

Notice of a public meeting of

City of York Outbreak Management Advisory Board

To: Councillors Aspden (Chair), Runciman (Vice-Chair) and Kilbane

Ian Floyd - Chief Operating Officer, CYC

Sharon Stoltz - Statutory Director of Health for the City of York, CYC

Amanda Hatton - Corporate Director of People, CYC

Philip Allott - North Yorkshire Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner

Siân Balsom - Manager, Healthwatch York

Marc Bichtemann - Managing Director, First York

Lucy Brown - Director of Communications, York Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

James Farrar - Local Enterprise Partnership

Professor Charlie Jeffery - Vice Chancellor and President, University of York

Phil Mettam - Track and Trace Lead for Humber, Coast and Vale, NHS Vale of York Clinical Commissioning Group

Dr Simon Padfield - Consultant in Health Protection, Public Health England

Mike Padgham - Chair, Independent Care Group

Stephanie Porter - Acting Director of Primary Care and Population Health, NHS Vale of York Clinical Commissioning Group

Alison Semmence - Chief Executive, York CVS

Dr Sally Tyrer - General Practitioner, North Yorkshire Local Medical Committee

Lisa Winward – Chief Constable, North Yorkshire Police

Date: Wednesday, 7 July 2021

Time: 5.30 pm

Venue: Remote Meeting

AGENDA

- 1. Declarations of Interest**
- 2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 9 June 2021** (Pages 1 - 6)
- 3. Current Situation in York - Presentation**
- 4. Covid-19 Epidemiological Look Forward** (Pages 7 - 12)
- 5. Update on the Vaccination Programme** (Pages 13 - 20)
Including:
 - Vaccine Take Up
 - Access to Vaccines and Addressing Vaccine Inequality.
- 6. Covid-19 Testing Strategy - Verbal Item**
- 7. Communications Update** (Pages 21 - 40)
- 8. Update from Sub-Group: Universities and Higher Education establishments** (Pages 41 - 44)
- 9. Items for Next Agenda**
- 10. Dates of Future Meetings**
- 11. Any Other Business**

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- Business of the meeting
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This information can be provided in your own language.

我們也用您們的語言提供這個信息 (Cantonese)

এই তথ্য আপনার নিজের ভাষায় দেয়া যেতে পারে। (Bengali)

Ta informacja może być dostarczona w twoim własnym języku. (Polish)

Bu bilgiyi kendi dilinizde almanız mümkündür. (Turkish)

یہ معلومات آپ کی اپنی زبان (بولی) میں بھی مہیا کی جاسکتی ہیں۔ (Urdu)

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City of York Council

Committee Minutes

Meeting	City of York Outbreak Management Advisory Board
Date	9 June 2021
Present	<p>Councillors Aspden (Chair), Runciman (Vice-Chair) and Kilbane</p> <p>Ian Floyd - Chief Operating Officer, CYC Sharon Stoltz - Director of Public Health, CYC Amanda Hatton - Corporate Director of People, CYC James Farrar - Local Enterprise Partnership Professor Charlie Jeffery - Vice Chancellor and President, University of York Dr Simon Padfield - Consultant in Health Protection, Public Health England Mike Padgham - Chair, Independent Care Group Alison Semmence - Chief Executive, York CVS Dr Sally Tyrer - General Practitioner, North Yorkshire Local Medical Committee Lisa Winward – Chief Constable, North Yorkshire Police</p>
Apologies	<p>Philip Allott - North Yorkshire Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner</p> <p>Siân Balsom - Manager, Healthwatch York</p> <p>Marc Bichtemann - Managing Director, First York</p> <p>Lucy Brown - Director of Communications, York Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust</p> <p>Phil Mettam – Track and Trace Lead for Humber, Coast and Vale - NHS Vale of York Clinical Commissioning Group</p> <p>Stephanie Porter – Director of Primary Care – NHS Vale of York CCG</p>
In Attendance	Andrew Harrison – Senior Communications Manager, CYC

Mora Scaife - Principal Neighbourhood
Management Officer, CYC
Gareth Wilce – Senior Communications
Manager, CYC

1. Declarations of Interest

Members of the Board had no interests to declare.

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 May 2021

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes. The Board signed off the minutes as an accurate record of the meeting held on 19 May 2021.

3. Emergency Response Hubs

Mora Scaife, a Neighbourhood Management Officer at City of York Council, provided the Board with an update regarding the Emergency Response Hubs which had been operating since the end of March 2020. The paper in the agenda pack outlined the great work volunteers had been carrying out and how each part of the city was serviced by one of the five hubs. The hubs had managed to contact over 20,000 people and delivered 8,000 packages of food supplies. However the actual number was expected to be much higher than the number had been recorded. Mora reported that the Emergency Response Hubs were expected to stay in their current form until the end of July 2021.

The hubs had also started to try to address anxieties surrounding testing and vaccinations through the various engagement events that they had organised. These events would be planned around a community based model where safe spaces were used to help people find support locally. Socially distanced coffee social events were given as an example.

The Chair asked for this item to be added to the forward plan in order for the Board to be provided with a further update to include the role of the hub in regards to covid recovery. The Board noted the report.

4. Presentation: Current Covid-19 Situation in York

Fiona Phillips, the Assistant Director of Public Health, gave a presentation on the current Covid-19 situation in York. Although York was still below the national and regional rates, a rise in cases had been seen, with around 60 received per week. However, case rates in the 60+ cohort remained low, with most cases being found in the 10-40 age group. Fiona reported that the impact of the vaccination programme was starting to be seen, as most of the cases had been found in the unvaccinated population. The rise in cases had not affected the hospital admission rates either, as there had been no increase.

Once the national testing guidance was received, we would know how much funding would be split between local authorities. The established plan would be adapted appropriately to the acquired funding. Larger testing sites were set to stand down, with smaller sites remaining open in the more deprived areas.

Fiona also reported that the Contact Tracing Service had been contacting nearly 100% of the cases since March. The service was due to start tracing the contacts of cases as well, but this had been delayed nationally. Fiona informed the Board that York would be a part of a national pilot where contacts of a case would have the opportunity to test for a week instead of having to self-isolate.

After Fiona reported the BME vaccine uptake to be lower than other groups, the Chair asked for an update on vaccine inequality to be given at the July meeting. He wanted it to include the following:

- Actions to date to address vaccine inequality
- Specific actions for targeted groups
- Ward data/breakdown and any targeted ward actions
- Information on Covid-19 variants

The Board noted the presentation and report.

5. Communications Update

The Board noted all the great work that Claire Foale had done and congratulated her on moving on to a new role. Gareth Wilce, Senior Communications Manager at City of York Council, would attend the future Board meetings.

An update was given around the key messages and phased approach that York had taken. Accurate and timely messages had

continued to be shared with residents and circulated between community groups on social media. The next Facebook Live Engagement Session was set to take place after the government's next announcement on 14 June 2021.

With regard to the misinformation circulated online and anti-vaccine stickers in outer villages, the Chair asked for these to be removed by our enforcement teams. Cllr Runciman had yet to see a link in the data between vaccine uptake and the anti-vaccine stickers but agreed that they should be removed.

Action 028: Andrew Harrison and Gareth Wilce to request the enforcement team to remove the anti-vaccine stickers from the community.

The Board noted the update.

6. Update from Sub-Group: Universities and Higher Education Establishments

Professor Charlie Jeffery, Vice Chancellor and President of the University of York, gave an update along with the written report that was included in the agenda pack. He expected little to change regarding higher education establishments following the government's next announcement around restrictions reducing.

As the vaccine programme was progressing well, the majority of students are beginning to have their vaccines administered. Pop-up vaccination sites were being piloted on the University of York Campus. If the response was positive, additional appointments will be offered.

The Board noted the update.

7. Progress Report: Recommendations of LGA Peer Challenge of Outbreak Management Plan

Fiona Phillips reported that the recommendations of the LGA Peer Challenge of the Outbreak Management Plan had been taken forward and are being progressed. The progress report was shared with the papers in the agenda pack.

The Board had no further comments and noted the update.

8. Items for Next Agenda

The Chair confirmed that there were three standing items for all future agendas:

- Current Situation in York
- Communications and engagement
- Updates from Sub-Group/ Task and Finish Groups

The Chair noted that some agenda items have already been agreed. They were as follows:

- Vaccine Inequalities
- Testing Strategy
- Covid recovery and Scenario planning

9. Dates of Future Meetings

The agreed dates of future meetings were as follows:

- 7 July 2021
- 29 September 2021
- 13 October 2021
- 24 November 2021
- 22 December 2021

10. Any Other Business

The Board had no other business to discuss.

Cllr K Aspden, Chair

[The meeting started at 5.30 pm and finished at 6.24 pm].

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COVID-19 epidemiological look forward July 7th 2021

Report to OMAB from Sharon Stoltz, Director of Public Health

1. Background

- 1.1. This discussion paper draws on key public health and epidemiological data to enable OMAB to consider some scenarios, possibilities and reasonable worst case potentials for the next few months in terms of the effect of COVID-19 on the population in York. Data is current as of Friday 2nd July.
- 1.2. Whilst for the most part the paper focusses on infection rates and public health consequences, there are obvious implications for CYC and partner services, including adult and children's social care, education, business and the economy, and community wellbeing.

