

## Coronavirus Latest Information, Advice and Useful Links (Updated 15 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](http://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus) and [www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://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](#).
- **New planning rules to protect our cultural heritage** - Changes to the planning system that will save theatres, concert halls and live music performance venues for future generations, were [announced on 12 July](#). Councils will now need to take the temporary impact of coronavirus into account when considering permission for change of use, redevelopment or demolition of a theatre, concert hall or live music performance venue. Once introduced, this policy will remain in place until 31 December 2022. A written ministerial statement will be laid to outline the planning changes and will have immediate effect on the planning system.
- **£63 million for councils to assist those struggling to afford food** - The [government has confirmed that an additional £63 million will be distributed to councils in England](#) to help those who are struggling to afford food and other essentials due to coronavirus.
- **Face coverings to become mandatory in shops and supermarkets** - Health and Social Care Secretary Matt Hancock has [announced plans](#) to make face coverings mandatory in shops and supermarkets from 24 July 2020.

### Public information – Key messages for residents

- **What the public can and can't do** - The UK Government is continuing to ease restrictions this means that:
  - you can now participate in team and other grassroots sports where the sports' governing body has issued guidance on how to do so safely
  - outdoor swimming pools and outdoor water parks can now open
  - outdoor performances in front of a live audience and indoor rehearsals can now take place in COVID-19 secure venues. Indoor rehearsals and indoor performances for broadcast should only happen where no audience is present
  - smaller-scale indoor performances can now be piloted in COVID-19 Secure venues once approved by the government
  - close contact services, such as nail bars, salons, tanning booths, spas, massage parlours, tattoo parlours and body piercing studios, can now open. Only services that do not involve work in the highest risk zone – directly in front of the face – should be made available to clients, in line with government guidance.

#### **From 24 July:**

- customers must wear a face covering in shops and supermarkets. Though coverings – such as cloth masks, scarves and bandanas – should go over the mouth and nose, there is no specification on the type. Guidance on when to wear a face covering and how to make your own can be found [here](#).

### **And from 25 July:**

- sports facilities and venues, including such as indoor gyms, fitness and dance studios, indoor swimming pools and indoor water parks, will open – subject to evidence closer to the time

### **As was already the case, in terms of seeing friends and family, you should:**

- meet in groups of up to two households (anyone in your support bubble counts as one household) in any location - public or private, indoors or outdoors. You do not always have to meet with the same household - you can meet with different households at different times. However, it remains the case - even inside someone's home - that you should socially distance from anyone not in your household or bubble. This change also does not affect the support you receive from your carers
- continue to meet outdoors in groups of up to six people from different households, following social distancing guidelines
- stay overnight away from your home with your own household or support bubble, or with members of one other household

### **It remains the case that you should not:**

- socialise indoors in groups of more than two households (anyone in your support bubble counts as one household) – this includes when dining out or going to the pub
- socialise outdoors in a group of more than six people from different households; gatherings larger than six should only take place if everyone is from exclusively from two households or support bubbles
- interact socially with anyone outside the group you are attending a place with, even if you see other people you know, for example, in a restaurant, community centre or place of worship
- hold or attend celebrations (such as parties) where it is difficult to maintain social distancing
- stay overnight away from your home with members of more than one other household (your support bubble counts as one household)
- You should only be socialising in groups of up to two households indoors and outdoors or up to six people from different households outdoors.
- It is against the law for gatherings of more than 30 people to take place in private homes (including gardens and other outdoor spaces). Businesses and venues following COVID-19 Secure guidelines can host larger groups provided they comply with the law. This can include weddings and funerals (which we advise should be limited to no more than 30 people), religious ceremonies and services, community activities and support groups. If attending a place or event that is following COVID-19 Secure guidelines, you should take care to limit your interactions with anyone outside of your group and you should continue to maintain social distancing from those that you do not live with. It is critical that you follow these guidelines to keep both yourself and others safe.

The [Cabinet Office's FAQ document](#) on what you can and can't do has been updated in line with the latest advice.

## **Social care and health**

- **Adult Care Providers' support:** [The adult care provider support pages on the NCC website have been revamped to offer a central place for our providers to keep updated with latest updates, guidance and support.](#) You can also find on the page the log of correspondence that has been sent out. We are now in discussions with care providers to communicate the next phase of our emergency PPE support for the market.
- **Carers' transformation programme:** Training materials around our new transformation programme for carers in Norfolk are being developed for social care teams. The co-production sessions with Carers continue virtually on a fortnightly basis and the learning from these is informing the service that will be delivered.
- **Health and Wellbeing Board thanks all those involved in the pandemic response** - Norfolk's Health and Wellbeing Board, which represents health and care organisations across the county, praised those responsible for protecting and supporting vulnerable people during the coronavirus pandemic. At a virtual meeting held at 10am yesterday (Wednesday 8 July), the Board reviewed reports into the response to the pandemic across the health and care System in Norfolk. The meeting examined the multi-agency response to the virus over the past

few months which has seen an extensive collaborative effort, involving local government, public health, the voluntary sector and the NHS in Norfolk. [Read the full story here.](#)

