

## A message from Michelle...



I'm Michelle Phillips, lead nurse and one of the directors of Nimbuscare, and I'm delighted to be guest editing this week's newsletter. As you can perhaps tell from my scrubs and my hair, I'm known for my love of the colour purple, so I was delighted to see staff, volunteers and even visitors to the York Vaccination Centre wearing purple last Friday to mark International Epilepsy Awareness Day. March has been an incredibly busy month at the York Vaccination Centre, with more than 60,000 covid jabs administered, almost 10,000 of these this week.

### Easter opening hours

Looking ahead to the Easter break, the York Vaccination Centre at Askham Bar will be closed on Easter Sunday and Bank Holiday Monday to enable staff and volunteers to have a well-earned rest.

### Reaching out to at risk groups

Isabelle (pictured left) was among those who came for her Covid jab this week. She had childhood epilepsy so is considered high risk and is in Priority Group 6. Isabelle, who was invited to come for her vaccine by her GP, said: "I hadn't considered it as I didn't think it was the sort of thing you'd expect to make you vulnerable. I'm really happy I got one and think everyone should get one." Epilepsy, diabetes and asthma are just some of the conditions that mean you're eligible for a jab as part of Priority Group 6. We continue to vaccinate and reach out to patients in this group via our 11 GP practices but, if you think you have been missed, it might be worth contacting your GP practice via their online system to check.





## Autism Awareness Week

To coincide with Autism Awareness Week, which runs from 29 March to 4 April, I'm thrilled to be able to share some wonderful feedback received from the family of Lucie Willis (pictured left), who visited the York Vaccination Centre for a Covid vaccination recently.

Lucie, who has Autism, a learning disability and Epilepsy, had never had an injection outside of the hospital or her dentist's surgery before so her parents, Helen and Mark, were a little apprehensive about how she'd find the visit. Thankfully, all went well and the Willis family were keen to share details of their experience to reassure others who may have similar concerns. Visit the [website](#) to read what they had to say.



## Thank you Russell!

On behalf of everyone at Nimbuscare, I'd like to say a big thank you to Dr Russell Saxby (pictured left) of the My Health Practice, who stepped down from the role of Chief Medical Officer (Operational) at the end of March. Russell will be especially missed by Libby and Gemma, who have thoroughly enjoyed their time working with him.

## Sponsors sought for reusable PPE supplies

Nimbuscare was in the media spotlight again recently when Sky TV visited the York Vaccination Centre at Askham Bar vaccination to find out more about the work we're doing around sustainable PPE. Leading the way in Nimbuscare's green campaign is Dr Rumina Önac, a GP at Old School Medical Practice in York.

Dr Omac (pictured left) explained: "We've been encouraging staff and volunteers to dispose of all our waste, including clinical waste, in the right way, helping to save our planet.

"I'm so proud of what we are doing at the Vaccination Centre and it's great to share this good practice but I want to encourage more people to use reusable masks."

As part of our efforts to adopt more sustainable ways of working, we are continuing discussions with reusable mask provider Revolution-ZERO.



## Farewell Foundation Dentists

This week, we said a fond farewell to our team of 28 Foundation Dentists, who joined us last October to support the delivery of vaccinations as part of a public health placement. At the York Vaccination Centre, they initially worked as flu vaccinators but, since January, they've been administering covid vaccinations.

Sally Eapen-Simon, Screening and Immunisation Lead for Yorkshire and the Humber for Public Health England, visited the site last week to meet some of the Foundation Dentists and hear from Professor Mike Holmes about the invaluable contribution they've made over the last few months.

## Feedback pods

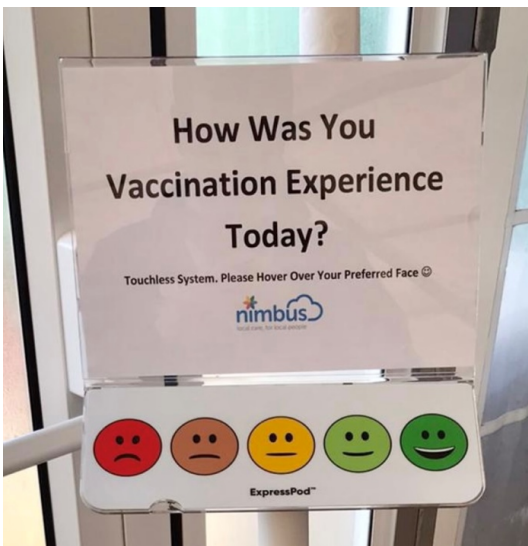
Our two new feedback pods for visitors to the York Vaccination Centre to use have now been running for a week. They are touch-less devices that emit a sound once a user has decided what sort of response they would like to leave. Corporate Affairs Manager Ellie Holmes and Site Manager Will McEvoy are in the process of developing QR codes that will allow visitors to leave additional comments. The initial responses have been overwhelmingly positive, with more than 97 per cent of those visiting the site for their covid vaccinations saying that they were happy or very happy with their experience.

