



Contact: Dr Rupert Suckling
Our ref: RS/CH/PartnerJuly
Tel: 01302 734581
Email: PHEnquiries@doncaster.gov.uk

Date: 16th July 2021

Dear Partner,

The Government has announced that from Monday 19 July 2021 England is to move to Step 4, the final milestone in the roadmap out of lockdown.

This means that the four tests for easing Covid-19 restrictions have been met, namely:

- The vaccine deployment programme continues successfully
- Evidence shows vaccines are sufficiently effective in reducing hospitalisations and deaths in those vaccinated
- Infection rates do not risk a surge in hospitalisations which would put unsustainable pressure on the NHS
- Assessment of the risks is not fundamentally changed by new Variants of Concern.

Step 4 helps us to move towards fully opening the economy but with the pandemic still very much in existence, there remains a need for caution as restrictions ease. So, although there will no longer be legal requirements for such measures as wearing face coverings in certain places and social distancing, it is imperative that we all continue to take personal and community responsibility by making safer choices and balancing risks effectively. This is absolutely essential if we want to prevent a rising infection rate, increased hospitalisations or long Covid, to keep our businesses open and delivering services.

It is important to remember that not everyone will be comfortable with restrictions easing, so please be mindful of this and respectful of other people within our communities who may feel anxious about the changes ahead.

Our rates of Covid-19 infection are the highest they have been in the entire pandemic and although the vaccination programme has weakened the link between infection, hospitalisation and death it's not broken completely. Therefore, my advice as Director of Public Health for Doncaster is that we need to proceed with caution. Please consider the following important measures that will help look after ourselves as well as those around us:

- If we have one of the symptoms of Covid-19 we need to self isolate and get a PCR test
- If we are a close contact of a case we still need to self isolate for 10 days
- We should continue to wear face coverings to protect others and particularly when accessing health care, in indoor crowded spaces and communal areas.
- We should continue with good hygiene practices including regular hand washing and using hand sanitiser
- We can reduce our risk further by keeping our physical distance
- And for those over 18 we should take the vaccine as soon as possible unless there are medical reasons not to do so.

Please note that at the time of writing, Dan Jarvis, the mayor of the Sheffield City Region, has announced that face coverings will be remain mandatory in bus stations and transport interchanges across South Yorkshire.

The government has released guidelines for businesses in a number of sectors to follow. You can find these here: www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-covid-19.

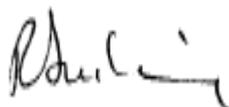
You can find more information about what the Step 4 changes mean here: www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-response-summer-2021-roadmap/coronavirus-how-to-stay-safe-and-help-prevent-the-spread

Doncaster Council is here to help if you need support or advice. We have a range of resources on our website so please visit: www.doncaster.gov.uk/covid.

Our customer service team on 01302 736000 or the Doncaster Social Isolation Alliance on 01302 430322 are also available to help those who need extra support.

The pandemic is not over and we must still do all we can in the coming weeks to help reduce the spread of Covid-19 in our community. I thank you for all you have done over what has been a challenging 16 months but let's continue to make a difference and Do it for Doncaster.

Kind regards,



Dr Rupert Suckling
Director of Public Health
GMC 3664801