



Provider Bulletin

Volume 2 Edition 134

March 2021 (1)

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[Message from Richard Webb, Corporate Director, Health & Adult Services](#)

Dear Colleagues

I would firstly like to thank you all once again for your efforts in continuing to provide your services while keeping people safe and managing the Covid-19 situation.

The overall rates of infection within North Yorkshire have continued to fall steadily since the middle of January. On 4th January, the rate for North Yorkshire as a whole was 455 per 100,000, by 7th March this reduced to 40 per 100,000. This is spread relatively evenly across the County. I am sure you will agree that this is a fantastic achievement, but my message to you today is simple. It continues to be vitally important to remain vigilant, continue good practice in infection prevention and keep following the guidance.

The last few months have seen the roll out of the vaccination programme to staff and the majority of people accessing adult social care services. I would again like to thank each and every person who has had their vaccination. This helps to protect not only yourself, but also your colleagues and people who you support. Ultimately, it will save lives. Uptake in North Yorkshire has generally been very good, but we know there are still staff across the care sector who have not yet had their vaccine. I ask that you continue to encourage those staff to be vaccinated and stress the importance of this. The North Yorkshire Director of Public Health and NHS Chief Nurses have started work on further measures to address vaccine inequalities where take up is low. More information and 'Frequently Asked Questions' can be found on our website, the link to which is later in the bulletin.

Monday 8th March also marked a positive milestone for care homes, when limited indoors face to face visiting was reintroduced. Being physically reunited with loved ones is a big emotional step for residents, families and friends. In line with the guidance, I would encourage homes to facilitate as much visiting as you can safely manage. I also recognise it will be a big logistical challenge for staff, your efforts in facilitating this are very much appreciated. I recently wrote to care homes, extra care housing and supported living organisations, which can be found on our [website](#).

Updates covering compensatory payments, training and new guidance can be found later on in this bulletin. It has been a very busy period, so a further bulletin will be published shortly with more information we wish to share with you.

Just a reminder that we have a weekly NY Care Connected open session every Wednesday 5-6pm. Please join in and I look forward to talking with you. You can join the sessions here:

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/210744229>

New to GoToMeeting? Get the app now and be ready when your first meeting starts: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/install/210744229>

These sessions will be held every Wednesday at 5pm.

Any comments you have about these Bulletins (good or bad!) are welcome. Please contact the Q&MI Team:

socialservices.contractingunit@northyorks.gov.uk

Lastly I just want to reiterate that, particularly with lockdown measures being eased, we know how easy it for outbreaks to escalate. Although the overall picture relating to Covid-19 infections is improving, it is just as important as ever to follow the rules and guidelines to stay safe. Thanks once again and we look forward to spring with a cautiously optimistic view, hoping that society and the economy can open up more and also knowing that there will be new challenges that we all face – and that we will continue to work together to address these challenges.

Best wishes,

Richard

Guidance Updates

There have been significant updates in government guidance for social care organisations. A table with some key updates has been included at the [end of this bulletin](#). It is important that you are aware of, and are following all of the most recent guidance relating to your service area. So please take time to review this list and the www.gov.uk website. We would like to draw your attention in particular to the recent guidance update on care home visiting and restricting staff working across care homes and other care settings.

Compensatory Payments

We are aware that many Local Authorities have now ceased their financial support, and as part of our last 4 weekly review, we have agreed our ongoing plans. We will be continuing the financial support for Domiciliary Care Providers until **28th March 2021** with 2.5% compensatory payments being made, day services will continue to be paid on planned activity until **28th March 2021** and this will continue to be reviewed.

Training

In discussions with providers a number of training needs have been identified for staff. NYCC's Training & Learning service over the last year has delivered training in a range of formats to support activity during the pandemic. Some courses have moved from classroom-based learning to webinars. This has been successful as is a model that is likely to continue. This should bring a number of benefits with providers releasing staff for shorter periods of time, less travel, fewer cancellations of courses as staff can join from anywhere in the county, etc.

The following courses for care home providers have moved to webinars:

- Skills for Care Supporting the person in the Classroom module
- Safeguarding Raising a Concern Champions
- Safeguarding Concerns Manager training
- End of Life/Advanced Care Planning
- Basic Medication Refresher training
- Moving and Handling / First Aid
- Raising a Concern (Level 1 safeguarding)
- Intermediate Mental Capacity Act (MCA) for seniors, Registered managers and Deputies.
- Administering Controlled Drugs and supporting Health Colleagues for registered managers
- Supporting individuals in Decision Making under the Mental Capacity Act (MCA)

Online packages include:

- Equality and Diversity
- Dementia Awareness Modules 1 - 3
- Mental Capacity Act awareness
- Safeguarding Adults under the Care Act
- PPE COVID-19

The Wider Sector Training booklet is attached which contains additional information, including the instructions on how to sign up for the Learning Zone so that providers can access training.

