

Councillor and Parish Council Update – 11 December 2020

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Local Coronavirus figures

The current local Coronavirus figures can be found on the Government website:

<https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/details/cases?areaType=Itla&areaName=King%27s%20Lynn%20and%20West%20Norfolk>

The figures yesterday were:

- For the time period 29/11/2020 to 05/12/2020 the Norfolk seven-day incidence per 100,000 is 102.3, East of England is 141.8 and England is 153
- RED incidences are for Breckland with an incidence rate per 100,000 of 74.3, Broadland 107.8, Great Yarmouth 138.9, King's Lynn and West Norfolk 95.8, North Norfolk 72.5, Norwich 122.4 and South Norfolk 108.6.

The figures last week were:

- For the time period 22/11/2020 to 28/11/2020 the Norfolk seven-day incidence per 100,000 is 87.8, East of England is 115.2 and England is 155.4
- RED incidences are for Breckland with an incidence rate per 100,000 of 57.2, Broadland 120.1, Great Yarmouth 79.5, King's Lynn and West Norfolk 85.9, North Norfolk 55.3, Norwich 111.0 and South Norfolk 97.3.

Tiering

Norfolk County Council have issued a press release reminding everyone that the whole of Norfolk is in Tier 2 – High Alert. The restrictions that apply in Tier 2 are available on the [Government website](#). It is vital that we all continue to follow the guidelines to help protect each other and protect west Norfolk.

This comment in the NCC press release, sums things up very well:

Dr Anoop Dhesi, a practicing GP at Staithe Surgery in Stalham and Clinical Chair for NHS Norfolk and Waveney Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) says: "It's great news that we have started vaccinating against COVID-19. We have started with the most vulnerable people, but vaccinating everyone will be a marathon not a sprint.

"We must all remember that this pandemic has not gone away. Covid infection rates remain high and are higher now than when we went into the second lockdown. Local hospitals are under great pressure and are seeing very sick COVID patients alongside the usual winter pressures.

"We can see light at the end of the tunnel. But we should remember that the virus does not understand our frustration at not being able to be with our friends and families, and it is not sentimental about Christmas. Its only purpose is to replicate by spreading from one person to another, causing misery and death in its wake. So we must protect ourselves and help the NHS cope this Christmas by following the local tier guidelines - including washing our hands, wearing face coverings and staying two metres apart.

"Over the coming weeks and months people will be invited when it's their turn to be vaccinated. Do not ask your GP or hospital, please wait for your invite."

View the [press release](#) in full

A [poster with a handy guide](#) to what you can and can't do is also available for your reference.

The Government's [Winter Plan](#) in full is available on the Gov.uk website.

Vaccination programme

In addition to Dr Anoop Dhesi's comments above, we must remember the following points:

The vaccination programme is being led by NHS England and locally by the CCG. Any communications will come from them. There are many rumours, so if you do receive enquiries please refer people to the CCG in the first instance - nwccg.communications@nhs.net.

If members of the public want more information, the CCG have created a [web page with frequently asked questions](#) to which you can direct people.

The key message is that people will be informed when it is their turn, so they need to be patient and wait for their invitation, the number of doses is limited at the moment and priority groups as set out by the Government and NHS will be vaccinated first.

Walk-in test centre at Lynnsport

Hopefully you are all aware of the walk-in test centre at Lynnsport. It has come to our attention that people have still been travelling to Peterborough for tests when they could have gone to King's Lynn. If you or a member of your family need to book a test and you want to use King's Lynn, you need to select walk in on the booking portal, rather than drive in, then Lynnsport, King's Lynn will come up as an option. We will be including this in our external messaging about the test centre.

Communications over the next few weeks

A county-wide campaign launched on Monday and the materials are being used on our social media sites and at bus stops. The key messages are reminded people to shop at less busy times, to order locally, and not to shop with groups of friends. There is also a suite of materials encouraging people to socialise sensibly, meeting in groups of 6 or less outside, or organising online celebrations instead of the usual meals out with friends. Please do support the campaign by sharing these materials on your own channels.



Carol services

Some information about carol services/concerts that may be of interest to you:

- Indoors - only choir allowed to sing, congregation in family groups or socially distanced.

- Outdoors - choir and other participants can sing but must be in household groups (+Christmas bubbles between 23-27 December) or socially distanced as per current restrictions.

Guidance notes below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship-during-the-pandemic-from-4-july/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship-from-2-december>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/guidance-for-the-christmas-period#visiting-churches-and-other-places-of-worship>

Norfolk Assistance Scheme

This week saw the launch of the Norfolk Assistance Scheme, or Winter Covid Support scheme. The press release can be viewed on [our website](#). This is a Norfolk County Council led scheme, but in west Norfolk, Lily will circulate information to all their partners to ensure they are aware of the scheme and can refer people on for assistance. Lily will also make referrals direct to the scheme. A poster and social media will also be used to direct people to the helpline number to access the scheme direct. The helpline number is 0344 800 80 20, and although the scheme is particularly aimed at families with children, it is open to anyone. If you know of anyone who may need support, please let them know about this scheme.

Some reminders:

Report a business

If, when you are out and about, you think a business has gone out of its way to make people safe and feel safe, please report them to us as we are looking for positive case studies to share. If on the other hand you are concerned that a business isn't following the guidance, you can report them too – this will trigger a visit from a marshal, local authority liaison office or Environmental Health Officer. The link is west-norfolk.gov.uk/reportabusiness

Christmas guidance from the Government

The Government announced that there would be special arrangements from 23 December until 27 December to allow people to see their family. However, there is still guidance on what is allowed at this time. Read the Government's guidance on [making Christmas bubbles with friends and family](#).

Lily

Lily is asking communities to let them know of any activities or services that would be available to vulnerable people over the Christmas period. They are putting together a special section on the asklily.org.uk website, and once the directory is ready will be promoting these services and activities to clients who will benefit from them. Whether it's mince pie or Christmas dinner deliveries, or just a contact for someone who would be prepared to chat, we would like to know. You can upload your details to the asklily.org.uk website yourself or contact the team and they will upload the information for you.

Borough Council service impacts

All of our service impacts can be found here: www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/coronavirus

Please remember our council offices are not currently accepting visits from the public. People can contact us through Live Chat on our website, or by calling us on 01553 616200. Anyone needing to provide documents can post and drop these into the letterbox which is emptied daily.

If you require specific information about any of the issues raised in this update, please contact communications@west-norfolk.gov.uk

Norfolk-wide helpline - call 0344 800 8020