

Courtesy Copy: COVID-19 Members Briefing 11 February

Rachel Palmer <Rachel.Palmer@eastriding.gov.uk>

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📎 2 attachments (833 KB)

social media image.png; QR code - vaccine survey.png;

Dear parish or town council,

Please find below the weekly COVID-19 update which is sent to East Riding of Yorkshire Council members. Please feel free to share with your members.

We are also asking residents about how they feel about the COVID-19 vaccine through a short survey and would appreciate it if you could share the survey across your communication channels.

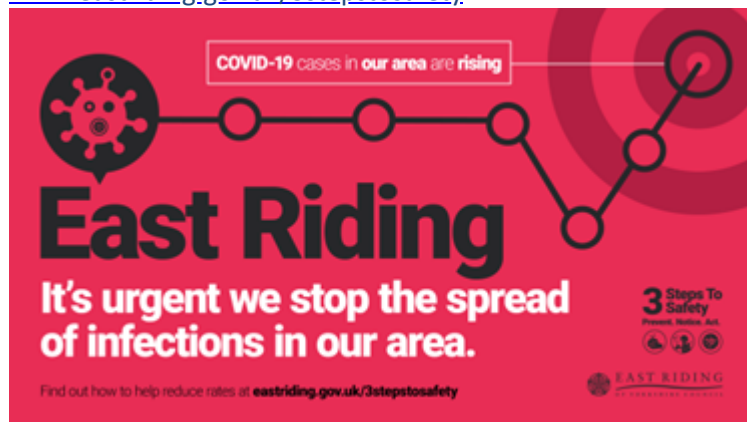
Suggested text: Will you get the COVID-19 vaccine when it's your turn? With the Covid-19 vaccine rollout in progress for priority groups, East Riding of Yorkshire Council would like to know more about what people in our area think about the vaccine. http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/ERYC_Covid_Vaccine/

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All the very best,

Rachel

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Communications Officer (COVID-19)
www.eastriding.gov.uk/3stepstosafety





Members COVID-19 briefing

Dear members and colleagues,

This message is sent at the request of Councillor Richard Burton, leader of the council, Caroline Lacey, chief executive, and Andy Kingdom, director of public health.

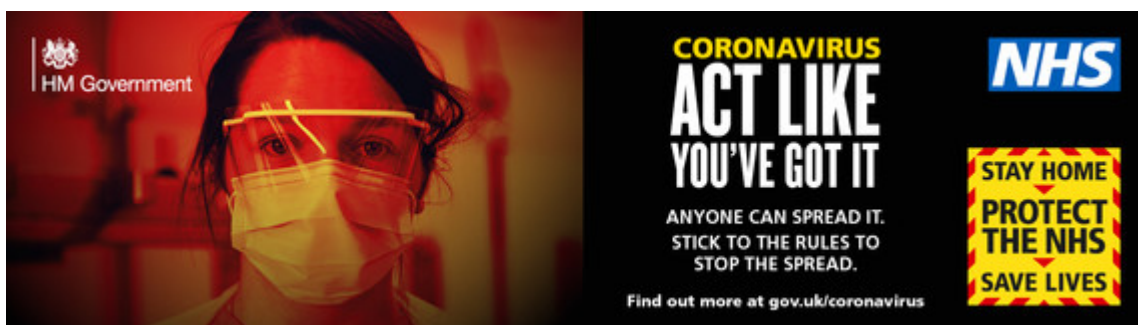
Here is today's briefing regarding the situation with COVID-19 and a summary of the council's activity and planned actions. This update will be sent weekly to members over the winter period.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, the council is continuing to do all it can to maintain services wherever possible during these challenging times, while prioritising resource on where it is needed most.

During this extraordinary period, please direct any questions and suggestions you may have to the group offices and please bear with us as we won't be able to respond to lots of member communications as quickly as normal. Please bear in mind we are focusing on essential service delivery.

You can refer to the council's website www.eastriding.gov.uk/coronavirus for the most up-to-date position on changes to services.

COVID-19 update



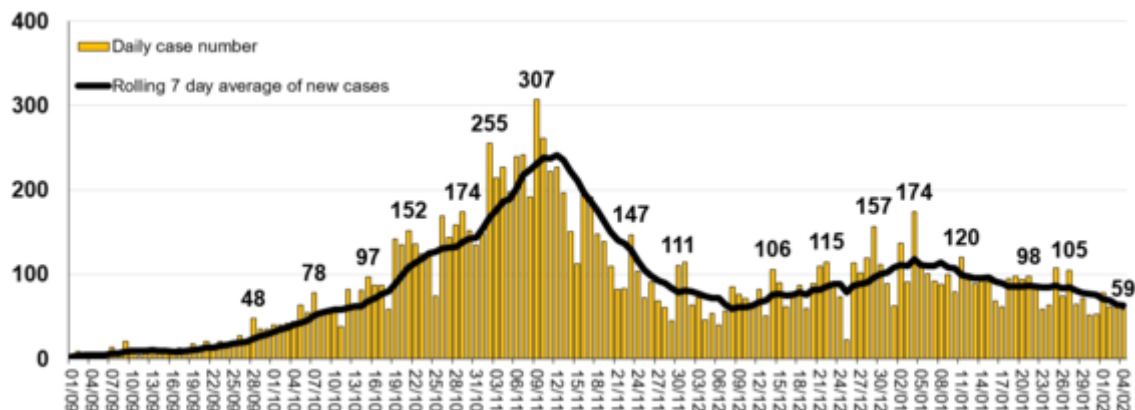
- **New cases – numbers remain high but continue to reduce**

