



# News

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## ICS update - 29 April 2021

This bulletin provides an update from the Integrated Care System in the North East and North Cumbria regarding our latest information and plans to care for patients, staff and our communities. This Integrated Care System is led by Alan Foster, executive lead. If you have any questions or would like us to send vital information to partners through this bulletin, please contact us [here](#).

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## Message from Alan Foster



## Our updates

As you will be aware this bulletin was established at the start of the pandemic to keep everyone up to speed about our joint efforts to deal with the Covid-19 virus.

As we move to recovery and a new 'normal', now feels like the right time to broaden our bulletin to cover wider issues and news across the region. So, you may notice a slight re-branding of this bulletin this week.

As ever we hope you find these updates informative and we welcome your comments. You can get in touch via our [email](#) and of course continue to follow us on our [social media](#) channels.

## **Our provider collaborative**

As you know the recent [white paper](#) includes a new duty to collaborate across health, public health and social care systems and sets out establishing integrated care systems (ICSs) in law.

Provider collaboratives will be an essential part of the future system working and as mentioned in previous messages, our NHS provider chief executives have formed a collaborative for the North East and North Cumbria.

Their focus over the coming months ahead will be on creating a wider clinical strategy which is sustainable for the future and helps us collectively recover from Covid-19. You can read the [full message](#) from our collaborative which sets out their vision for future working.

We are also expecting further details on the functions of, and the framework for, integrated care systems soon and will of course keep you informed.

## **Picture across our region**

We now have less than 50 people with Covid-19 in our hospitals and our overall case rates are lower than the rate for England – which is much welcome news.

Across the region we have only seen 53 positive Covid-19 cases in people aged over 60 in the last seven days, and cases in our care homes is now the lowest in the country. Additionally, for the last eight weeks our excess death rates has remained below the five year average and yesterday there were no reported Covid-19 deaths from our hospitals.

Support for staff continues to be important after such a tough year, so do please continue to share the offers from our regional staff and wellbeing hub. More information can be found [here](#) and there is a communications toolkit to enable you to share information across your channels.

## **Covid-19 vaccine update**

Our COVID vaccination programme continues to move at pace.

Everyone aged 50 and over has now been offered a vaccination and our region has now delivered more than [2.2 million vaccines](#), which continues to be the highest cumulative figure in the country.

Take-up of the vaccine has been exceptionally strong; 19 out of 20 people aged 50 and over have already chosen to take up the offer, and the number of people from ethnic minority backgrounds coming forward has more than tripled over the last two months.

Now we have reached this important milestone, alongside making sure those who are

due it can receive their second dose, we are able to start offering first doses to people in the next eligible group.

Almost three in five 45 to 49-year olds have already had their first dose, and further invites are now being sent to 42 to 44-year olds as we work our way down the age groups as quickly as supplies allow.

Primary care networks have been given the option to participate in vaccinating cohorts 10-12 (18-49 years). Some have determined that following the introduction of large vaccination sites and bigger pharmacy sites within reach of the potentially less clinically vulnerable, they will prioritise cohorts 1-9. This will allow them to return general practice back to pre-pandemic levels and will allow them to focus on identifying unmet healthcare needs because of the pandemic.

When invited, people within the relevant cohort will be able to book at a vaccination centre or pharmacy site across the country through the national booking service.

Text invitations are also being used and appear as an alert from 'NHSvaccine', including a web link to the NHS website to reserve an appointment.

Work continues with our public health colleagues to ensure we are addressing health inequalities in our vaccination programme. Data shows that the uptake of vaccines across all socio-economic groups is among the best in the country.

The national 'every vaccination gives us hope' campaign also launched this week, supporting the vaccination efforts and encouraging those who have yet to be vaccinated to get vaccinated. We have been supporting this campaign on [social media](#) and encourage everyone to do the same.

### **Bank holiday weekend**

Ahead of the bank holiday this weekend we are asking the public to keep up their amazing support of the NHS by acting responsibly and remembering to follow the rules if they are socialising outdoors. You can read our media release on this [here](#).

I would like to thank staff from emergency services from across the region who stepped forward and took part in the 'it happened to me' campaign which launched this week. The campaign features a series of hard-hitting videos from our front-line teams giving their own personal accounts of the violence and abuse they have experienced. You can read more about this [here](#) and watch the video [here](#).

### **Congratulations to our communication colleagues**

Our regional #DoYourBit campaign has been shortlisted for some prestigious national industry communication awards – including a PRCA award for a best integrated campaign, and a CIPR excellence award for best healthcare campaign. Our

communications network has also been shortlisted for a CIPR award for 'best covid response' and Northumbria Healthcare and NEAS have also been shortlisted for some CIPR awards in their own right too.

This is a fantastic result which showcases and recognises the strength and impact of health communications in the North East and North Cumbria and the importance of collaboration.

### **Finally**

I hope you get some time to relax over the bank holiday and as ever a huge thank to the many staff who will be working to care for communities.

Best wishes,

Alan

**Alan Foster is the executive lead for the North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care System**

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## **Other news and updates**

**Staff wellbeing - beyond the mask theatre shows:** These interactive theatre shows are part of our staff wellbeing hub's programme to support staff to stay mentally well during COVID-19. They are targeted at staff in hospitals, care homes and other settings that have been most affected by dealing with the pandemic and will be recorded for a short film that celebrates the dedication of staff throughout the past year. You can find out more information [here](#).

**The R number in the UK:** The latest reproduction number (R) and growth rate of coronavirus (COVID-19) in the UK can be found here on [GOV.UK](#).

**Public Health England dashboard:** The Public Health England (PHE) dashboard can be found [here](#). Daily reporting includes deaths that have occurred in all settings where there has been a positive COVID-19 test, including hospitals, care homes and the wider community. The report also includes case rates per 100,000 resident population at lower-tier local authority level.

**National flu and COVID-19 surveillance reports:** A link to the weekly national flu and COVID-19 report, monitoring COVID-19 activity, seasonal flu and other seasonal respiratory illnesses can be found [here](#).

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