

# Schools' webinar

Tuesday 4 January 2022

Stuart Carlton, Corporate Director of Children & Young People's Service

Welcome



Homemade  
GIFTS MADE EASY

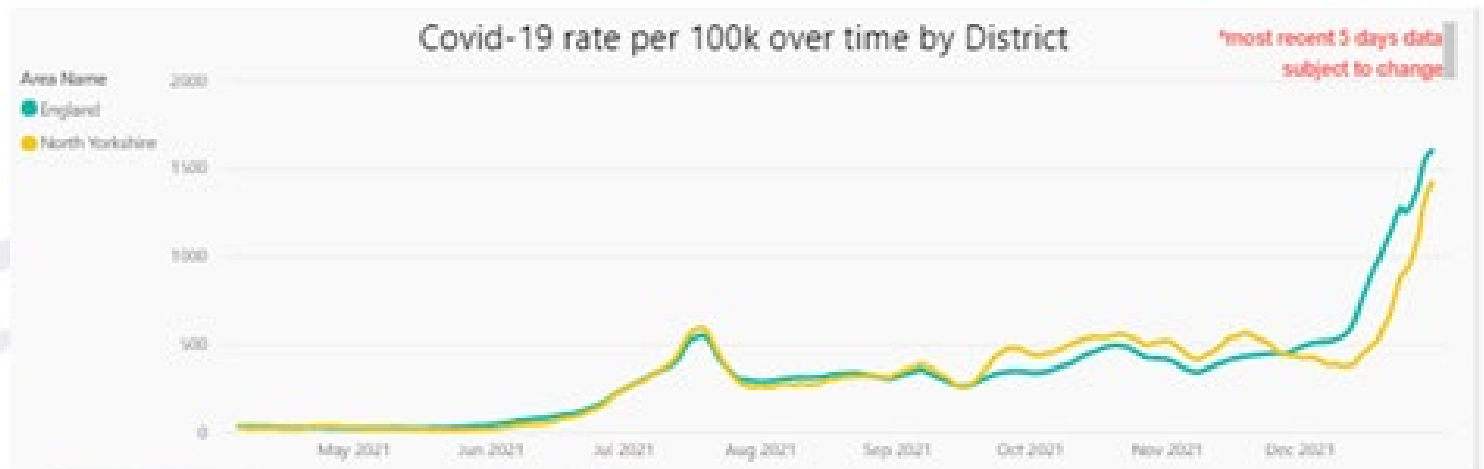


# Agenda

- Covid update
- Testing and isolation requirements
- Vaccines update
- Face coverings, ventilation and air cleaning units
- School transport
- Workforce FAQs
- Vulnerable children
- Attendance reporting
- Remote education
- Ofsted and School Improvement support
- Exams and assessments
- Catering, school meals and financial support
- Further information and upcoming dates

# LA Covid context

## COVID-19 Data overview



7 day rate for England = **1599** cases per 100,000

7 day rate for North Yorkshire = **1415** cases per 100,000

Over **1.1 million** cases of COVID-19 across UK in last week  
29<sup>th</sup> December – **1976** cases reported for NY

**BUT** – numbers likely underestimate due to changes in testing behaviour, access to tests, delayed reporting etc.



OFFICIAL - SENSITIVE

# Testing requirements

- Secondary school students should undertake **one on-site test**, on return in January
- Students should then be strongly encouraged to continue to test twice weekly at home and report results to NHS Test and Trace
- Staff should take a self test at home on the evening or morning before they return, and then continue twice weekly testing - or more frequently if they have been asked to do so, eg if there is an outbreak
- Testing is still encouraged even if a person has tested positive in the last 90 days
- On-site results can be reported using the bulk upload
- Test kits can be ordered using the NTP online platform

# Isolation requirements for positive cases

- The 10 day period (following positive PCR test) can be reduced to (minimum) 7 days
- LFD tests can be taken on day 6 and 7 (24 hrs apart): two negative results mean there is no requirement to complete the full 10 days of self-isolation
- If the person does not have a high temperature they can return to their education setting on or after day 7 (provided they have had two negative LFDs).

