes on in the world. We forget that there are some wonderful folk and when the chips are down people are willing to roll up their sleeves. Some of the offers of support and the lengths people have gone to have been nothing short of remarkable."

Many people are advised to remain at home, for now, despite some changes to lockdown restrictions. That includes people with underlying health conditions, including heart disease and diabetes, anyone over the age of 70 and women who are pregnant. For people who are being shielded to protect themselves from coronavirus, current Government advice is to stay at home until 30 June at the earliest.

Community support organisations (CSOs) and their partners continue to help people in their communities while they are isolating. Volunteers have been crucial in making sure that nobody is

left without essential supplies including medication, with 2,818 prescriptions being collected in the last four weeks by CSO volunteers, and many other people helping their neighbours by picking up medication.

Keith Davy is volunteering with Hambleton Community Action and has been delivering prescriptions to people who are unable to leave home. Keith said: "It's quite rewarding to drop off some tablets, see if they're ok and have a little natter, obviously from a safe distance. You get to meet all ranges of people and I love just helping. I was volunteering already, even before coronavirus kicked in. I retired from the army after a long career and needed something to do so I thought I'd give back to the local community by volunteering."

Those in need of help, who don't have anyone else to call on, or anyone concerned about the welfare of someone else, should contact North Yorkshire County Council's customer service centre on 01609 780780. The centre is open seven days a week 8am-5:30pm.

For more information, including links to the main supermarkets for people who can shop safely for themselves, and a link to the Buy Local site, go to www.northyorks.gov.uk/help-you-during-coronavirus-covid-19

Local economy

Buy Local

North Yorkshire Buy Local (www.northyorks.gov.uk/buy-local) is the online marketplace which brings together businesses and customers.

There are almost 600 businesses registered on the site, many of whom have been forced to adapt their ways of working and find new avenues to trade during the coronavirus outbreak.

Out of the Box! in Richmond, a self-serve eco-friendly food shop, started to take orders and offer a collection service, which has been invaluable for the community.

Loyal Out of the Box! shopper, Angela said "It can be difficult setting up a new business and I feel it is important to support them or we could lose them. I hope those customers who have discovered this great little store during lockdown will continue to support them afterwards."

In this testing time for independent businesses, Buy Local is here to encourage people to continue to shop locally after restrictions are eased.

Read more about Out of the box! and Buy Local here www.northyorks.gov.uk/buy-local

Please share our social media messages encouraging businesses to register, and directing the public to the site. Follow @northyorksc on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram.

LEP News: New NHS Test and Trace service launched

The government has launched the new NHS Test and Trace service across England.

Anyone who now tests positive for coronavirus will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace and will need to share information about their recent interactions.

To support this service, the Department for Health & Social Care has developed a package of materials, including guidance for employers and employees. For more information, visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nhs-test-and-trace-workplace-guidance>

Coronavirus Statutory Sick Pay Rebate Scheme open

The Coronavirus Statutory Sick Pay Rebate Scheme is now live for small and medium-sized employers (fewer than 250 employees) to recover Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) payments they have made to their employees.

Full guidance can be found here: <https://bit.ly/SSPRebateScheme>

ESFA Latest Update

The latest update from the ESFA can be found [here](#) .

This includes published guidance about [COVID-19 in educational settings for staff, parents and carers, pupils and students](#) and [guidance on the apprenticeship service about COVID-19](#).

York & North Yorkshire Growth Hub Business Support

Free ShopAppy.com membership

Last week, we announced that we would be offering twelve months free ShopAppy membership to businesses in and around ten towns across North Yorkshire.

This has had a great response in those areas and we are looking at ways to extend the scheme further.

More information about the [offer and eligibility is available at our website](#). If you are a business located outside of the ten towns, please still [get in contact](#) as there are other ways you can benefit and support that is available.

Managing Cash Flow in a Crisis webinar – watch on demand

At the start of the month, we teamed up with the ICAEW (Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales) to give practical advice about how you can manage your cash during this crisis, as well as put systems in place for the future. You can now [watch the webinar free and on demand](#).

The 45-minute webinar covers:

- Strategies for effective cash flow management in a time of crisis from ICAEW member Tom Bottomley
- Details of the free support and mentorship that businesses can access.

Staying informed

As always, we are keen to promote the following as main sources of business support information:

- **GOVERNMENT:** <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus/business-support>
- **Y&NY LEP:** <https://www.businessinspiredgrowth.com/covid-19/>
- **Y&NY GROWTH HUB:** <https://www.ynygrowthhub.com/how-we-can-help/coronavirus/>

Communications

NYCC's website has a dedicated area for all the latest COVID-19 related news visit:

<https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-and-information>

Follow us on social media: @northyorksc on Facebook and Twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram.

Advice on things to do

LGBTQ+ writing competition

North Yorkshire Libraries has launched an LGBTQ+ writing competition accessible to anyone, including NYCC staff, with the goal of promoting positive mental health during these trying times as well as generally being something nice and enjoyable to do! It may be of particular interest to professionals working with LGBTQ+ individuals/groups, as well as those who engage with young adults/teenagers.

Here is a link to the post where you can find more information:

<https://www.facebook.com/nycclibraries/posts/10157525005797153>

Write a play or short film

Try out a free screenwriting course to learn the ropes and (maybe) catapult you into stardom after your first film is made: <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/screenwriting>

Joy of painting

403 episodes of the timeless Joy of Painting have been added to YouTube so you can listen to the soothing tones of Bob Ross while you paint happy little trees and enjoy the beauty of imperfections: <https://www.youtube.com/user/BobRossInc/videos>

Visit the MoMA

A huge number of art galleries and museums around the world have digitised their collections and are now offering free virtual tours: <https://artsandculture.google.com/partner/moma-the-museum-of-modern-art?hl=en>

Go to 500 other museums or galleries

Google's arts and culture collection has virtual tours of 500 attractions around the world, including national galleries, individual artist museums, and even the Eiffel Tower: <https://artsandculture.google.com/partner?hl=en>

Go to the aquarium

Although they're closed to the public, Monterey Bay Aquarium has added a number of live cams to let you keep an eye on the jellyfish, kelp forest, coral reef, and even the penguins, completely free: <https://www.montereybayaquarium.org/animals/live-cams>



The P.M. is holding daily press conferences; the highlights from the latest one can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

