

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL COVID-19 UPDATE

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To update Cabinet on the COVID-19 position for North Lincolnshire in respect of:
- The Government's Winter Plan and Local Alert Levels from 2 December 2020
 - Current epidemiology information
- 1.2 The prevalence of the virus is still high locally and nationally, therefore measures to restrict its transmission within the community must continue. The precautions that people have taken during national lockdown are now being seen through the reduction in cases but the numbers need to reduce even further to minimise the risk of further spikes.
- 1.3 The report is urgent in order to provide the Cabinet with the most up to date position following the end of the second lockdown period on 2 December 2020.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Government published its Winter Plan on 23 November 2020, which sets out the national programme for suppressing the virus, protecting the NHS and the vulnerable, keeping education and the economy going and providing a route back to normality. The Government's objectives are:
- Suppress the virus – bring the R number below 1 and keep it there. Measures include the use of restrictions. Local Tiers will resume on 2 December 2020.
 - Finding new and more effective ways of managing the virus and enabling life to return closer to normal. This includes:

- Vaccines – subject to regulator approval a UK wide vaccination programme is scheduled to commence in December
- Treatment – effective treatments will continue to be vital to manage the virus even as vaccines are rolled out
- Community testing – strengthened community testing is being rolled out nationally to support the identification and isolation of people who do not have symptoms but are unintentionally spreading the virus. This will be implemented locally according to need and impact.
- Minimise damage to the economy and society, jobs and livelihoods. This means ensuring the right support is available for jobs and that early years settings, schools, further education providers and universities continue their excellent work in ensuring a safe environment for students to learn.

2.2 The COVID-19 Winter Plan also sets out a targeted approach of how national restrictions will be lifted. On the 2 December, England moved back into a regional tiered approach. The tiers are detailed in Appendix 1. Regardless of tier:

- The stay at home requirement will end, with travel being permitted again subject to guidance in each tier
- Shops, personal care, gyms and the wider leisure sector will reopen
- Collective worship, weddings and outdoor sports can resume, subject to social distancing guidance
- People will no longer be limited to seeing only one other person in outdoor public spaces – the rule of 6 will now apply outdoors as it did in the previous set of tiers

2.3 The Secretary of State for Health and Social Care confirmed that North Lincolnshire is in Tier 3 following the end of national restrictions. The local alert level is based upon a number of factors that are considered by Public Health England and the Joint Bio Security Centre for areas across England, including:

- a. Case detection rates in all age groups;
- b. Case detection rates in the over 60s;
- c. The rate at which cases are rising or falling;
- d. Positivity rate (the number of positive cases detected as a percentage of tests taken); and
- e. Pressure on the NHS, including current and projected occupancy

2.4 A summary of the latest epidemiology for North Lincolnshire is shown in Appendix 2. It can be seen that the impact of the national lockdown is now reflected in the reduction in cases. The rate of transmission needs to come down further and it is important that we continue to observe the Tier 3 restrictions. The COVID-19 Winter Plan describes

how the government will review the tiering allocations every 14 days to maintain a balance between reducing transmission and impact on lives and businesses, with areas moving up and down based on the government's analysis of each area, so the lower the numbers the faster North Lincolnshire can move down the tiers.

- 2.5 The Council's response to the COVID-19 Winter Plan is included in the mid-term recovery plan update report on this agenda.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 Cabinet are asked to consider the report and note the current position in respect of COVID-19 restrictions as set out in the national COVID-19 Winter Plan.
- 3.2 Cabinet are asked to note the concurrent running of business continuity and emergency planning, outbreak management and prevention, and response to Winter Plan as part of ongoing recovery.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 The report provides an update based upon the latest national policy, regulation and guidance.
- 4.2 The epidemiology information is taken from the latest Public Health England and Joint Bio Security information that is published.

5. FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (e.g. LEGAL, HR, PROPERTY, IT, COMMUNICATIONS etc.)

- 5.1 The COVID 19 pandemic and response is posing significant financial challenge for the Council. This is outlined in more detail in the Q2 Financial Position report on the agenda.
- 5.2 The COVID-19 Winter Plan identifies additional Contain Outbreak Management Funding for Tier 3 areas following lockdown at a rate of £4 per head of population per month.

