

Councillor and Parish Council Update – 19 March 2021

Local Coronavirus figures

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

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

These figures are for the week ending 13/03/21, and comparisons are with the week ending 06/03/21:

- The case rate per 100,000 for all ages is: Norfolk 38.7 (34 previous week), East of England 44.3 (48.7 previous week) and England 58.3 (60.4 previous week). Overall, this represents an increase in Norfolk of 13.6%.
- In King's Lynn and West Norfolk, the case rate per 100,000 of all ages is 66.1 compared to 51.5 the previous week – an increase of 28.2%.
- This compares to figures for the rest of Norfolk this week: Breckland 64.3; Broadland 33.6; Great Yarmouth 33.2; North Norfolk 15.3; Norwich 30.6; and South Norfolk 34.8.
- The total number of people tested for Covid-19 in the last 7 days is 28803, compared to 24711 for the previous 7 days (23.6% increase).

The figures show an increase in west Norfolk. It is vital, now more than ever, that we continue to be vigilant and communicate the stay at home messaging.

We are expecting national communications material next week to share with residents as we come out of lockdown. This is expected to be around hands, face, space and fresh air. There will also be messages encouraging residents to enjoy Easter safely, around barbecues and camping.

Here are some additional government links you may find useful:

[Cases | Coronavirus in the UK \(data.gov.uk\)](#) - This site can be filtered to show information for each district

[Interactive Map | Coronavirus in the UK \(data.gov.uk\)](#) - Can focus in on the map to district level and ultimately ward/street view.

Local vaccination figures

The latest information about the government's vaccination programme, which is being led in this area by the Norfolk and Waveney CCG is available on their website

<https://www.norfolkandwaveneyccg.nhs.uk/news/247-norfolk-and-waveney-s-covid-19-vaccination-programme-remains-on-track-as-health-leaders-urge-local-people-to-get-the-life-saving-jab>

83.3% of people aged 55 and over in our borough have received their first dose of vaccine against COVID-19. 49.4% of all adults (people aged 16%) have been vaccinated in west Norfolk. I'm sure that the opening of the large scale Downham Market vaccination centre will help increase the figures. Initially they forecast to deliver 1,000 vaccinations a week there. Read more about the opening of the Downham Market centre here:

https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/news/article/943/covid-19_vaccination_centre_launches_in_downham_market

I've attached a more detailed breakdown of the vaccination progress in our borough to this email. You may be concerned about national news stories related to supply issues for the vaccine, we are waiting to hear more details about this from the NHS and CCG. The national booking website is open to everyone aged 50 and over to book a vaccine appointment. http://www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccination_or_call_119.

Whilst the take up has been very good, we are now in a position where a number of vaccination sites across Norfolk and Waveney will temporarily offer a 'drop-in' vaccination clinic where no appointment is needed.

Patients over the age of 55 who have not already booked or received their first dose can attend the following vaccination sites on dedicated days and times; just turn up with a valid form of ID to confirm your age and where possible, your NHS number:

- The Inspire Centre at The Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (QEH), King's Lynn, PE30 4ET, 8:30am to 7:30pm, Tuesday 23 March and Friday 26 March 2021

This drop-in pilot comes as a result of diversifying the way in which vaccinations are provided across Norfolk and Waveney, encouraging people from younger age groups and harder to reach communities to access vaccinations in ways which are more convenient and accessible to them.

Whilst we know vaccination appointments have been offered to everyone over the age of 50, these drop-in clinics is a targeted pilot to encourage those who haven't yet booked a vaccine over the age of 55 to come forward.

Patients and members of the public attending the drop-in clinic must live in Norfolk and Waveney and within a 20-mile radius of the site they are attending.

Vaccine misinformation/disinformation Toolkit

The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) has developed a toolkit which contains content designed to be shared via WhatsApp and Facebook community groups, as well as Twitter, Youtube and Instagram, to tackle false information spread through private channels about the Coronavirus vaccine.

Please see and download the toolkit here: <https://dcmsblog.uk/check-before-you-share-toolkit/>

Update to Shielding guidance

Yesterday (18 March), the Government has announced that clinically extremely vulnerable people will no longer be advised to shield from 1 April 2021, as infection rates and hospitalisations continue to fall.

Further guidance can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-letter-to-clinically-extremely-vulnerable-people>

Local symptom-free rapid-testing

Next week Alive St James Swimming Pool and Fairstead Community Centre will continue to offer lateral flow tests to all residents and workers in King's Lynn.

These quick tests can be taken whenever residents are out and will help break the chain of transmission of Covid-19. It's recommended that you take these tests if you are going out to work or even heading to the supermarket. It's quick to do and, even if you've had the vaccine, it's recommended that we all do it.

