

Coronavirus Latest Information, Advice and Useful Links (Updated 01 July 2020)

This is a very fast-moving situation and our focus right now is on delaying the spread of coronavirus and ensuring our services are responding well. This is clearly hugely important and requires all of our attention.

The **Norfolk Resilience Forum** is driving our local response through multi-agency strategic and tactical delivery groups.

The information below is intended as a resource to keep you up to date with the latest information and advice

Trusted sources of information

- The most recent **verified data on cases in the UK and Norfolk** is available from Public Health England [here](#).
- Everyone has a key role in promoting www.nhs.uk/coronavirus and www.gov.uk/coronavirus as **trusted sources of information to the public**. It is really important to ensure people go to the right sources of information and keep up to date with how to look after themselves.
- PHE is addressing **common questions** on its [Public Health Matters blog](#).

Keep up to date: We have [a dedicated webpage for coronavirus updates](#) in Norfolk, and impacts on Norfolk County Council services. This is updated regularly so please do re-visit this page.

Latest national announcements

- The latest information on the **government response** can be found [here](#).
- **Prime Minister's speech** - The Prime Minister [announced](#) a 'New Deal' which puts jobs and infrastructure at the centre of the government's economic growth strategy. A total of £5bn of capital investment projects will be brought forward, including:
 - £1.5bn this year for hospital maintenance.
 - £100m this year for 29 projects in the road network, from bridge repairs in Sandwell to boosting the quality of the A15 in the Humber region. Plus £10m for development work to unblock the Manchester rail bottleneck, which will begin this year.
 - Over £1bn to fund the first 50 projects of a new, ten-year school rebuilding programme, starting from 2020-21. These projects will be confirmed in the Autumn, and construction on the first sites will begin from September 2021.
 - £560m and £200m for repairs and upgrades to schools and further education colleges respectively this year.
 - £142m for digital upgrades and maintenance to around 100 courts this year, £83m for maintenance of prisons and youth offender facilities, and £60m for temporary prison places.
 - £900m for a range of 'shovel ready' local growth projects in England over the course of this year and next, as well as £96m to accelerate investment in town centres and high streets through the Towns Fund this year. This will provide all 101 towns selected for town deals

with £500k-£1m to spend on projects such as improvements to parks, high streets, and transport.

In the Autumn, the Government will also publish a National Infrastructure Strategy which will set a clear direction on core economic infrastructure, including energy networks, road and rail, flood defences and waste.

Next week, the Chancellor will be setting out the Government's immediate plan to support the economy through the first phase of the recovery.

- **Local action to tackle coronavirus** - Health and Social Care Secretary Matt Hancock [oral statement to Parliament](#) about local measures to deal with the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak in Leicester. Leicester accounts for around 10% of all positive cases in the country over the past week. Measures announced for Leicester include: Further testing capability, including opening a walk-in centre; extra funding to Leicester and Leicestershire councils to support them to enhance their communications and ensure those communications are translated into all locally relevant languages; through the councils, ensure support is available for those who have to self-isolate; and, work with the workplaces that have seen clusters of cases to implement more stringently the COVID-secure workplaces.
- **Repeat testing in care homes study** - The Department of Health and Social Care has [announced](#) that 10,000 residents and staff across over 100 care homes will be given repeat testing as part of a new government study into coronavirus to understand more about its spread in these settings.

Public information – Key messages for residents

Changes from 4 July:

- **Pubs, restaurants and hairdressers** – From 4 July, pubs, restaurants and hairdressers will be able to reopen, providing they adhere to COVID Secure guidelines.
- **Outdoor recreation and sport** – You can now exercise alone, with members of your household, or with up to 5 other people from outside your household. From 4 July, up to two households are permitted to gather in groups of more than 6 people indoors or outdoors, provided members of different households can follow social distancing guidelines. Otherwise, activities of more than 6 people indoors or outdoors continue not to be permitted.

Outdoor gyms and outdoor playgrounds will be allowed to open from the 4 of July if they can do so safely. As part of this, the government have published [guidance on managing playgrounds and outdoor gyms](#). This guidance provides the owners and operators responsible for outdoor playgrounds and outdoor gyms with practical advice on how these can be reopened and managed effectively to enable their use while minimising the transmission risk of COVID-19.

- **Seeing friends and family** - From 4 July you can meet people you do not live with, in the following three ways:
 - you can continue to meet in any outdoor space in a group of up to 6 people from different households;
 - single adult households – in other words adults who live alone or with dependent children only – can continue to form an exclusive 'support bubble' with one other household; and;

- you can also meet in a group of 2 households (including your support bubble), in any location- public or private, indoors or outdoors. This does not need to be the same household each time.

NB. It remains the case - even inside someone's home - that you should socially distance from anyone not in your household or bubble.

