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| Date: 24 April 2020 |



On days like today many thousands of us will be looking out of our windows and wondering how it is possible that we remain in the grip of a virus that targets our people and communities indiscriminately and without compassion. The sun is up; the sky is blue – but, sadly all is not well in the world. So, as we approach the weekend and the weather is set to remain beautiful, please enjoy your daily exercise thoughtfully and within the lockdown rules. I am sorry to start with this message on such a stunning day – but the fact is that a small number of people continue to stretch the ‘essential travel only’ rules. For this reason, we will be placing visual reminders along many of our key routes with our partners at North Yorkshire Police. The Police, via the Local Resilience Forum, are also issuing further very clear warnings that they will fine those who persist. I hope these road signs will act as a reminder to the consciences of those who put others at risk.

For the vast majority of people who are doing the right thing, once again, I thank you. Because of your collective efforts, our hospitals and NHS, health and social care and other key frontline services are managing the impact and supporting vulnerable people. The plateau in cases in North Yorkshire continues and we are proving what a terrific force Team North Yorkshire is.

Some good news, too, on the testing front for our essential and key workers. A super centre in York will pilot key worker testing this Sunday and then operate from Poppleton Park & Ride site from Monday. A national booking system is in place. We also look set to have a military-operated mobile testing unit in Scarborough for key workers on the coast. Alongside this – North Yorkshire has been chosen by the Department of Health and Social Care to be part of the home testing pilot – again for essential workers. This means more of our front line critical staff can get back to work more quickly and can carry on delivering vital services to the public. This is really welcome news.

More positive news also continues to come from the innovation and generosity of local businesses. NHS and our social care staff have been treated to some tasty deliveries of food this week while they care for some of our most vulnerable residents. Then there is the news today that hand sanitiser made by North Yorkshire gin distilleries is helping our own and other key workers to stay safe during the Covid-19 outbreak. Three distilleries across the county – Masons Gin, Spirit of Masham and Harrogate Tipple – have turned to production of sanitiser to support not only North Yorkshire County Council, but also health services and other organisations. Another example of resilience and community spirit!

Our Buy Local website is also going from strength to strength – every day we seem to receive more positive feedback from businesses or customers. There is another story below with a happy ending for a family who had no hot shower – not good when you are socially isolating! The problem was solved with speed thanks to this free market place. Please tell your local businesses and trades people about it. For those who are allowed to trade within the COVID-19 rules, it’s a great asset.

We have also relaunched our celebration of those people in North Yorkshire who are the Salt of the Earth. This week’s stories feature six-year-old Emily Caffrey from Harrogate who has cerebral palsy but has been inspired by Captain Tom to do her own sponsored walk. The family will be donating money raised to the NHS and local charities. I believe Emily is 7 tomorrow, so, Happy Birthday, Emily from everyone at the County Council and well done you! Another features a couple who started making protective masks with their 3D printer to supply a GP in Filey – a local group donated some funds from a community bingo game so they could buy another printer to make more. Such heart-warming stories.

Finally, today I wanted to touch again on a moment of business as usual in our world of anything but! North Yorkshire’s Rural Commission met virtually this week and are now picking up their work and ensuring the current crisis is part of that thinking. You can find more on their thoughts on this link <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/news/article/considering-post-coronavirus-county-north-yorkshires-rural-commission-gets-back>



Today’s World Health Organization data shows that there have been 2,626,321 confirmed cases globally, with 181,938 deaths across 213 countries, areas or territories. At a national level, Public Health England data shows there were 143,464 cases in the UK on 24th April. The number of cases in the UK has overtaken the total number in France, and the UK now has the 5th highest number of recorded cases amongst all nations (behind USA, Spain, Italy and Germany). Of those hospitalised in the UK who tested positive for coronavirus, 19,506 have died.

We currently have 718 confirmed cases of COVID-19 across North Yorkshire. However, this focuses on those who have been tested in hospital settings, which will only be a proportion of the total number. We expect that hospital cases are around 8% of the total number of cases across the community.