- **7 day rate of new cases – still decreasing and remains lower than both region and England**
- **Cases in older people – numbers continue to remain high in the very elderly but the rate is reducing**
- **Rates decreased in almost three quarters of areas in the East Riding**
- **Hospitalisation due to COVID-19 – COVID patients occupying beds are decreasing but pressure on hospital services and staff remains**

New cases – numbers remain high but continue to reduce

To date, the East Riding has had over 15,700 positive cases of COVID-19 in total. The 7 day average of new cases since September is displayed in chart 1. The number of new cases continues to fall, continuing the trend since early January. In the 7 days up to 4 February, there were approximately 63 new cases per day, compared to the 80 cases a day reported for the previous week.

Chart 1. East Riding of Yorkshire residents - new daily cases of COVID-19



7 day rate of new cases – still decreasing and remains lower than both region and England

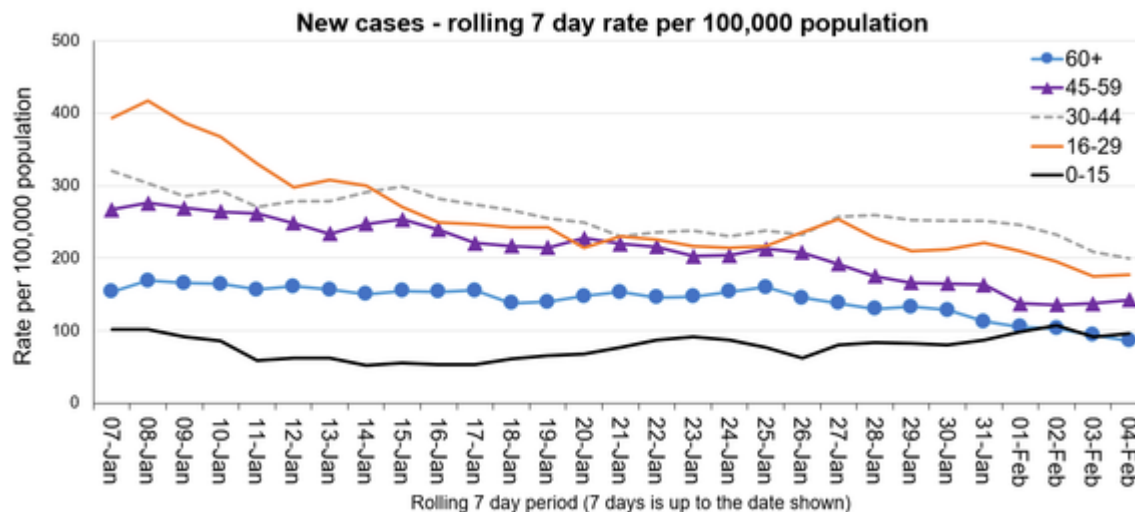
The '7 day rate' is the most commonly used method to understand the trend in new cases, whilst taking account of day to day fluctuations. For the 7 days up to 4 February, the East Riding rate (129 per 100,000 population) continues to remain lower than the rates of Humber region (182) and England (213). Whilst a reduction in the East Riding 7 day rate is positive news, it still remains over 2.5 times the 50 per 100,000 threshold, regarded as the highest category earlier in the summer. The current rate remains well below the peak of the second wave (496 per 100,000).

Cases in older people – numbers continue to remain high in the very elderly but the rate is reducing

Older people remain at a higher risk of serious illness, as a result of becoming infected with COVID therefore their infection rates are regularly monitored. Chart 2 illustrates the 7 day infection rates (between 7 January and 4 February) for five different age groups within the East Riding, most of which continue to fall. It's encouraging to see that the rate of the 60+ years (shown by the blue line with blue circles) has continued to decrease and is now the lowest of all age groups.

Whilst infection rates in residents aged 80+ years still remain relatively high compared to other age groups, they have been falling since 25 January. There were 35 new cases recorded in the 7 days up to the 4 February, involving residents aged 80+ years. This is in contrast to the 62 new cases per week we were reporting for this age group two weeks ago.

