

## **Norfolk County Council weekly update (wk ending 26/06/2020)**

To all Group Members,

Please find below weekly information for your consideration for the week ending Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June. Within this week's information is the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Norfolk, press releases issued by Norfolk County Council this week, Public information, Social Care & Health, Education, Schools and settings, Business and Economy, along with general updates.

Number of confirmed cases in Norfolk (as of 25th June 2020) – **2,243**

### **Press Releases**

#### **Virtual Tourism Conference talks tech and recovery**

Leaders and businesses owners from across the tourism industry met online last week to talk about the role of digital technology in attracting visitors to our region.

The Tourism + Tech Virtual Conference was originally planned as a face-to-face event but the coronavirus saw a move to an online webinar, hosted by Tim Robinson from Tech East.

Over 150 representatives from across the region joined together to hear about online success stories during the lockdown and how digital platforms can help the industry recover.

**Norfolk libraries prepare to reopen**, as the government gives the green light for libraries to reopen, work is underway in Norfolk to get local libraries open to the public, with some of Norfolk's libraries are now working to reopen to the public from Monday 6 July.

Norfolk County Council's Libraries and Health and Safety Teams are working hard to put the right measures in place to ensure they can open to the public with minimal risk to staff and visitors.

This work, which includes site visits, layout changes and briefing and training for all library staff, will keep any risk to a minimum but will continue over the coming weeks, meaning not all Norfolk libraries will reopen on the 6 July.

#### **Residents in Norfolk are being reminded that they are the most important link in the Test and Trace system.**

The steps to take if you or any member of your household display Covid 19 symptoms are simple and can be key in preventing infections being spread.

If you are symptomatic you must isolate as soon as you notice symptoms and to have no face to face contact with anyone outside of your household. It is important to do this straight away, and for everyone in the household to isolate as they could also be infectious even without symptoms.

As soon as you isolate, visit [www.nhs.uk/coronavirus](http://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus) or call 119 to book a test. Stay in isolation until you receive your results, which will include instructions on what to do next.

## Further Information

### Public information – Key messages for residents

- **PM announces further easing of lockdown restrictions** - On Tuesday 23 June, the Prime Minister Boris Johnson set out further changes to lockdown measures in England to enable people to see more of their friends and family, help businesses get back on their feet and get people back in their jobs. Read the full announcement [here](#).

A summary of the easing measures announced is included below:

- A. Opening certain businesses and venues in England from 4 July 2020** – The government has issued new [guidance](#) on the further easing of coronavirus restrictions from 4 July 2020 for businesses and venues.

#### **From Saturday 4th July:**

- pubs, restaurants and hairdressers will be able to reopen, providing they adhere to COVID Secure guidelines.
- in order to begin restoring the arts and cultural sector, some leisure facilities and tourist attractions may also reopen, if they can do so safely – this includes outdoor gyms and playgrounds, cinemas, museums, galleries, theme parks and arcades, as well as libraries, social clubs, places of worship and community centres.
- places of worship will be also be able to reopen for prayer and services, including weddings with a maximum of 30 people, all subject to social distancing.

“Close proximity” venues such as nightclubs, soft-play areas, indoor gyms, swimming pools, bowling alleys, water parks and spas will remain closed for now. The government will also work with the arts industry on specific guidance to enable choirs, orchestras and theatres to resume live performances as soon as possible.

- B. How you can see people that you do not live with while protecting yourself and others from coronavirus** – From 4 July the rules are changing and new guidance has been issued by government which can be viewed [here](#).

In England, you can meet people you do not live with, in the following three ways:

#### **Currently:**

- 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;

#### **From Saturday 4th July, in addition to above:**

- 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.

From Saturday 4 July, people can also now enjoy staycations in England with the reopening of accommodation sites, including hotels, B&Bs, caravan sites etc. Camping sites may also open, however, there are social distancing concerns around campsites' reliance on communal areas and bathrooms which will need to be considered. There will be more guidance to follow.

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

- C. **Easing guidance for those shielding** - The Health and Social Care Secretary has also **announced** that those shielding from coronavirus will be advised they can spend more time outside their homes from Monday 6 July.

**A summary of the easing measure is included below:**

**From Monday 6 July:** Those who are shielding because they are **clinically extremely vulnerable people** will be able to spend time outdoors in a group of up to six people including those outside of their household, while maintaining social distancing. Those who are clinically extremely vulnerable and live alone or are single parents with children will also be able to create a 'support bubble' with one other household of any size, following the same rules already in place for the wider population.

**From Saturday 1 August:** The guidance will then be relaxed so clinically extremely vulnerable will no longer be advised to shield. They will continue to have access to priority supermarket delivery slots if they have registered online before 17 July for a **priority delivery slot**. NHS Volunteer Responders will also continue to offer support to those who need it, including collecting and delivering food and medicines. The food and medicine boxes facilitated by the National Shielding Service will stop as of 1 August as individuals are advised they can visit shops and pharmacies.

**From Saturday 1 August:** Those who need to work and cannot do so from home will be able to return to work, as long as their workplace is coronavirus secure.

**NB.** Clinically extremely vulnerable people should continue to follow strict social distancing measures, taking particular care to minimise contact with others outside their household and practise good, frequent handwashing.

