

*‘The reopening of universities:
supporting councils with the
implications for local areas’*

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**Strategic Manager – Outbreak Control,
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**County Durham
COVID-19
Local Outbreak
Control Plan**

14 July 2020

V1.1 – 14/07/20

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www.durham.gov.uk/covid19controlplan

Tough starting place

County Durham:

- scale and deprivation
- urban and rural
- affluence and poverty

Durham University

- UK Top 10 University - 4th (Guardian) 6th (Times & Sunday Times)
- 4,300 staff members (40% non-UK)
- 26 departments or schools; 17 colleges
- Over 20k students from 130 countries, 5,000 overseas students





Good starting place

Established relationship enabled collaborative COVID-19 work

LOCP: Protect the health of our local communities through:

- Provision of clear prevention and engagement messages in relation to COVID-19
- Rapid detection of COVID-19 outbreaks
- Controlling onward transmission
- Providing support to those self-isolating building on our population health management approach to the pandemic
- Developing and applying intelligence, including the knowledge and insight provided by our local communities





Collaboration: many partners, many places

Strengthening current partnership working and establishing new relationships:

- Public Health
 - Civil Contingencies Unit
 - Community Protection
 - Housing
 - Communications
-
- Facilitating:
 - Outbreak Control Planning
 - University preparedness and planning
 - Engaging with businesses
 - Housing support
 - Testing – MTU, LTS,
 - Joint communications



Collaboration: many partners, many places

- The health, safety and wellbeing of our wider community is a key priority.
- Working closely with local partners including the County Council and local health providers on shared planning and messaging.
- Liaising with residents' groups to ensure they are informed and have input into the return to campus plans through our targeted community forum.
- Other initiatives include providing free advice to local businesses, Durham City Mutual Aid (founded by staff and students); free learning resources and tutoring for schoolchildren.
- Joint planning for Induction week, 'Livers out', PBSAs and landlords re prevention
- Statisticians and intelligence supporting Council mapping, dashboards etc...



Communication – joint DU and DCC

Preventative elements / Reactive and support elements / Control and contain elements

CORONAVIRUS
**Got Symptoms?
 Get Tested**
 Do not leave home if you or anyone in your household has symptoms
 Together we can keep our community safe
www.durham.gov.uk/corona

CORONAVIRUS
**Asked to self-isolate?
 Please stay in your home and garden**
 ✗ don't go to work
 ✗ don't go shopping
 ✗ don't have visitors
 You can help stop the spread
www.durham.gov.uk/coronavirus

CORONAVIRUS
**Temperature?
 Persistent cough?
 Can't taste/smell?**
Please get a Coronavirus test
 Do not leave home if you or anyone in your household has symptoms
 You can help stop the spread
www.durham.gov.uk/coronavirus

- Ad Shells
- Paper Ads
- Social Media
- Streaming
- Website
- Demographic targeting
- Local / partner channels
- Local champions
- Facebook noticeboard

Templates to include

- Holding statement
- Letter to those affected
- Letter to wider catchments
- Press releases / briefings

- Articles for local communication channels
- Local champions
- Facebook – Local noticeboards

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 Date: 1 July 2020

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www.businessdurham.gov.uk

Dear Business Leader

We wanted to let you know that Public Health England has confirmed that 4 members of staff at a local company on the Aycliffe Business Park have been diagnosed with Coronavirus.

The business has voluntarily closed for approximately 14 days and is offering testing to all of its community.

While there is no immediate risk to you and your own staff, we are working closely with Public Health England and are taking this opportunity to contact other businesses in the area to remind them that by staying vigilant, we can help to keep each other safe.

If you might consider using this opportunity to remind staff about the small but important measures they can take to help prevent the spread of the virus, we would be very grateful. This includes good practice for preventing the spread of the virus, how to identify symptoms and what they should do if they are asked to self-isolate by the NHS Test and Trace team.

What to do:

- wash your hands with soap and water often, for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available
- avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you sneeze
- clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces both at home and at work
- observing the 2 metre social distancing guidance, or where this is not possible, a one metre distance when you can mitigate the risk by using other precautions in the list provided in the government guidance <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19>

Symptoms:

If anyone has any of the following symptoms: a persistent cough, a temperature or loss of sense of smell or taste, then they should self-isolate for 14 days and book a Coronavirus test immediately and certainly within the first few days of feeling unwell. Anyone can book a test at www.nhs.uk/booking/coronavirus-covid-19 or by calling 119.