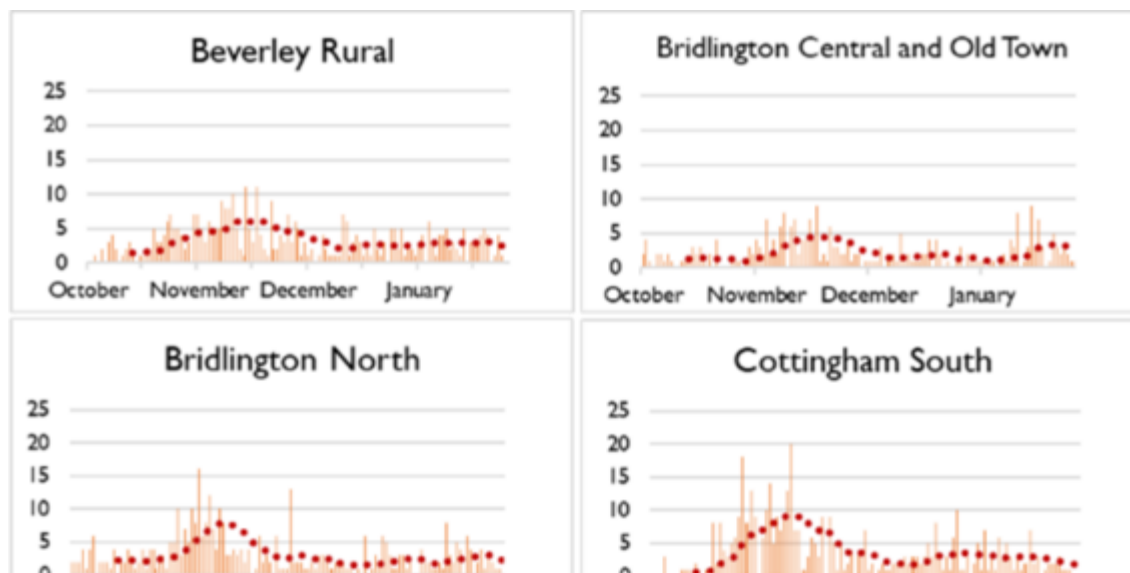
Chart 2. East Riding of Yorkshire residents – rolling 7 day rate per 100,000 population of COVID-19 by age group