The government will be writing to all individuals on the Shielded Patient List with updated information on shielding advice and the ongoing support that will be available to them. The updated guidance for those classed as Clinically Extremely Vulnerable will be published on 6 July and 1 August as these measures come into force.

- D. **Two metre social distancing rule** - Following a review, the Prime Minister has also set out that where it is not possible to stay two metres apart, guidance will allow people to keep a social distance of 'one metre plus'. This means staying one metre apart, plus mitigations which reduce the risk of transmission.

**NB.** People should continue to stay two metres away from others where ever possible - the new "one metre plus" rule does not invalidate this original advice.

**Guidance** on keeping safe outside your home has been updated to reflect this.

## Social care and health

- **Test and Trace** - Residents in Norfolk are being reminded that they are the most important link in the Test and Trace system. The steps to take if you or any member of your household display COVID 19 symptoms are simple and can be key in preventing infections being spread.
  - If you are symptomatic you must isolate as soon as you notice symptoms and to have no face to face contact with anyone outside of your household. It is important to do this straight away, and for everyone in the household to isolate as they could also be infectious even without symptoms.

- As soon as you isolate, visit [www.nhs.uk/coronavirus](http://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus) or call 119 to book a test. Stay in isolation until you receive your results, which will include instructions on what to do next.

But Test and Trace isn't only about symptomatic individuals: when a positive test result arrives, teams of contact tracers will search for everyone the COVID positive individual has been in recent contact with and will alert them. If you are alerted by NHS Test and Trace, you must isolate for 14 days after your contact with the individual. If you develop symptoms, you must book a test at the NHS coronavirus website and your household must isolate.

**We have produced a simple guide to reducing the spread of coronavirus in Norfolk which has been circulated with this briefing. Members are asked to share this via their networks.**

- **Admission and care of people in care homes** - The [guidance](#) outlining how to protect care home residents and staff during the coronavirus outbreak has been updated.

### Education, schools and settings

- **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. Digital devices are being provided for, care leavers, children and young people aged 0-19 with a social worker and disadvantaged Year 10 pupils, who do not currently have access to them through another source, such as their school. Internet access is being provided through 4G hotspot devices to, care leavers, young people aged 11 to 19 with a social worker and disadvantaged Year 10 pupils who do not currently have it.

As an LA 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. We have been allocated, and have received delivery of, 1803 digital devices and 252 4G hotspots for care leavers and disadvantaged children with a social worker. We have also been allocated 26 devices and 13 4G hotspots for Aylsham High School, which is the one school we are the accountable body for. We have received notification that these will be delivered direct to the school by the end of June. Academy Trusts are responsible for ordering and distributing devices for their own disadvantaged Year 10's.

Within week commencing 15<sup>th</sup> June we commenced distribution of digital devices and 4G hotspots to the learning institutions of those eligible children/young persons who required one, with approx. 300 devices distributed over the course of the week. The distribution will continue over the next few weeks. The devices will be delivered ready to use as soon as they are removed from their box. 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. This week we also received notification that the monthly data limit on the 4G hotspots has been increased from 4G to 8G.

### Business and economy

- **Check if you should go back into work** – The government has produced [an online tool](#) to help people find out if they should go back to work during this phase of coronavirus lockdown, and what they can do if they should not be going into work. Those currently on furlough can stay on furlough. However, if they are asked to come off furlough by their employer, they can use this service to find out if they should be going back into work, and how to return to work safely.
- **Further halt to business evictions and more support for high street firms** - A new code provides support to shops and local firms planning their future recovery with their landlord. The UK government has extended measures to prevent struggling companies from eviction over the summer. A new [code of practice](#) has been developed with leaders from the retail, hospitality and property sectors to provide clarity for businesses when discussing rental payments and to encourage best practice so that all parties

are supported. The Coronavirus Act will extend the time period for suspension of the forfeiture of evictions from June 30 to September 30, meaning no business will be forced out of their premises if they miss a payment in the next three months. Secondary legislation to prevent landlords using Commercial Rent Arrears Recovery unless they are owed 189 days of unpaid rent. The time period for which this measure is in force will be extended from June 30 to September 30. An amendment to the Corporate Insolvency and Governance Bill has been tabled which will extend the temporary ban on the use of statutory demands and winding-up petitions where a company cannot pay its bills due to coronavirus until 30 September. Find out more [here](#).

- **Measures to help the construction industry** - The Housing Secretary has [announced](#) that new measures to help the construction industry boost building and return to work safely will be introduced this week. While planning permission usually expires after three years if work has not started on site, sites with consent that have an expiry date between the start of lockdown and the end of this year will now see their consent extended to 1 April 2021.

#### General updates

- **Norfolk Libraries prepare to re-open** - As the government gives the green light for libraries to reopen, work is underway in Norfolk to get local libraries open to the public. Some of Norfolk's libraries are now working to reopen to the public from Monday 6<sup>th</sup> of July. Norfolk County Council's Libraries and Health and Safety Teams are working hard to put the right measures in place to ensure they can open to the public with minimal risk to staff and visitors. This work, which includes site visits, layout changes and briefing and training for all library staff, will keep any risk to a minimum but will continue over the coming weeks, meaning not all Norfolk libraries will reopen on the 6<sup>th</sup> of July. **Details of locations, services offered and opening dates of the library branches due to open in the coming weeks will be published next week**, and Norfolk's long-term plan is to make sure that all of the county's libraries reopen as soon as it is safe to do so.