2. What national models say on future COVID trends

- 2.1. There are three main covid-19 models in the UK which aim to predict trends in future case rates, hospitalisations and deaths:
 - [Imperial college London](#)
 - [University of Warwick](#)
 - [London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine](#)
- 2.2. All three teams take slightly different approaches, and all three advise SAGE (The UK 'Science Advisory Group for Emergencies'). It is expected that combined these three models contribute to SAGE's recommendations to the government on steps in the roadmap, and any future COVID control measures.
- 2.3. Each of the three models use slightly different parameters, but generally the models make the following 'assumptions': no variants arise that behave differently to the current variants in the UK; there is high vaccine uptake across the adult population; immunity from vaccination or exposure to COVID does not fade with time; the vaccination protects against illness and death, but also gives partial protection against infection and transmission; 'baseline measures' such as 'hands, face, space remain in place after the end of the roadmap; and there is limited account for seasonality or other conditions such as flu.
- 2.4. All scenarios have since March described a third wave of infections across the summer of 2021. There has been significant uncertainty in both the timing and scale of this wave, but general agreement which estimates it will occur in the summer months of 2021 and be smaller in magnitude than the wave that occurred in January 2021. The models suggested that steps one and two of the roadmap will have little impact on case numbers. This has proven to be correct. The predicted wave linked to steps three (17th May) and four (21st June) of the roadmap is now occurring, driven by the relaxing of restrictions and the rise of the Delta variant, which is estimated to be around 60% more transmissible than the previous dominant variant (Alpha) and now represents above 95% of all COVID cases.
- 2.5. The models have however consistently predicted that the rates of hospitalisation and deaths through future waves of COVID will be less than previously seen, due to immunity in the population resulting from vaccination. The models predict, to different extents, an uncoupling of infection and serious illness, meaning that a greater proportion of those who are infected with COVID will be able to remain at home and not become seriously ill. The exact details around this vary between the models.

3. What we have seen and are seeing locally

3.1. York has experienced three distinct waves of COVID-19, which are instructive as they give some information on the scale and timings of future waves:

	Peak cases (highest day)	Exponential growth period (days) ~	Peak hospitalisations (highest day)	Days from peak cases to peak hospitalisations	Number of deaths
Wave 1 (March-May 2020)	50* cases	NA*	81 beds	NA*	172 deaths
Wave 2 (Sep-Nov 2020)	159 cases	22 days	68 beds	38 days	61 deaths
Wave 3 (Dec 20-March 21)	245 cases	32 days	163 beds	18 days	163 deaths

*Testing was limited to those in hospital, and case rates are likely to have been significantly higher

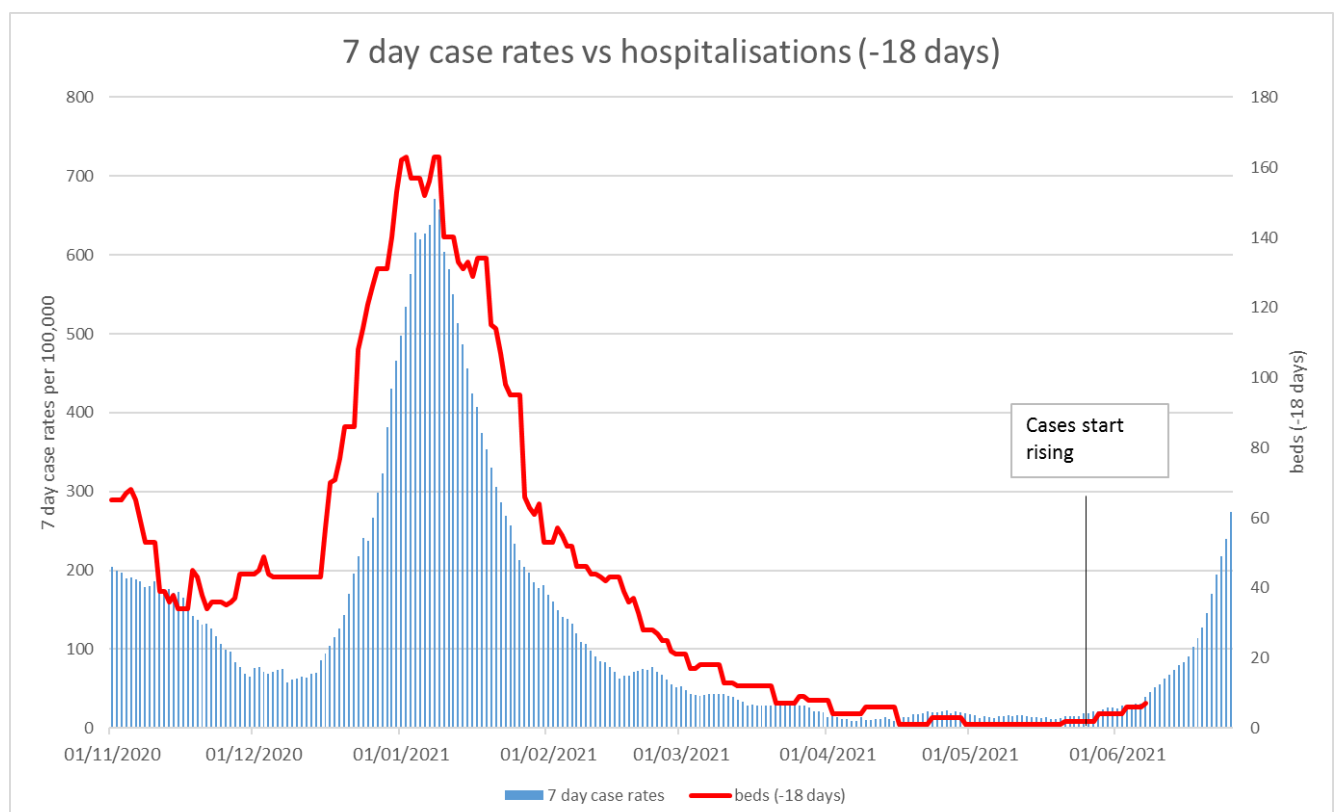
~ from 50 per 100,000 to peak

3.2. This paints a picture of how COVID waves have worked in our city: cases start to rise slowly, rise exponentially for a 3-4 week period before peaking due to national restrictions being imposed, with hospitalisation peaking 3-5 weeks after cases start to rise.

3.3. Currently case rates are rising rapidly in York, and stand at 392 per 100,000, a rolling total of 826 over a 7 day period. We can notice a number of things about this rise:

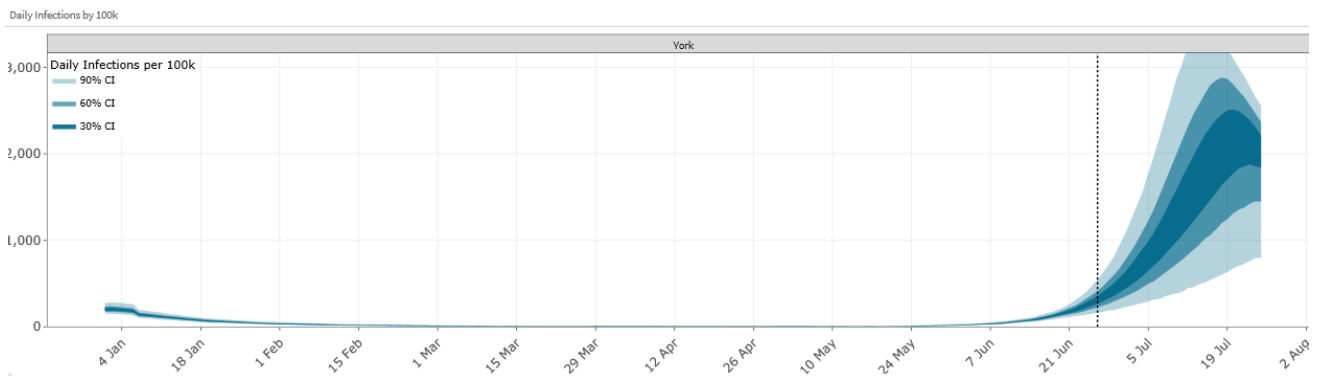
- Cases started rising consistently from the 27th of May, 35 days ago
- PCR testing positivity has risen almost exactly in line with cases from the 25th of May to 13.8%
- Hospitalisations started to rise very slightly on the 8th June but stand at only 7 currently
- No deaths have yet been recorded

3.4. The following chart uses the gap between cases peaking and hospitalisations peaking seen in York in the winter wave (18 days), and plots the two against one another. As can be seen, the trends in the two variables are strongly aligned, but there are early signs that the link between the rapid rise in cases and hospitalisation has been broken. A further 2 weeks of data would help confirm this trend.



4. Modelling future case rates

4.1. Short-term modelling from [Imperial College](#) gives probabilities for case rates by local authority over a 3-week timeframe. It is currently showing a 99% chance that the R value is above 1 in York with an estimated R of 2.1, meaning infections will be increasing. A range of scenarios is shown over the next 4 weeks in the chart below, with intervals of confidence:



4.2. This demonstrates that the exponential rise in cases could go very high and exceed previous peaks in the worst case scenario, with national restrictions the only tool which has previously turned the curve on rises of cases.

4.3. However as shown above this will not automatically feed into higher levels of hospitalisation and death, with one of the primary reasons being the age range of cases: currently, case rates are still low in the most vulnerable, the over 60s, at 20.2 per 100,000 (10 cases in a week).

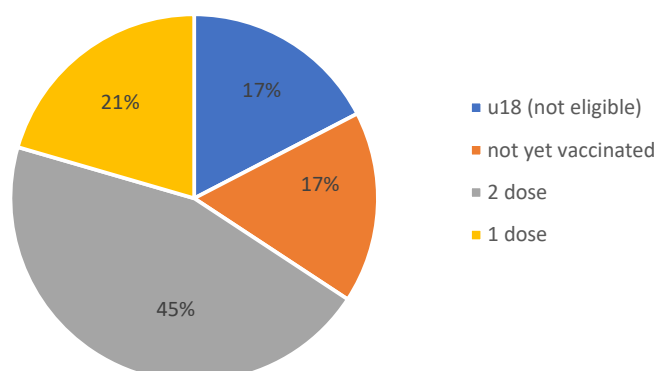
4.4. The majority of cases seem to be circulating within the 10-19 and 20-29 age range. With no restriction of movement for residents of that age range COVID is likely to exponentially increase: 5,810 people in these age bands have already had COVID in York but this still leaves 59,089 people in this age range susceptible to infection. The end of university and school terms may provide a natural 'break point' for chains of transmission, and vaccination coverage will soon start to provide meaningful protection to some, with 14% of 18-29s covered by two doses and 46% having received one dose (2-3 weeks are required to develop full immunity).

5. Population remaining vulnerable to COVID

5.1. All of the risks described above are hugely mitigated the higher the level of population protection there is through natural immunity or vaccination.