## Vaccination in York is 'brilliant'

A survey carried out by York Older People's Assembly (YOPA) found that its members had very favourable comments to make about their experience of receiving their first Covid vaccinations, with comments ranging from 'highly professional' and 'well organised' to 'brilliant'. To read more about the results of the survey, visit the [website](#).

## Staff area

Don't forget to visit the staff area on the website. Click [here](#) and log in using [staff@primarycareyork.nhs.uk](mailto:staff@primarycareyork.nhs.uk) and the password raspberryStingray284.



### York Older People's Assembly

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Spring 2021



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### VACCINATION IN YORK – BRILLIANT

A survey undertaken by the Assembly of its members has resulted in very favourable comments about the experience of receiving their first jab: "Highly Professional" and "Well organised" "Brilliant".



The vast majority had their vaccination at the Park and Ride site at Tadcaster Road during January and February. Most were in their 70s and 80s and fell within the top 4 groups set by the Government. There were very few or no side effects reported by the majority. However, when one person had unusual side effects, and did not have access to the internet, they found no way of reporting them.

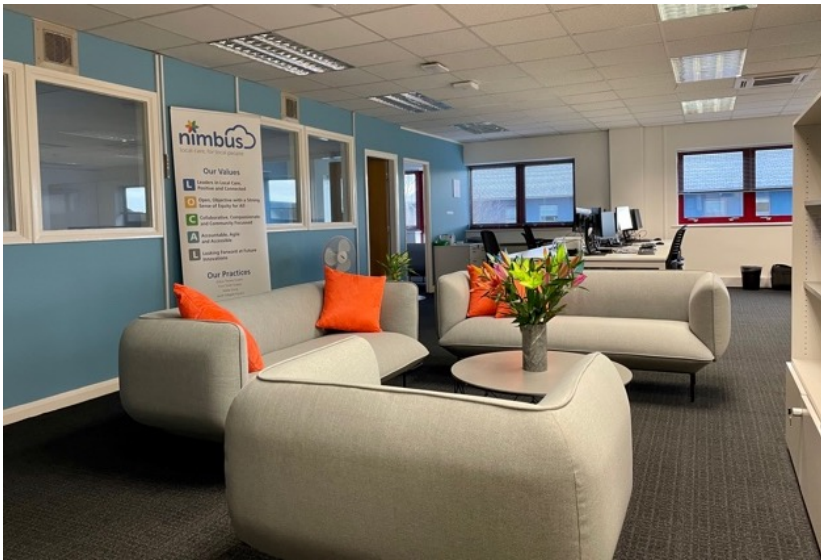
Positive comments were noted in respect of the Haxby Group Practice who arranged site visits to Hartrigg Oaks the Retirement Village at New Earswick.

The overall take up of the vaccine was over 96% for those over 70 or older. 60% received the Oxford AstraZeneca and 40% the Pfizer vaccine.

There were some delays in accessing the Park and Ride site in the early stages, but these seem to have been resolved subsequently. There was a varied response from those receiving their initial invitation by phone, text, letter or by more than one method! Indeed, some letters arrived after the vaccination had taken place!

We received some comments about the "user friendliness" of the website when booking online. For those of us who are "casual" users of IT - there is scope for improvement. Where queuing was experienced, the availability of chairs for those with mobility difficulties would be an improvement. However, overall our respondents wish to convey their appreciation to all the staff and volunteers who made the experience memorable.

1 April 2021



## New office space

For those of you who have not yet visited, here's a glimpse of our new, larger head office space at Regus Tower Court on Oakdale Road. The office was already fully furnished and, as you can see, the colour scheme complements our branding perfectly.



## Happy Birthday Jess!

Staff and volunteers at the York Vaccination Centre celebrated Eboracum employee Jess Milner's birthday this week, with cakes, banners and gifts. Congratulations Jess!

Thank you all for your hard work. I wish you all a restful and relaxing Easter break.

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