# Isolation requirements for close contacts

- Close contacts who are fully vaccinated, or children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months, should take an LFD test every day for seven days and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time
- Children under 5 should not take part in daily testing
- If under 5s live in the same house as a positive case, they should arrange a PCR but can continue to attend education or childcare whilst waiting for the test result

# Support from the PH team

## How and when to contact us:

PH support remains same as for last term

Email [Education.COVID19@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:Education.COVID19@northyorks.gov.uk)

## What schools can expect:

- Queries/issues will be picked up by member of team for response – any issues needing escalating will be discussed at a daily meeting
- The DfE helpline is also available
- It is likely that schools will have similar queries – we will look to update Q&A so everyone has access to responses to these
- UKHSA/DfE advice to schools remains the same as previously (i.e. Contingency Framework). We will continue to review our guidance too, all of which goes on the CYPS COVID web page
- We have weekly session with DfE team – will continue to raise issues flagged with us (there is one today at 3pm)





# Vaccines update

- JCVI issues new vaccination advice for children and young people - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))
- The second dose roll out will be led by Harrogate District Foundation Trust similarly to the first dose.
- HDFT will be in contact with schools (if they haven't already) to let them know when they will visit.
- It is vital that schools try to facilitate visits for both COVID and flu vaccines.
  
- Please note that there is support available should schools be targeted re: vaccinations – please email [dora.machaira@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:dora.machaira@northyorks.gov.uk) if you have any such issues.

# Face Coverings

- Face coverings are now recommended in classrooms where Y7 and above are being educated
- This does not apply in situations where wearing a face covering would impact on the ability to take part in exercise or strenuous activity, for example in PE lessons
- This is from now until **26 January**, when Plan B will be reviewed
- The advice remains for all adults in communal areas of **all settings**
- Setting should have a small contingency stock available in case individuals have forgotten or damaged their own
- Delivery of some stock may have arrived before the end of last term and will resume this Friday 7 January (queries or complaints relating to deliveries or missing items, please contact the DHSC PPE helpline, provided by UNIPART, on 0800 876 6802, identifying yourself as an education setting. Lines are open 7am to 7pm, 7 days a week. Alternatively, you can email [dfeppequeries@unipart.com](mailto:dfeppequeries@unipart.com) )
- Pupils in Y7 and above, must also wear a face covering when travelling on public transport and should wear it on dedicated transport to and from school.

# DfE-funded air cleaning units

- All state funded primary and secondary schools, further education colleges and early years settings can apply for a funded air cleaning unit if they meet strict eligibility criteria.
- Special and alternative provision settings, including SEND units attached to mainstream units, that were not successful or did not apply during the first round are also eligible to apply during this round.
- Further details, including the eligibility criteria, can be found in the [guidance on applying for an air cleaning unit](#).
- Applications for all settings will close at 9am on Monday 17 January.
- If your setting is not eligible for a funded unit, the [air cleaning marketplace](#) remains open, enabling you to purchase units at a suitable specification and competitive price.

# Support from the HandS team

## How and when to contact us:

- We will issue a new template risk assessment tomorrow, Wednesday 5 January; this will come via your HandS Adviser

Please contact your HandS Adviser in the first instance or

Email [dale.barton@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:dale.barton@northyorks.gov.uk)

Phone 07788 564533

## What schools can expect:

- Risk Assessments are updated in line with changes to government guidance
- Liaison with union representatives (Unison, NASUWT, ASCL, NEU, NAHT etc)
- Liaison with Education, HR, Property, Legal and PH colleagues
- Help and support during adviser visits
- Unlimited email and telephone support



# School transport

- Schools are asked to support the messaging to pupils and parents that secondary age pupils are expected to wear face coverings on all transport (Pupils Y7+ must also wear a face covering when travelling on public transport and should wear it on dedicated transport to and from school)
- Please be aware, in line with the national picture, that there is an increased likelihood that there will be driver and Passenger Assistant absences due to COVID. As a result, there may be a need for more flexibility around timings and possibly double runs required as a last resort.
- In some cases, parents may be asked to transport pupils themselves and be given an allowance. This is more likely to be pupils in taxis.

# Workforce FAQs

- Continued and heightened challenge of staff availability
- Reduction in self isolation period subject to LFD testing
- Temporary change to Regulations on self certification for sickness 10 Dec - 26 January 2022
- "Where workforce issues arise, you may wish to use existing teaching, temporary and support staff more flexibly where required to ensure your setting remains open"
- Reminders:
  - Ensure compliance with all pre-appointment recruitment checks
  - Mindful of guidance on the use of TAs
  - Regular review of Individual Risk Assessments
- HR FAQ document updated
- Contact [nyhr@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:nyhr@northyorks.gov.uk) or nominated HR adviser



# Remote education

- The priority is for settings to remain open and for children and young people to receive face to face education
- Where workforce issues arise, staff can be used more **flexibly** to ensure your setting remains open, but
  - **appropriate support must be in place for children with SEND**
  - pupils do not need to be kept in consistent groups: classes can be combined
- The current requirements for remote education remain in place, where there is a need for this:
  - live streaming is the preferred method
  - there should be regular feedback and checking in with pupils
  - in all circumstances, and in all settings, priority should continue to be given to vulnerable children and young people and children of critical workers to attend full time.