5.2. As of the start of July 2021, not all of York's population are protected from COVID by 2 doses of vaccination. As chart 1 below shows, 17% of our population (over 36,000 people) are not eligible for the vaccination as they are under 18, 17% of the eligible population have not been vaccinated, and 20% of the remaining number have only received one dose.

1. York - vaccination coverage 1st July 2021

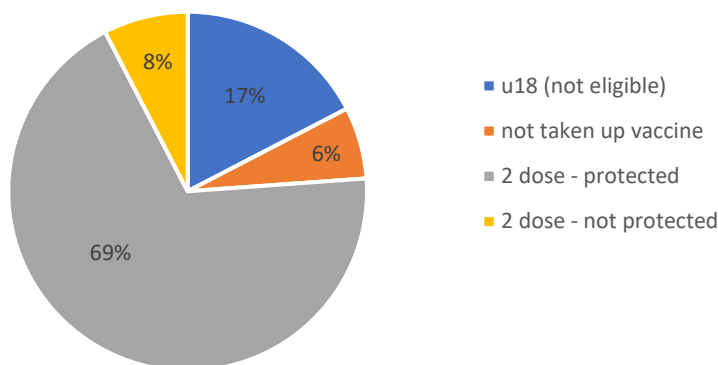


5.3. By the targeted end of the vaccination programme, (end of July, or 2-3 weeks after to factor in immune delay) the population will have received more protection by vaccination, as shown below in Chart 2.

However:

- 17% will still not be eligible (under 18)
- 6% will be eligible but not taking up their vaccine ([Cabinet Office](#) assumptions are for 95% uptake in over 50s, and 90% uptake in over 18-50s)
- 8% may not have full protection from second doses against the Delta variant ([PHE data](#) suggests Pfizer is 96% effective and AZ 92% effective against hospitalisation and death from the Delta variant)

2. York - projected vaccination coverage (end of vaccination programme, summer 2021)



5.4. This leaves potentially 31% of our population still not fully protected, around 66,000 people. The harms to this population are mitigated by the fact that they are likely to be younger and less vulnerable to consequences of COVID infection, and vaccine effectiveness against severe illness and death is likely to be higher than it is against infection. However Long COVID / post-COVID syndrome can be a severe debilitating health condition, not always related to strength/effects of symptoms during the acute phase, and is reported to have affected up to 2 million people in England. In CYC so far, 18 members of staff have taken an average of 50 days off work due to Long COVID (HR data)

5.5. Additionally, this does not take into account the role immunity due to past infection plays in this, with an rate of past infection in the UK estimated at 15.6% ([seroprevalence data, PHE](#)) and evidence that immunity due to infection could last as long as a year.

5.6. It is entirely plausible however that a surge in cases in the remaining at-risk population may occur similar to the size and scale of previous waves, although higher levels of immunity may produce a 'herd' effect that would slow down the speed at which this moves through the population.

6. Other risks

6.1. A number of other factors should be considered besides direct and anticipated COVID-19 infection rates:

- *Long Covid*: modelling has been done by Vale of York CCG on expected use of new MDT Long Covid services (see table below); numbers are borne out by high numbers already accessing services. It is unclear how vaccination attenuates the risk of developing Long Covid in those who catch the virus.

	Worst case	Best case
Estimated number of people in York infected with COVID so far (tested and not tested)	29,037	29,037
COVID no long term symptoms	22,939	25,843
COVID and still unwell after 3 weeks	5,807	2,904
COVID and still unwell after 12 weeks	290	290

- *Mental Health:* demand for services has risen due to lockdown, with modelling from TEWV NHS mental health trusting that they anticipate large rises in long term inpatient and community mental health use. First episode of psychosis diagnosis increased during the first lockdown in York, with more people entering crisis services than usual, and waiting lists have grown for IAPT.
- *Social care:* demand for children’s and adults services has risen due to lockdown, reflected for instance in modelling by FEHA which shows a higher acuity of need coming through Early Help
- *Current trends in A+E attendance,* with a 4-fold rise in under-5s attendance for respiratory viral symptoms at York Hospital and with particular pressures on teenage mental health attendances
- *Primary care:* including historically high trends in primary care demand, difficulties in enabling face-to-face appointments at pre-covid levels, workforce challenges including due to Test and Trace, and a high backlog of demand
- *Influenza and winter planning:* rates of flu were very low in the last winter; this puts us at risk of a higher number of cases this coming winter due to lack of residual immunity (passive and active). In the last bad flu year, 2014/15 which PHE summarises as a year of ‘moderate levels of infection’, there were 44,000 excess deaths (not all directly linked to flu), a record since 1999/2000. This interestingly following a record low number of excess deaths the previous year.

7. Reasonable Worst Case Scenarios

7.1. Below is shown an assessment of a number of reasonable worst case scenarios for the public health of the city.

	Likelihood	Impact
Continued moderate community circulation of COVID-19 among unvaccinated population	High	Low
Continued moderate community circulation of COVID-19 among unvaccinated population leading to levels of hospitalisation and death lower than seen in previous waves	Medium	Medium
Continued moderate community circulation of COVID-19 among unvaccinated population leading to levels of hospitalisation and death higher than seen in previous waves	Low	High
Flu epidemic in winter 2021/22 (pandemic not considered)	Medium	High
Long COVID is not attenuated by vaccination and continues to affect those who are infected with COVID	Medium	High
School closures continue in September due to large outbreaks	Medium	High
High level of other non vaccine-preventable diseases due to low levels of immunity e.g. RSV, Norovirus	High	Medium
Outbreak of common VPD due to lower vaccination rates eg measles, mumps	Low	High
COVID vaccine booster not taken up as well as primary jab	Medium	Medium
COVID immunity from vaccination or exposure waning more quickly than anticipated	Low	Medium
Another VOC which is more transmissible and/or has vaccine escape	Medium	High

8. Implications

OMAB are recommended to:

- Consider how we prepare partners to plan for ongoing community circulation of COVID and consideration of local public health measures eg communications, Test and Trace, Outbreak management eg closures beyond 19th July and for at least a year
- Support the appropriate resources to help the NHS deliver the vaccination programme (+flu) as an ongoing public health measure into winter
- Anticipate and plan now for higher levels of winter support than usual needed, for examples measures around extreme cold, housing, food and fuel poverty, affordable warmth, dealing with excess deaths, flu vaccination and staff absence.
- Note exceptionally high levels of demand in four key sectors in the city – primary care, secondary care, social care, mental healthcare – which is likely to continue in the medium to near term, due to ongoing patient/client backlogs, the need to factor in PPE and social distancing to practice, staffing and isolation issues, and increased population need due to the effects of lockdown. These problems are all interlinked in a complex adaptive manner, and rely on all sectors working together to solve.

Report authors: Peter Roderick, Jen Saunders, Fiona Phillips



Outbreak Management Advisory Committee

Report Date 5 July 2021

Covid-19 vaccination programme update

The vaccination programme continues to work well in York and North Yorkshire. With all citizens over the age of 18 now eligible. Colleagues will be aware that nationally the availability of vaccines is being managed to move resources to support areas with greatest needs and this changes frequently based on transmission and infection rates. As of 5 July, at the time of writing this report the vaccination rates for the Vale of York CCG were as follows:

CCG population	Total Population covered	Eligible population	First doses undertaken	Second Doses undertaken	% First Doses delivered	% Second Doses delivered
Vale of York	366,268	303,354	247,929	183,808	81.7%	60.6%
City of York	213,885	179,829	139,904	99,243	77.8%	55.2%

The Vale of York cohort 1-9 vaccination rate is first dose 93.9% and second dose at 91.4%

COVID vaccination programme – work on inclusivity

Together with system partners, most notably Public Health/CYC Contract Tracers/Nimbuscare we have been working to identify any barriers which impact the uptake of the vaccine and members of the board have heard already about initiatives such as:

- Myth busting comms via social media
- Multi language and accessible information
- Face book live events
- Print media campaigns, nationally and locally.

We have been working in line with the JVCI priorities to ensure that those most vulnerable to serious harm and/or inpatient admission with Covid 19, have achieved the highest levels of uptake of first and second doses.

As part of specific work looking at areas of inequality, we have addressed queries and implemented changes for example:

- Accessibility to our primary sites, creating transport hardship funds, voluntary transport drivers and public transport information. Increasing the utilisation of bus companies, Age UK and York Wheels drivers to assist patients in getting to Local Vaccination Service
- Engagement with local leaders of different groups, including faith leaders
- Bespoke offers for groups to reflect different needs ie campaign to support vaccinations during Ramadan; specialist learning disability clinics; homeless and asylums seeker service and campaigns to highlight the offer to carers
- In our highest outbreak areas, we've also been working with key employers to ensure increased workforce vaccination rates
- Our contract tracers at both CYC and Nimbuscare have called 1500 individuals not yet vaccinated and eligible to understand reasons for non-take up and this data is influencing changes in our approach to vaccination service delivery.

Data on differential take up in York Ward areas

Recently we have been working with public health colleagues at local and regional level to analyse the take up data to understand where we might want to flex our approaches to make taking up a vaccine as easy and straight forward as possible.

A key element to understand is the way in which the NHS has been rolling out eligibility to be vaccinated and the release of vaccines to support the roll out has impacted those wards which have been identified as low uptake. For example:

Those citizens aged 30-31 were eligible for a covid vaccination on 26 May 21.

Those citizens aged 25-29 were eligible for a covid vaccination on 7 June 21.

Those citizens aged 21-22 were eligible for a covid vaccination on 16 June 21.

Those citizens aged over 18 were eligible for a covid vaccination on 18 June 21.

This means that those wards with higher numbers of young people, identified here as 18-30 years of age have only become eligible relatively recently. That's not the case in every ward, and we know we have more to do, but it has impacted on the reported take up figures by ward.

