

**FW: Courtesy Copy: COVID-19 Members Briefing 7 January**

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This COVID-19 weekly e-newsletter is created for East Riding of Yorkshire ward councillors. This is a courtesy copy for information for your town or parish councillors, no further action is required.



## **Members COVID-19 briefing**

**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.**

**Dear members and colleagues,**

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 and the situation for East Riding continues to become more critical, 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 focussing on essential service delivery.

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



## National lockdown: stay at home

On Monday 4 January, the Prime Minister announced a third national lockdown.

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.

The reasons below are the permitted reasons for leaving home:

- to shop for basic necessities, for you or a vulnerable person
- to go to work, or provide voluntary or charitable services, if you cannot reasonably do so from home
- to attend education or childcare - for those eligible
- to seek medical assistance or avoid injury, illness or risk of harm (including domestic abuse)
- to meet your [support bubble](#) or [childcare bubble](#) where necessary, but only if you are legally permitted to form one.
- to exercise with your household (or support bubble) or one other person, this should be limited to once per day, and you should not travel outside your local area.

Our website [www.eastriding.gov.uk/3stepstosafety](http://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/>

### Further Government information:

[COVID-19 alert level: update from UK Chief Medical Officers](#)

[National lockdown: full guidance](#)

[COVID-19 winter plan](#)

## COVID-19 update

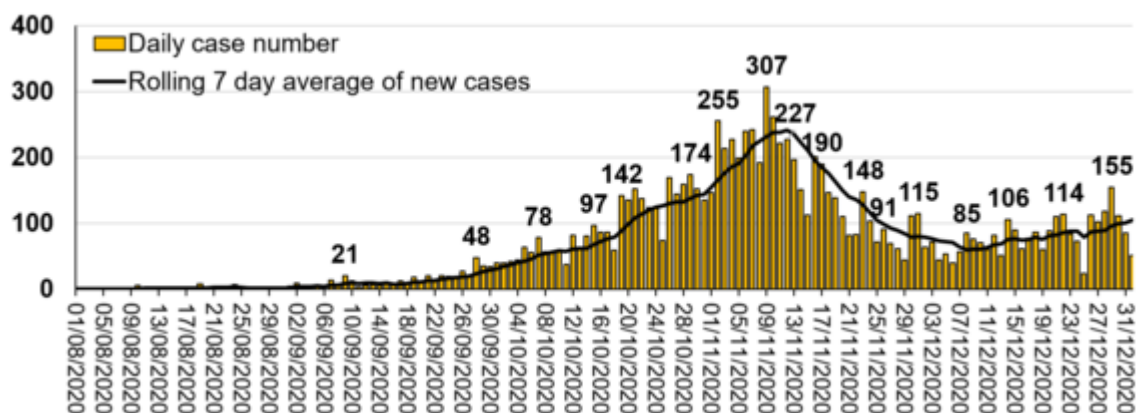
- **New cases – numbers remain high and are slowly increasing**
- **7 day rate of new cases – still lower than both region and England but increasing**
- **Rates in 60+ year olds increasing**
- **Hospitalisation due to COVID-19 rising since mid-December**
- **Rates slowly increasing in some (but not all) areas of the East Riding**

This week Andy Kingdom, Mike McDermott and Deborah Myers hosted a COVID-19 update webinar for members, [click here to watch again](#).

### New cases – numbers remain high and are slowly increasing

The number of positive cases in the East Riding has now reached over 12,600 in total. The black line in chart 1 represents the 7 day average of new cases, which had declined since the peak of 9 November but more recently has started to increase again. In the week leading up to Christmas the number of new cases had fallen to around 75 cases per day, but in the past week this has increased to on average 100 cases per day.