- **Going on holiday in England** - From Saturday 4 July, people can enjoy staycations in England with the reopening of accommodation sites, including hotels, B&Bs, caravan sites etc. Visit England has produced 'Know Before You Go' advice on its website [here](#).
- **Safe use of places of worship** - Places of worship will be able to open for a broader range of activities on 4 July. [Guidance](#) has been published to assist places of worship in England to prepare to open for a broad range of worship activities, in accordance with the associated legislation which will come into effect on 4 July 2020. The guidance sets out how this can be done in a manner that is COVID-19 secure and in line with social distancing guidelines, in order to minimise the risk of exposure to infection.
- **Small Marriages and Civil Partnerships** - Small ceremonies of up to 30 people to be allowed to restart, in accordance with the associated legislation which will come into effect on 4 July 2020. [Guidance for small marriages and civil partnerships](#) has been published. This guidance is designed to assist people planning to get married or form a civil partnership in England, and venues that host such ceremonies.
- **Driving lessons, theory tests and driving tests to restart** - Theory tests will restart in England on Saturday 4 July the government has [announced](#). The tests will take place with social distancing measures in place to help stop the spread of coronavirus. Car driving tests will restart in England on Wednesday 22 July, which will give learner drivers time to have refresher lessons and practice before taking their test.

Changes from 1 August:

MOT testing to be reintroduced from 1 August - Mandatory MOT testing is to be reintroduced from 1 August 2020 as COVID-19 restrictions are slowly lifted, roads minister [Baroness Vere has announced](#). [Guidance](#) has been updated to state that all drivers whose car, motorcycle or van is due for a MOT test from 1 August will be required to get a test certificate to continue driving their vehicle. Drivers with a MOT due date before 1 August will still receive a 6-month exemption from testing. However, all vehicles must continue to be properly maintained and kept in a roadworthy condition, and people are able to voluntarily get their MOT sooner should they wish, even if they are exempt from the legal requirement.

Social care and health

- **Shielding Update** – A [letter](#), dated 22 June 2020, has been sent from the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care and the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government and tells people about planned changes to advice for people who are shielding. The changes are planned for **6 July and 1 August 2020**.

From 6 July, the government will be advising those who are shielding:

- you may, if you wish, meet in a group of up to 6 people outdoors, including people from different households, while maintaining strict social distancing
- you no longer need to observe social distancing with other members of your household

- in line with the wider guidance for single adult households (either an adult living alone or with dependent children under 18) in the general population, you may from this date, if you wish, also form a 'support bubble' with one other household. All those in a support bubble will be able to spend time together inside each other's homes, including overnight, without needing to socially distance

From 1 August the government will be advising that shielding will be paused. From this date, the government is advising you to adopt strict social distancing rather than full shielding measures. In practice this means that from 1 August:

- you can go to work, if you cannot work from home, as long as the business is COVID-safe
 - children who are clinically extremely vulnerable can return to their education settings if they are eligible and in line with their peers. Where possible children should practise frequent hand washing and social distancing
 - you can go outside to buy food, to places of worship and for exercise but you should maintain strict social distancing
 - you should remain cautious as you are still at risk of severe illness if you catch coronavirus, so the advice is to stay at home where possible and, if you do go out, follow strict social distancing
- **Local Outbreak Control Plan** - The [Outbreak Control Plan for Norfolk has been published](#) and sets out our how we are preparing for people, businesses and communities to go about their normal daily lives as safely as possible whilst the COVID-19 pandemic remains.
 - **Children's Services** - Demand at CADS CSC front door and volume of work going into SW teams and child protection investigations is still down by around 50% of normal activity. This is a picture mirrored regionally and nationally. The number of contacts relating to domestic abuse and children exploitation has continued to fall month on month, and this has been despite publicity campaigns and a dedicated phoneline/text service for children and young people being put in place, but where the uptake is very low. However, we continue to model an anticipated surge in demand for CSC services and capacity plan for additional/redeployment of staffing accordingly

A senior safeguarding partnership group continue to meet fortnightly to discussed specific groups of concern in the current environment and agree actions to address. Staff availability remains high and stable at >90% so safeguarding and support services remain in place, and whilst face to face visits to children and families has continued throughout for those children at greatest risk, the plan is to resume all face to face visiting/activity in the 2nd – 3rd week in July. Many more vulnerable children with an allocated SW and on a child protection plan are now attending school, and an we are performing better than many local authorities.

Education, schools and settings

- **Wider opening of schools, colleges, and setting** - The numbers of children attending schools and colleges continues to rise each week, with over 20,000 attending within week commencing 15th June, half of those being children of key workers. In particular more Year 6 children are returning, with 46% of that year group in attendance, compared to 36% for Year R, and 31% of Year 1. This mirrors the feedback we have been getting from schools that it is easier to control social distancing with older children and parents appearing more comfortable with their older children attending. The number of early years settings open, at approx. 530 or 60% of all settings, remains relatively stable at the moment, with over 5000 children attending, half of those being children of key workers.

