

Stakeholders Briefing

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

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Our current seven-day infection rate now stands at 330.7 cases per 100,000. This is now slightly lower than the England average of 333 cases per 100,000. Those under the age of 19 continue to account for nearly half of all cases. There have also been slight reductions in the number of Covid inpatients in hospitals across County Durham and Darlington. There are 83 inpatients and five patients being treated in intensive care. As always, for the latest data in County Durham and your local area, please visit our [Covid dashboard](#).

Following the arrival of university students to Durham, over 14,000 lateral flow (LFD) tests have been completed. There have been only 21 reported positive tests. The university has also encouraged student testing prior to their arrival in Durham and will continue to support twice weekly LFD testing.

Vaccinations

It has been pleasing to see high levels of vaccine take-up at the mobile unit at Tesco, Dragonville, this week. The hub at County Hall continues to offer the booster vaccine to health and social care staff. They are being invited through their employer to attend. They can also use GPs, the mass vaccination centre at the Arnison Centre, community pharmacies and the mobile service. Meanwhile, GPs and the community services team are continuing to vaccinate care home residents and staff.

Last Friday, a vaccination service for Durham University students opened at Palace Green, with 178 students attending. This is available Wednesday to Friday from 2.30pm to 6pm. Eighty-five per cent of students at the university have now had both vaccinations. Meanwhile, children aged between 12 to 16 are being vaccinated in schools with the co-operation of head teachers.

We are also supporting care providers ahead of the compulsory vaccination rules being introduced for care homes.

Adult social care

Sustained levels of high demand continue to be experienced by the health care system, especially at University Hospital North Durham (UHND) and across the north east. High demand for ambulances, including 999 calls, has caused severe difficulties. To provide support, GPs have been working in A&E to assess patients not arriving by emergency ambulance. Elective surgery is continuing at both UHND and Darlington Memorial Hospital. We are also continuing to support home care providers, who are facing continued pressure through staff shortages.

Other news

We are delighted that County Durham has reached the next stage of the UK City of Culture 2025 bid. The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) has today announced that we are one of eight locations that will progress to the next stage of the prestigious contest. We now have until January 2022 to finalise our bid and we would urge everyone to continue to back the Durham 2025 campaign. To submit ideas and leave messages of support, visit www.durham2025.co.uk.

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 Hopgood

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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