Kind regards

Sarah Slaven
 Managing Director (Interim)
 Business Durham

Amanda Healy
 Director of Public Health for County Durham

...we would like to reinforce their message colleagues, is for them to self-isolate for garden area for any reason, including work home, then the County Durham Together getting food or medication, as well as advice being after both physical and mental health www.durham.gov.uk/covid19/

...all for your continued hard work and support ours, getting tested if you have symptoms and our part in keeping all of our colleagues, friends about how you can best operate under Coronavirus and employees, please visit the Business to speak to someone please don't hesitate to telephone 03000 261261.



A continued focus on prevention and engagement

- Continued support of the university community and local residents to promote and interpret national policy, local restrictions and guidance
- Continued engagement and communication with staff, students, Durham City residents to promote health and wellbeing to manage concept of risk that the university population presents to local residents
- Work with other universities across the region – PHE Uni Stakeholder Group
- Assurance of plans that are in place, membership of Health Protection Assurance Board



Cabinet Office visit



Covid-19: impact and our response

Cabinet Office Covid-19
Taskforce Field Team visit

22 September 2020



Outstanding Challenges

- End of term / Christmas / more restrictions / lockdown.
- Testing, including analysis.
- Students in the community: the challenges of enforcing and policing behaviours.

County Durham COVID19 Daily Sit Rep



Total Cases*	4,316		Daily Cases added (most recent day)*	61
Cases last 7 days*	320	+48.8% (215 cases previous 7 days)		
Cases last 14 days*	535	+81.4% (295 cases previous 14 days)		
7 day rate per 100,000†	40.0	-7.4 per 100,000 (previous week)	COVID related deaths last 7 days^	0
Positivity rate (14 days)	4%	+0.5%	COVID related deaths per 100,000^^	133.7

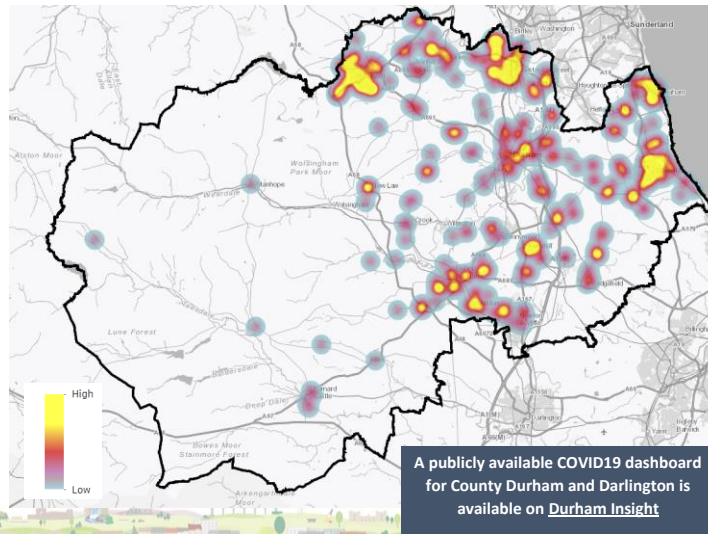
* Positive lab confirmed test results. Source: PHE Situational Awareness Explorer.

^ Local Death Surveillance system. Source: Registrars data.

† Locally calculated rate. Source: COVID19 dashboard, Gov.uk

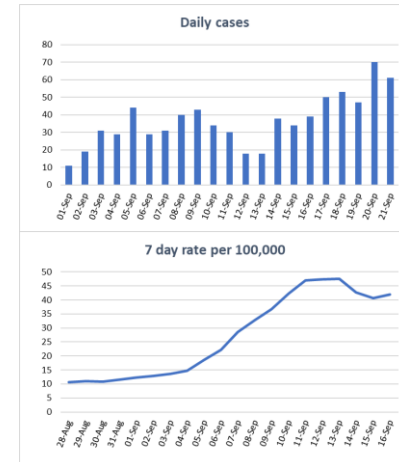
^^ All ages. Source: ONS weekly deaths data.

14 day cases heatmap



A publicly available COVID19 dashboard for County Durham and Darlington is available on [Durham Insight](#)

Daily cases and 7 day rate



NB. The seven day rate per 100,000 excludes cases with sample date in the last four days due to partial data.