## Education, schools and settings

- **Championing young people in Norfolk** - Young people in Norfolk are being championed this week for the phenomenal way they are coping with the disruption of Coronavirus and the fantastic contribution many are making to shaping public services for youth during the pandemic and beyond. The county's population of approximately 147,000 children and adolescents aged between 10 and 25 have been coping with huge changes to their daily routines and activities and dealing with lockdown restrictions to contacts with friends and family since March. But furthermore between 500 and 750 young people are estimated to have been directly engaged in participation groups working with a range of Norfolk organisations to inform and help improve the way local services are built for and communicated to young people. [Read the full story here.](#)
- **Wider opening of schools, colleges, and setting:** The numbers of children attending schools and colleges continues to rise each week, with over 30,000 attending within week commencing 29<sup>th</sup> June. We have seen a rise in the percentage of children attending across all eligible year groups. The attendance data for week commencing 29<sup>th</sup> June was, 45% Year R, 42% Year 1, 53% Year 6, 46% Year 10, and 41% Year 12.

We are continuing to support schools with their planning for re-opening for all pupils to return full-time in September in line with Government advice. This includes pulling together a directory of the support offer from NCC, to help schools and settings navigate what is available for them. Specifically, schools have asked for further risk assessment advice and our H&S team will be issuing an updated risk assessment template and guide to schools within week commencing 13<sup>th</sup> July.

- **School Transport:** The DfE have already stated that social distancing guidance, which is in place for public transport, will not apply to dedicated school transport. This is because they will be sharing a vehicle with others from their own school and will not share with general members of the public. To support with parental confidence and to minimise any transmission risk we have communicated guidance to schools on school transport principles which will be applied when all students return in September. This includes asking students to sit together based on their year group, and where capacity allows, we will leave a row of seats between each year group. Face to face seating will not be used, and we will ask transport providers to keep the windows open where possible. With schools, we will continue to promote good hand and respiratory hygiene.
- **Early Years:** 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. We have now distributed the second supply of PPE to all settings who required this. The Norfolk Community Directory has now been updated with the details of those providers who are planning on remaining open over the Summer holidays. This continues to be expanded as we collate more information from other settings, such as playschemes operating over the summer. This is allowing our Family Information Service to direct parents to available summer childcare provision. The position we have ascertained from providers is that on the whole parents are planning on taking up their early years placements for Sept. We will continue to work with providers to retain parental confidence and maximise the Sept take up.
- **Vulnerable Children:** We continue to support schools with re-engaging vulnerable children back into school. Within w/c 29<sup>th</sup> June the numbers of children with a child in need plan, and with a child protection plan, increased again to 49% and 57% respectively. Our focus is now on supporting school leaders reflect on changes and adaptations that may be required for hard to reach and/or vulnerable pupils when they return to school in Sept following the extended period of absence due to COVID-19. Following on from the 'whole school approach transition toolkit' issued in June we have now sent further advice to schools. The guidance poses questions for school leaders to consider and, where appropriate, suggests strategies and avenues of support that can shape planning for small groups and individual pupils who may find the return to formal education more challenging. Examples include the use of online tools to familiarise pupils with new school layout, home-school contacts, curriculum adaption to meet the social and emotional needs of returning pupils, providing opportunities for pupil voice and for rebuilding relationships, developing bespoke plans for those pupils who require additional support, and having a planned and rapid response for pupils who are identified as struggling.
- **Continuity of Learning:** Working in partnership with the UEA, the 'Summer 2020 Family Learning Pack' has now been finalised and will be published online in week commencing 13<sup>th</sup> July. The UEA are also printing 2500

hard copies of the pack, which will be distributed via approx. 100 schools. The aim of the pack is to ensure children are able to continue to learn through fun experiences during the summer. The pack includes outdoor pursuits and activities for rainy days, with all containing ideas to get children making, talking and discovering new things. Activity ideas cover a range of subjects themes and age ranges.