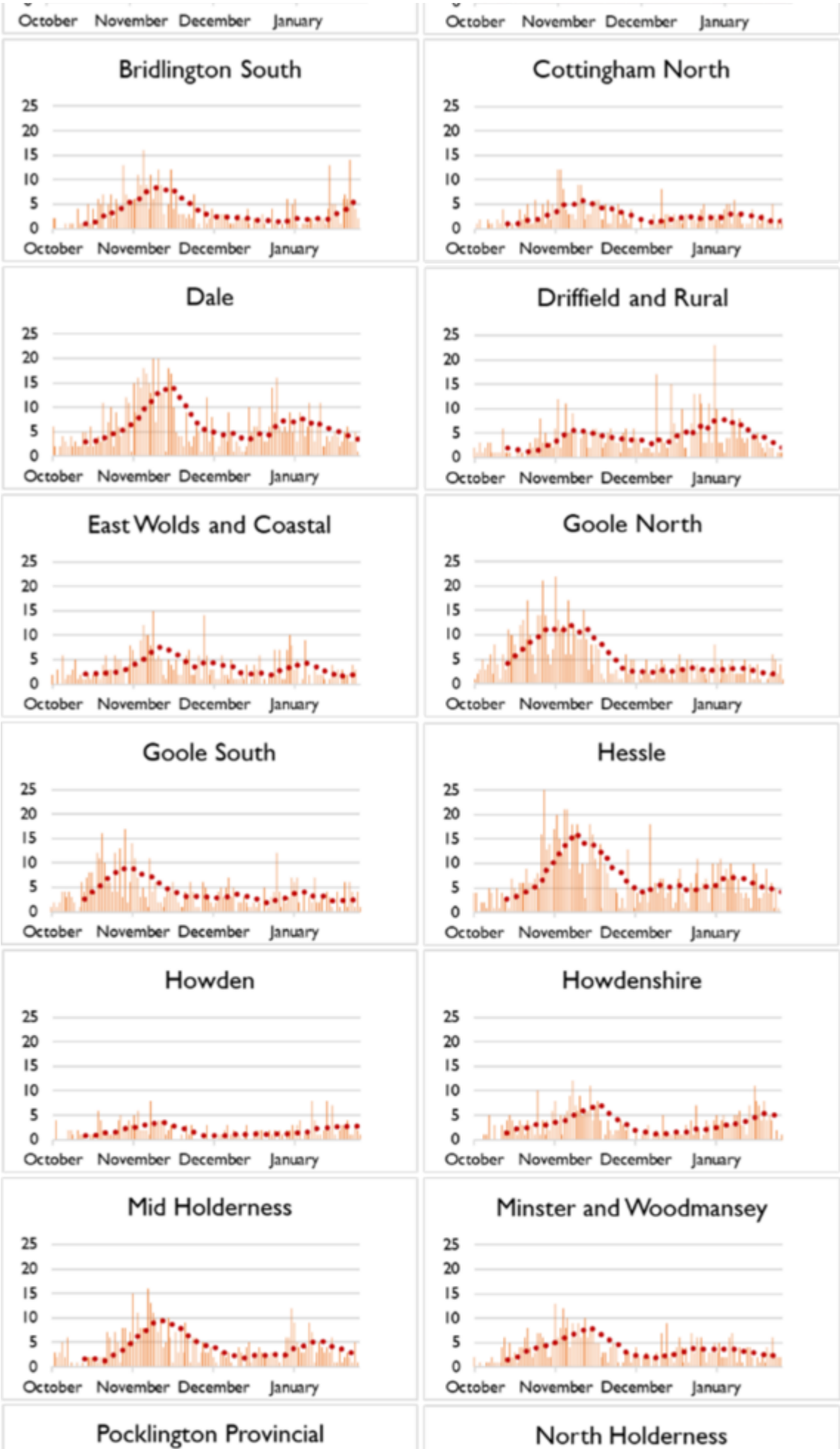


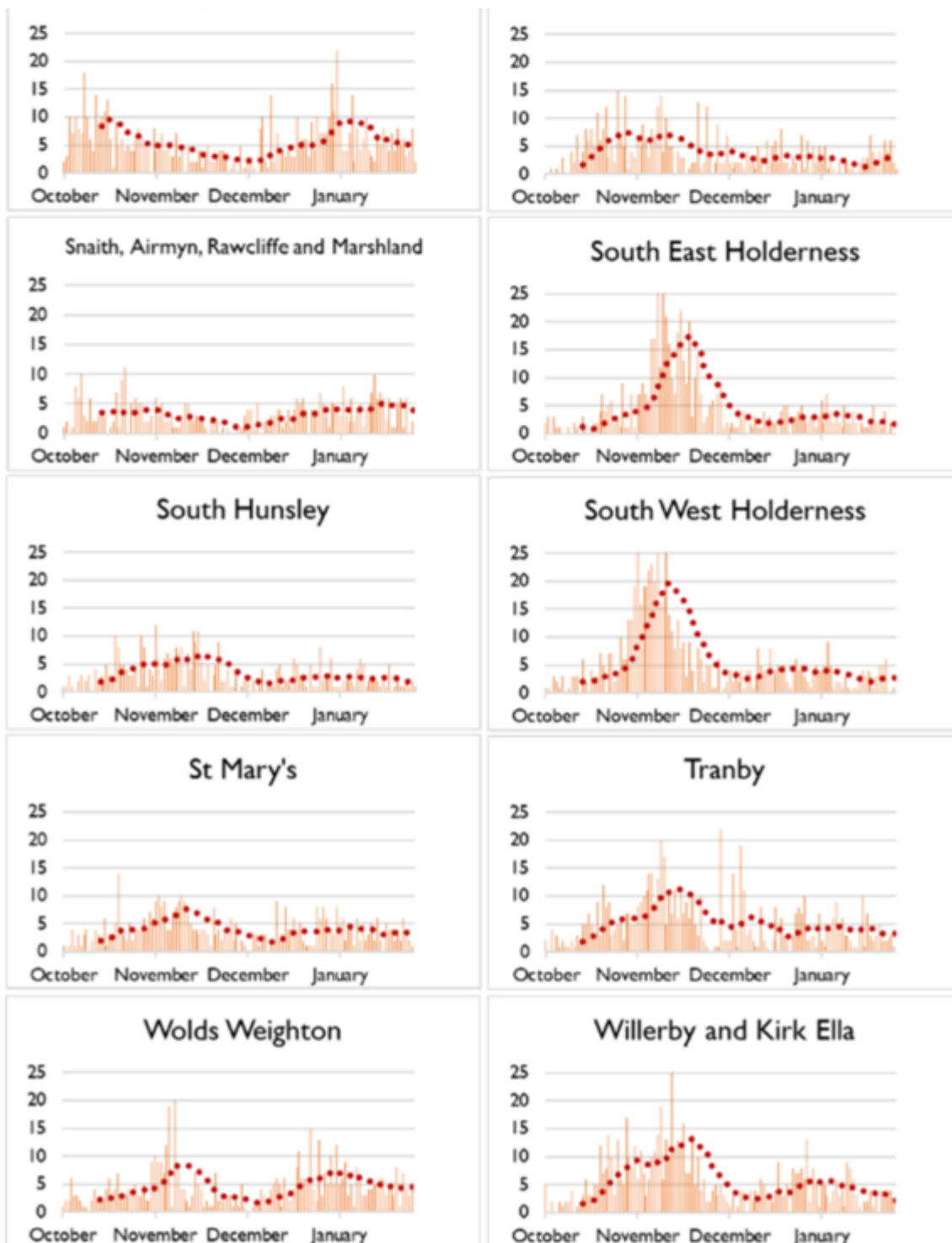
Rates decreased in almost three quarters of areas in the East Riding

Almost three quarters of areas within the East Riding reported a decrease in their 7 day rate (up to the 4 February) compared to the previous week. Reassuringly this year there have not been any substantial community outbreaks. In the East Riding, there hasn't been a specific area which has consistently had the highest rate throughout the pandemic. Rates have previously been high in the west (Pocklington and Goole), then at another time they had been higher in the East (Hornsea). More recently rates have been higher in Howden, Goole, Anlaby Common and Hornsea.

Chart 3. Infection numbers in East Riding wards since October





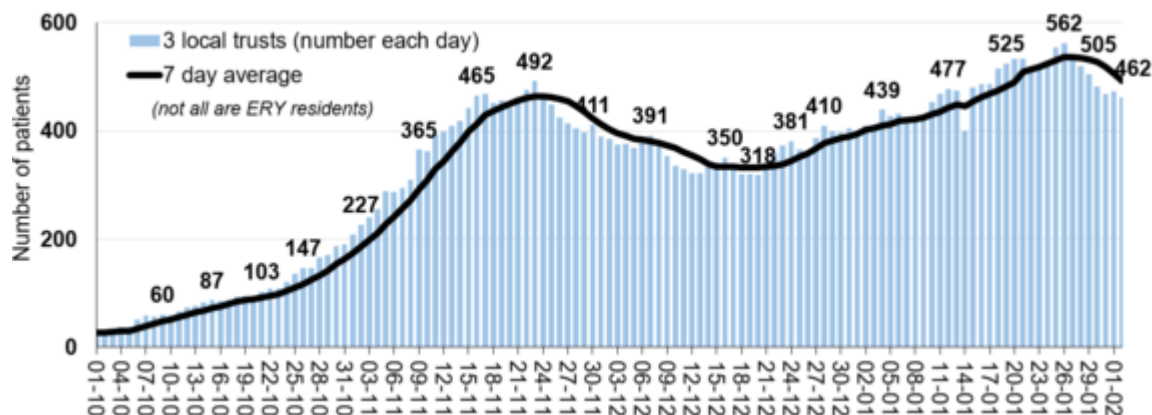


Hospitalisation due to COVID-19 – COVID patients occupying beds are decreasing but pressure on hospital services and staff remains

