



A message from Angie Ridgwell, the chair of the Lancashire Resilience Forum



We have had another busy few weeks as Lancashire continues to respond to the coronavirus pandemic.

Today, the government announced a number of significant change to the restrictions in place in Lancashire.

Rossendale and parts Blackburn with Darwen have been removed from the area of intervention due to low and reducing levels of coronavirus cases. The other districts – the northern part of Blackburn with Darwen, Pendle, Burnley, Preston and Hyndburn – remain areas of intervention which means additional restrictions on socialising remain in place.

There had been speculation that a full economic lockdown would be imposed in Blackburn with Darwen and Pendle, but this proposal is not being taken forward.

Instead, the government has imposed further additional measures, which will come in from midnight on Saturday, in parts of Blackburn with Darwen and Pendle to help drive down infections.

These are:

- A ban on socialising with anyone you don't live with
- Public transport only to be used for essential travel such as to work or school
- Attendance at major family events, such as weddings and funerals to be restricted to close family and friends, and limits on religious gatherings
- Local restaurants will be encouraged to halt walk-ins, and only seat people who make reservations in advance, up to a maximum of six people

We have set out which specific wards are affected on the [Lancashire County Council website](#).

These measures are being brought in in parts of Blackburn with Darwen and Pendle to avoid a more severe economic lockdown. At this stage, we do not believe that such a blunt instrument would be effective, but be in no doubt that if infections rates do not go down, it is likely that more stringent measures will be brought in.

The vast majority – more than 80% - of coronavirus transmission in these areas is as a result of households mixing. That's why we are putting out a very clear message – do not socialise with people you don't live with.

As ever, please support us by getting this message out far and wide.

We understand the sacrifices that people have had to make but the battle – and it is a battle - isn't over yet, which is why we all have to keep on playing our part to reduce the spread.

Regards
Angie

Mythbusting

We have been developing some new communications resources around 'myth-busting'. We want to tackle some of the more common myths and misconceptions around Covid, as well as about testing, to encourage people to get tested and reduce the spread.

We're planning some activity to promote these with the media, on social media and for use in the community.

As part of this work, we'll also encourage people to seek out official sources of information. These resources will be shared with partners from the Warning and Informing Cell to use on their social media channels and other communications activity.

This will work in addition to the other ongoing communications activity and messages about testing and Covid.

We have produced some useful mythbusting infographics which you can use on your own channels – these can be found at

www.lancashire.gov.uk/coronacommsresources



NHS update

It is a positive that during the pandemic we have seen greater collaboration and a shared response across health and social care. This is absolutely in the interests of patients, communities and staff in Lancashire and we need to embed the benefits from this in our future ways of working, alongside our local authority partners.

Our health and care workforce have responded with amazing resilience over the past few months. The pressure on many of our staff will remain, with enhanced and active support needed from NHS employers to look after the wellbeing and safety of our very special workforce. With the publication of the NHS People Plan we now have an opportunity to build on the workforce changes we have seen, but also to put workforce planning, health and well-being and the crucial equality, diversity and inclusion agenda right at the heart of our future operating model. We remain grateful to all those who have stepped forward and risen to the challenge of the last few months.

We will be imminently launching the first phase of the NHS 111 First initiative. This will ensure that people get the correct care, as 111 First will book them into the right service to meet their needs; this will include timed appointment slots in emergency departments, where appropriate. The first 'mover' site in Lancashire, Blackpool Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, will begin the trial on 25 August.

Lancashire and South Cumbria hospitals receive £10.2m to prepare for winter

Whilst preparing for winter, NHS organisations are working to return our non-Covid services to near last year's levels as quickly as possible. This will take significant effort and collaboration across Lancashire and South Cumbria, particularly as the North West has experienced Covid later and longer than other regions; and we are still experiencing outbreaks in the community. It's important we continue to reassure our patients and communities that although it may look different, the NHS is there for them should they need it. We will continue our messages encouraging people to attend appointments and seek help and would appreciate your support with getting this message to your constituents.

Teams across Lancashire and South Cumbria are now starting to put together plans for winter 2020/21, which this year will be more challenging than usual and we will be launching the biggest and most comprehensive flu vaccination campaign that the NHS has ever seen. Organisations must continue to work collaboratively, and innovatively to ensure the highest quality patient care. To support this, NHS in Lancashire and South Cumbria have been allocated a share of new government funding to upgrade urgent and emergency care facilities.