There have been 356 deaths in hospital trusts covering North Yorkshire (Airedale, Harrogate, South Tees, and York) to date.  Data are reported at trust level and it is not yet possible to determine deaths for North Yorkshire residents reliably as all trusts apart from Harrogate serve large populations outside North Yorkshire. However, estimates suggest around 132 of these deaths will be of North Yorkshire residents.

Over the last week the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in hospitals has continued to plateau. We are not likely to see a sharp rise in cases from this point but expect to remain at the current level of activity over the next few weeks. The increased number of tests carried out in the community (for key workers and care homes in particular) will contribute to this.

**Quit for Covid campaign**

North Yorkshire County Council is supporting the National #QuitforCovid campaign.  As smoking damages lungs, and weakens the immune system, some evidence is suggesting that smoking may make it more likely to have complications from the infection.

There is a Twitter Quit Clinic every day between 7.30pm-8.30pm hosted by expert, Louise Ross.  People can ask a question about stopping smoking by using: #QuitforCovid on Twitter.

More info at: [www.todayistheday.co.uk](http://www.todayistheday.co.uk)

People can also use the local Live Well Smokefree stop smoking service by phone: 01609 797272 and email: stop.smoking@northyorks.gov.uk

**Ramadan Guidance**

The Muslim Council of Britain has guidance in their [#RamadanAtHome pack](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDYsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMDA0MjMuMjA1Njk0MDEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL21jYi5vcmcudWsvd3AtY29udGVudC91cGxvYWRzLzIwMjAvMDQvTUNCLVJhbWFkYW4tMjAyMC1HdWlkYW5jZS5wZGYifQ.he9Fo7YygVtgNXnlB3NJXQbe72nU97YOYmKSW2-WuMM/br/77777475978-l), and [Public Health England has published a helpful blog post](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDcsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMDA0MjMuMjA1Njk0MDEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3B1YmxpY2hlYWx0aG1hdHRlcnMuYmxvZy5nb3YudWsvMjAyMC8wNC8yMi9zdGF5LWF0LWhvbWUtZm9yLXJhbWFkYW4vIn0.UiM1zT9sqd3pQoSBYJk3tb_JJlVcNwSo7pcy246Tebc/br/77777475978-l). This may be of interest to the communities you serve and to councils as employers as the guidance includes information on supporting your Muslim workforce during this time. The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) has also [written some key points to help communities come together at this time.](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDgsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMDA0MjMuMjA1Njk0MDEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL2RyaXZlLmdvb2dsZS5jb20vZmlsZS9kLzE2Nkp1ZHdHSjcxNG1wcHhWT2tQVWdZajhlclg3cWRoYS92aWV3In0.n0NJez8rZ-n8o57LqHpA3A6gguTpa-KSB1zz0x6m2ck/br/77777475978-l)







Approximately 300 people stepped forward to work in the 16 childcare hubs which are now running in schools and nurseries in North Yorkshire. We would like to extend our thanks to them for giving up their bank holidays and weekends to support key worker families in this way. The hubs were used by approximately 500 to 600 children over the Easter holidays.

We have had a lot of positive feedback from parents on how well the hubs are working, including comments from two NHS workers, who got in contact to say their children enjoyed their time at the hubs over Easter and who were both able to complete their shifts on COVID-19 wards because of the childcare.

Children and Young People’s Service have also heard back from other NHS workers appreciative that many of our schools have been open over the Easter holidays.

Barlby Community Primary School, near Selby, is one of those schools which has become a hub, opening seven days a week and bank holidays.

The school has a number of parents working in key roles, including nurses, paramedics, care workers and supermarket workers and said there was a clear need for them to open on weekends to help those families.

Headteacher, Jillian Baker, said she was inundated with offers from staff and people in the wider community “desperate to come in and help” and support local children and their families by working in the hubs. The school is only bringing in staff where needed and on a normal day has a team of 30 staff on rota, with two reserve teams of staff.

Jillian said they ensure they have provided plenty of fun activities for children over the bank holidays and weekends.

