

Stakeholders Briefing - 27 August 2021

From: Cllr Amanda Hopgood (amanda.hopgood@durham.gov.uk)

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Our current seven-day infection rate now stands at 294.3 cases per 100,000, compared to the England average of 333 cases per 100,000. It is positive that we have not seen any significant rises over the previous three weeks. However, the point at which the rate has levelled out remains high and we need to continue to follow any guidance that is in place. As always, you can also find the latest data for County Durham and your local area, on our [Covid dashboard](#).

This week, some of our sixth form and further education colleges began testing students and staff ahead of the new term starting. Where requests have been made, we are providing help and support with this. We will also be supporting our secondary schools with this advanced testing programme, next week, to manage the safe return of pupils. This is a great example of the multi-agency and partnership working we have here in County Durham and I would like to thank everyone involved in this.

Vaccinations

This week, we have met with care providers to prepare them for visits from community nurses and GPs who will offer booster vaccines to care home residents, the housebound and vulnerable people.

We are working with Durham University to put measures in place to vaccinate returning students from mid-September. We will be using the testing centre on Palace Green for this. We are also working in partnership with schools to prepare for the vaccination of 12 to 16-year-olds.

Adult Social Care

The County Durham Care Partnership has, this week, been announced as a finalist in the 2021 HSJ Awards, recognising outstanding contribution to health and social care. The partnership brings together a number of NHS organisations, ourselves and other health and care providers, to deliver improved health outcomes for our local people. Winners will be announced in November.

Other news

We're asking for ideas that could be taken forward as part of our UK City of Culture 2025 bid. From a new music festival, carnival or community arts programme, to a sports tournament or visitor attraction – all ideas are welcome and everyone is encouraged to get involved. Please submit your suggestions online at Durham2025@durham.gov.uk before 30 September.

A campaign, inspiring Lumiere visitors to stay for longer and explore more of the county, has been launched by Visit County Durham. Lumiere Breaks features visitor itineraries as well as a promotional platform for

businesses, to support their recovery from the impact of the pandemic. You can find out more at www.thisisdurham.com/lumiere

I will continue to keep everyone up to date throughout these changing and challenging times. Information is available on the council's website at www.durham.gov.uk and our social media channels www.facebook.com/DurhamCouncil and www.twitter.com/DurhamCouncil.

Cllr Amanda Hoggood

Leader

Durham County Council

For the latest government advice on the coronavirus pandemic, visit (www.gov.uk/coronavirus). Updates on changes that may affect our area can be found at www.durham.gov.uk/coronavirus.

Public Health England communication materials (posters and social media images) are available for all partners and can be accessed at <https://coronavirusresources.phe.gov.uk/>

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