It remains the case that the supply of vaccines influences our volume of service delivery, and under 40s are predominantly offered Pfizer or Moderna, so when we

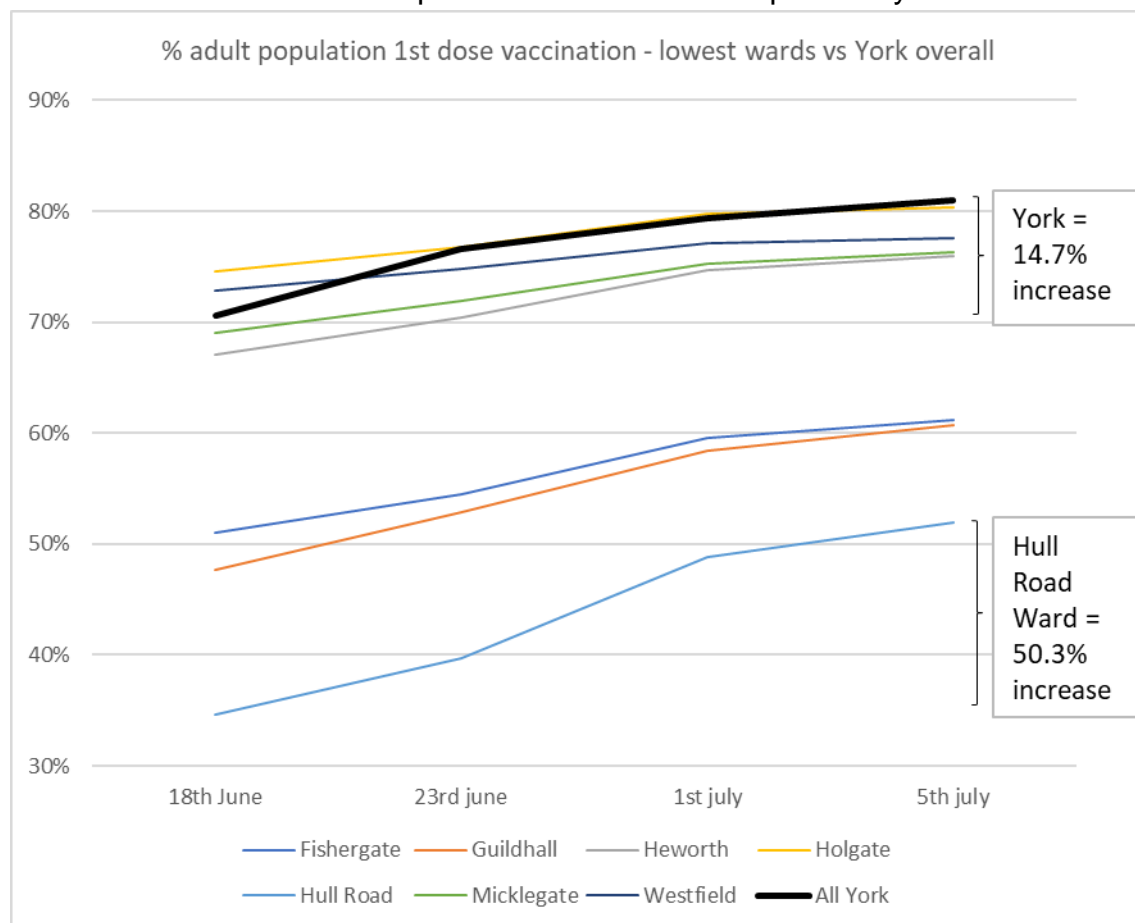
have a surplus of Astra Zeneca in the system there are some restrictions on the offer but supplies for all approved vaccines are now in line with the government initiative of the 'Big Weekend'.

Vaccination Services over the weekend of Friday 25 June to Monday 28 June

Nationally, vaccination teams and supplies had been planned for a 'super weekend' of vaccinations with more pop-up clinics and walk in services for first and second doses and was to align with a communications campaign to encourage citizens to come and take up the offer. The super weekend aimed to make it easier and more convenient than ever for eligible people who haven't had their vaccine yet to come forward – crucially boosting the numbers of people receiving their first and second dose jabs. In the city of York there were a series of walk-in, pop-up Covid vaccination clinics at venues across the city for the 'Grab a Jab' weekend. The model of walk-in clinics is now continuing and is seeing good take up.

York City Centre vaccination services to support wards with low take up

Partners have been adapting approaches to encourage and increase is vaccination take up in wards where to date there has been lower take up, and we are now seeing percentage take up, particularly in wards with more younger people increase now all over 18s are eligible. We've been monitoring vaccination rates in any ward with less than an 80% take up over the last 2 weeks specifically.



We are aware that Fishergate; Guildhall and Hull Road remain at lower levels of vaccination rates but are showing increases week on week in line with eligibility and accessibility of the services and we anticipate this continuing.

We remain focused on increasing uptake rates across all cohorts.

Stephanie Porter - Director for Primary Care and Population Health 5/7/21

Outbreak Management Advisory Board - 7 July 2021.

COVID Vaccination Inequalities.

Presented by: Anita Dobson Nurse Consultant in Public Health

- Actions to date to address vaccine inequality
 - Data interrogation
 - Weekly meetings with CCG
 - Inequalities assurance meeting with NYCC
 - HCV inequalities meeting

- **Pop up clinics**

A series of walk-in, pop-up clinics are taking place at venues across the city during the coming week to reach local people over the age of 18 years who have not yet received their first dose of the Covid-19 vaccine. All eligible patients are welcome to turn up on the day, but it is possible to book an appointment in advance through GP surgery's.

- Saturday 26 June, from 8.30am to 1.40pm, at **Jorvik Gillygate Practice** on Stonebow (Astra Zeneca).
- Sunday 27 June, from 12.30pm to 3.30pm, at Priory Medical Group's **Tang Hall Lane Surgery** (Pfizer).
- Monday 28 June, from 12.45pm to 5pm, at **Burnholme Sports Centre** (Pfizer).
- Tuesday 29 June, from 8.30am to 7.30pm, at the **University of York** (Pfizer).
- Wednesday 30 June, from 5pm to 8.30pm, at **York St. John University** (Pfizer).
- Thursday 1 July, from 12.30pm to 3.30pm, at **York St. John University** (Pfizer).
- Friday 2 July, from 8.30am to 7.30pm, at **York St. John University** (Pfizer).
- Saturday 3 July, from 12.30pm to 3.30pm, at Priory Medical Group's **Tang Hall Lane Surgery** (Pfizer).
- Sunday 4 July, from 8.45am to 3pm, at **Burnholme Sports Centre** (Pfizer).

All these clinics are in residential areas where people can access by walking and public transport.

- **Community Pharmacies**

Work is on-going with community pharmacies to deliver covid vaccinations. Currently there is provision in Haxby and Acomb.

- **Contact phone calls** – being made through Nimbus. CYC will support once capacity is available, paused due to contact tracing workload.

- **Communications**

Joint working with CYC and CCG to look at where at to whom messages are targeted so that specific issues can be addressed. This includes information on public transport, vaccination safety, pop-up venues and the availability of information in languages other than English. Weekly meetings are held so that current issues are responded to in a timely manner.

- **Specific actions for targeted groups**

- **Vulnerable Women** – one clinic has been delivered, a further clinic arranged.
- **Homeless** – more clinics arranged for 7th and 9 July for 2nd doses – 80% had first dose

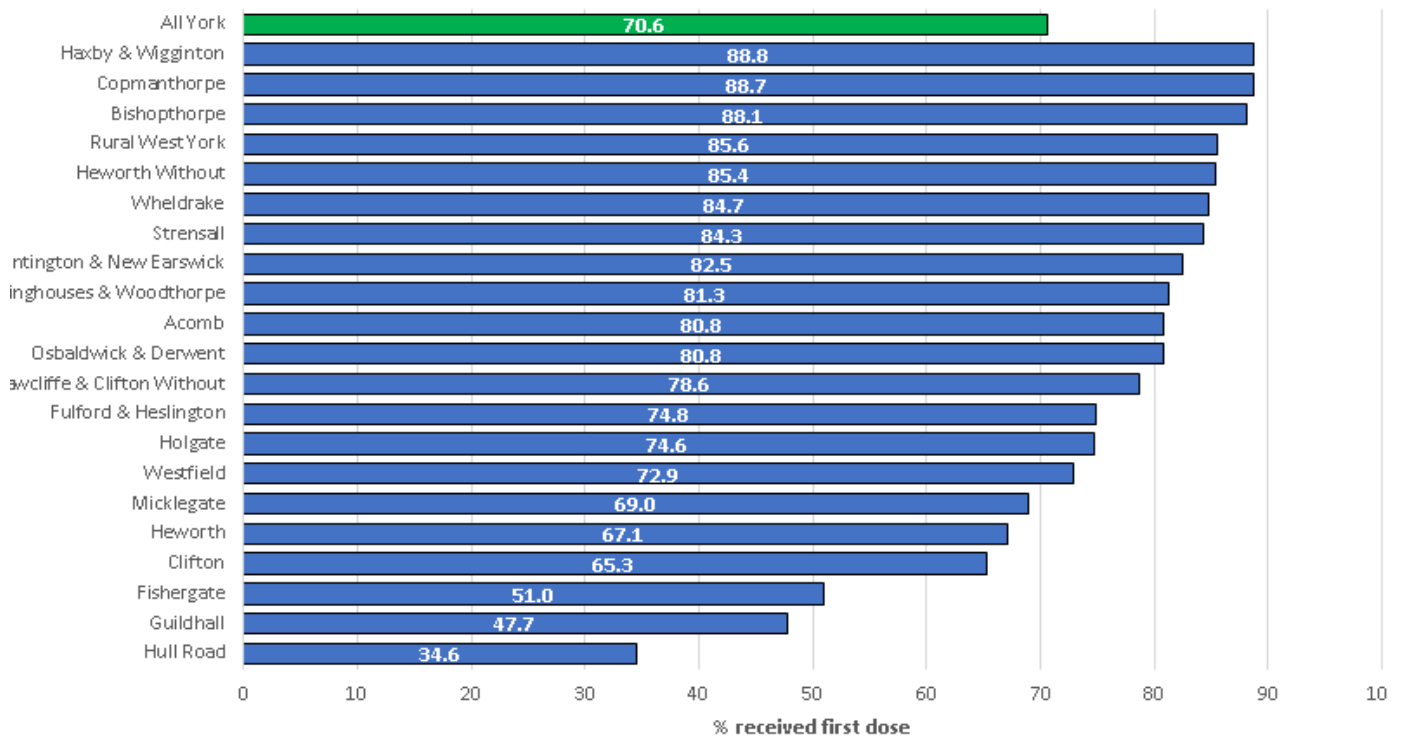
- **Traveller community** – CCG continue to work with the community. Information from NYCC regarding Seamer and Appleby Fair and how access can be made available at these locations.
- **Ethnic minorities.** CCG working with ethnic minorities. Chinese community COVID vaccine up-take remains a concern, CYC Public Health are seeking to have face to face meetings within the Chinese community. Lessons learnt from COVID suggests that by working in this way uptake is increased.