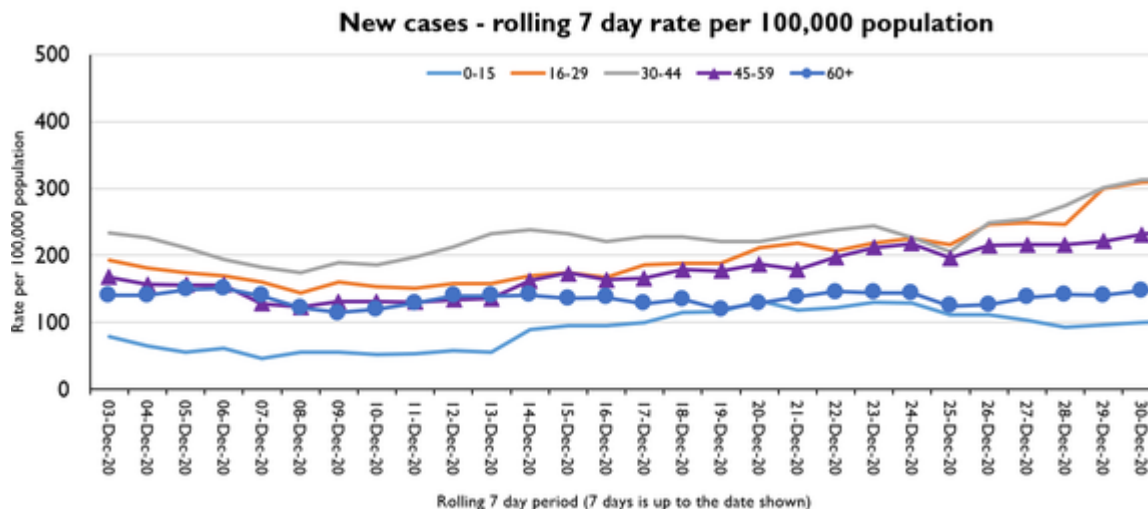
*Chart 1. East Riding of Yorkshire residents - new daily cases of COVID-19*



**7 day rate of new cases – still lower than both region and England but increasing**

The use of the '7 day rate' is the most common way of understanding the trend in new cases, whilst taking account of day to day fluctuations. In early November, the East Riding 7 day rate had risen above both the Yorkshire and Humber region and England averages, but then saw a decline to undertake them both. For the 7 days up to 30 December, the East Riding rate (204 per 100,000 population) was still lower than both the regional (247) and England rates (519) but has been steadily increasing since mid-December. The East Riding rate is now over 4 times the 50 per 100,000 threshold which was regarded as the highest category during the summer.

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



### Cases in older people – rates in 60+ year olds increasing

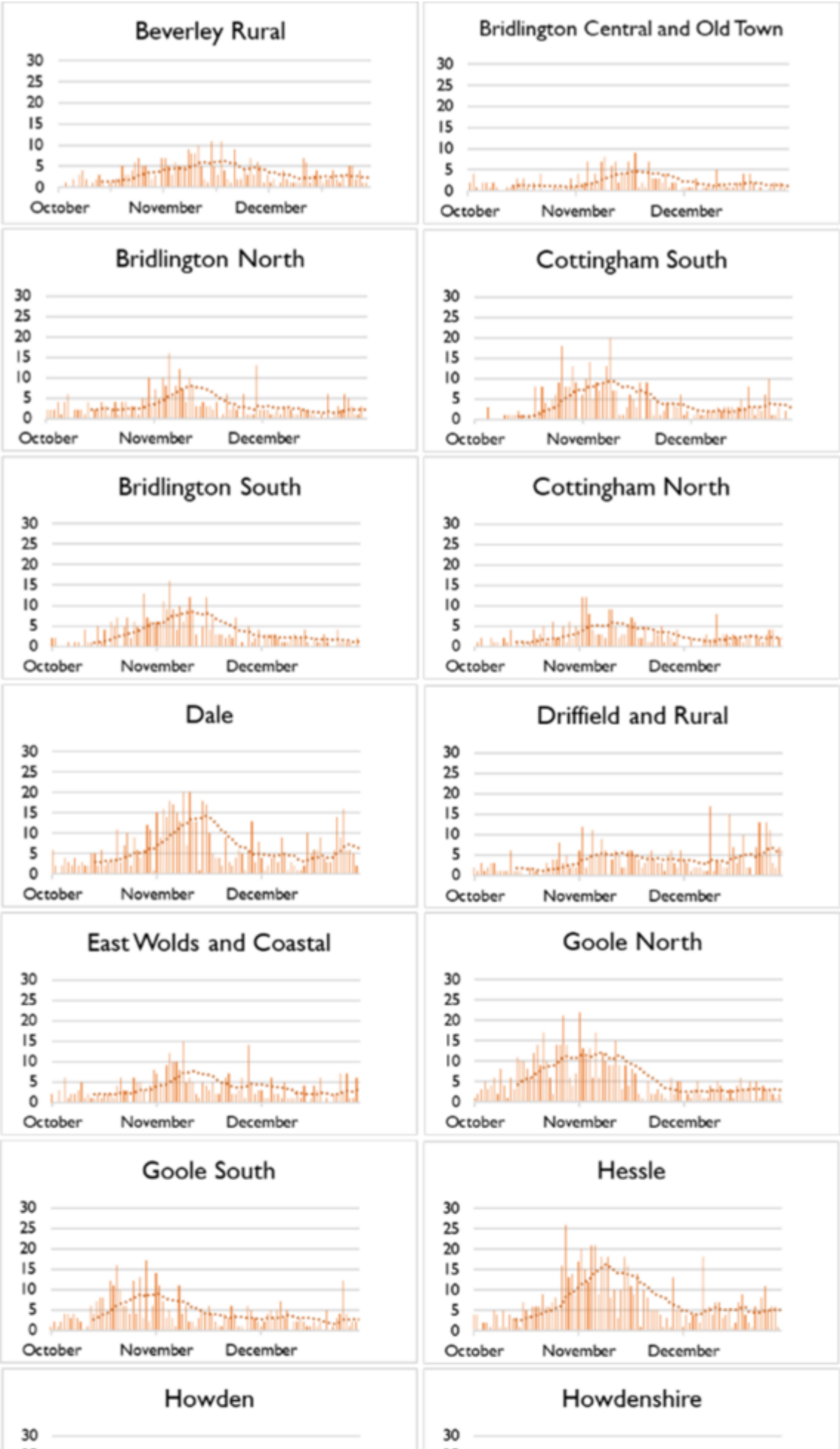
Older adults are at a higher risk from severe illness resulting from a COVID infection and it is imperative that the rates of infection in the older age groups are closely monitored. Chart 2 above, shows the 7 day infection rate between the 03 December and 30 December for 5 different age groups within the East Riding. Infection rates have been slowly increasing in most of the age groups (particularly the 16-29 and 30-44 year olds), including the 60+ year olds (shown by the blue line with blue circles). Rates of infections in residents aged 80+, have reduced since early December, but remain high with 64 new cases recorded in the 7 days up to the 30 December. This high rate can be explained by both weekly testing of care home residents and sporadic outbreaks occurring within the care homes.