6. OTHER RELEVANT IMPLICATIONS (e.g. CRIME AND DISORDER, EQUALITIES, COUNCIL PLAN, ENVIRONMENTAL, RISK etc.)

- 6.2 Actions and decisions have been taken in accordance with the Coronavirus Act, associated statutory instruments including The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) Regulations 2020 and national guidance.

7. **OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)**

7.1 Not applicable to this report

8. **OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED**

8.1 Throughout the period of the pandemic there continues to be enhanced communications with residents, business, providers, partners, stakeholders and the workforce. Public Health messages have been a key feature in our public communications.

9. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

9.1 That Cabinet notes the current position in relation to the pandemic and the local implications arising from the COVID-19 Winter Plan.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report –
HM Government COVID-19 Winter Plan

Appendix 1 Local Alert Levels - Restrictions

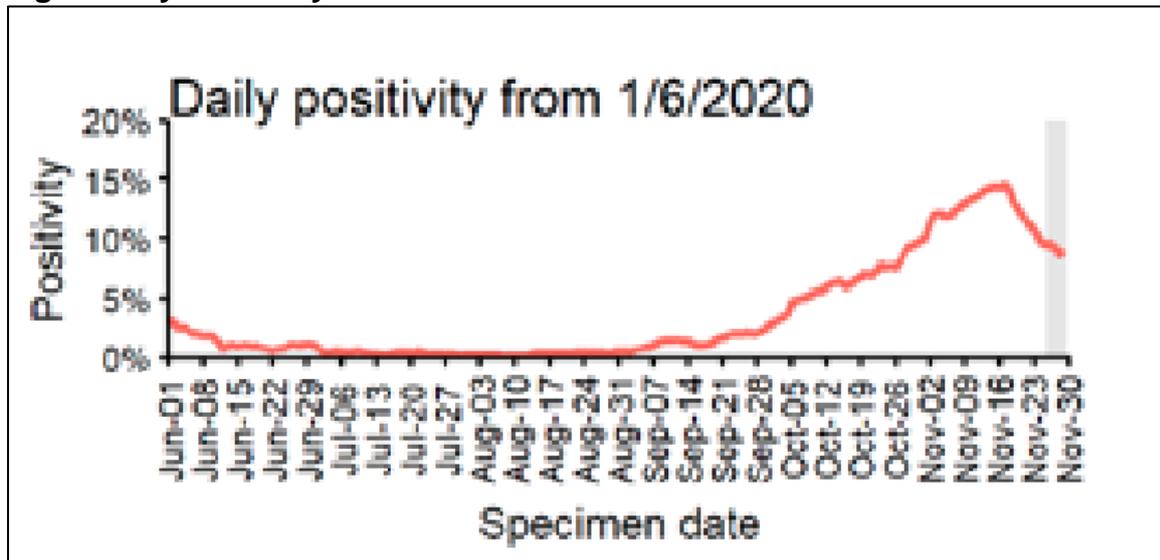
Tier 1: Medium Alert	Tier 2: High Alert	Tier 3: Very High Alert
Meeting family and friends		
Maximum of six indoors or outdoors, other than single households or support bubbles	No mixing of households indoors, apart from support bubbles. Maximum of six outdoors.	No mixing of households indoors, or most outdoor places, apart from support bubbles. Maximum of six in some outdoor public spaces (e.g. parks, sports courts, public gardens)
Bars, pubs and restaurants		
Venues must be table service only. They must stop taking orders at 10pm and must close by 11pm	Pubs and bars must close, unless operating as restaurants. Hospitality venues can only serve alcohol with substantial meals. Last orders at 10pm and must close by 11pm.	Hospitality is closed, with the exception of sales by takeaway, drive through or delivery.
Retail		
Open	Open	Open
Entertainment		
Open	Open	Indoor venues closed
Personal Care		
Open	Open	Open
Travelling		
Walk or cycle in possible. Avoid travel into Tier 3 areas (except where necessary, such as for work, education, medical attention, youth services or caring responsibilities).	Reduce the number of journeys made where possible. Avoid travel into Tier 3 areas (except where necessary, such as work, education, medical attention, youth services or caring responsibilities).	Avoid travelling out of the area, other than where necessary such as for work, education, youth services, medical attention or because of caring responsibilities. Reduce the number of journeys made where possible.
Overnight Stays		
Permitted, with household, support bubble or up to 6 people.	Permitted, with household or support bubble.	No overnight stays outside of local area, unless necessary for work, education or similar reasons.
Accommodation		
Open	Open	Closed (with limited exceptions such as work purposes or where people cannot return home)
Work and Business		
Everyone who can work from home should do so		
Education		
Early years settings, schools, colleges and universities open Registered childcare, other supervised activities for children, and childcare bubbles permitted.		
Places of Worship		
Open, but cannot interact with more than six people	Open, but cannot interact with anyone outside household or support bubble	Open, but cannot interact with anyone outside household or support bubble.
Weddings and funerals		
15 guests for weddings, civil partnerships, wedding receptions and wakes, 30 for funerals.	15 guests for weddings, civil partnerships, wedding receptions; 30 for funerals.	15 guests for weddings, civil partnerships and wakes; 30 for funerals. Wedding receptions not permitted.