On 10 August, Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced that more than 100 Trusts across the country will be allocated a share of £300m to upgrade facilities ahead of winter. Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust will receive a total of £10.2m to improve facilities and services for local people. This funding will help us to continue to deliver safe and quality care in this new normal and meet the future needs of people in Lancashire and South Cumbria.

NHS 111 rollout in the North West

A new service which aims to reduce overcrowding and risk of transmitting COVID-19 in hospital emergency departments will be rolled out across the North West in time for winter.

The enhanced NHS 111 First service will offer a booked time slot in emergency departments to patients with an urgent – but not serious or life-threatening – illness or injury.

The new approach will be rolled out in phases across the North West. Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust will be the first to trial the scheme and it will be tested and evaluated before being rolled out more widely by all hospital trusts with an emergency department through the autumn.

The national NHS 111 First programme is being introduced to improve outcomes and patient experience in healthcare settings during COVID-19 and provide a long-term model of access to urgent and emergency care services.

In the North West approximately 60% of emergency department attendances are self-presenting, walk-in patients, and the majority occur during the day and early evening, which has implications for managing social distancing in waiting rooms

Patients who are thinking about going to an emergency department will be asked to contact NHS 111 first instead of walking in unannounced. The service, in conjunction with local Clinical Assessment Services (CAS), will where appropriate book them a time slot for attendance at an emergency department or may book or direct them to a more appropriate local service, which could be an urgent treatment centre, GP practice or pharmacy. People who need emergency care should still call 999.

The benefits of using the NHS 111 First service to access care for an urgent health need are that:

- People will get to speak with a senior clinician earlier; in some cases this may be via video consultation so patients can see who is advising them on their care.
- If someone needs urgent face-to-face assessment or treatment, this can be arranged there and then, without any further delay. They will know exactly where to go, and when. This will help also reduce waiting times for all patients.
- By advising people where and when to go, we can more safely manage waiting areas, reducing the potential for crowding and significantly lowering the risk of COVID-19 transmission

The North West NHS111 provider, North West Ambulance Service (NWAS), is working closely with local partner organisations and NHS England-Improvement to ensure the NHS 111 First service is ready to support the new approach and has already started the process to recruit additional staff to handle calls.

The service will be reviewed after three months to look at how well it is working, the experience of patients who have used it, and whether any changes need to be made.

Lancashire Resilience Forum

In the News

[New Lockdown Restrictions Brought Back Into Preston City](#) – Preston Hub (LRF mentioned)

[Lockdown tightened in Preston](#) – Lancashire Business View (LRF mentioned)

[Police crackdown in Preston this weekend as city re-enters lockdown](#) – LancsLive (Dr Sakthi Karunanithi quoted)

[East Lancashire coronavirus restrictions to stay in place](#) – Lancashire Telegraph

[Free Covid tests are being made available in Burnley town centre for people with no symptoms](#) – Burnley Express (Dr Sakthi Karunanithi quoted)

[CBI calls for lockdown support](#) – Lancashire Business Review (LRF mentioned/ Angie Ridgwell quoted)

[Long-term cost and effects of coronavirus in Lancashire revealed](#) – Lancashire Telegraph (Angie Ridgwell quoted)

[Oldham becomes 'worst-hit' coronavirus area in England](#) – as three places added to watchlist – The Sun (Dr Sakthi Karunanithi quoted)

[Residents urged to follow local measures as cases continue to rise in Pendle](#) – Pendle Today (Dr Sakthi Karunanithi quoted)

[Lancashire at risk of stricter measures if 'really high' coronavirus rates remain](#) – Lancs Live (LRF and Angie Ridgwell mentioned)

[Prestonians must 'stick to the rules' as Covid-19 infection rates remain high](#) – Blog Preston (LRF and Angie Ridgwell mentioned)

[Three new testing sites for coronavirus open today in Lancashire](#) – Lancashire Post (LRF mentioned)

[Government confirms stricter lockdown restrictions imposed in areas of Lancashire will continue](#) (LRF and Angie Ridgwell mentioned)

['Hit squad' to battle Lancashire virus hotspots - how it will work](#) – (LRF and Angie Ridgwell mentioned)

[South Ribble not yet a "prime area of concern" over Covid](#) - but steps needed to keep it that way - (LRF and Angie Ridgwell mentioned)

[UK coronavirus R rate stays the same - but scientists not confident it is below 1](#) – (Angie Ridgwell mentioned)