- **Vulnerable Children** - We continue to support schools with re-engaging vulnerable children back into school. Within w/c 15th June the numbers of children with a child in need plan, and with a child protection plan, increased again to 39% and 52% respectively. Our focus now extends to the action's schools can take in readiness for all children returning in the autumn term, such as the development of targeted engagement plans for children who do not return as expected in September.
- **Post 16's** - We continue to work with a variety of partners to support post 16's and the post 16 education, training and employment offer. This includes an enhanced package of support for Year 11's most at risk of becoming NEET (Not in Education, Employment, or Training) which we are piloting with an initial cohort of 30 Year 11's. Additionally, we are providing advice and guidance to those Year 11's who are home educated, missing education, or at risk of becoming NEET. We are also working with the 'Growth and Development Apprenticeship Norfolk Team' to develop and promote new apprenticeship opportunities for 16-18 year olds. This week we also had a very successful meeting of our Education Training Strategy Group, which brings together a wide range of stakeholders from the sector.
- **Continuity of Learning** - We have created an online learning working party, supported by school leaders and teachers across Norfolk to review the current online offer and practices. The party has now pulled together a toolkit, which has been sent out to all schools, to support schools to better understand their provision and how this can be developed further. This is a great example of the collaborative working we are seeing across schools. The working party will continue to review the offer, share best practices, and provide advice and guidance. We have also been working with other partners, such as the UEA and the charity, Voice 21. With the UEA we have created family learning packs, with the UEA funding the creation of physical printed copies which they will distribute appropriately. With Voice 21 we are developing a webinar to support with the recovery of children's speaking and listening skills when children do return to school.
- **Test and Trace** - Education settings are one of the 5 cells in the NCC Test and Trace Pilot Programme within Norfolk. To ensure that all cohorts are captured within one of the Test and Trace cells the education cell has been expanded to include SEND children up to the age of 25, universities, and children's residential homes. Guidance has been sent to settings regarding their responsibilities and what actions to take in the event of an incident or outbreak, as well as details of the NCC Education Incident Room, which has been set up to support schools and settings with advice and guidance in the event of any incident, and to ensure all incidents are effectively managed.

Digital Devices for disadvantaged children - The Government scheme is in place to provide digital devices and internet access to a specific cohort of disadvantaged children and young people. As a local authority we are responsible for the ordering and distribution of devices for care leavers, children with a social worker and the disadvantaged Year 10's in the one maintained secondary school we are the accountable body for. Academy Trusts are responsible for ordering and distributing devices for their own disadvantaged Year 10's. By 26th June we had distributed approx. 650 devices and 50 4G hotspots to the learning institutions of those children with a social worker who previously did not have access to a device and/or the internet. The distribution will continue over the next few weeks and devices are sent within 24hours of receiving the required responses from schools. For those children and young people not on a school roll, social work teams will collect the devices and deliver direct to each child/young person.

Business and economy

- **Rules that have been relaxed to help businesses during the coronavirus pandemic** – The government has published [a list of the rules that have been temporarily relaxed](#) to make it easier for businesses to continue working through the disruption caused by coronavirus (COVID-19).
- **Support for pubs, restaurants and cafes** - The [Government has introduced plans](#) to allow more pubs, restaurants and cafes to serve customers outside. Changes for the hospitality industry introduced by the government will:
 - reduce the consultation period for applications for pavement licences to from 28 calendar days to 5 working days, and grant consent after 10 working days if the council does not issue a decision
 - set a lower application fee for a pavement and street cafe licence of up to £100
 - remove the need for a planning application for outdoor markets and marquees, meaning they can be set up for longer
 - provide more freedoms for areas to hold car-boot sales and summer fairs

Under the [Business and Planning Bill](#), introduced on 25 June, the Government will speed up and reduce the costs of the licensing process for outdoor seating and stalls. Temporary changes to licensing laws will also allow many more hospitality businesses, such as pubs, bars and restaurants, to sell and serve food and drink for consumption off the premises. [Draft guidance to accompany pavement licensing proposals](#) introduced in the Business and Planning Bill has been published. The temporary pavement licences process introduces a streamlined consent route to allow businesses to obtain a licence to place temporary furniture, such as tables and chairs outside of cafes, bars and restaurants quickly, and for no more than £100.

Under the Town and Country Planning Regulations, which were laid before Parliament on 24 June, **councils will not be required to get planning permission to use land for the purpose of holding a market**. The right is time-limited and will cease to have effect from 23rd March 2021. The regulations will also give people greater freedom over how they use their land by doubling the length of time that temporary structures can be placed on land without needing an application for planning permission. This will allow land to be used for a broad range of purposes such as for car boot sales and summer fayres, as well as allowing pubs and restaurants to be able to use car parks and terraces as dining and drinking areas, using their existing seating licenses. The right is time-limited and will cease to have effect from 1 January 2021.

Councils are asked to continue to ensure their communities are consulted on licensing applications, that waste is disposed of responsibly, and that access to pavements and pedestrianised areas is not compromised.