Exercise		
Classes and organised adult sport can take place outdoors but must follow the rule of six indoors. Organised activities for elite athletes, under 18s and disabled people can continue.	Classes and organised adult sport can take place outdoors but cannot take place indoors if there is any interaction between people from different households, Organised activities for elite athletes, under 18s and disabled people can continue.	Classes and organised adult sport can take place outdoors, but people should avoid higher risk contact activity. Group exercise activities and sports indoors should not take place, unless with household or bubble. Organised activities for elite athletes, under 18s and disabled people can continue.
Indoor leisure e.g. gyms and swimming		
Open	Open	Open
Large Events – Elite Sport, Live Performances and Business		
Open to the public, but limited to 50% capacity, or 4000 outdoors / 1000 indoors (whichever is lower). Social contact limits apply.	Open to the public, but limited to 50% capacity, or 2000 outdoors / 1000 indoors (whichever is lower). Social contact limits apply.	Events should not take place; Drive-in events permitted

APPENDIX 2 - Epidemiology (at time of report publication, rates are based upon the 7-day period November 22 2020 to November 28 2020). Up to date figures will be presented at the meeting

Measure	North Lincolnshire	Humber Average	England Average
Weekly case rate per 100,000, All ages	228.1	222.4	155.4
7-day change in case rate, all ages	-38.7%	-41.2%	-25.4%
Weekly case rate per 100,000 60+ yrs	156.4	174.7	117
7-day change in case rate 60+ yrs	-53%	-35.3%	19.5%

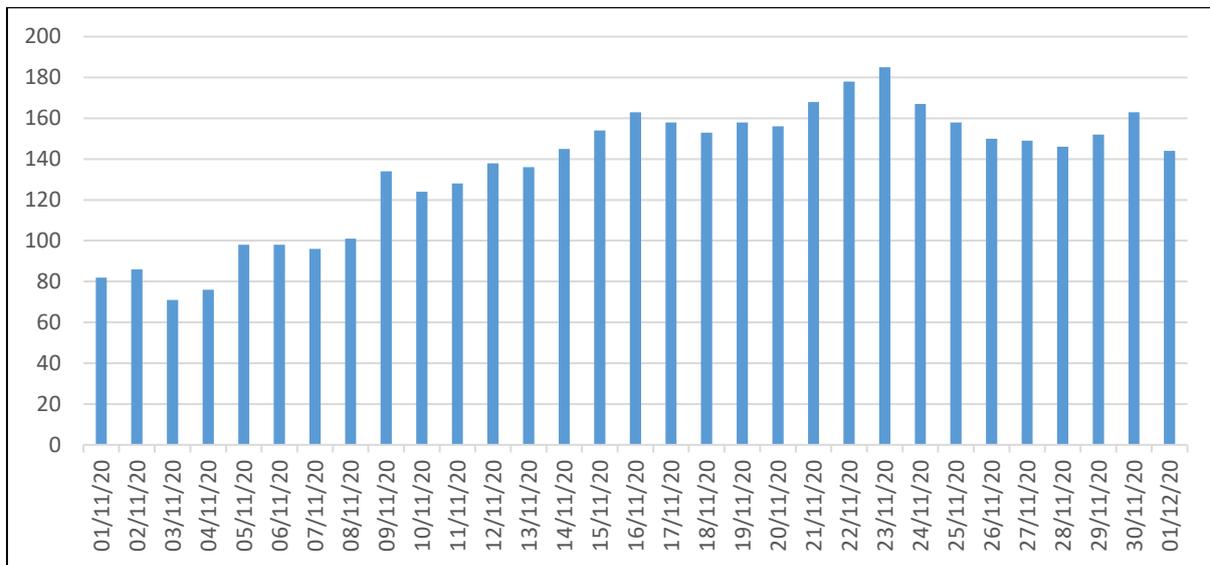
Fig 1: Daily Positivity as a % of tests: North Lincolnshire



Source: [Yorkshire and Humber: lower tier local authority watchlist – epidemiological charts](https://publishing.service.gov.uk) (publishing.service.gov.uk). Grey area is likely to change as the most recent tests are processed.