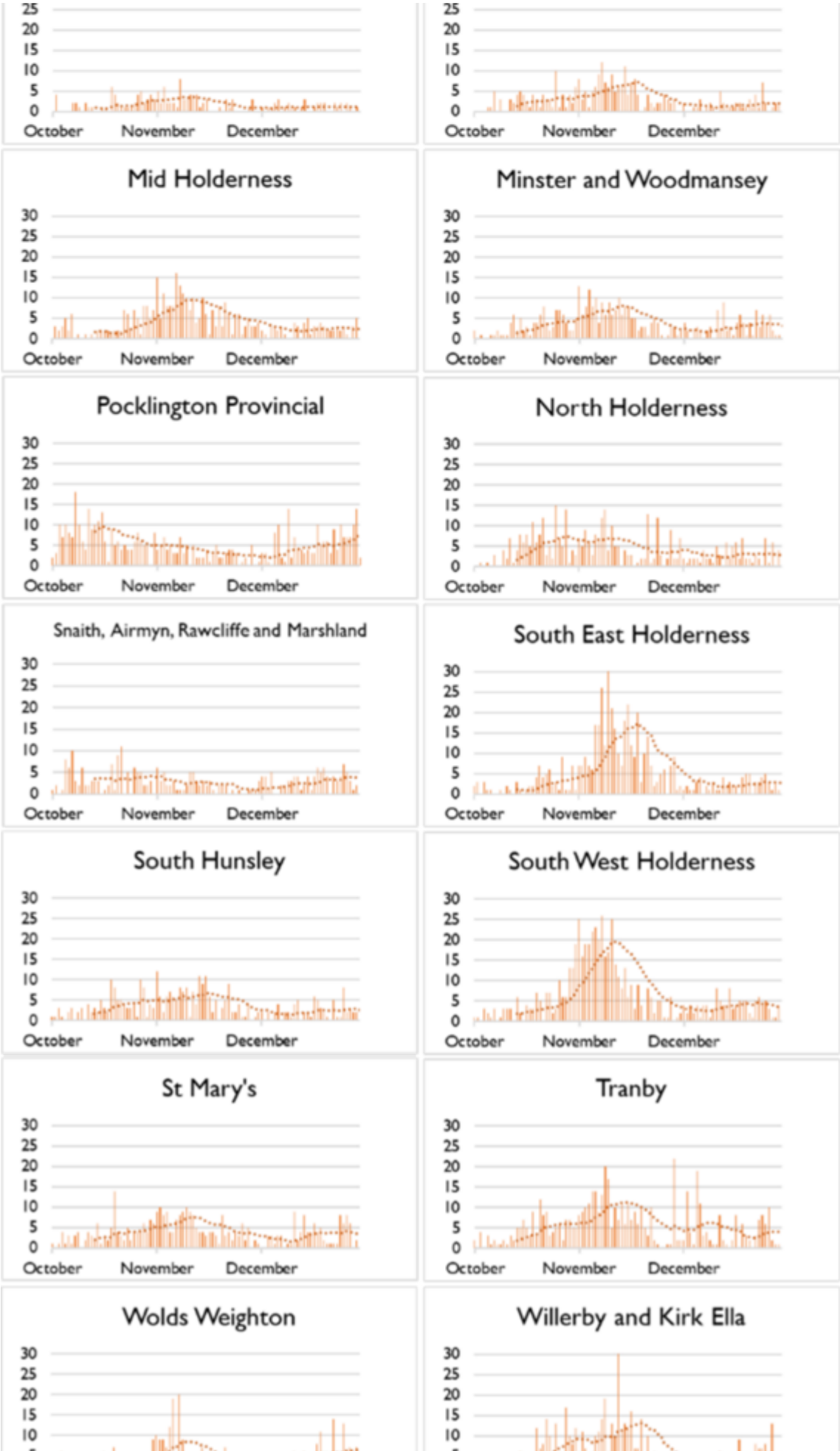
### Rates slowly increasing in some (but not all) areas of the East Riding

