

A message from Maddy...



This week we had to temporarily reduce the opening hours of the York Vaccination Centre at Askham Bar to 4.30pm until 8.30pm from Monday to Friday. We thank you all for your understanding and patience with this change to our regular site opening hours. It was due to the fact that our teams were working reduced hours as we'd expected to be carrying out some essential work on site to replace our tent with a temporary Portakabin building. Unfortunately, the recent stormy weather meant that this work has had to be postponed. We will, of course, keep everyone informed about any further changes to our opening hours during the coming weeks. Read on for more details about the exciting changes taking place at the site...

New temporary building to replace 'Tent of Hope'

A new, 547-metre square, temporary, modular building is to be installed at the York Vaccination Centre to replace the large tent that we've used since December 2020.

The front part of the new building will include six large treatment rooms, each one 18 metres square, as well as a clinical room and toilets. The rear of the building will be largely open plan but will include one treatment room and toilet facilities.

This temporary building, which will look like the one pictured below, will be used for a number of healthcare services, including vaccination clinics. It will be around 40 metres long, larger than the current tent, and around 13 metres wide.

Pop-up Covid-19 vaccination clinics continue to take place at venues across the city. For full details, [click here](#).

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Due to the size of the building, it will be delivered in sections and take approximately one week to arrive and be installed.

During the installation period, clinics will continue to take place at the site but our opening times may vary. This is a huge

operation and, like all projects of this size, it may involve some inconvenience to people. Our teams are working closely with Portakabin to make sure the arrival and installation of this spectacular new building goes as smoothly as possible. This is the largest site change we have had to deal with since we arrived at the empty Askham Bar car park back in 2020. However, we have the best site teams and support teams in place, and I'm confident that everything will go well.

Whilst it's sad to say goodbye to our well-loved 'Tent of Hope', we recognise that it has served its purpose and we need to upgrade our facilities to continue to offer a high quality clinical service to the people of York. The new temporary building will provide us with a state-of-the-art, modern, clinical setting and we're very much looking forward to its arrival. It will create the right environment for our clinical teams to work in, ensuring that that the people of York continue to receive the high standard of care that they deserve going forwards. Watch this space for further updates soon.

Covid jabs for 5-11 year olds

From Saturday (5 February), we're starting to vaccinate clinically vulnerable five to eleven year olds. Parents of children who are at serious risk from complications of Covid-19 infection or who live with someone who is immunosuppressed will receive a letter or a phone call inviting them to make an appointment for their child to be vaccinated. Appointments must be booked in advance; we're not operating a walk-in service for the age group.





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Health Checks resume

We're now offering NHS Health Checks to eligible patients once again after the service was temporarily paused towards the end of last year to allow the Covid-19 booster campaign to be ramped up.

Health Checks are for eligible patients aged 40 to 74 years, who will be invited to book an appointment at one of six different sites across the city. Appointments are with a health care professional, usually a Health Care Assistant, and are designed to spot the early signs of stroke, kidney disease, heart disease, type 2 diabetes or dementia. As we get older, we have a higher risk of developing one of these conditions. An NHS Health Check helps to find ways to lower this risk. For more information about NHS Health Checks click [here](#).

Improving Access for patients

We continue to work in partnership with our 11 member GP practices to offer patients access to appointments between 6.30pm and 8pm on weekdays, as well as additional slots at weekends and bank holidays. Appointments may not always take place at the practice where a patient is registered because the service is delivered collaboratively. It was introduced in response to feedback from patients who struggled to attend appointments during the working day and is delivered by a range of clinicians, including GPs, nurses, primary care practitioners and healthcare assistants. Together, they provide a wide range of services, from cervical screening clinics and checks for long-term conditions, such as asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), to blood tests, as well as telephone and face-to-face GP appointments.

Support for people with Covid

We continue to run a [telephone support service](#) for local people with Covid-19, checking in on them on a daily basis to see how they're coping with their symptoms/illness. We support these patients with access to food and medicine; the opportunity to monitor their oxygen levels at home; and guidance on when to seek additional medical advice.

Look out for our next newsletter update in two weeks' time. In the meantime, follow us on our social media channels by clicking on the links below.



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