We would ask providers that, when completing a risk assessment for their service, they consider recommendations from CQC reports, intervention plans and action plans to ensure training needs are identified. If providers identify gaps in suitable training please let us know so that Training & Learning can consider this need. Also, providers should be forward planning training where ever possible. For training courses such as Health & Safety and moving & Handling, there is limited capacity to deliver these sessions and providers should book staff onto courses approximately 4 months prior to their current training expiring. This should allow sufficient time to ensure training is available when required.

Infection Control Fund and Other Grants Surveys

Thank you to providers who have returned surveys in relation to their grant funding. We have reviewed the information each month, and are aware that there are some inconsistencies in completion. As we work through the survey returns from the most recent survey we will be contacting providers to discuss their return. We require 100% return now as we are nearing the end of the funding period and need to identify any issues or actions required. Some areas that providers should be aware of are:

- The total expenditure must equal 100% of the grant amount. We acknowledge that providers may have spent more on the areas the grant covered, however we need to report on how the grant has been used, not wider expenditure.
- In each criteria there is a percentage column, this should reflect the percentage of the grant amount that has spent on that criteria. The following example is for a provider who has received a grant of £3000 and is spending 20% on this criteria and has spent 50%:

What percentage of your allocated funding has been used as of (month end) This should be the percentage of the allocated funding for this section and not the whole grant	How much of your allocated funding has been spent as of (month end) This should be a number based on the amount of grant allocated to this section and not a percentage	What proportion of the total funding allocation are you expecting to spend by the end of the financial year This relates to the total amount allocated for this criteria and not the whole grant	Please detail what your allocated funding has been spent on as of (month end) This would be the narrative of what the funding has been used for	Please detail any funding you will not utilise and which you plan to return If you will not use the whole of the grant detail the amount allocated for this section that will be returned
50%	£300	£600	Topping to SSP to full pay for staff who are self isolating	Nil

- Some providers have detailed expenditure for items which are not in scope of the guidance. Please check the guidance to ensure expenditure is appropriate. For example, the Infection Control Fund cannot be used to purchase PPE.
- As there are specific criteria which providers can spend the grant on each criteria as a set of questions. Please do not copy the same response into each criteria response as there should be little or no duplication in how the funding has been used across criteria.

If you feel that you need to resubmit your latest survey in light of the information above you can do so using the link you used previously. We will contact providers over the coming days with any queries we have so that we can ensure that we can submit the required information to the DHSC.

Updating the Capacity Tracker

For providers who access the Capacity Tracker, please can you ensure you update it with vaccinations information as soon as possible after vaccinations have taken place, regardless of whether they were undertaken in a care setting, hospital or other setting.

CCGs need your help to be able to ensure we can access the next round of doses without having to request supplies. The Capacity Tracker is the data sourced being used to evidence the roll out of the vaccination programme and will be used to inform the roll out of the second doses on a national level. Therefore, it is essential that the CCGs can access up to date information to inform these arrangements.

COVID-19 Variants: Infection Control Guidance Remains Fit For Purpose

Infection control remains crucial through winter, even when all staff and residents are vaccinated. A [comprehensive review of evidence](#) has been undertaken by the UK Infection Prevention Control Cell in light of the new variants and, in line with NHS advice to staff, there has been no change to [guidance on the use of infection prevention control measures](#).

This means it remains essential existing '[How to Work Safely](#)' guidance on personal protective equipment (PPE) and procedures are followed to minimise the risk of transmission. New and emerging evidence is continually monitored and reviewed by Government, in conjunction with our world-leading scientists.

[Read the 'How to work safely' guidance](#)

COVID-19 Vaccines Frequently Asked Questions

Frequently asked questions about Covid-19 vaccines have been developed and can be found here:

<https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/info/vaccination-information-front-line-social-care-workers-or-employers>

