

## Coronavirus Latest Information, Advice and Useful Links (Updated 3 June 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](#).
- **“The community response to coronavirus (COVID-19)”** has just been published on the Public health matters blog. Community life is essential for health and wellbeing. This blog discusses the roles and activities of communities following the outbreak of COVID-19, and their resilience in the face of new challenges posed by this pandemic. Read the post [here](#).
- **PHE disparities review ‘COVID-19: review of disparities in risks and outcomes’ has been published** - The report is available [here](#). For a full readout of the statement and questions, when Secretary of State announced the findings in the House of Commons, click [here](#).

### Public information – Key messages for residents

- **Public spaces** - The [guidance](#) on accessing green spaces safely has been published. The guidance includes an updated list of what the public can now do, advice for land managers and landowners, as well as a reminder to respect other people and protect the natural environment.
- **Outdoor sport and recreation** - The [guidance](#) for the public on the phased return of outdoor sport and recreation in England has also been updated today - including for: [Personal trainers and coaches](#) and [Providers of outdoor facilities](#). People who play team sports can meet to train together, although anything involving physical contact is not allowed. It will also allow parents to accompany their children to coaching sessions carried out on a one to one basis or in small groups. Outdoor and indoor gyms and swimming pools, playgrounds, fitness studios and other indoor leisure centres remain closed, except for facilities for training elite athletes. Indoor facilities such as clubhouses should be kept closed, apart from toilets and thoroughways.

### Democratic

- **A statement from Norfolk County Council on how we will approach to the Government’s recovery plan** - Norfolk County Council remains committed to our Vision for Norfolk. Despite these difficult and uncertain times we continue to work to: build communities we can be proud of; install infrastructure first; build new homes to help young people get on the housing ladder; develop the skills of our people, through training and apprenticeships; nurture our growing digital economy and make the most of our heritage, culture and environment. We are committed to doing this in a way that protects the safety and security of everyone, our employees, Councillors, partners, service users and the whole Norfolk community. Therefore, we will follow the Government’s phased approach to implementing the recovery plan by:
  - Councillors and employees continuing to work from home where we can
  - Only reopening services and activities in line with the legislation and Government guidance

- Only reopening services where prolonged suspension would cause significant risks to health, safety, environment or economy
- Only reopening services and activities where we are certain this can be done safely, a risk assessment has been completed, signed off by the Health, Safety and Well-being Team and the control measures implemented
- Managing the risk of COVID-19 through 4 key mechanisms of infection control: physical distancing and limiting contact, environmental hygiene, personal hygiene and where appropriate Personal, Protective Equipment (PPE)

Read the full statement [here](#).

- **COVID-19 increases Council's budget pressures** - Budget pressures from COVID-19 are set to increase the County Council's £38.9m budget gap next year. The Council was already predicting a £38.9m gap next year, on top of planned savings of £21m, due to pressures on key services like adult social services and children's services. It expects COVID-19 will increase this total, although it cannot predict the full impact at this stage. The projected budget gap up to 2024/25 is £117.8m, on top of planned savings of £64m. It is currently forecast that coronavirus will cost the council £63m in 2020/21, in terms of increased costs of supporting vulnerable people, loss of income and savings that can't be delivered. The Government has provided £43m, leaving a shortfall of £20m.

The Council will develop next year's budget plans through the summer and autumn and won't receive confirmation of its funding allocation from the Government until the autumn at the earliest. Departments will review services, in the light of how they have been operating during the pandemic – for example, if use of buildings can be reduced and increased use of online services.

Read the full story [here](#).

Cabinet will consider the reports at its virtual, online meeting at 10am on Monday, 8 June. [The reports, which include a link to view the meeting on 8 June, are available on the council website.](#)

## Community support

- **Norfolk people being asked how their journeys have changed due to Covid-19** - A green transport project is asking Norfolk people to detail how the way they travel has changed due to the coronavirus pandemic. The AtoBetter travel planning project has been working with communities across the county since 2015 to offer free travel advice and support, focusing on more active and sustainable ways of getting around their local area. The team have now created an online Lockdown Survey which is set to help shape the project's future plans, activities, and offers for people who live in Norfolk. Read more [here](#).

More than 2,800 people have already completed the 15-minute online survey since it opened on 7 May. The survey which closes at midnight on 7 June is available here: [www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/ATOBLS](http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/ATOBLS).