Many areas of the East Riding have experienced an increase in the 7 day rate (up to 30 December), but a fair number of others have actually seen a decrease. Presently, there are no substantial community outbreaks. Throughout the pandemic there has been no single place in the East Riding which consistently has had the highest rate. In the past, rates had 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 Kirk Ella, Pocklington (again) and Driffild.

The chart below shows the trend of new cases by ward, since October.

*Chart 3. Infection numbers in East Riding wards since October*





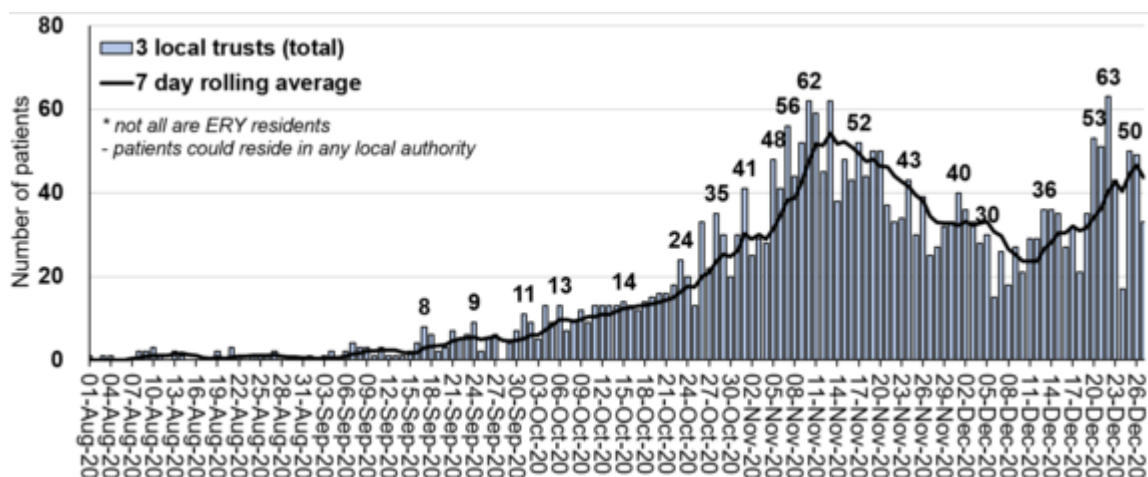




## Hospitalisation due to COVID-19 – increasing since mid-December

The number of patients admitted to hospital diagnosed with COVID-19 have in recent weeks shown an increasing trend. The chart below shows daily admission numbers (blue bars) to 3 of our local hospital trusts. At the previous peak (around 13 November) there had been around 60 admissions in one 24 hour period, but this then reduced to around 25 admissions in mid-December. Since then, however, admissions have been increasing again, as shown by the black line (which represents the 7 day rolling average). In Hull Royal and Castle Hill, COVID admissions have also been increasing within the same period. There have been a relatively high number of hospital deaths over the past 8 weeks related to COVID and whilst they have generally declined over the past 4 weeks, sadly more deaths are likely to occur for a number of weeks to come, due to the increases in new cases.