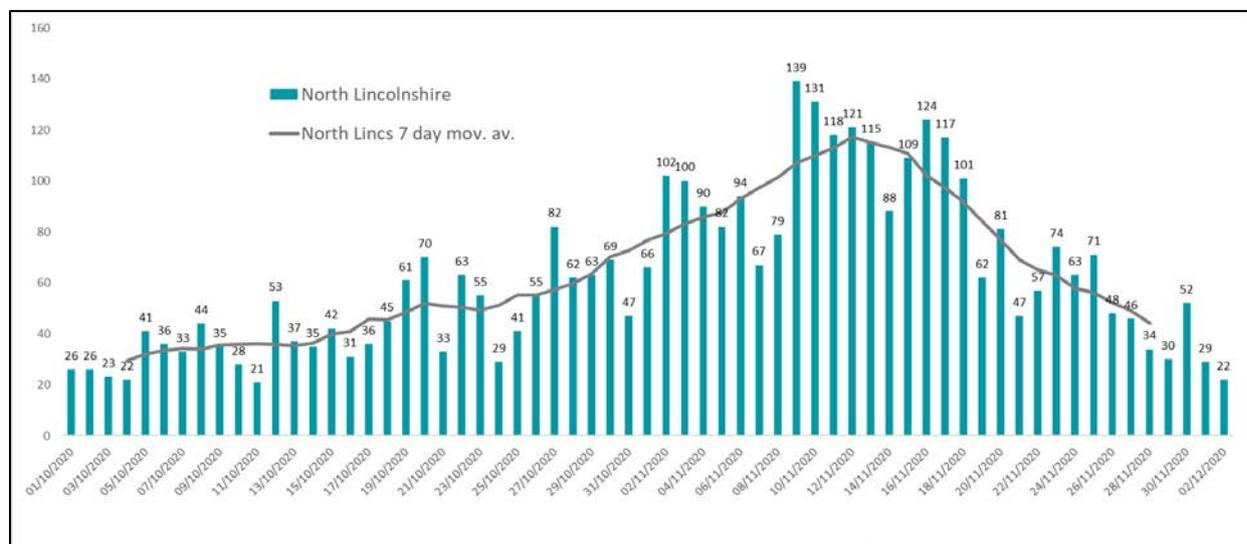
Fig 2: COVID-19 daily situation report COVID-19 beds figures in NLAG

Total beds - occupied by confirmed COVID-19 patients (as at 08:00)



Source: [Statistics » COVID-19 Hospital Activity \(england.nhs.uk\)](https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/covid-19-hospital-activity/)

Fig 3: Daily positive cases North Lincolnshire



Note: The data from 28th November is likely to change, as this period of time is required to process ongoing test results.