Regarding our local hospital trusts, there is some positive news to report in that the number of COVID patients occupying hospital beds has recently decreased and started to show a downward trend. Chart 4 shows the daily numbers of COVID patients occupying beds (blue bars) in three of these trusts. An increase in trend (black line) had started in mid-December and continued to grow to over 560 patients as of 26 January. Since then numbers have largely decreased. Within Hull Royal and Castle Hill specifically, this decreasing trend is also being observed.

For the past 13 weeks, COVID related deaths in hospital have remained high and sadly this is expected to continue for several more weeks. However, the count of COVID related deaths has started to decline over the past 2 weeks.

Chart 4. Total beds occupied by confirmed COVID-19 patients (as at 08:00 each day). 3 local trusts (Hull University Teaching Hospitals, Northern Lincolnshire and Goole, York Teaching Hospital)



Summary

It is extremely positive that the number of new infections in the East Riding continues to slowly decrease and that rates in our elderly population (our most vulnerable residents) have shown a noticeable decline. The East Riding rate continues to have a more favourable (i.e. lower) rate compared to the region and England, but our case numbers still remain high compared to the numbers of cases seen last summer.

The numbers of COVID patients within our local hospital trusts is declining but pressure on local hospital trusts will remain for the foreseeable future as they treat severely ill patients infected in recent weeks. There is also, of course, the impact of normal winter pressures on the NHS.

For additional information on daily COVID-19 cases, please go to:

<https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk>.

Coronavirus new variants

With the news that new variants of coronavirus have been identified, the advice remains to stay vigilant and to focus on behaviours which prevent the spread of infection.

We continue to monitor the situation in the Humber and we are watching out for any unusual patterns or outbreaks. For further information [please click here](#).

Additional information

For additional information on daily COVID-19 cases, please go to:

<https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk>.

National information

The Office for National Statistics contains searchable and comprehensive data and analysis related to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. [You can visit the site here](#)



National lockdown: stay at home

In brief, the lockdown measures are:

- You must stay at home. This is the single most important action we can all take to protect the NHS and save lives.
- You must not leave your home unless necessary.
- Stay 2 metres apart from anyone not in your household or bubble.

In the East Riding, whilst in national lockdown, we are urging everyone to do everything they can to stop the spread. The single most important action we can all take to stop the spread of COVID-19 is to stay at home.

Anyone can catch COVID-19 and anyone can spread it. One in three people with the virus can be asymptomatic and inadvertently infect others.

That is why it is VITAL we all stay home as much as possible.

If you do have symptoms, book a test - there is plenty of capacity across our region's testing sites and self-isolate IMMEDIATELY.

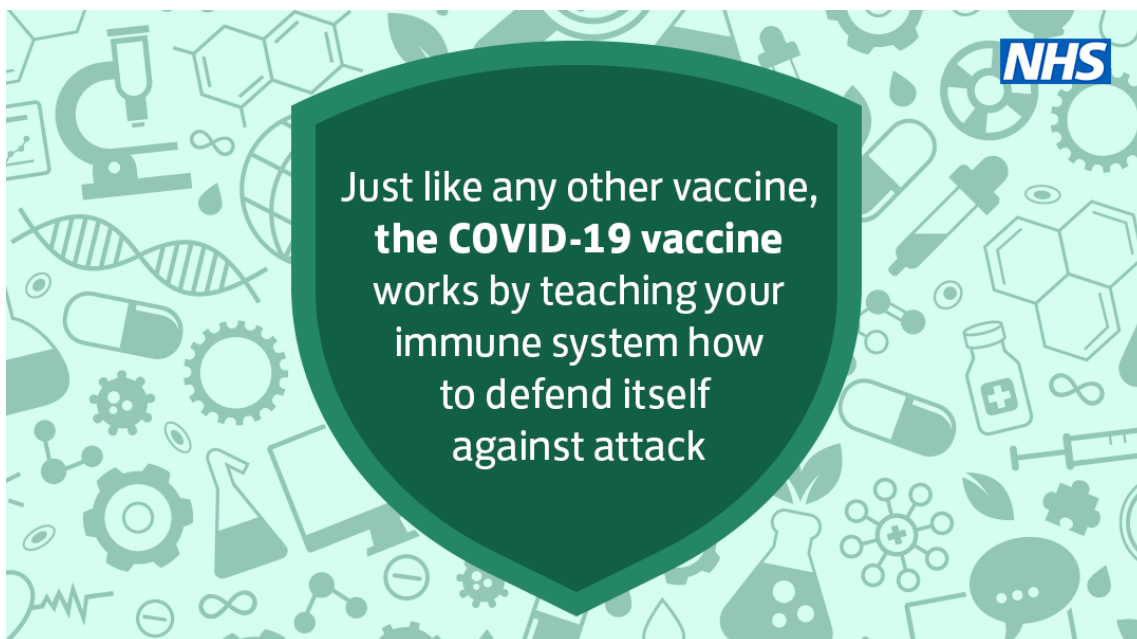
The virus needs people and social contact to spread. Our essential workers are keeping essential services running. We can support them and protect these services by starving the virus if we all stay at home.

