

Alex Cunningham MP

Member of Parliament for Stockton North



January 2021

Dear Resident,

Covid-19 Update: Stay At Home, Protect the NHS, Save Lives.

I have just had some shocking news from our local hospital which is why I am making this urgent plea to you today – a plea to **Stay at Home** if you can, minimise your time outside, and only leave your home if necessary.

I recently spoke with Julie Gillon, Chief Executive of North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust. She told me that **40 per cent of all beds** at North Tees Hospital are being used by Covid patients. Hospital bosses expect this go up a further 14-15 per cent in coming weeks.

North Tees' Intensive Therapy Unit is at capacity and all but one of their operating theatres are now being used to look after Covid patients in intensive care. This is having a huge impact on regular day-to-day care some operations have been cancelled including some cancer ones.

We all need to work together to protect our local hospital.

Vaccination is the light at end of this tunnel. Our local NHS is making great strides to vaccinate our communities, and with this we can see a path back to normality. It will take time for vaccinations to take effect and for our whole adult population to be offered this protection, and we all need to keep the resolve and do our bit to support our NHS and save lives.

I don't write this lightly – I know that conditions can be far from ideal, and that there is a sense of "lockdown fatigue". But it is important we all carry out this request and do our part to keep infection rates down and beat Coronavirus for good.

I want to thank everyone who has been following the rules. Your efforts have meant our healthcare professionals can focus their efforts on Covid-19 while also carrying out their day-to-day work.

Thank you again for doing your bit in this pandemic. Please continue following the rules and **Stay at Home, Protect the NHS, and Save Lives.**

Yours sincerely,



Alex Cunningham MP
Member of Parliament for Stockton North

Need Help? Here are some useful links:

Business Support: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus/business-support>

Local advice from Stockton Borough Council, including where to get a test:
<https://www.stockton.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Advice from Public Health England and the NHS: www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/.

For Stockton Borough Council helplines and emails: <https://www.stockton.gov.uk/our-council/customer-services/contact-customer-services/>

For housing advice call Shelter on 0808 800 4444

If you or anyone you know is struggling and need help, please remember you are not alone.

Samaritans 116 123

Mind 0300 123 3393

Calm 0800 58 58 58

Women's Aid 0808 2000 247

Age UK 0800 678 1602

Childline 0800 1111

YoungMinds 0800 018 2138

Vaccine information

Many people are getting in touch about vaccination.

Vaccinations are being carried out right now, and the NHS is starting to move to the next group of people – over 70-year olds. While this work is going on our GPs are still carrying out “business as usual” work.

To ensure this all goes smoothly the Tees Valley CCG has issued a plea for people not to call their doctors asking for a vaccine appointment.

No one needs to call for an appointment.

If you are in the priority group which is currently being vaccinated, please be assured that your GP will contact you.

More information about the vaccination: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/why-vaccination-is-safe-and-important/>