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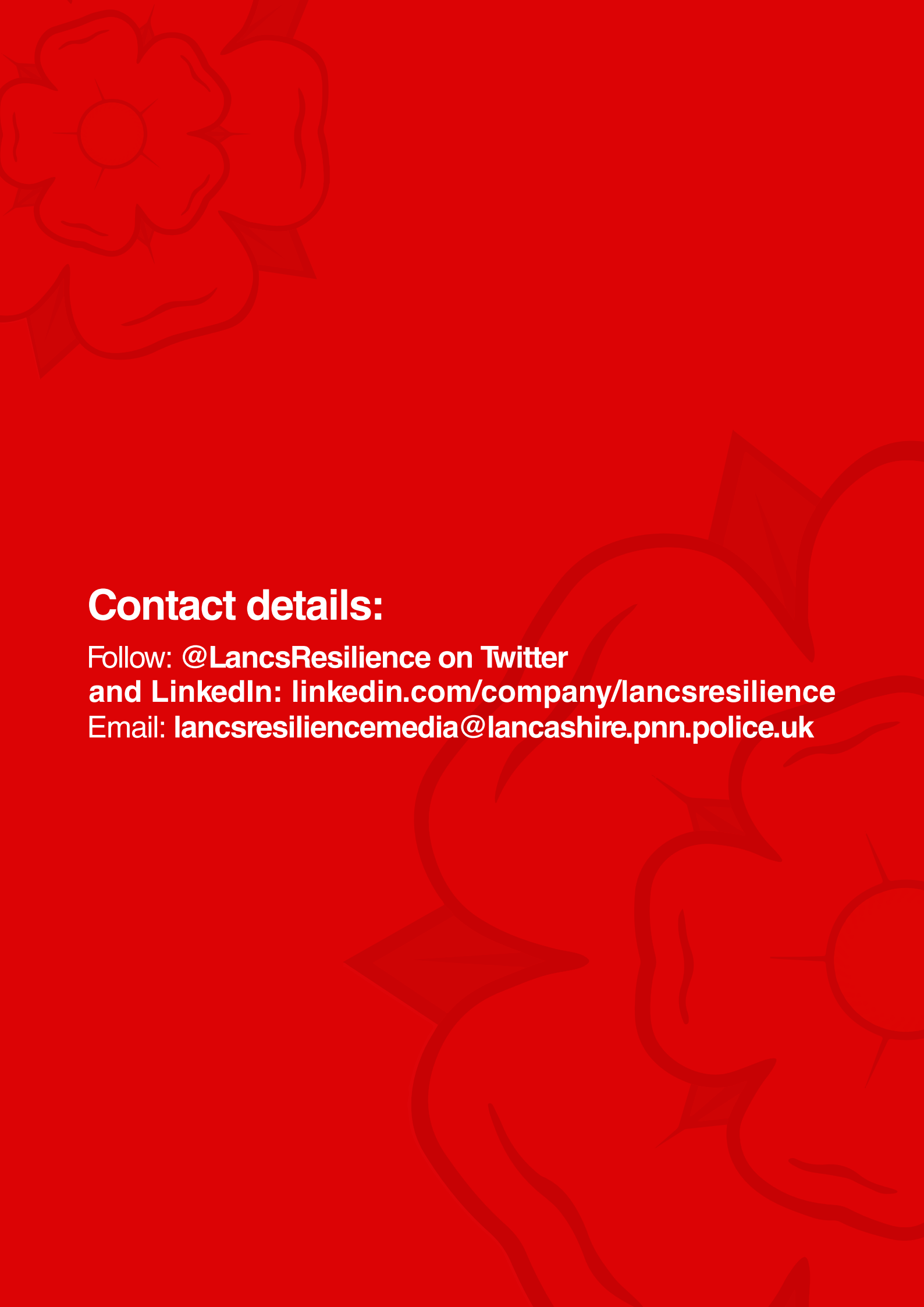
Like what you see? Then please do share this content to your stakeholders. As a trusted voice in your community, it is important that the messages and stories in this stakeholder briefing are shared widely so that people know what is happening in their local area to combat the spread. Communications tools have been made available for use on social media channels. This is a team effort so don't be afraid to get involved.

Get involved

We have a wide range of resources available for you to share across your channels. Please visit www.lancashire.gov.uk/coronacommsresources and use the content to get our messages across

Get the data

Every week we publish latest coronavirus for Lancashire at www.lancashire.gov.uk/covidweekly

The background is a solid red color with faint, stylized white floral patterns. A large flower is in the top left corner, and another, partially cut off, is in the bottom right corner. There are also some leaf-like shapes scattered throughout.

Contact details:

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