

County Councillor report October '21

Have you spotted North Yorkshire's new battery recycling bins?

Residents are being reminded to safely dispose of batteries in unmissable pink recycling bins which have been installed at North Yorkshire's household waste recycling centres (HWRCs).

The call to action comes as Yorwaste, which operates HWRCs on behalf of North Yorkshire County Council, has had several fires at its Waste Transfer stations that are thought to have been started by discarded batteries.

Lithium ion batteries, which are the main cause of fires at waste sites, are found in products including mobile phones, toys, cameras, e-cigarettes and laptop computers. Once discarded, the batteries can cause fires if they are punctured and can be hard to detect when left in waste. All types of household batteries can be recycled, including button cell batteries found in watches and other small electronics.

To find your nearest collection point please visit www.bringbackheavymetal.co.uk/drop-off

North Yorkshire Coronavirus Data

At 19th September 2021, there have been 59,922 positive tests since 3rd March 2020, with 2,792 new cases reported in the past week. The weekly rolling average of new cases is 399 cases per day, allowing for incomplete data in the most recent days. The 7-day rate for North Yorkshire was 451.7 cases per 100,000 people, higher than the England 7-day rate of 332.3 work continues to ensure effective monitoring of all areas, with support for incidents being provided across a range of settings, which are reviewed daily.

Further information on North Yorkshire data provided at county, district and local area level can be found here: <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/coronavirus-data>

Testing Update

If anyone has symptoms, they must book a PCR test. Testing sites across North Yorkshire, as elsewhere in England, are operated and managed by the Department of Health and Social Care and private contractors employed by them. We try to help the Department by promoting the testing site locations and hosting information on how people with symptoms can book a test via the national government portal.

Find information about where you can get a PCR test on our website.

Everyone is encouraged to test themselves twice a week with home testing kits and report the results to NHS Test and Trace. You can order rapid lateral flow device (LFD) tests online or collect them from participating pharmacies.

Find out how to order or collect free LFD tests.

Close contacts and isolation

Individuals are no longer required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and any of the following apply:

- they are fully vaccinated
- they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months
- they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Instead, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, and informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. Everyone is encouraged to take a PCR test if advised to do so.

Schools update

We continue to work closely with schools so that we can provide advice and support where needed. Reporting of linked cases of coronavirus within school communities (staff and students) enables resources and attention to be focused in areas of greatest need in a timely manner.

Pupils and staff are encouraged to continue to test twice weekly at home.

Close contacts will now be identified via NHS Test and Trace, and education settings will no longer be expected to undertake contact tracing.

We have taken the opportunity of the start of the school term to remind education settings to refresh the key messages, which remain vitally important in reducing the risk of Covid transmission within schools.

- Ensure good hygiene for everyone
- Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes, using standard products such as detergents
- Keep occupied spaces well ventilated
- Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19
- Asymptomatic testing