



A message from Maddy...



We're currently delivering Covid-19 boosters to eligible patients, as well as Covid-19 vaccinations for 12 to 15-year-olds and winter flu jabs, which has resulted in an incredibly busy few weeks at the York Vaccination Centre.

By the end of this week, we'll have vaccinated 6,500 12 to 15-year-olds and our teams are now going into schools to administer jabs to young people in this age group too.

We've also vaccinated hundreds of pregnant women attending antenatal clinics at York Hospital. In recent weeks, we've given more than 30,000 Covid-19 boosters and 9,000 flu jabs at the site.

In all, almost half a million people have been vaccinated at the York Vaccination Centre since it opened just over a year ago, which is a phenomenal achievement. Thank you all for your hard work

At the weekend, teams from the national BBC news (pictured left) and Sky News came to film at the York Vaccination Centre to help encourage people to have their booster jabs.

Looking to the future, we have exciting plans for new modular buildings to be put in place at the site this winter as we continue to expand the range of healthcare services that we offer to local people and the site continues to evolve into a health village for the people of York.

Our team is expanding too and you'll find details of a range of exciting job opportunities on the [website](#).

We're very much looking forward to the Health Service Journal (HSJ) Awards, which are the 'Oscars' of the healthcare sector and take place next Thursday 18 November. We're very proud to be finalists in the 'Community Provider of the Year' category. Wish us luck!





Congratulations Michelle!

I'm sure you'll join me in congratulating our Lead Nurse and Director of Quality and Patient Experience, Michelle Phillips, who has been awarded the title 'Queen's Nurse'.

Michelle started her career in healthcare as a receptionist at a GP surgery and rose rapidly through the ranks to become a nurse prescriber, as well as valued member of our Board of Directors. She has worked here in York for her entire career, and is currently a practice nurse at York Medical Group.

Michelle's role put her at the very heart of developing our response to the pandemic, as well as our innovative approach to delivering healthcare services to local people. Michelle applied to the Queen's Nursing Institute because she felt that the 'time was right', explaining: "To be considered, you have to have worked in either a community or primary care setting for a minimum of five years. The Queen's Nursing Institute supports innovation and best practice, and I'm proud to have been part of so much innovation during the last year. Our response to the pandemic was really the catalyst for it. Being a Queen's Nurse is about being an ambassador, so it seemed like the right thing to do."

Michelle added: "I started out as a receptionist and then trained to be a Health Care Assistant. I was then supported by the surgery to do my nurse's training and qualified in 2013. Being a Queen's Nurse opens up opportunities for me from a learning and development point of view, as well as a network of like-minded people who support one another to champion innovation and clinical excellence."

Congratulating Michelle, our Chair, Professor Mike Holmes said: "Michelle has been absolutely instrumental in our response to the pandemic and, as valued Board member, she is integral to the continuing evolution of Nimbuscare and the healthcare services that we provide to the people of York, not to mention an absolute credit to her profession."

"Her career path from GP receptionist to Health Care Assistant to Nurse Prescriber and now to Director level, all whilst bringing up her family, is truly remarkable and I hope she can be an inspiration to all young people in the area. She is a phenomenal role model and we are all so proud to work with her. She is a clear example of why multi-disciplinary leadership in General Practice is so important."

- Queen's Nurses are usually invited to attend a ceremony in London, but this year's event is a virtual, online event on 13 December.



Local mum who had Covid in pregnancy shares her story

As we continue to attend antenatal clinics at York Hospital to speak to pregnant women about why it's so important for them to have a Covid-19 vaccination, a local couple (pictured left) have shared their own personal story to help us raise awareness of this important issue:

Describing the day she was told she would have to have her baby delivered by Caesarean section, without her loved ones by her side, Laura, a 37-year-old York woman, said: "It was my worst nightmare coming true – having to have my baby on my own."

Back in March 2021, at 34 weeks pregnant, unvaccinated Laura initially thought she had just a 'bad cold'. Her boyfriend, Ed, also became ill and they soon realised they both had Covid. Around six days later Laura's condition started to deteriorate.

"I suffer with asthma and became more and more short of breath, all I wanted to do was to sleep. I nose-dived around six days after testing positive and went from having what seemed like just a bad cold to being hospitalised due to my oxygen levels dropping so low," she said, "After a couple of hours of being assessed in hospital, they said they needed to deliver the baby."

It was heart-breaking for the couple that they couldn't be together for the birth of their son, who was eventually delivered just a few hours later. Ed, still poorly with Covid, was isolating at home and was powerless to help. He said: "I rang and spoke to the lead consultant. She advised that they needed to deliver the baby that evening to try reduce the pressure on Laura's chest."

With Laura still dangerously ill with Covid, their baby was delivered by Caesarean Section at 9.44pm by the team at York Hospital. Within seconds, he was whisked to the Special Care Baby Unit (SCBU) and placed in an incubator. His covid test came through as negative, which was a great relief to the family.

That was the last time Laura saw her baby for seven days. She was taken to the high dependency unit (HDU) to receive ongoing treatment and spent the next few days in isolation to be free of the virus. Ed was finally able to see his son three days after his birth, Facetiming Laura from the SCBU. Eventually he was able to take Laura and their baby home, although Laura was still very weak from her illness. Even



Public Health
England

Pregnant?

Have your COVID-19 vaccines!

It is important to have both doses of your COVID-19 vaccine to protect you and your unborn baby.

COVID-19 infection is currently circulating and can be serious for pregnant women.

Thousands of pregnant women have been safely vaccinated in the UK and worldwide.



Call 119 or go online to www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/ to register for your vaccination appointment. You can also attend walk in, mobile or pop up vaccination clinics in your area.



Look out for our next newsletter in two weeks' time. In the meantime, please follow us on social media for more news updates by clicking on the links at the bottom of this newsletter.

now, eight months later, she is having to take stronger medication for her asthma and feels very tired some days. She was delighted to be offered her Covid jab in May and the couple are now both fully vaccinated.

Laura now wants to encourage all pregnant women to seriously consider taking up the vaccine, explaining: "When you're pregnant, your body is under so much pressure and strain. You are much more vulnerable to the virus. It's just not worth the risk and there are so many pregnant women ending up like me, it's frightening."

More than £800 raised for St Leonard's Hospice

We're incredibly grateful to everyone who has contributed to our collection for St. Leonard's Hospice, an incredibly worthwhile local charity that we're very proud to support. When it was emptied recently, our collection 'globe' at the York Vaccination Centre contained £845, all of which has been donated by staff, volunteers and visitors to the site.



Meanwhile, our Board of Directors (pictured left having fun in the selfie station) were proud to support St Leonard's Hospice at their recent fundraising Ball at York Racecourse.



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