Book a test here: www.norfolk.gov.uk/rapidtesting

Workplace Testing Extension

Businesses, with more than 50 employees, have until the 31 March to apply for test kits for their staff – the registration page is available here: <https://www.gov.uk/get-workplace-coronavirus-tests>

The expansion of workplace testing will identify more positive cases of COVID-19 and ensure those infected isolate. This will reduce the spread of the virus and protect those who cannot work from home, and our vital services.

This programme is crucial given that around 1 in 3 people who are infected with COVID-19 have no symptoms so could be spreading the disease without knowing it. Broadening testing to identify those showing no symptoms will mean finding positive cases more quickly, and break chains of transmission.

This is particularly important to note for businesses such as non-essential retail and hospitality that are currently closed but which can reopen in steps 2 or 3 of the roadmap.

Grants for business

Since November last year over £19M has been paid in business support grants. This is in addition to nearly £40M paid during lockdown 1.

Applications for grants to 15 February 2021 close on 31 March 2021. Applications for grants from 16 February 2021 to 31 March 2021 will remain open until 31 May 2021.

Our business grant webpage is a helpful source of information <https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/businessgrants>. It now has information about the Restart Grants as well. These grants of up to £6,000 per premises for non-essential retail businesses, and up to £18,000 per premises for hospitality, accommodation, leisure, personal care and gym businesses will be payable from April 2021.

Business grants FAQs can be found here: [Business grants FAQs | Business grants FAQs | Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk \(west-norfolk.gov.uk\)](#)

A reminder of the roadmap steps below:

STEP 1: 8 March



Schools and colleges are open for all students. Practical Higher Education Courses.



Exercise and recreation with your household or one other person in a public outdoor place. Household only indoors.



Wraparound care, including sport, for all children, to enable parents to work.



Stay at home. No domestic or international holidays.



Funerals (30 people). Weddings and Wakes (6 people).

29 March



Rule of 6 or two households outdoors. No household mixing indoors.



Outdoor sport and leisure facilities.



Organised outdoor sport (children and adults).



Minimise travel. No domestic or international holidays.



Outdoor parent & child groups (up to 15 people, excluding under 5s).

STEP 2

At least five weeks after Step 1, no earlier than 12 April.



Indoor leisure inc. gyms
(individual or household
use only).



Rule of 6 or two
households outdoors.
No household mixing indoors.



Outdoor attractions,
such as zoos, theme parks
and drive-in cinemas.



Libraries and
community centres.



Personal care
premises.



All retail.



Outdoor
hospitality.



Indoor parent and child
groups (up to 15 people,
excluding under 5s).



Domestic overnight stays
(household only).



Self-contained
accommodation
(household only).



Funerals (30 people).
Weddings, wakes,
receptions (15 people).



Minimise travel.
No international
holidays.



Event pilots.

STEP 3

At least five weeks after Step 2, no earlier than 17 May.



Indoor entertainment and attractions.



30 person limit outdoors.
Rule of 6 or two households indoors (subject to review).



Domestic overnight stays.



Organised indoor adult sport.



Indoor hospitality.



Most significant life events (30).



Remaining outdoor entertainment (including performances).



Remaining accommodation.



Most significant life events (30 people).

Indoor events:
1,000 people or 50% capacity.
Outdoor events:
4,000 people or 50% capacity.
Large seated outdoor venues:
10,000 people or 25% capacity.
Pilots continue.



Domestic overnight stays.
International travel (subject to review).

STEP 4

At least five weeks after Step 3, no earlier than 21 June.
By Step 4, the Government hopes to be able to introduce the following:



No legal limit
(subject to review).



Remaining businesses,
including nightclubs
(subject to review).



Larger events
(subject to review).



International travel
(subject to review).



No legal limit on life events
(subject to review).

We will provide further updates and respond to the guidance as it's published. The full roadmap can be found here: [COVID-19 Response - Spring 2021 - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/covid-19-response) (www.gov.uk)

The key government message for communications is: 'stay at home, protect the NHS, save lives' and the additional message: 'let's keep going'. Locally, our emphasis is also on the 'protect west Norfolk' message.



Borough Council service impacts

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

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

Census 2021 is here

This Sunday, 21 March, is Census day. Please encourage residents to complete the form.

The easiest way to do this is online here: <https://census.gov.uk/>

Norfolk Libraries are part of the national Census Support Service and Library staff can help support residents to complete their census forms online. They can help people with getting online, getting a new code, and even fill the census in for people who may have difficulty completing it online.

Appointments are available face to face at King's Lynn, Downham Market and Hunstanton libraries.

There will also be appointments available until 6pm, one evening a week, appointments on Saturdays, and appointments on Census Day, Sunday 21 March.

To book an appointment with a trained Census Support Advisor please phone 01603 774777.