- **Test and Trace:** Education settings are one of the 5 cells in the NCC Test and Trace Pilot Programme within Norfolk. We have still had no outbreaks within education settings, although we are receiving lots of calls to the Norfolk Education Incident Room for advice and guidance. As part of the wider Test and Trace programme we continue to work on what a local lockdown would look like for Norfolk and how we would manage this.
- **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. By 10<sup>th</sup> July we have received detailed confirmation regarding which eligible children and young people require a device from approx. 75% of all learning institutions, with almost 900 laptops being distributed. We are continually following up with the remaining 25% of institutions, although we do recognise that for some schools and settings it is taking a bit of time to check every eligible pupil to ascertain who requires a device. In light of specific requests from some schools, including special schools, we have agreed with the DfE to swap 50 of our allocated laptops for tablets, which will be more appropriate for some specific children. Additionally, the devices for our only LA maintained high school, Aylsham High School, have now been delivered to the school. Academy Trusts are responsible for ordering and distributing devices for their own disadvantaged Year 10's.

## Business and economy

- **Reopening of certain businesses and venues in England –**
  - The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) [announced on 9 July](#) that from **Monday 13 July beauty salons, nail bars, tattoo and massage studios, physical therapy businesses and spas** across England will be able to reopen safely.
  - The [Culture Secretary has also announced](#) that **performing arts can now take place outdoors from 11 July** with a socially distanced audience present.
  - The [Government has also outlined the measures](#) that will allow **outdoor pools to reopen from 11 July and indoor gyms, swimming pools and sports facilities to reopen from 25 July.**
- **Recovery advice for businesses** - The [Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy announced on 9 July](#) that The Recovery Advice for Business scheme, supported by the government and hosted on the Enterprise Nation website, is now live. Free advice scheme: <https://www.enterprisenation.com/freesupport/>. The scheme will give small firms access to free, one-to-one advice with an expert adviser to help them through the coronavirus pandemic and to prepare for long-term recovery. Advice is offered on a range of topics including HR, legal, finance, digital and marketing.
- **Coronavirus support for business from outside government** - Public bodies, organisations and charities have produced additional resources that may be useful to employers and employees which have been collated [here](#).
- **HMRC invites hospitality industry to register for Eat Out to Help Out –** [HMRC has announced](#) that restaurants and other establishments serving food for on-premises consumption can now sign up to a new government initiative aimed at protecting jobs in the hospitality industry and encouraging people to safely return to dining out. The Eat Out to Help Out registration service went live on 13 July on GOV.UK, allowing businesses to join the scheme announced last week by Rishi Sunak MP, Chancellor of the Exchequer. HMRC has published guidance providing more [information about the Eat Out to Help Out Scheme](#). HMRC has also published further guidance for businesses outlining how they can [register their restaurant or establishment for the Eat Out to Help Out Scheme](#). Registration will close on 31 August.
- **Guidance for managing beaches, the countryside and coastal areas** - As restrictions ease, increasing numbers of people are visiting the countryside and coastal areas. The Government welcomes the return of visitors to tourist areas but recognises that this may create challenges when considered alongside the need to manage public places, facilities and businesses in light of the coronavirus pandemic. The coronavirus [guidance for managing beaches, the countryside and coastal areas](#) is a toolkit that brings together existing government advice and policy to support the owners and operators in these areas. This toolkit will help enable easier access

to information to tackle the associated issues of high volumes of visitors such as overcrowding, littering and public facilities provision. This toolkit was developed in conjunction with councils from countryside and coastal areas as well as relevant other key government departments. Councils are welcome to distribute the link to the toolkit to the relevant owners and operators in their area to help them in meeting the challenge of coronavirus while welcoming visitors back to their areas.

- **Temporary reduced rate of VAT for hospitality, holiday accommodation and attractions** - HMRC has published guidance on 9 July on the [temporary reduced rate of VAT for hospitality, holiday accommodation and attractions](#), announced by the Chancellor. The guidance sets out which businesses can temporarily reduce the rate of VAT on supplies relating to hospitality, accommodation, or admission to certain attractions. The guidance includes links to further information about how the changes apply to a business within each sector. [Guidance outlining which attractions are eligible for the temporary reduced rate of VAT](#) from 15 July 2020 has also been published today.

#### General updates

- **New kit and additional vehicles for Norfolk Fire & Rescue Service:** Firefighters across Norfolk have received £1.44m of new kit as part of an investment by Norfolk County Council in technology and equipment. In addition, five new multi-purpose tactical response vehicles (TRV) are due to be put into service this month, to enhance NFRS's capability in extreme weather conditions and at difficult to reach locations. These have cost a total of £187,000, including purchase costs and fitting them with specialist equipment. New personal protective equipment for all 787 firefighters across the county is being issued this week and will ensure staff safety across different working environments. Supplies include new helmets, gloves, trousers, jackets, firefighting coats and eye protection. New leather fire boots will also be issued as required. There will also be new high-visibility lightweight jackets suitable for non-fire incidents such as road traffic collisions and rescues, as well as full new kit for the water rescue teams and drone pilots. All the clothing comes in full male and female firefighter sizings and cuts to ensure the best fit for all staff.

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