- **Community support** - The Norfolk Resilience Forum is reminding Norfolk residents that those self-isolating with Covid symptoms or shielding should not go out to work, to shop, or to visit friends in their homes and that anyone still struggling with food deliveries and medicine supplies, as a shielding or vulnerable adult, can still ask for help. To date, 3,294 emergency food box deliveries and 9,237 prescription pick-ups\* have been made for shielding and vulnerable residents by the community hubs across the county.

## Education, schools and settings

- **What parents and carers need to know about schools and other education settings during the coronavirus outbreak** – The Government's [guidance](#) has been updated with information including information on the curriculum, afterschool activities, repeating a year for pupils, transport and keeping children safe online. Information on if its compulsory to send pupils to educational settings and education for children at home has also been amended. It also includes updated information for parents of children with special education needs.
- **Schools reopening** - Daily meetings with schools and college leaders continue to ensure rapid problem solving and a direct conduit to the Department for Education (DfE). We have provided significant support, enhancing that coming from the DfE which includes advice, guidance and templates for Health and Safety, protective measure, transition support for schools and working with vulnerable families, recovery curriculum materials,

relationships and health education toolkits, wellbeing guidance, support for managing behaviour, support for children with SEND etc.

- **PPE** - To support settings in being open we have been sourcing and supplying PPE free of charge to all open settings. We have set up 4 main distribution points across the county in Kings Lynn, Thetford, Norwich and North Walsham where providers have been able to collect PPE from. Where providers have been unable to collect we are making arrangements to deliver the PPE to them. Each provider is initialling receiving approx. 3-4 weeks of supply.
- **Vulnerable Children** - After the half term holiday we will recommence discussions with schools regarding the attendance of their vulnerable children, building on the progress of an increased attendance of children in need and children with child protection plans. As schools begin to open up for more cohorts of children in a controlled and safe way they may face further challenges in accommodating all of their vulnerable children. We will continue to work with schools to overcome these challenges, ensuring the provision for vulnerable children is maintained.
- **Digital Devices for disadvantaged children** - We have now received delivery of just over 1800 devices and 250 4 G hot spots, which are being allocated to disadvantaged children with a social worker across the county. Feedback from schools and learning institutions is in progress regarding which pupils require devices, with our distribution to those schools and institutions planned for week commencing 8th June.
- **Support for post 16 year olds** - We recognise that the additional complexities of the COVID recovery risk an overall reduction in apprenticeships. To mitigate this our post 16 team have been engaging with providers to ensure that where possible apprenticeship schemes can still commence in Sept 2020. We are now in a position where the vast majority of providers have confirmed that they will be honouring all apprenticeship placements already offered.
- Advisers in the Participation and Transition Strategy team are continuing with regular Welfare Calls to NEET young people aged 16/17 yrs. Where no specific issues are identified they will call again in 4 weeks' time, with more frequent calls arranged where specific issues are identified and where appropriate a referral to CADS will be made by the Adviser.

## Business and economy

- **The Corporate Insolvency and Governance Bill debated in the House of Commons** - The Corporate Insolvency and Governance Bill will implement reforms to the insolvency and corporate governance framework, together with temporary measures to support continued trading through the crisis. This Bill will help companies by:
  - Giving them breathing space in this uncertain time of coronavirus;
  - Ensuring they are temporarily protected from creditor action during the coronavirus emergency; and
  - Reducing pressures on directors so they can focus on keeping their businesses going.
- You can view factsheets for more information on the Bill [here](#).

## Service updates

- **Stay safe, keep your distance** - As the rules change in what we are and are not allowed to do in our private lives we all need to continue to stay alert and keep up good infection control practices: keep your distance from people outside your household, meet as few people as possible from outside your household (even when keeping your distance) and maintain good hand hygiene. The new rules can cause confusion, particularly in relation to what we can and cannot do while at work. We know that, the more people we have contact with, the greater the risk of transmission of the virus. Therefore, while at work, we all need to meet as few people as possible, including our colleagues, even if we are distancing ourselves when we do meet up. We continue to develop plans including for example how teams can meet up safely in person, but for now are asking teams to remain patient, remain alert and keep their interactions with others to an absolute minimum.
- **INFORMATION ON ALL NCC SERVICE DISRUPTIONS AND CLOSURES CAN BE FOUND [HERE](#)**