“We have a forest school, lots of arts and crafts and den-making equipment. We’ve had children having hot chocolate around a camp fire and they’ve made some amazing dens.

“They’ve camped out in their dens and had lunch in them. Children have also been asking if they can sleep overnight in them – we’ve had to say no to that!

“But the children’s feedback has been great; they’re really enjoying coming into school.

“If pupils have a particular interest we’re encouraging them to follow those. A group of older children in school have set up a science lab. They do a lot of operations on a science dummy; they’re doing fantastic science work through fun role play.

“They’ve been playing that for four weeks now; things come and go but the science lab has stuck with them. **They’re convinced they’re going to find a cure for coronavirus!”**

* Schools and families using the Government’s national Free School Meals vouchers should already have their eCodes, or expect them within the next four days. The eCodes are then converted into supermarket vouchers by the schools or families.



Earlier this year, we launched our Salt of the Earth campaign, celebrating kindness in North Yorkshire communities. We could not have foreseen what the impact of this global pandemic would be on us locally, but if there is one positive to come from this crisis, it’s seeing how people up and down the county have come together to get through it.

Our Salt of the Earth feature, for the coast this month, focusses on David Chamberlain from Filey, one example of the growing number of people using their ingenuity and creativity to help keep key workers safe. David and his wife Gemma have been 3D printing visors and donating the finished product to businesses and healthcare workers throughout the town. As news of David’s endeavour spread, the people of Filey volunteered to help him raise funds to buy more printers, enabling him to increase output. David said: “The community has been fantastic. I’ve never seen them pull together as they have in the last few weeks.” Read more at <https://www.thescarboroughnews.co.uk/news/people/salt-earth-david-chamberlain-working-extraordinary-hours-create-visors-filey-2547312>

This continuing crisis is bringing out the very best in many people; neighbours are looking out for each other and there is an army of volunteers forming groups in their towns and villages to make sure nobody is left without essential supplies.

At the heart of that response are the community support organisations and the local partners they are working alongside. The 23 community support organisations (CSOs) provide assistance with shopping, picking up prescriptions and other essentials, to those in need who do not have local networks or help from family, friends and neighbours.

Jonathan Kerr, Chief Officer of Age UK North Craven said: "We are there for people who need extra help, support over the phone and we can also escalate support to social services if people need it. We have 100 people who are being telephoned by volunteers to check they have everything they need and just to have someone to listen to them.”

Anyone who needs help with shopping, prescriptions and other essentials, but doesn’t have the support of family, friends or neighbours can contact our customer service centre on 01609 780780 seven days a week 8am-5:30pm. This includes people who need to stay at home for 12 weeks because they have underlying medical conditions and are being shielded. Welfare calls to people in this group are also continuing at pace in partnership with the district councils.

**Feeding the county during the covid outbreak**

The council has been involved in many aspects of feeding the county including checking on the delivery of government food parcels, supporting foodbanks, matching local businesses who are offering volunteer services with community groups, and helping to find ways for volunteers to pay for shopping.

For people who can shop for themselves safely, there are links to the COVID information from the main supermarkets here: <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/help-you-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

We’ve also launched Buy Local [www.northyorks.gov.uk/buy-local](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/buy-local) which is already proving to be a valuable resource for information on food available from local suppliers, with over half the businesses registered on the site selling food in some form. Read the Buy Local update below for more information.



**Buy Local**

North Yorkshire Buy Local is the one stop shop to find businesses, products and services in North Yorkshire during the Covid 19 outbreak.

The free online marketplace brings together all businesses and tradespeople eligible to trade during Covid 19 with the people who need their services. Go to [www.northyorks.gov.uk/buy-local](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/buy-local) to see the range of local businesses who have now signed up. Since its launch two weeks ago, over 300 businesses have registered, with more joining all the time.

Over half of the businesses on the site are food suppliers, and the most popular search is for food with over half the total page views. The site is growing in value as a resource to enable residents, including those who are vulnerable or who may be self-isolating, to access food from local suppliers.

As of yesterday, 2,774 new people have visited the site since it launched and 2,228 people have returned to the site.