Ethnic Group	Eligible	No. received first dose	% received first dose
British	119,245	102,803	86.2%
Irish	707	556	78.6%
Any other White background	14,437	9,611	66.6%
Caribbean	140	88	62.9%
Arab	29	18	62.1%
Bangladeshi or British Bangladeshi	304	187	61.5%
Pakistani or British Pakistani	392	240	61.2%
Any other Black background	136	83	61.0%
White and Black Caribbean	215	129	60.0%
White and Asian	499	297	59.5%
Any other mixed background	607	355	58.5%
Any other Asian background	1,433	822	57.4%
White and Black African	177	100	56.5%
Indian or British Indian	1,448	812	56.1%
Not Known	32,712	18,300	55.9%
(blank)	34	19	55.9%
Any other ethnic group	1,723	922	53.5%
African	670	343	51.2%
Traveller	6	3	50.0%
Chinese	4,748	1,050	22.1%
All	179,662	136,738	76.1%

- **Ward data/breakdown**

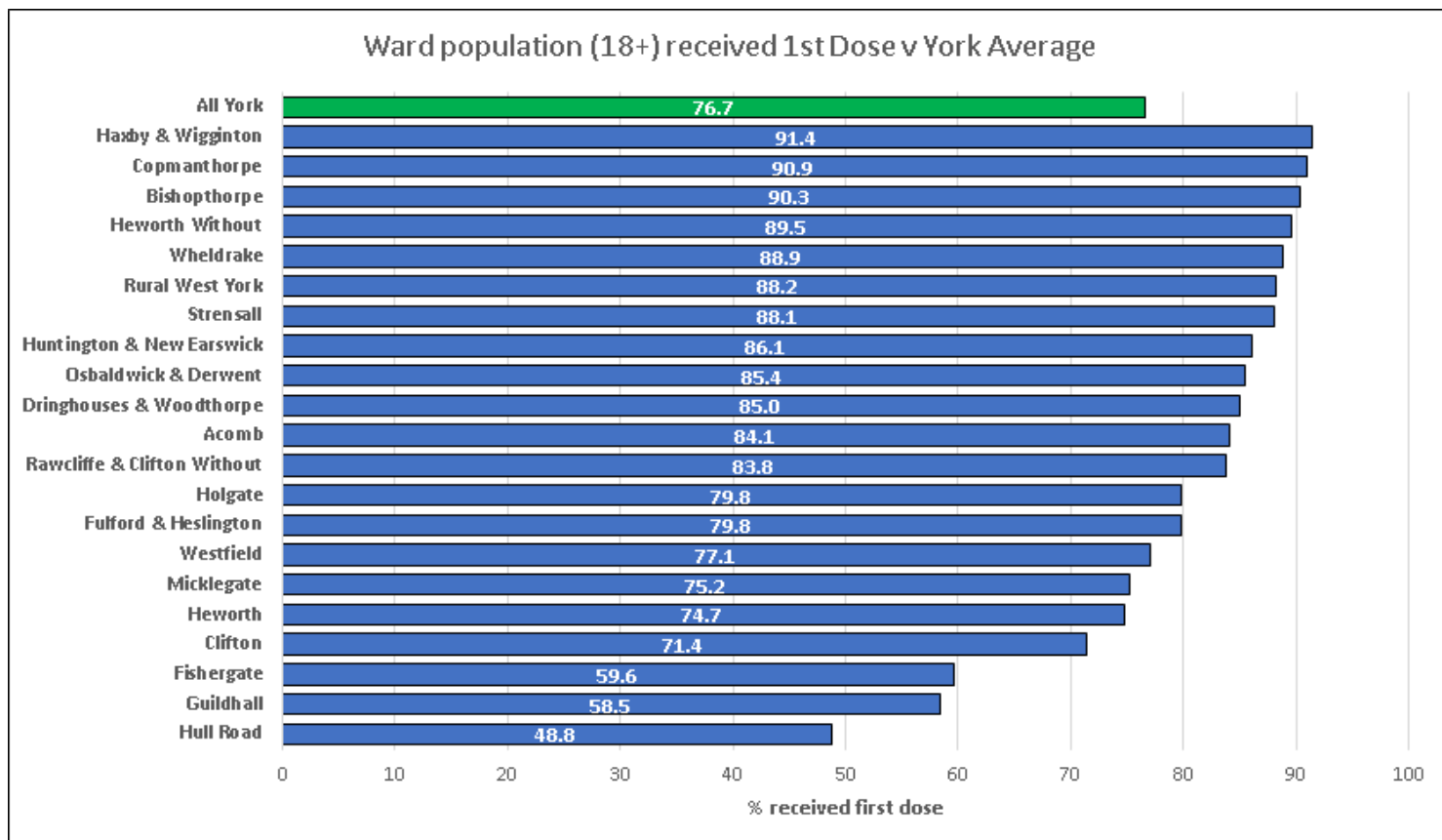
Data from NIMMS Covid Vaccine Uptake Data Export Report 17.6.21. **For first dose COVID vaccination.**

ward population received 1st Dose v York Average



Data from NIMMS Covid Vaccine Uptake Data Export Report 1.7.21

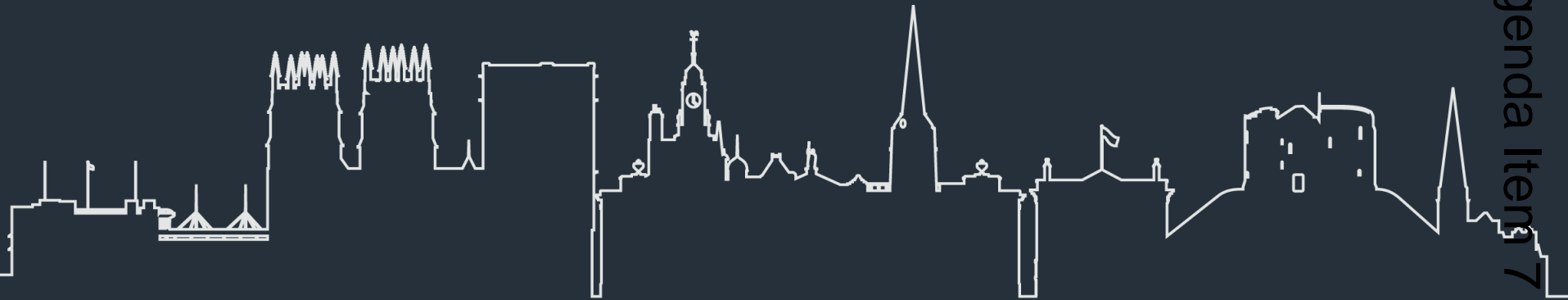
Ward population (18+) received 1st Dose v York Average



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YORK OUTBREAK CONTROL Communications update

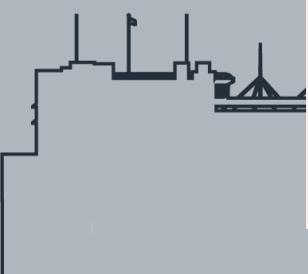
7 July 2021



Key messages

Safe Behaviours

 <p>Wash hands frequently, for at least 20 seconds.</p> <p>Hands</p>	 <p>Wear a face covering in enclosed environments.</p> <p>Face</p>	 <p>Maintain space with anyone outside your household or bubble.</p> <p>Space</p>
 <p>Meet with others outdoors where possible.</p> <p>Air</p>	 <p>Minimise the number of different people you meet and the duration of meetings, if possible.</p>	 <p>Let fresh air in.</p> <p>Air</p>
 <p>Download the NHS Test & Trace app.</p>	 <p>Get a test immediately if you have any symptoms.</p>	 <p>Self isolate if you have symptoms, have tested positive, or had contact with someone with COVID-19.</p>



The four phases of outbreak management communications

Phase 1

- Prevent - Provide updates about the current situation to prevent outbreaks

Phase 2

- Respond – Share information in responses to an alert following increased cases and/or change in restrictions

Phase 3

- Manage the outbreak

Phase 4

- Safely recover

A phased approach

Phases		Approach (including aims)	Timing
1	Regular updates of current situation to try and prevent outbreaks	<p>Amplify in phase 2</p> <p>Share accurate and timely updates: Share key public health messages and updates about the current situation in York, quickly addressing inaccuracies and providing the most up to date information and tools to support behaviour change.</p> <p>Build advocacy: Work closely with partners to ensure consistent messaging across the city. Share public health actions taken by city partners and public health and show how behaviour changes are supported by partners.</p>	15 June 2020: Reopening
2	Alert following spike in cases and/or change in restrictions	<p>Build confidence in the steps taken and what people need to do : Share what the city is doing to protect residents and what they need to do to keep others safe and places open. Use case and vaccination data to update residents and businesses on the current position. Demonstrate partnership approach being taken.</p> <p>Build engagement through conversation: Share messages and updates with residents. Engage audiences to find out how they are feeling and what they need to help the city recover and adapt their behaviours. Work closely with our partners to share insight and ideas.</p>	<p>2 December 2020: Tier 2</p> <p>30 December 2020: Tier 3</p>
3	Manage outbreak	<p>Deliver a regular drumbeat of accurate information: Initiate incident communications toolkit, assign roles and establish the rhythm of the incident, with regular and targeted communications and ongoing social media and website updates.</p> <p>Signpost support: Update CYC website and signpost support through all channels, responding to social media and providing information for partners to distribute through their channels</p> <p>Promote unity and community cooperation: Put people first, share stories of the personal impact of covid (MyCovidStory) and of people coming together and showing the very best of themselves and their experience of covid (York Kind)</p> <p>Target information: Provide residents with targeted information about changes, signpost relevant support services, coordinate information through targeted networks for partners to distribute to their channels</p>	<p>23 March 2020: Lockdown</p> <p>2 November 2020: Lockdown</p> <p>5 January 2021: Lockdown</p> <p>8 March 2021: step 1a</p> <p>29 March 2021: step 1b</p>
4	Safely recover	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approach as per phase 1 and 2 	<p>12 April 2021: step 2</p> <p>17 May 2021: step 3</p> <p>19 July? 2021: step 4?</p>