Fig. 4 Cases by rolling 7 day period and rolling 7 day rate

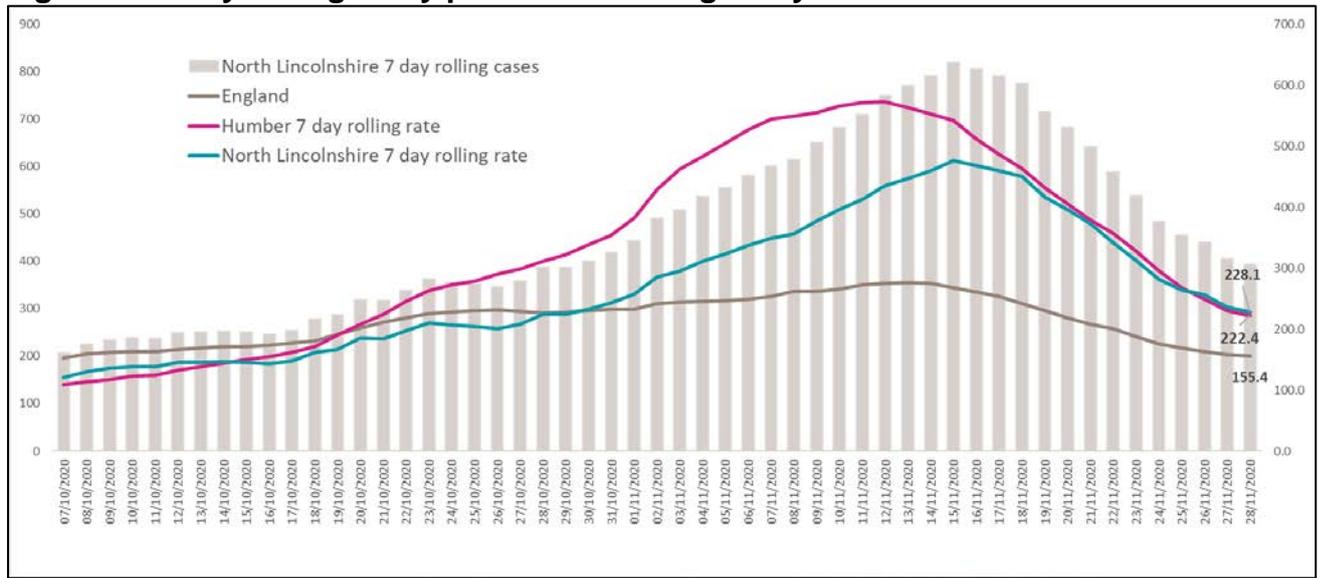


Fig. 5: % change in case rate compared to previous 7 days

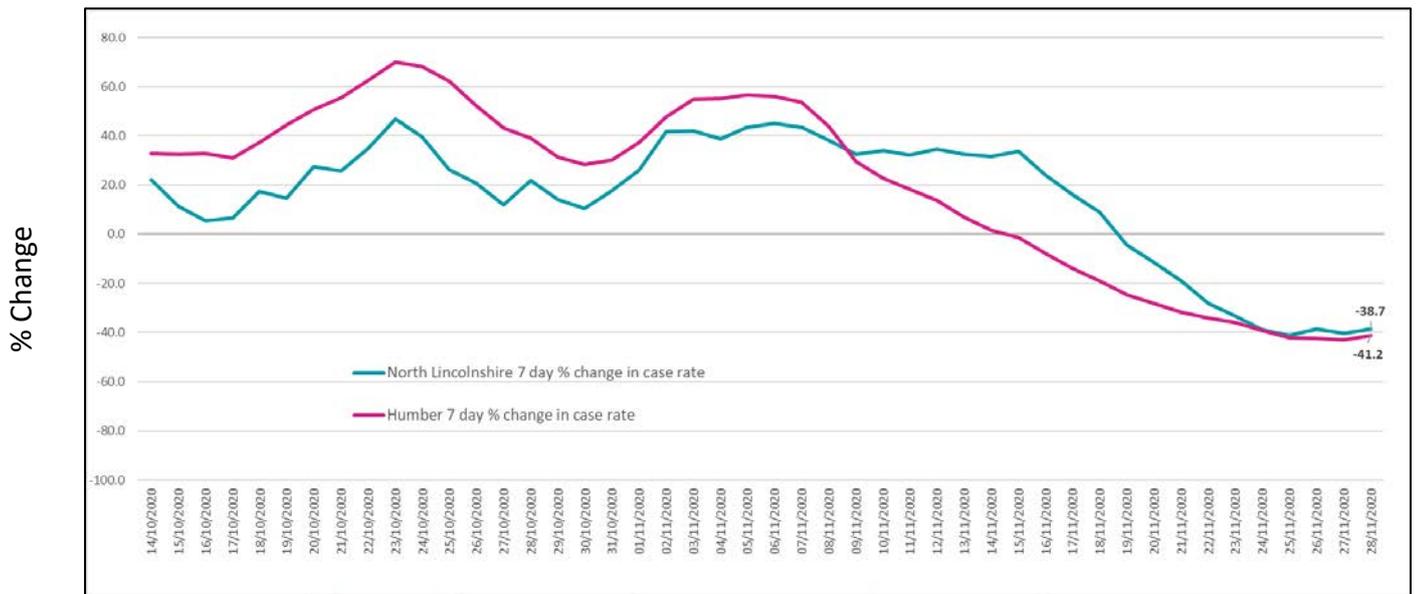


Fig.6 Case detection rate (60+)