Supporting local businesses now will help them to come back more strongly as we recover from this crisis. We’ve already had some great feedback from businesses and customers – Luke Boston, owner of BSA Electrical, registered his business on Tuesday, and was fixing a broken electric shower by Wednesday! Luke said “It’s definitely worthwhile signing up, and gives the general public who are in need of services fairly promptly, a selection of local businesses and services to choose from. We’re glad we signed up, and feel that the service is something people need at the minute – for both the customers and businesses.”

Read the full story from Luke and his customer Rachel here <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/buy-local>.

If you can, please share our social media messages encouraging businesses to register, and directing the public to the site. Follow @northyorkscc on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram.

**Gin distillers turning to hand sanitiser support our Covid-19 effort**

Hand sanitiser made by North Yorkshire gin distilleries is helping our key workers to stay safe and keep others safe during the Covid-19 outbreak.

Three distilleries – Masons Gin, Spirit of Masham and Harrogate Tipple – that have turned to production of sanitiser have been supporting not only the County Council but also health services and other organisations.

Cathy Mason, co-founder of Masons Gin, said: “So far we have donated about 1,200 litres and we are expecting more ingredients this week to make more, so hopefully will be able to donate another 1,000 litres.”

Derek Harle, co-owner of Spirit of Masham, added: “The main thing was to get this out and to be able to do it at a low enough price to make it viable. It has been a very busy period, which we anticipated.”

And Steve Green, co-founder of Harrogate Tipple, said: “We realised we could do this and keep our business open. We could go back to the doctors and hospitals and councils that had asked about this to say that we could do it at cost price, as well as selling it online to individuals.”

Read the full story: <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/news/article/gin-distillers-turning-hand-sanitiser-support-covid-19-effort>

**LEP News**

**York & North Yorkshire Growth Hub launch Jobs Fuse**

A new service has been launched to help those who have been made unemployed as a result of the Coronavirus outbreak in the York & North Yorkshire region to get back into employment, whilst also supporting key regional employers with the challenges they face where staffing is concerned due to the pandemic.

**York & North Yorkshire Jobs Fuse**, brings the expertise of the National Careers Service, the Department for Work and Pensions and the York & North Yorkshire Growth Hub together to provide a ‘one stop shop’ for both job seekers and local employers.

This service will be promoted online through the [York & North Yorkshire Growth Hub website](https://www.ynygrowthhub.com/how-we-can-help/coronavirus/coronavirus-skills-community/york-north-yorkshire-jobs-fuse/) and social media channels, including the [Growth Hub’s Facebook Group](https://www.facebook.com/groups/employmentandskillsYNYGH/) which at a grassroots level, is promoting the sharing of jobs and skills amongst our communities.

We hope that our many partners will get behind this initiative so that it reaches those employers and individuals who can benefit the most. Find the full press release [here](https://www.ynygrowthhub.com/blog/news/growth-hub-launch-jobs-fuse-to-help-with-employment-challenges-during-covid-19/).

**New assets created by Y&NY Growth Hub to help simplify support messages**

The [new York and North Yorkshire Growth Hub website](http://www.ynygrowthhub.com) has been launched, offering free business advice and support, including advice on the Coronavirus crisis.

We understand businesses are struggling to process the amount of information that is being provided by government and local partners, which could result in businesses missing out on crucial support available.

The York & North Yorkshire Growth Hub has provided a series of simple visual guides to help businesses navigate their way through a number of schemes.

* [Job Retention Scheme](https://www.ynygrowthhub.com/blog/news/what-you-need-to-know-job-retention-scheme/)
* [Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme](https://www.ynygrowthhub.com/blog/news/quick-guide-coronavirus-business-interruption-loan-scheme/)
* [Small Business Grant Funding](https://www.ynygrowthhub.com/blog/news/quick-guide-small-business-grant-funding/)
* [Retail, Hospitality & Leisure Grant](https://www.ynygrowthhub.com/blog/news/quick-guide-retail-hospitality-and-leisure-grant/)
* [Self-employment Income Support Scheme](https://www.ynygrowthhub.com/blog/news/quick-guide-self-employment-income-support-scheme/)
* [Statutory Sick Pay Scheme](https://www.ynygrowthhub.com/blog/news/quick-guide-statutory-sick-pay-scheme/)
* [Staff Retention Scheme](https://www.ynygrowthhub.com/blog/news/quick-guide-staff-retention-scheme/)

These assets can be shared by partners so that we are collectively enabling our region’s businesses to seek out the support they need.