Communications roadmap

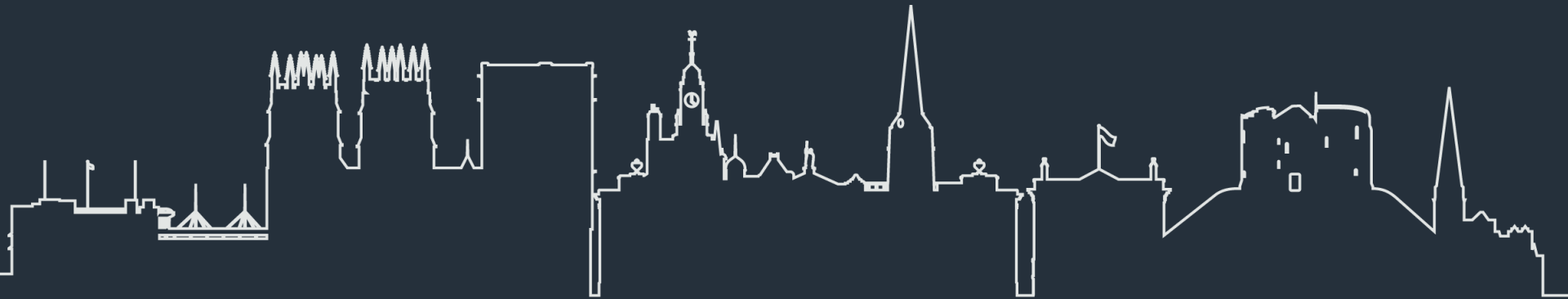
	2021						
	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Restrictions	Step 3	Step 3 Step 4?					
Regular updates / e-newsletters	1 x weekly						
Direct publications, Our City	Quarterly						
Facebook live – ask the leaders	Monthly						
Let's be York (Safe reopen) inc. York Kind: Reopen with care	Signage, social, web, PR – to be confirmed following announcement						
Let's be York (keep open)	Outside, social						
18-34 yo residents	PR, social, partner packs						
Testing	Direct, web, social, signage						
Vaccinations	Support rollout and potential autumn boosters Social, PR, Web, Signage						
#FeelRealYork	Social media, posters, partner toolkit around men's mental week.						
Return to education	Support education settings		Prepare for return of pupils				
#Whatsmynextstep	PR, social, partner toolkit shared on building in more activity around the home, plus case study.						

ROADMAP STEPS as published 22/02/2021

	Step 1		Step 2		Step 3	Step 4
	8 March	29 March	No earlier than 12 April		No earlier than 17 May	No earlier than 21 June
		As schools break for Easter Holidays	5 weeks after step 1		5 weeks after step 2	5 weeks after step 3
Education	Schools and colleges open for all students	Practical Higher Education Courses				
Business / activities	Wraparound care, including sport, for all children.	Organised outdoor sport (children and adults) Outdoor sport and leisure facilities All outdoor children's activities Outdoor parent & child group (up to 15 aged 5+)	All Retail Libraries & Community Centres Indoor leisure inc. gyms (individual use only) All children's activities Indoor parent & child groups (up to 15 aged 5+)	Personal care Most outdoor attractions Self-contained accommodation Outdoor hospitality	Indoor hospitality Organised indoor sport (adult) Remaining accommodation Indoor entertainment and attractions Remaining outdoor accommodation	Remaining businesses, including Nightclubs.
Social contact	OUTSIDE Exercise and recreation with +1 INSIDE Household only	Rule of 6 or 2 Households Household only	Rule of 6 or 2 Households Household only	Maximum 30 people Rule of 6 or 2 Households (subject to review)	No legal limit No legal limit	
Travel	DOMESTIC Stay at Home INT'L No international holidays	Minimise travel No international holidays	Domestic overnight stays (household only) No international holidays	Domestic overnight stays Subject to review		
Larger events	LIFE EVENTS OTHER EVENTS	Funerals: 30 Weddings and wakes: 6	Funerals: 30 Weddings, wakes, receptions: 15 Event pilots Small organised outdoor events	Most significant life events: 30 Indoor events 1000 or 50% Outdoor events 4000 or 50% Large seated outdoor venues 10,000 or 25%	No legal limit (subject to review) Larger events (subject to review)	

Phase I

Regular update of current situation to try and prevent outbreaks



Share accurate and timely messaging

15 of 36 press releases COVID-related; significant focus on recovery comms

27 / 79 media enquiries COVID-related

02/07/2021	York thanks residents for their efforts during pandemic
01/07/2021	New campaign to help residents' fitness ready for lockdown lifting
22/06/2021	Facebook Live Q&A for School Leavers taking place June 23rd
21/06/2021	York parents encouraged to Look Say Sing Play at Acomb Explore
18/06/2021	Citywide surveys to help plan York Education Futures
18/06/2021	Our Big Conversation is back – take the survey today to shape York's future!
17/06/2021	Micro grants' positive impact inspires new support for city festivals
16/06/2021	Free health and wellbeing support
14/06/2021	City of York Council's response following Prime Minister's announcement
10/06/2021	City supports Community Renewal Fund
09/06/2021	Money available for York businesses looking to hire apprentices for winter
08/06/2021	Council to hand out more tests to York residents
07/06/2021	Businesses urged to support employees to be vaccinated
01/06/2021	Council once again encouraging regular Covid testing as staff prepare to hand out free tests in key areas across York
28/05/2021	UPDATED: A message of thanks ahead of Volunteers' Week

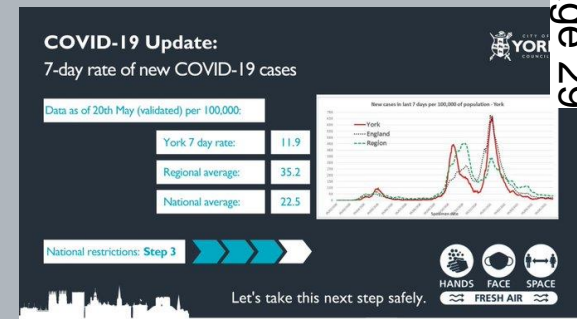
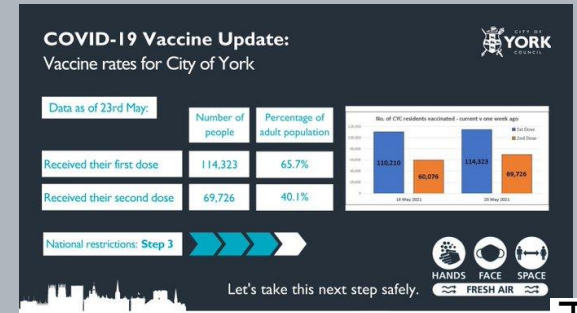
Build confidence in the steps taken and what people need to do

The council works closely with partners and uses different channels to reach as many people as possible.

Our regular communications (increasing registrations throughout the month by %):

- 1 x weekly email updates to members and partners (130 recipients)
- 1 x weekly resident e-newsletter (2,337 recipients + <1%)
- Weekly business e-newsletter (1,587 recipients + <1%)
- Weekly families e-newsletter (1,120 recipients + <1%)
- Regular press releases and media interviews
- Social media campaigns
- Facebook live: School leavers Q&A
- 23/06/21 – 669 views, 3 shares, 11 reactions, 1424 reach