Further Government information:

[National lockdown: full guidance](#)

[COVID-19 winter plan](#)

COVID-19 vaccination update



Key messages for the COVID-19 vaccination roll out

East Riding of Yorkshire Council and Members have an important role to play in supporting the NHS to roll out the COVID-19 vaccination programme. Please share the following messages to support the NHS:

- please don't contact the NHS to seek a vaccine, the NHS will contact you
- please be patient, but know no one will be excluded from the vaccination programme
- when the NHS contacts people, they ask that people attend their booked appointments
- and please encourage everyone to continue to follow all the current guidance to control the virus and save lives - even if you've had the COVID-19 vaccine.

We would like to share this information from our NHS colleagues about the COVID-19 vaccination programme.

The NHS is leading on the development and roll-out of the coronavirus vaccine. The NHS vaccination programme board are responsible for the phased roll-out of vaccines, sites, the vaccination process, patient experience and any communications related to this.

FAQs from NHS Hull CCG for elected members about the vaccine can be found [here](#). The online newsletter for Humber, Coast and Vale can be accessed [here](#).

[NHS vaccine FAQs for members](#)

This week, as of 9 February, Public Health England announced that 12.65 million people have received their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccination.

Whilst vaccination data is published daily by the NHS, there have been calls to share more information about vaccines by more localised areas. As of 31 January, the figures for Humber Coast and Vale for vaccine delivery were; cumulative total

doses of 295,369 of all vaccines including 93,409 (over 92%) first doses to over 80s and 186,077 other first doses. Around 1.7m people live in the Humber Coast and Vale region.

People over the age of 70 who have not yet been offered a COVID-19 vaccine are being encouraged to contact the NHS to arrange an appointment. The NHS had previously asked people to wait until they are contacted to help ensure that the most vulnerable are protected first, however, people aged 70 and over can now contact the NHS so they can be vaccinated by the middle of this month. The easiest way to [arrange a vaccination is through the national booking service](#) or calling 119.

In Humber, Coast and Vale there are hospital hubs across the region providing vaccines for health and social care staff.

There are seven vaccinations centres managed by PCNs across the East Riding, with further "pop up" sites appearing to increase access to the vaccine. The provision of 'pop up' venues is being kept under review and more brought online as more vaccinations become available.

In addition, there are mass vaccination sites, available to those who can access and live within a 45 minute drive such as Askham Bar in York which opened on 18 January, Hull City Hall commenced providing vaccinations on 10 February 2021 and another site being planned for Scunthorpe soon.

A mix of vaccination sites is likely to offer our residents more choice in the vaccine rollout and will suit our demographics and geography.

Vaccination scams

Our [website page](#) contains general information about vaccinations and sadly reports of vaccination scams are being reported in our area.

Unfortunately, some people are receiving doorstep callers, fraudulent calls and text messages offering the COVID-19 vaccination. Please remember, the vaccine is only available from the NHS.

The NHS will:

- **NEVER** ask anyone to press a button on a telephone keypad or send a text asking people to confirm you want the vaccine - this scam results in a charge being applied to phone bills.
- **NEVER** ask for payment for the vaccine or for banking details, account numbers and passwords or copies of personal documents.
- **NEVER** cold call and arrive unannounced at a person's home to offer a vaccination, especially in exchange for payment. If this occurs the advice is to close the door and contact the police on 101 to report this fraudulent activity.

Useful links

[Public FAQs for the COVID-19 vaccine](#)

[List of hospital hubs and local vaccination centres](#)

Lateral flow tests - an update



Regular testing across the East Riding for safer working is here:

[Find out more](#)

Workplace testing

The Government has [announced measures to increase workplace testing in sectors that are open during lockdown](#). The criteria for joining the workplace rapid testing programme will be widened from businesses with more than 250 employees, to businesses with more than 50 employees. The Government is working closely with organisations across different sectors where employees cannot work from home during lockdown, from transport networks to food manufacturers, to sign up to rapid testing programmes.

We are sharing this information through our social media, business communication channels and [website](#).

ERYC testing sites

The LFT (lateral flow test) sites are working well offering the identified groups of frontline workers rapid turn-around tests.

These centres are not for general public use or walk-ins and have been planned using the learnings from other national pilots and offer the most effective use of our LFTs.

There are eight LFT sites established, based at Beverley, Bishop Burton, Bridlington, East Riding Leisure Haltemprice, Goole, Hornsea, Pocklington and Withernsea.

Community testing

For businesses and organisations not eligible for on-site rapid LFT workplace testing, critical workers from a wider range of sectors can now access rapid LFT testing at our eight sites across the East Riding.

Critical workers are those whose work is critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) and EU transition response including those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors such as education, key public services, food and other necessary goods, public safety and national security, utilities and financial services.

Such organisations could include:

- Prioritised small or local public sector organisations
- Prioritised charities and voluntary groups
- Prioritised education or childcare settings not covered by existing schools testing, such as private nurseries, children homes and childminders
- Small or local private sector businesses providing key public services and unable to access institutional testing, such as waste management, public transport, taxi firms, power and water companies
- Medium sized local businesses (generally businesses between 50 and 250 staff) unable to practically access institutional testing
- Small or local businesses (generally less than 50 staff), sole traders or self-employed citizens
- And any eligible groups, identified and prioritised by East Riding of Yorkshire Council, in line with the current UK Government guidance.

