

Stakeholders Briefing

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

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Our current seven-day infection rate now stands at 371.9 cases per 100,000, which is above the England average of 339.7 cases per 100,000. Two age groups account for 60 per cent of all cases in County Durham, with those under the age of 19 and the 40 to 59-year-old age group accounting for 30 per cent of cases each. There are 78 Covid inpatients across County Durham and Darlington. Eight patients are being treated in intensive care and our Emergency Departments remain under pressure at this time. We continue to advise people to apply control measures such as Hands, Face, Space, Fresh Air to help limit the spread of coronavirus and to take up the offer of the vaccine. For the latest data in County Durham and your local area, please visit our [Covid dashboard](#).

Vaccinations

Harrogate & District Foundation Trust, our children's services provider, continues to work with schools to vaccinate 12 to 15-year-olds. They have contracted a national retail pharmacist to increase the number of vaccinators and, as a result, will aim to complete the school vaccination programme in mid to late November. Consent forms are being sent to parents and guardians. Pupils can also use the mass vaccination centre at the Arnison Centre.

Vaccinations for health and social care staff are ongoing at the hospital hubs at County Hall and Darlington Memorial Hospital. Staff can also access their vaccine from their GP, the Arnison Centre, their place of work, or from a mobile clinic. Meanwhile, the community services team continues to vaccinate care home staff and residents, and the housebound.

This week, compulsory vaccination rules were introduced for anyone, including NHS staff, working in a CQC-registered care home. Care home managers are now required to make sure that only double vaccinated staff work in care homes. The government also announced, this week, that frontline NHS staff must be double vaccinated from April 2022.

A media campaign is underway to encourage those who are eligible to have their Covid booster vaccination. To support this, the [National Booking System](#) now allows people to pre-book their Covid booster vaccines a month before they are eligible.

Adult social care

We have received information this week that mandatory Covid vaccines will be made compulsory across the wider social care market, as well as the NHS. We are working to understand the scope of this and will be supporting providers ahead of next April's deadline, building on our successful approach to assisting care homes with mandatory vaccinations.

Other news

We are delighted to have won the Children's Services award at last week's LGC Awards, which celebrate excellence in local government. The national award recognises our Supporting Solutions Service, which provides a phased approach to young people on the edge of care, with the aim of enabling them to stay with their families.

This week, we are lighting up six County Durham landmarks in red to commemorate Remembrance Day. Until Sunday, Durham Town Hall, County Hall in Durham, Bishop Auckland Town Hall and the War Memorial in the Market Place at Chester-le-Street will all be lit from 9am until 10pm each day, with the sites best viewed after 4pm. The Butter Market at Barnard Castle and the Cenotaph and Poppy Fence at The Green in Seaham will also be lit up from 4pm until 9pm.

And, we look forward to the welcome return of Lumiere, the UK's leading light festival, next week. The event is set to illuminate Durham City from Thursday 18 November to Sunday 21 November and, this year, it will be spreading its magic even further by lighting up six landmarks across County Durham. Visitors are encouraged to plan their journeys in advance. More details can be found at www.durham.gov.uk/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 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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