Regularly share case data and vaccination update



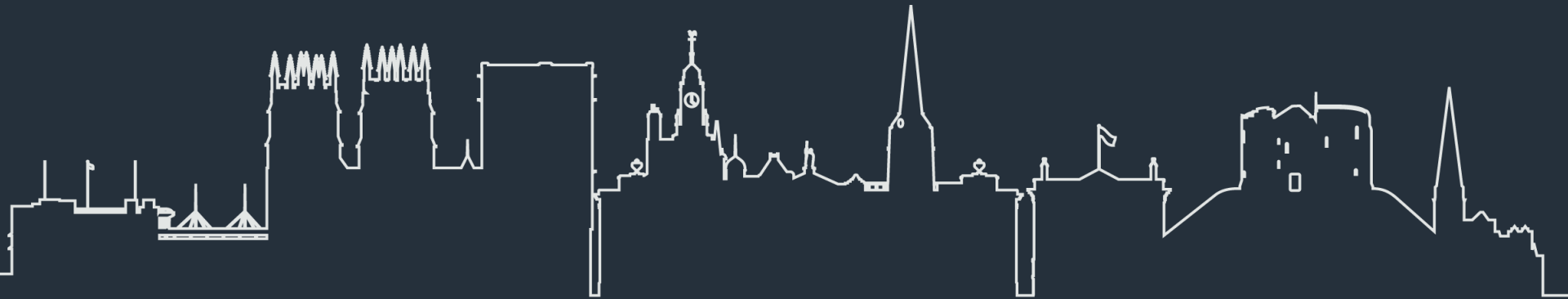
Step and potential dates	What this means (summary). For full details go to the roadmap	Actions (beyond the regular rhythm)	Challenges	Key messages
Step 1 – 8 March Could be announced 1 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools and colleges open for all students Some practical HE courses return Funerals (30) and wakes and weddings (6) Exercise outside with one other person No indoor mixing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facebook Live Information to parents Media briefing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Testing Parental anxiety Complacency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stay at home Hands, Face, Space Get tested Let's keep going
Step 1b – No sooner than 29 March Announced by 22 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rule of six or two households outdoors Outdoor sport and leisure facilities reopen Organised outdoor sports return Outdoor parent and child groups (15) Minimise travel, no holidays 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open space/parks signage Map/graphic about local with York in the centre? Community groups/sports briefing (what can do) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is local? Return of sport Parent and child groups Rule of 6 Staff health and safety 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stay local Hands, Face, Space
Step 2 – No sooner than 12 April Announced by 5 April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Still no indoor mixing, rule of 6 outside Reopening of retail, leisure and outdoor hospitality Domestic overnight stays (household only) Indoor parent and child groups (15) Funerals (30), Weddings and wakes (15) By 15 April all phase 1 offered vaccine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Media briefing Information for businesses City centre and district signage Litter campaign Partner briefing Direct comms to residents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lots reopening Team capacity as this is around Easter break Domestic tourism Business support and café licences Unis face to face learning increases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hands, Face, Space, air
Step 3 – No sooner than 17 May Announced by 10 May Our City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indoor entertainment and attractions (including pubs) 30 people outdoors, rule of 6/two households indoors (under review) Life events, inc weddings (30) Outdoor entertainment performances Return of crowds (indoor is 1,000 or 50% capacity, outdoor 4,000 or 50%) International travel (subject to review) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facebook live Media briefing Stadium signage Live well York update? Pub signage Registrar / Crem signage Animation about fresh air What you can do outside Partner briefing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Live spectator sports Indoor mixing Tourism Up to 30 outside Pubs open to indoor trade Furlough support for affected staff Complacency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hands, Face, Space and air Meet outdoors if you can

GOVERNMENT REVIEW ON THE FUTURE OF HANDS, FACE, SPACE AND HOW WE GET FULLY BACK TO NORMAL

Step 4 – No sooner than 19 July Announced by 12 July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No legal limits on contact and life events Larger events Nightclubs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open letter to residents? COVID safe celebration pack 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What prevention measures are still in? Staying open! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be kind Respect different levels of comfort with easing of restrictions
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Phase 2

Alert – following change in restrictions



Build confidence in the steps taken and what people need to do

Reminding residents what they can do (safe behaviours) to help stop the spread of the virus and keep homes and families in York safe



Delay to roadmap

Communications objectives:

Think: there are things to do and support available

Feel: supported and engaged and more control over own safety

Do: follow hands, space, face, air to help keep everyone safe



We've all got a part to play to keep the people and places we love safe

Make testing part of your routine.
How can I access symptom-free testing?

Get tested at one of our testing centres across the City

Collect home testing kits from our testing centres

Order home testing kits to be delivered to your home

[www.york.gov.uk/
SymptomFreeCOVIDTest](http://www.york.gov.uk/SymptomFreeCOVIDTest)
01904 551559

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City of York Council's response following Prime Minister's announcement

[Home](#) > [Latest news](#) > City of York Council's response following Prime Minister's announcement

Share it



Published Monday, 14 June 2021

City of York Council have responded following the Prime Minister's announcement relating to the delayed easing of COVID-19 restrictions.

Councillor Keith Aspden, Leader of City of York Council said:

“ We know today's news is frustrating for many who had high hopes for next week, however, there are still reasons to be optimistic. The vaccine rollout is continuing

Press release, web Partner, resident and business updates Shared partner messages Social Our City – back page advert of resident engagement issue



YorkMix ▾ Radio ▾ More ▾ 🔍

'There are still reasons to be optimistic' says York council boss – as end of Covid restrictions delayed

14 Jun 2021 @ 7.44 pm in News

Stay safe with friends in your home

- 6 Meeting outdoors is best however, you can meet indoors as groups of up to six or two households.
- Regular symptom-free testing will help you know you are keeping your friends safe.
- Continue to sanitise or wash your hand regularly.
- Keep your distance where possible to do so.
- When indoors, open a window to improve air flow and help minimise the chance of spreading COVID-19



Build confidence in the steps taken and what people need to do

Reminding residents what they can do (safe behaviours) to help stop the spread of the virus and keep homes and families in York safe

Rising cases

- Daily tweet
- Letter to parents, headteachers with practical advice
- Reactive media enquiries
- Share key messages – focus on jabs and testing



Office of the Director
Customer and Corporate
Public Health
West Offices
Station Rise
York YO1 6GA

Date: 29 June 2021

Dear Headteacher,

Subject: Keeping cases down in York schools

Thank you for your continued efforts in supporting our pupils and staff.

As you will be aware the new Delta variant is here in York. It is more transmissible than we have seen before and we are seeing a rise in cases, particularly among those groups who are unvaccinated.

Station Rise
York YO1 6GA

Date: 29 June 2021



Dear parent/carer,

Subject: Keeping cases down in York schools

As we near the end of the most challenging academic year imaginable we wanted to say a huge thank you for your continued support.

You have home-schooled, self-isolated when asked and carried out regular tests to help keep your school community and the wider city safe.

As you will be aware the new Delta variant is spreading across the country and is here in York. It is more transmissible than we have seen before and we are seeing a rise in cases, particularly among those groups who are unvaccinated.

City of York Council
Published by Hootsuite · 18 June at 19:30

Covid restrictions are still in place, help keep your loved ones safe while you're watching the football this summer. 🏆⚽

Remember to observe social distancing and to wash your hands regularly.

Covid doesn't break for half time
Enjoy the football, safely

HANDS FACE SPACE
FRESH AIR

963 2 -1.3x lower
People reached Engagements Distribution score

Boost post

Support and information during coronavirus

There have been so many changes to our lives over the past few weeks because of Coronavirus. This can make it difficult to speak to the people we want to, to get support from our families and friends, or to know where to go for advice.

Coronavirus and your wellbeing

You might be feeling overwhelmed, sad, or anxious about the coronavirus outbreak, or about something else, and feel worried about yourself, or your family and friends.

This is completely normal – things keep changing as we learn more about the virus, schools are still not open for everyone, and people are social distancing to protect themselves and others.

You can find lots of helpful information at:
youngminds.org.uk
yorkmind.org.uk/how-we-help/young-peoples-service-covid-19-response
or text York Mind on **07483 167931** to speak to an advisor

Health

Our school nurses can help with information and advice about a wide range of health issues, including physical, emotional and sexual health.

You can get in touch with them confidentially by texting or calling **07833 437363**, 8.30am-5pm, Monday- Friday.
yor-ok.org.uk/families/5-18-years-old

Feeling unsafe or in need of extra support?

If you feel unsafe or need extra support, or you are worried about the safety of others, there is help available.

To get information, support or to speak to someone in confidence, the Young People's Information Service can help.

Telephone: **01904 555400** (Mon - Fri 10am - 4pm)
Email: fis@york.gov.uk Text: **07624 802244**
You can also call Childline on **0800 1111**
childline.org.uk

Or if you or another young person are in immediate danger, call the police on **999**

Stay safe online

Get advice about keeping you and your friends safe online at thinkuknow.co.uk

General information and advice

If you're a mum, dad, carer or young person and have a question, our Family Information Service & Young People's telephone lines are there to help. Contact them by:

Telephone: York Family Information Service on **01904 554444** or the Young People's Information Service on **01904 555400** (Mon - Fri 10am - 4pm)
Email: fis@york.gov.uk Text: **07624 802244**
You can also find lots of helpful information at:
themix.org.uk
bbc.co.uk/newsround

Build confidence in the steps taken and what people need to do

Testing

Our City

- Resident update / partner brief
- Community testing handout - door to door testing and leaflet
- Letter to parents – shared by schools
- Social
- Direct communications to residents
- Shared NHS/CCG messaging
- More planned

To help stop the spread of Coronavirus please keep getting tested twice a week



Thank you for playing your part and helping keep people safe.
www.york.gov.uk/SymptomFreeCovidTest
 01904 551559





Our City

Our Big Conversation

Important resident surveys inside page 05




our.city@york.gov.uk
www.york.gov.uk



We've all got a part to play to keep the people and places we love safe

Make testing part of your routine. How can I access symptom-free testing?

Get tested at one of our testing centres across the City

Join the millions already vaccinated

You're much less likely to get serious Covid-19 or be hospitalised if you've been vaccinated. We'll let you know when your Covid-19 vaccine is ready for you.

EVERY VACCINATION GIVES US HOPE

Our City June 2021
 our.city@york.gov.uk
 www.york.gov.uk



Produced by YOUR CREATIVE SAUCE

NHS Test and Trace

Regular rapid Covid-19 testing is how we keep those close to us safer. The tests are easy to do and show results within 30 minutes.

FREE, RAPID COVID-19 TESTS NHS.UK /GET-TESTED



Covid tests

- 😊 Use home tests for anyone aged 11 and over with **no** Covid symptoms
- ❌ Do not use home tests on children under 11
- 😊 If you or your child have Covid symptoms, book at: gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test



Let's be York Explore Inspire Learn

Covid tests are being handed out to some homes in York

But you can still visit testing sites around the city

www.york.gov.uk/SymptomFreeCOVIDTest

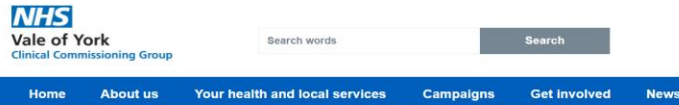


COMMUNITY PROTECT YOURSELF & OTHERS

Build confidence in the steps taken and what people need to do

Vaccinations

- Media / regular communications inc. facebook live and resident newsletter
- Partner communications
- Shared NHS/CCG communications
- Business bulletin to city employers
- Media relations
- Promoted vaccinations to next groups
- Shareable information at vaccinate sites



You are here: > #GrabAJab from this weekend

#GrabAJab from this weekend

As part of
can #Grab
If you ha

LATEST NEWS

Upcoming

Date
Daily



Nine more walk-in vaccination clinics to open in York – as cases soar

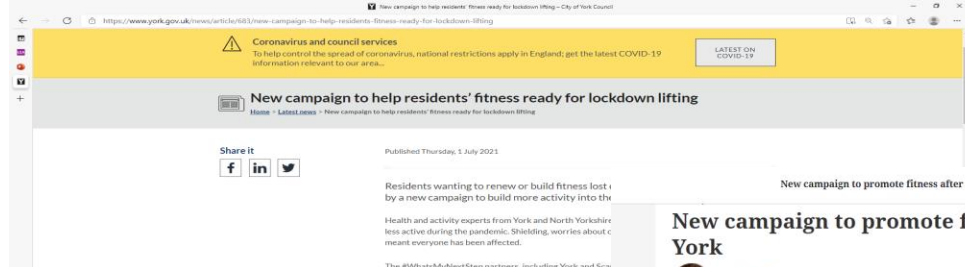
25 Jun 2021 @ 7:59 am in Health YorkMix



Build confidence in next steps people need to rebuild fitness

Physical health - deconditioning

What's my next step?
Keeping active at home!



