



## A message from Maddy...



Many of our teams at the York Vaccination Centre at Askham Bar are preparing to work night shifts this weekend in a bid to speed up the vaccination programme. To try to ensure people get their second jabs sooner, we've made the decision to run 17-hour sessions for the local vaccination service, operating into the night to make sure people are protected as quickly as possible.

We're aiming to vaccinate an extra 12,000 York people ahead of time and I'm incredibly grateful to each and every one of you for helping us to make this possible.

Teams will be delivering jabs from 6am until 11pm from Friday to Sunday this weekend (21 to 23 May). Please note, this will be part of the local vaccination service (Red Tent) only.

We're planning to vaccinate more than 38,000 people by the end of this month, which will be a record number for the Nimbuscare team. We currently vaccinate one in every 250 people in the country here at the York Vaccination Centre, which equates to more than 220,000 people so far.

I'd urge anyone receiving a text message inviting them to book their jab earlier than expected to take the opportunity to get a slot this weekend. Please note, this is for people in cohorts 1-9 who have already received a first dose of the vaccine. People should still wait to receive a text inviting them to book and should not contact their GP surgery.

Earlier this week, I had the pleasure of receiving a Hidden Hero Award (see the picture above left) on behalf of our entire York Vaccination Centre team in recognition of the way that you have all risen to the many challenges that we've faced during the last year. Read on to find out more...

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21 May 2021

## Celebrating our Hidden Heroes

Our running of the York Vaccination Centre has been recognised with a haul of Hidden Hero Awards for our

staff for 'outstanding performance during the pandemic'. The awards were set up by four companies - Dene Healthcare, Gama Healthcare, Interface Clinical Services and Practice Index - to highlight the excellent work of individuals and teams within General Practice.

Tom Jones of Dene Healthcare, who presented the awards, explained: "2020 was a hard year for most and, sadly, the amazing work being done in General Practice is too often overlooked. Nimbuscare is exactly the type of organisation we were hoping to identify and, in some small way, thank the team for their contribution during the most difficult period in modern times."

Three members of the Nimbuscare team were chosen to receive individual accolades and a fourth award went to the **Nimbuscare Vaccination Team** as whole (some of whom are pictured above), who have worked long hours in response to Covid-19, developing and running both the national and local vaccination services at the York Vaccination Centre at Askham Bar. The award recognised the efforts of all those involved in running the centre, from the healthcare professionals who choose to give up their own time to work there to all those who work behind the scenes.

Professor Mike Holmes, Chair of Nimbuscare, said:

"Receiving these awards we wanted to reflect on everything we have done here in York and thank everyone involved for their efforts in making it happen. We're incredibly grateful to everyone. Every single person in the team has contributed to this great achievement and has done so with a smile."



Local GP partner **Dr David Hammond** (pictured left with Tom Jones and Professor Mike Holmes) was recognised for giving a huge amount of time towards the vaccination effort.

David has taken leave from his practice, York Medical Group, to work at the York Vaccination Centre.





Professor Mike Holmes said: “David has steadied the ship and gripped the governance early on, helping us set up emergency treatment rooms and making sure this site is safe. He has gone over and above the call of duty, even coming in on his days off, with such an impressive level of commitment. Our service brings 11 practices together to work as a system and David’s contribution has made the collaboration work really well.”

York GP **Dr Nick Bennett** (pictured left) also received an award for his contribution.

Professor Holmes said: “Sometimes we see people emerge through simple dedication and commitment to a cause. Nick has almost been ever present here at the Vaccination Centre. He has helped develop the governance and processes and, most of all, he has supported people – from volunteers and admin staff to trained nurses and doctors - to fit into the team and vaccinate the population in their hundreds of thousands. He has now put himself forward for a full-time role at the Vaccination Centre to lead it through the next six months as we vaccinate and protect the population. People like Nick really are the hidden heroes because, without them, the service simply cannot function.”



The final award went to Lead Nurse and Nimbuscare Director **Michelle Phillips** (pictured left), who has engaged with everyone at the York Vaccination Centre from the very beginning, when Nimbuscare was administering flu vaccinations at the site.

Professor Holmes said: “Michelle has really shone in leading the vaccination team since then and ensured that everyone works together. Her attention to detail has been second to none. The vaccination programme has empowered her to aim high and, during this period, she has applied for and been appointed to a role on the board as Director of Quality and Patient Experience at Nimbuscare. This phenomenal performance and rise to director level really does merit recognition. Just as important, Michelle kept our stomachs full throughout by baking and bringing in treats of all kinds for the teams!”



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## General Practice in the news

Despite all of the incredible work described above, General Practice received some negative media attention this week after NHS England issued new guidance to practices saying that GP patients must now be offered face-to-face appointments if that is their preference.

Our Chair, Professor Mike Holmes, was keen to share his thoughts in his latest blog post on the website, which you can read [here](#). YOR Local Medical Committee Ltd (YORLMC), which is the professional voice for all NHS GPs and practice teams across York and North Yorkshire, as well as the Bradford, Airedale, Wharfedale and Craven areas, has also issued a response, which has been published on its [website](#).

## Work experience

We'd like to remind our teams at the York Vaccination Centre that, starting from Friday 4 June, we'll be running a work experience programme throughout the summer for students who have an interest in careers in medicine/healthcare.

We'll be providing students with the opportunity to shadow members of staff and gain exposure to medical professionals, which is something that has been almost impossible for them to experience during the pandemic. The students will be on site for four-hour shifts, in line with our volunteer shifts, and will rotate around different members of staff during this time. There will be a maximum of two work experience students on each shift. Please allow students to shadow you for an hour at a time so that they can understand what your role involves and how you do it. They may ask you questions to further improve their understanding, but will only be observing so will not be handling any patient information or medical equipment.

## More volunteers needed

If you know of someone who might be interested in volunteering at the York Vaccination Centre, please ask them to email [nimbuscare.volunteer@nhs.net](mailto:nimbuscare.volunteer@nhs.net).

## Annual General Meeting

Invitations to our Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 23 June have now been sent to staff and shareholders. If you've received an invitation, please remember to email [Karina.williams3@nhs.net](mailto:Karina.williams3@nhs.net) by Friday 11 June if you're intending to join us.