*Chart 4. Number of patients admitted in previous 24 hours for the first time with COVID-19 plus the number of patients diagnosed in hospital in previous 24 hours. 3 local trusts (Hull University Teaching Hospitals, Northern Lincolnshire and Goole, York Teaching Hospital)*



## Summary

The number of new infections in the East Riding have continued to increase, as they have since early December. Whilst the 7 day rate is still lower than both region and England, case numbers remain high compared to those during the summer. The recent government announcement of a national lockdown should help to curtail the increase of infection rates.

COVID related hospital admissions are increasing in number and local hospitals will remain under pressure from treating those patients who are severely ill for many weeks to come. Reducing the number of new infections will help to alleviate this pressure, as this will hopefully reduce the number of COVID related admissions into hospital. However, the number of people requiring admission to hospital due to COVID-19 may still continue to rise due to those who already infected who may need hospital treatment if they become seriously ill. Coupled with the annual pressure winter months place on hospitals, it is critical to prevent infection to ensure local hospitals are not overwhelmed by this pressure.

Reducing the number of new infections will help to alleviate this pressure as fewer people infected with COVID-19 will translate in to lower numbers of COVID-19 hospital admissions.

### Coronavirus new variant

With the news that a new variant of coronavirus has been identified as potentially easier to transmit and catch the advice remains to stay vigilant about preventing the spread.

There is much work being done by Public Health England scientists to understand more, although the new strain does not look like it causes more serious illness and we have no evidence to suggest that the vaccine will not work against this variant.

We continue to monitor the situation in the Humber and we are watching out for any unusual patterns or outbreaks.

### 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](#)

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## 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.

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

This week, the NHS began administering the new AstraZeneca (Oxford) coronavirus vaccine.

The vaccination programme continues in the Hospital Hub and Primary Care Networks (PCNs). There are seven PCN sites live across the East Riding area. PCNs continue to vaccinate residents of large care homes.

From this week PCNs will receive weekly supplies of both Pfizer and Astra Zeneca (Oxford) vaccines, with the following groups being prioritised; care home residents and staff (as the first priority and focus), patients 80+ (including the truly housebound using Astra Zeneca), health and social care workers, including those in the local community and, where necessary and to minimise Pfizer / BioNTech vaccine wastage, those between 75-79 years old will be offered vaccination.

Data regarding the roll out of the vaccination programme is managed nationally and figures are available from NHS E website [www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/covid-19-vaccinations/](https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/covid-19-vaccinations/)

### **What is happening next - a national message from the NHS**

*The NHS has made an excellent start to rolling out Covid-19 vaccines to over three quarters of a million people who need them most. The vaccination prevents most people from experiencing serious illness after contracting Covid-19*

*NHS teams have been working hard to deliver the Pfizer vaccine in hundreds of hospital hubs, local GP-led services and care homes, at the same time as providing care to all those who need it and the rising number of Covid cases.*

*The approval of a UK-developed and manufactured vaccine provides a major boost to the NHS' plans to offer protection to those who would benefit most as quickly as possible, including health and care staff. The NHS will continue to increase its capacity to deliver the vaccine with additional local vaccinations services, hospital hubs and vaccination centres coming on-line over the coming weeks. People are being prioritised by the Joint Committee for Vaccination and Immunisation.*

*The new guidance from the JCVI (Joint Committee for Vaccination and Immunisation) on the period between doses also means that the NHS will be able to get the maximum benefit for the most people in the shortest possible time and will help save lives, although we recognise that in some cases that may mean people have their return appointments postponed.*

*This is the biggest vaccination programme the NHS has ever undertaken. It is a huge challenge, and not everything will always go perfectly.*

*The NHS is well-used to delivering millions of vaccines a year and is moving quickly to roll out this vaccine to those who need it, but it's important that we remember this will be a marathon, not a sprint. Offering vaccines to the tens of millions of people in the priority groups identified by the JCVI is likely to be done by late Spring.*