**Snapshot of business sentiment**

Businesses seem to fall into two camps: those that are starting to re-open, some operating at reduced capacity, adapting to enforce social distancing measures or developing plans to re-start their business and those that are remaining closed, struggling to understand what to do and how to do it in the current and developing situation. Support and guidance is needed for those to help with getting business moving again.

Cash flow concerns are paramount, as month end approaches and businesses have only enough cash reserves to last for a limited time. The LEP is lobbying government on this with partners and is looking at launching further practical support in the week ahead.

**Stay informed on local support during and post COVID-19**

The LEP, its Growth Hub and many partners are working hard to support the businesses in our region. We are updating all information on a regular basis and are keen to promote the following as main sources of local business support information:

* **Y&NY LEP**: <https://www.businessinspiredgrowth.com/covid-19/>
* **Y&NY GROWTH HUB**: <https://www.ynygrowthhub.com/how-we-can-help/coronavirus/>



The priorities for adult social care and public health services at the moment are:

* supporting the wider care sector and, in particular, those care providers where there are Covid-19 outbreaks
* supporting the NHS to work with people with Covid-19 in the community, through hospital and community teams
* continuing to provide as near normal a service as possible (albeit with some changes) to people who already use services as well as to people who are making contact about non-Covid-19 issues

A broad range of key public health services continue to be provided as well (<https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/public-health-services-during-coronavirus-covid-19>)

Work continues to source PPE so that frontline care workers are protected. Local PPE guidance has been updated and further training undertaken with frontline teams following new Government guidance.

The roll-out of testing for key workers is welcome and the County Council and care provider staff have been accessing sites in Leeds, Keighley and Lancashire ahead of new facilities opening in York and the development of mobile and home testing.

**Richard Webb, Corporate Director for Health and Adult Services**



NYCC’s website has a dedicated area for all the latest COVID-19 related news visit: <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-and-information>

**Follow us** on social media: @northyorkscc on Facebook and Twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram.



**Virtual links**

Lots of museums, zoos and other tourist spots are live-streaming their days and most are offering virtual tours as something to do whilst staying at home. See links below to find out what is going on across the county. Take a look and see if somewhere local to you is live-streaming their day:

* Natural History Museum- virtual activities: <https://www.nhm.ac.uk/visit/virtual-museum.html>
* Edinburgh Zoo- <https://www.edinburghzoo.org.uk/webcams/penguin-cam/>
* Chester Zoo- <https://www.facebook.com/pg/chesterzoo1/videos/>
* Forestry England- <https://www.forestryengland.uk/blog/10-ways-keep-the-kids-entertained-through-covid-19>

**Find my Past**

You can now access Find my Past from home using your NYCC library card and pin, allowing you to search our parish registers and some school log books. Follow the link and click on ancestry resources: <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/libraries-online-information-resources>

**Sport England**

A new campaign has been launched called ‘Stay In, Work Out’ which provides advice on physical activity during this lockdown period at <https://www.sportengland.org/stayinworkout>

**Food Waste**

Reduce food waste and make your food go further, by using Love Food Hate Waste’s leftover recipe search <https://www.lovefoodhatewaste.com/>

## ****Free Language Lessons****

Children can continue to expand their horizon by learning a new language, and parents can ensure that the kids are using their time wisely. Rosetta Stone is giving free access for schoolchildren to use its language courses for the next three months, saving parents the usual £50 fee. Visit: <https://www.rosettastone.co.uk/lp/freeforkids/>



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**The P.M. is holding daily press conferences the highlights from the latest one can be found here:** [**https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus**](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