Campaign launched 28 June 2021: PR, articles, case studies, social media, videos, LiveWellYork webpage.

Media coverage: York Press article plus interviews on Radio York and Greatest Hits Radio.

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City of York Council @CityofYork

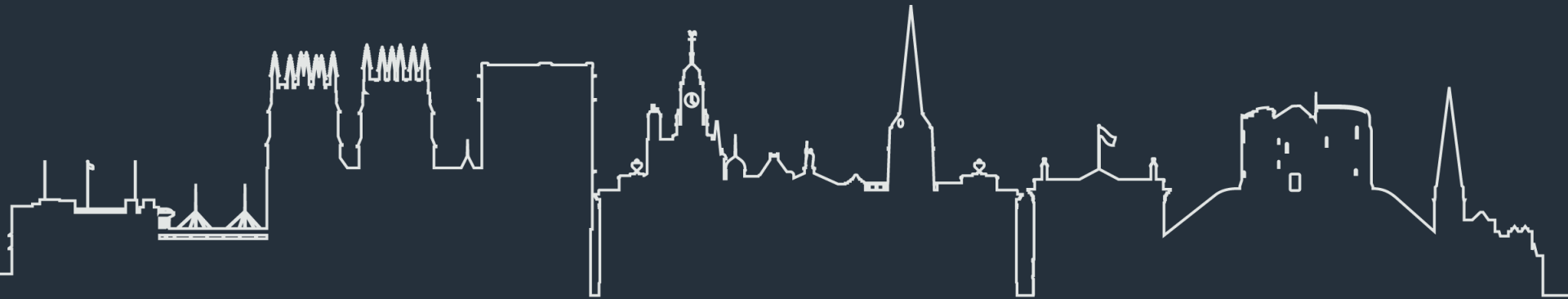
It's time to get more active and rebuild fitness lost in lockdown with #WhatsMyNextStep!
Cllr Carol Runciman says: "However you're feeling and whatever you're dealing with, we can offer plenty of help and encouragement to help you get moving more."
york.gov.uk/news/article/6...



Working together to improve...

Phase 4

Safely recover



Throughout June, PHE Behavioural Insight Science Unit interviewed residents and a business and developed key recommendations. We have discussed these with the Tourist Advisory Board

Behavioural trial – amended plan

The trial will be in stages timed around key reopening dates:

1. Prior to 29 March – PHE Behavioural science unit reviewed the existing signage and proposed changes. Signage was revised and was installed for 29 March and then, additional signage, for 12 April.
2. Prior to 17 May – focus groups with businesses are not going ahead (over 34 viewed webpages, with 6 registered - need 28 to be significant). Instead PHE will continue to interview residents/visitors to the city about their experiences together with the Our City survey for all residents. Businesses were invited to comment on PHE proposals through the normal meeting cycle.
3. Prior to 21 June – tourist and resident insight together with business comments will inform refined signage together with recommendations about the interventions installed across the city
4. During the summer, we will poll businesses about how visitors are behaving in open spaces in light of the changes and whether the insight has made a difference.

Build engagement through conversation

25 March 2021

- Held zoom webinar for business with outside space
- Promoted through corporate and partner channels
 - 66 registered attendees

19-20 April 2021/ 10-11 May 2021

4 x focus groups arranged for businesses to discuss direct with PHE behavioural science unit
28 participants to be significant – only 6 registrations (34 web views) - this stage has been cancelled

30 April - 4 May 2021

Holding interviews with residents and visitors, and invited businesses who registered for focus groups
15 registered interest, 8 interviews have taken place

May – Our City survey for all residents

June – businesses invited to comment on proposals ahead of installation through usual meeting rhythm (to make as easy to contribute as possible)

and make a difference



CITY OF



PHE BSI Key recommendations

Reduce

- Reduce congestion
- Direct people to less busy areas using marshals/signs/maps
- Ensure queues are social distanced and separate from those walking by
- Use keep left/right signs, keep clear signs and one-way systems wisely

Improve

- Improve signs and one-way systems
 - More prominent/bigger signs and one-way systems
- Ensure signs explain why certain behaviours are encouraged

Encourage

- Encourage protective behaviours
 - Maintain gel dispensers, make them prominent and widely available
- More outdoor seating and Covid-19 marshals to encourage adherence

Support

- Support businesses
 - Reinforce importance of ventilation and social distancing
- Financial support and Covid-19 marshals to encourage adherence

Next steps



Universities and Colleges Sub Group - Update for the Outbreak Management Advisory Board

Summary

This regular report from the Universities and Colleges sub group provides updates for the Outbreak Management Board on how we have been handling the recent increase in cases across the un-vaccinated population in the City; work to get students vaccinated; and looks ahead to next academic year.

Detail

1. Cases in FE and HE institutions.

At the time of writing the University of York has 174 students who are isolating with a positive test for Covid (either LFD or PCR). As a result of household and other contacts a further 350 or so students have been required to isolate, taking the total number of students in isolation to just under 525.

The University's in-house contact tracing team has been working hard to track on-campus cases, working in close collaboration with the City Council's own contact tracing team who track off-campus activities. We continue to see no evidence of transmission of covid within teaching and learning spaces on campus, although as a precaution have asked some individuals to isolate as a result of potential contact with covid-positive students.

Generally the drivers behind this rise in infections appears to be increasing social activity - in line with the stage three unlocking since May. However, while cases across the student population have risen rapidly, we have not so far seen a linked rise in the number of University staff testing positive. This is in line with data we have seen both locally and nationally where the rising number of cases is focused on the unvaccinated population, making city-wide efforts to get students vaccinated all the more important.

Term has already finished for York St John University and as such they have seen a smaller number of students testing positive, reflecting the smaller number of St John students still in York. Cases continue to be at a low level across both York College and Askham Bryan College.

2. Response to rising cases

In response to the rising cases, University colleagues have continued to support students in isolation through a range of measures including food deliveries and support for mental health and wellbeing. Evidence from contact tracing calls suggest these packages make a significant

difference in both encouraging students to come forward having tested positive, and in remaining in isolation for the full ten day period.

We have worked closely with public health colleagues and communication teams in both the University and city council to reinforce messages around covid-safe behaviours including the key hands-face-space and fresh air measures. The University has also asked students to consider carefully the contacts they are making as cases rise, and to continue testing regularly via either the on-campus testing centre or home test kits.

Communication of key information to York residents - including students - is also being developed in collaboration between communication leads in our institutions and CYC to ensure that the correct information about the rates of virus in the city are available to people. This includes a welcome continued focus on ensuring that rise in rates is not blamed on the student population noting that, both locally and nationally, case rates are increasing primarily in the age groups of those who have not yet been vaccinated. The overwhelming response from those in the city testing positive or identified as contacts is one of responsibility to follow the correct behaviours to keep themselves and others safe and to prevent onward transmission.

Work has also been taken forward to increase access to testing, including a quick and targeted response within halls settings where key safety and risk prevention messages, along with distribution of testing kits to students in halls, and promotion of regular symptom free testing to students in private accommodation was implemented. Continued encouragement and access to test kits continues to be promoted as well.

Public health colleagues in CYC have also moved quickly to ensure access to the walk-in PCR testing centre on the University of York campus is extended to increase capacity and ease access to testing for those unable to access the Poppleton Bar test site.

3. Vaccine roll-out

Through a highly effective partnership with both the city council and Nimbuscare (who run the mass vaccination centre at Askham Bar) we have run three successful pop up vaccine clinics on the University of York campus, vaccinating over 1,000 students as well as members of the general public who also accessed the site. More clinics have also run across the City including three based at York St John University (which will include some slots for walk-in appointments). Further clinics are planned for this coming week.

Feedback from the sessions has been very positive with students offering enthusiastic and vocal support for the clinic and the staff who ran the sessions on campus. Interest in the sessions has also been very high, as has participation and attendance rates, demonstrating how enthusiastic our students are to get vaccinated. A number of students on the day talked about their relief at being offered a vaccine.

Alongside the pop up clinics all institutions are encouraging eligible students and staff to take up vaccine appointments as soon as possible whether on campus or through one of the national vaccine centres. We have also put in place programmes to ensure students without NHS numbers (e.g. recently arrived international students who have not yet registered with a GP) can also get vaccinated.

4. Look ahead to September

At the time of writing we do not yet have guidance for the Department of Education for what measures may need to remain in place in either FE or HE environments. Absent this guidance we are all collectively planning for a range of potential scenarios from no restrictions to needing to maintain social distancing and other protective measures in teaching and learning spaces at our institutions.

Once guidance has been issued we will be arranging exercises over the summer to test our response plans and how we would react to spikes in infections or a rise in new variants that may require us to deploy enhanced measures or surge testing.

We have also - with thanks to the city council - confirmed plans to continue on-site testing at both Universities over the summer. We expect LFD testing to feature in DfE September plans for both FE and HE. We expect to continue to work in partnership throughout the summer period to ensure our plans, actions and responses are coordinated and coherent.

Universities and Colleges Sub-Group
5 July 2021

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