*The large increase in cases hospitals are seeing and the emergence of a new variant of the virus also shows that we cannot let our guard down now and even those who have received a vaccine still need to follow social distancing guidance.*

*A small number of people will experience ill effects from Covid even after having a vaccination. In some cases this will be because immunity has not yet matured and in others because an individual had already contracted Covid-19.*

*NHS staff are doing an incredible job to deliver what it is the largest vaccination programme in our history, at the same time as continuing to be there for everyone who needs care.*

In addition to this welcome news, HEY Smile foundation is working with NHS East Riding CCG and HCV Partnership to recruit volunteers to meet and greet vaccine recipients in the East Riding area. Volunteers are asked to commit to at least one 3 to 4.5-hour session per week and some marshalling will be required outside. [More information is available on their website](#)

Images to support the vaccination programme, such as the one above, can be found on the download section of our COVID-19 website:

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

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## Lateral flow tests - an update

The LFT (lateral flow test) pilot site, established in December 2020, at Haltemprice Leisure Centre is working well and extending opening times from Thursday 7 January.

Building on the Haltemprice learnings, additional and similar LFT sites in Pocklington, Bridlington and Goole will open in mid-January 2021. Further sites in Beverley, Hornsea and Withernsea have also been identified and have already been assessed as operationally feasible. The team are also supporting Bishop

Burton and Leconfield Military Camp with lateral flow testing. We will keep members updated with the progress of these sites.

In addition to testing key frontline Council staff, the LFT pilot sites have opened up booking and testing to other frontline workers such as bus drivers, registered and unpaid carers, Humberside Police and Humberside Fire and Rescue.

Much multi-agency work is taking place behind the scenes to ensure potential efficiencies between LFT sites and support for PCN vaccination centres are leveraged. We will keep members updated

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## 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.

This week as the Chancellor announced £4.6 billion in new grants to support businesses through to the Spring. We are awaiting further guidance from Government on financial support available to businesses. The very latest information for businesses to access this and existing support can be found on our website [here](#).

**Since March 2020, we have paid over £81,476,070 in grant payments to eligible small businesses, and businesses in the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure industries.**

And for residents, phase two of the winter grants scheme is open until 31 January. Find out more information and access application forms [here](#). Further information about other forms of support, such as NHS Test and Trace payments can also be found on our website.

A radio campaign directing residents to help and support will be heard across the region throughout January. An overview of help and support available can be found at [www.eastriding.gov.uk/help](http://www.eastriding.gov.uk/help)

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## Food banks - an update



Food banks across the East Riding are standing ready to support residents who are experiencing financial difficulties and are unable to access food.

Contact details can be found at <https://www.erfpa.org.uk/find-a-foodbank/>

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## 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.

**EAST RIDING**  
OF YORKSHIRE COUNCIL

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 busiest single day was on 9 April, when 409 incoming calls were received resulting in 194 tasks. On 6 January 2021, we received 33 calls, of which 9 required a task carrying out (6 medication and 3 food). Call numbers remain low but they have picked up slightly since the latest national lockdown was announced by Government.

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

With the news that the Government this week advised "clinically extremely vulnerable"(ECV) residents to "shield" again we expect call numbers to increase. In the East Riding, there are 14,156 ECV people in 13,581 households. It's worth noting that central government will not be delivering food parcels to those shielding in the way they did during the early part of the pandemic in 2020.

Since March 2020, we've made 48,479 outbound calls to check on residents' wellbeing focusing especially on the clinically extremely vulnerable and the elderly. From 11 January 2021, we will resume outbound calls to the 14,156 clinically extremely vulnerable people.

As you know from the member briefing on Teams in November 2020 and the email briefing sent at that time, the Community Response Hub has largely stopped the actual distribution of food. If a resident calls saying they have the financial means to pay for food but are having difficulties accessing it, the Hub is working with them

to obtain access. If the problem is the ability to pay for food, we are referring these calls to the local food banks or where appropriate to a suitable local community or voluntary group. Residents can still apply for individual emergency assistance at <https://www.eastriding.gov.uk/living/emergency-assistance/>

We will write to all members next week with more detail on the latest with the Community Response Hub but in the meantime, please promote the contact centre number to our residents who you think may need help during these difficult times.

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## 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/>

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

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## Quick links for support

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[Support for businesses](#)

[Support for residents](#)

[Service updates](#)





## Next edition: 13 January

### 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](http://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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