Latest Information From NYCC

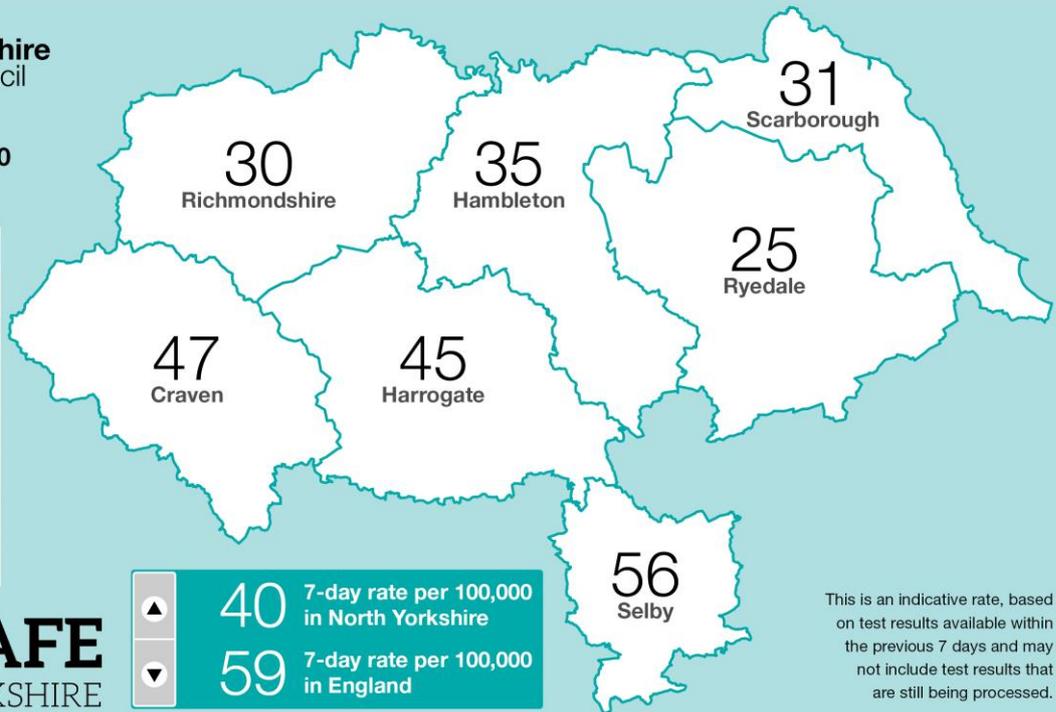
<https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-and-information>

Coronavirus Data as 7th March 2021



7-day rate per 100,000
as of 7 March 2021

Rate change	Highest to lowest rate
▲	Selby
▲	Craven
▲	Harrogate
▼	Hambleton
▲	Scarborough
▼	Richmondshire
▲	Ryedale



STAY SAFE
IN NORTH YORKSHIRE

▲ 40 7-day rate per 100,000
in North Yorkshire

▼ 59 7-day rate per 100,000
in England

This is an indicative rate, based on test results available within the previous 7 days and may not include test results that are still being processed.

<u>Guidance Document</u>	<u>Hyperlink</u>
Admission and care of residents in a care home during COVID-19 updated 29/01/2021	Link
Testing service for extra care and supported living settings Updated 25/02/2021	Link
Restricting workforce movements between care homes and care settings updated 03/03/2021 Care home providers should continue to limit all staff movement between settings unless absolutely necessary to help reduce the spread of infection. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • staff who work for one provider across several care homes; • staff who work on a part-time basis for multiple employers in multiple care homes or other care settings; • agency or other temporary staff. 	Link
Guidance on care home visiting updated 09/03/2021 (this includes information on shielding residents) This guidance sets out the government's advice to support safe visiting: every care home resident will be able to nominate a single named visitor who will be able to enter the care home for regular visits. These visitors should be tested using rapid lateral flow tests before every visit, must wear the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) and follow all other infection control measures (which the care home will guide them on) during visits. Visitors and residents are advised to keep physical contact to a minimum. Visitors and residents may wish to hold hands, but should bear in mind that any contact increases the risk of transmission. There should not be close physical contact such as hugging <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • residents with the highest care needs will also be able to nominate an essential care giver; • care homes can continue to offer visits to other friends or family members with arrangements such as outdoor visiting, substantial screens, visiting pods, or behind windows. 	Link Link
Visits out of care homes updated 08/03/2021	Link
On Site Testing for Adult Social Care Services This guidance is for all adult social care services where on site testing is conducted using rapid Lateral Flow Tests (LFT). This guidance is for assisted on site testing with rapid Lateral Flow Tests. This may include people who work in social care, professionals visiting a social care service for work, people getting care and support from social care services, or people visiting someone who gets care and support. Rapid Lateral Flow Test Kits	Link
Care Home COVID-19 Testing Guidance It provides guidance for regular resident testing using PCR, and regular staff testing using PCR and The rapid lateral flow test.	Link
Responding to COVID-19: the ethical framework for adult social care This framework intends to provide support to ongoing response planning and decision-making to ensure that ample consideration is given to a series of ethical values and principles when organising and delivering social care for adults.	Link
How to work safely guidance	Link
Covid-19 vaccination guide for older adults	Link
Guidance for providers of supported living settings	Link
Health & Wellbeing of the Adult Social Care Workforce	Link
Guidance on the designated settings scheme for people discharged from hospital to a care home with a positive coronavirus (COVID-19) test.	Link