Some organisations are automatically eligible and have been contacted directly. Other organisations will apply for access to testing through our website.

COVID-19 testing for the public

There is lots of capacity for PCR tests for the general public. Anyone with symptoms can ask for a test via <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.

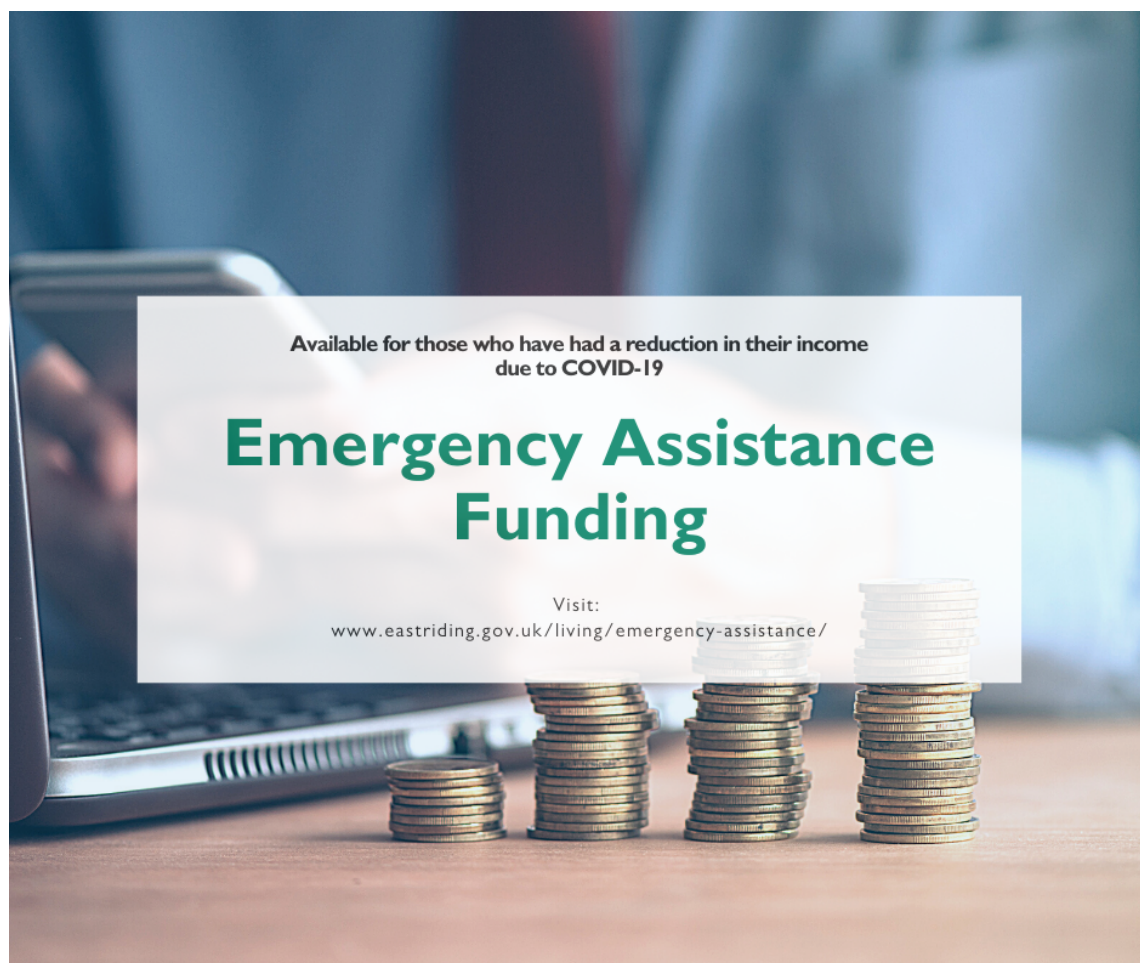
COVID-19 test centres are situated across the East Riding, they are open seven days a week and home tests can be ordered if residents cannot get to test centres.

The Humber area has been approached by the nation Test and Trace Team with the potential to establish another Local Testing Station (LTS). It is hoped that this LTS can be located near the border with East Riding and Hull Councils.

Test and Trace

The Public Health Team are continuing to progress on increasing the local capacity for contact tracing with the national Test and Trace service. This will add to the enhanced Test and Trace local approach by offering tracing of contacts that would be devolved alongside the positive cases already picked up.

Support for businesses and residents



For many businesses and residents these coming weeks will be the most challenging they have ever faced. As a council, we will continue to do our utmost to support our communities as we deal with the ongoing effects of the pandemic and the latest restrictions.

On 21 January 2021, the council made £18.5 million in business grants payments, which include the new one-off top-up payment.

The very latest information for businesses and support available can be found on our website [here](#).

An overview of help and support available to residents and businesses can be found at www.eastriding.gov.uk/help

February half-term - free school meals update

Schools will close as usual over February half-term and, whilst there is no national scheme to coordinate free school meal parcels or vouchers for February half-term, in the East Riding vouchers equivalent to free school meals will be provided over half term.

The vouchers for February half-term will be funded through the winter grant scheme and there is no specific application process. Instead, a voucher will be distributed through schools directly to parents and carers.