# Vulnerable children – updated definition

- Throughout the pandemic, some groups of children should have benefitted from on-site provision:
  - Those with social workers
  - Those with EHCPs
  - Children considered locally, by settings and LAs to be ‘otherwise vulnerable’
- In addition to the above, the list now includes:
  - **children known to children’s social care services in the past**
  - **children whose home circumstances might be particularly challenging because of domestic abuse, parental offending, adult mental health issues, and drug and alcohol addiction**
- **Schools should refer to their records**
- **Contact your area EH consultant if advice is needed**
- **If you have concerns about a child, follow the usual referral pathways**



# Attendance reporting

- The [educational setting status form](#) will reopen on Tuesday 4 January. Please complete the form from the **start of your term** and provide your data **by 2pm each working day**.
- This information is vital in monitoring and understanding the impacts of Covid 19
- It is used locally to understand the picture across North Yorkshire, to ensure schools are supported by the PH team, and to enable to LA to share the challenges and escalate concerns on behalf of schools to DfE, Ofsted and others.
- Schools are now being asked to provide information about
  - the phased return process, for secondary schools with an asymptomatic test site (ATS)
  - the number of pupils or students absent due to attendance restrictions put in place to manage an outbreak within the setting or exceptional circumstances related to COVID-19
- Updated: [Questions on the educational setting status form for schools \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

# Ofsted

- Inspection arrangements are under review
- No secondary schools will be inspected w/c 4 Jan (unless urgent concerns)
- For a temporary period, school leaders who are OIs will not be asked to undertake inspection activity
- Schools and settings with significantly affected by staff absences are encouraged to ask for their inspections to be deferred
- Ofsted's social care, local area SEND and joint targeted area inspections will continue, as will regulatory work

# School Improvement and SEND Hub Services

- Advisers will continue to work with PH colleagues and school leaders when schools report outbreaks or there are operational challenges that need additional support.
- Planned SI monitoring and support should continue where possible, as should support and intervention from the SEND Hub team.
- Advisers and teachers will continue to undertake face to face visits as already agreed unless circumstances require a change (eg following an outbreak)
- Schools are asked to inform visitors about risk assessment measures in their own settings to enable the visits to take place, and to inform in advance if possible if key staff members or children are absent.
- Advisers, teachers and practitioners will continue to undertake regular LFD testing and will inform schools directly if positive testing will affect a planned visit.

# Exams and assessments

- Examinations and assessments in January should go ahead as originally planned. Settings should liaise with their awarding organisation to make sure they have the latest information on adaptations to the delivery of the exams and assessments, and procedures for special considerations.
- Public Health guidance to support exams for 2021 to 2022 has been updated to reflect changes (face coverings, isolation and testing) elsewhere:  
[Public health guidance to support exams for 2021 to 2022 - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/public-health-guidance-to-support-exams-for-2021-to-2022)  
([www.gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk))

# Catering/ Meals

- Schools are being asked in the daily DfE return how meals are being provided to children eligible for FSM.
- In line with other organisations, staffing issues are being experienced within NY Catering. As a last resort, some schools may be provided with a packed lunch. With a sandwich option, there are two approaches: (1) make locally with staff that are available, or (2) request through an existing sandwich supplier.
- NY Catering will aim to provide a hot meal wherever possible.

## **How and when to contact us:**

Please contact your Area Manager or [Shaun.Mancrief@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:Shaun.Mancrief@northyorks.gov.uk)

# Other support available for families

## NYLAF

To be eligible for Local Assistance Fund support in North Yorkshire you must also be able to demonstrate that you:

- are 16 years old or over
- live in, or are moving into North Yorkshire
- receive a means-tested benefit or have a household income below the low income threshold (currently £16,105) and less than £1,000 in capital
- have exhausted all other forms of support
- are receiving support from an Authorised Agent

[www.northyorks.gov.uk/local-assistance-fund](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/local-assistance-fund)

**Warm and Well** (advice and practical solutions to reduce fuel poverty and support people to stay warm and well in winter)

[www.warmandwell.org.uk](http://www.warmandwell.org.uk)



# Further information and upcoming dates

- CYPS briefings for school leaders:
  - 18 January (9:30am)
  - 19 January (1:30pm)
- Governor School Improvement Meeting
  - 24 January (6:00pm)

Any questions?





Close

THANK YOU