The voucher will be paid to all parents who receive free school meals and are resident in the East Riding and is not dependent on whether their children are currently attending school during lockdown.

This scheme is available to East Riding residents; if a parent or carer of a child who attends school in the East Riding and is entitled to free school meals BUT is resident within another local authority area - they will need to contact their local authority to check their free school meals provision over half term.

If residents live in the East Riding but their child(ren) attends a school outside of the East Riding, they can call 01482 394000 to organise the voucher.

Community hub update



Your East Riding **Community Hub**

Here for you.

East Riding of Yorkshire Council is working with volunteers, businesses and community partners to help residents stay safe and well during the coronavirus pandemic.

If you need help with medication contact your local pharmacy and they may be able to deliver it.

If you need help getting food get in touch with your local supermarket or retailer and they may be able to deliver to you.

If you already have friends, family, neighbours or volunteers who can help you, you should continue with these arrangements.
If you do not have support network call **(01482) 393919**
email **covid@eastriding.gov.uk** or visit **eastriding.gov.uk/covid19**

3 Steps To Safety
Prevent. Notice. Act.




The Hub is designed to provide support to people who need it during the pandemic and who are not able to fall back on friends, family, neighbours, carers or local community groups. Throughout, the aim has been to supplement, but not replace, the excellent voluntary work being undertaken by local community groups, town and parish councils and many others. It has operated continuously since March 2020.

The contact centre is open Monday to Friday (excluding bank holidays), from 9am to 5pm. Call (01482) 393919 or email covid@eastriding.gov.uk. Please share these details with any residents who you think may need help during these difficult times.

Help to spread the word, not the virus



Our website contains a wide range of downloadable COVID-19-related information and marketing resources, such as posters and social media artwork.

We also have a supply of banners, external A1 posters and internal A1 posters. [Contact the corporate communication team](#) to arrange delivery.

Find localised A4 posters and social media images for every town and parish council area. Search keywords such as "poster" or "facebook" to easily find the latest images to share.



All materials can be found [here](https://covid19.eastriding.gov.uk/resources/)

<https://covid19.eastriding.gov.uk/resources/>

Please help us to spread the word and not the virus.

Quick links for support

[Support for businesses](#)

[Support for residents](#)

[Service updates](#)

Our website www.eastriding.gov.uk/3stepstosafety contains a large range of local information and links to national guidance including service updates, what restrictions are in place, how and when to self-isolate and what support is available to individuals and businesses in the East Riding.

Quick links include:

- Local restrictions: <https://covid19.eastriding.gov.uk/local-restrictions/>
- Changes to council services: <https://covid19.eastriding.gov.uk/service-updates/>
- Help and support: <https://covid19.eastriding.gov.uk/support/>
- Self-isolate and protect others: <https://covid19.eastriding.gov.uk/self-isolate/>
- School self-isolation guide: <https://covid19.eastriding.gov.uk/self-isolation-guide-for-school-children/>
- Download resources: <https://covid19.eastriding.gov.uk/resources/>



Next edition: 17 February

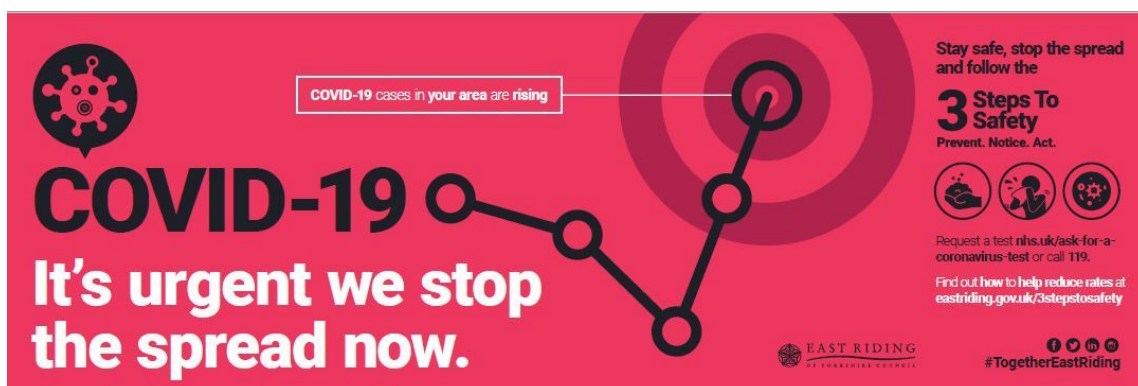
Questions and further information

We can assure you that we will be continuing to do our best to keep delivering services to the highest standard wherever possible however we may need to prioritise essential services at different times as we deal with the pandemic. If we do need to significantly change any service delivery at short notice, we will endeavour to keep you informed.

To help officers, we ask members to please continue to direct any questions and suggestions you may have for service areas to the group offices and they will be dealt with as quickly as possible. This includes any questions and requests for information in relation to the situation with community infection rates, schools and cases in your wards. We will notify you about any significant situations which may occur in your areas and which you need to be aware of.

Otherwise, the council's website at www.eastriding.gov.uk continues to have up-to-date information and guidance relating to COVID-19 and council services so we encourage you to also check online if you have any questions yourselves or questions on behalf of residents and businesses.

If you have any suggestions or feedback for this weekly members bulletin [please click](#) to send directly to the corporate communications team.



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