

Councillor and Parish Council Update – 26 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 20/03/21, and comparisons are with the week ending 013/03/21:

- The case rate per 100,000 for all ages is: Norfolk 30.4 (38.9 previous week), East of England 42.5 (44.4 previous week) and England 55.5 (58.4 previous week). Overall, this represents a decrease in Norfolk of 21.8%.
- In King's Lynn and West Norfolk, the case rate per 100,000 of all ages is 37.7 compared to 66.7 the previous week – an a decrease of 43.6%.
- This compares to figures for the rest of Norfolk this week: Breckland 60; Broadland 31.3; Great Yarmouth 16.1; North Norfolk 14.3; Norwich 34.9; and South Norfolk 9.9.
- The total number of people tested for Covid-19 in the last 7 days is 23,536, compared to 21,665 for the previous 7 days (8.6% increase).

The figures show a decrease in west Norfolk. But with some restrictions lifting on Monday it is vital, now more than ever, that we continue to be vigilant and communicate the need to minimise travel, continue work from home where possible and to follow the hands, face space advice. We want the figures to continue to go down as we move towards the next trigger date.

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.

How the rules will change on 29 March

On 22 March, the Government updated the national lockdown guidance to include a summary of changes to the rules in England from 29 March.

From 29 March:

- people will be able to meet outdoors either in a group of six (from any number of households), or in a group of any size from up to two households (each household can include existing support bubbles, if eligible)
- people will be able to take part in formally organised outdoor sports with any number of people (outdoor sports venues and facilities will be able to reopen)
- childcare and supervised activities will be allowed outdoors for all children
- formally organised parent and child groups will be able to take place outdoors for up to fifteen attendees. Children under five will not be not counted in this number

From 1 April, those identified as clinically extremely vulnerable will no longer be advised to shield. However, they should continue to take extra precautions to protect themselves. It is important that they continue to keep the number of social interactions they have low and try to limit the amount of time they spend in settings where they are unable to maintain social distancing.

The link below to the 'COVID-19 Response – Spring 2021' contains further information on the roadmap out of lockdown in England.

Guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home>

Roadmap: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-response-spring-2021>

We have received national communications material to share with residents as we come out of lockdown. This is around hands, face, space and fresh air, minimising travel and continuing to work from home where possible.

Police position on the change in government guidance

A message from Julie Wwendth, Temporary Assistant Chief Constable:

“As you may be aware, the Government guidance will change from ‘stay local’ to ‘minimise travel’ from Monday. At this stage we have not received any confirmation of the associated regulations but it is highly likely that we will no longer have the power to issue fines to people travelling to our county for exercise or to visit second homes. The guidance will state people cannot stay overnight in another location but of course, you will be aware of the challenges this poses for us in relation to enforcement.

“Our primary focus therefore will be on gatherings of more than 6 people / two households and any related breaches.

“We will also work with partners locally to support them in the reopening of the night-time economy and wider hospitality / holiday sector.”

If you wish to report any concerns about breaches of the guidance, please use the police 101 number.

Our position on the change in government guidance

We understand that people will now be allowed to travel and to visit second homes. Clearly our beautiful coastline will be a draw for visitors over the Easter break if the weather is good. We would like to reassure you that we will have resources on hand to ensure that people are being responsible and following the relevant guidance, including additional resort staff and Environmental Health Officers on call. We will be ensuring that signage is in place reminding people about Hands, Face Space guidance, and will be promoting key messages on our social media sites.

Local vaccination figures

More than 60% of people aged over 16 in Norfolk and Waveney have now received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine, newly released figures show.

According to data [published today by NHS England and NHS Improvement](#) 548,941 doses of vaccine have been given in Norfolk and Waveney. Some 516,879 people have received their first dose and 32,062 their second dose.

In the week to last Sunday, 68,359 doses of vaccine were given in Norfolk and Waveney, up from 43,948 the previous week, (59,879 were first doses and 8,480 were second doses).

The figures show that 61% of adults in Norfolk and Waveney have received their first dose, compared to 52% of adults in England. This puts us fifth out of the 42 health and care systems in England.

The figures also show that:

- 97% of over 80s have received their first dose of vaccine and 26% have received their second dose.
- 100% of 75-79 year olds have received their first dose of vaccine
- 96% of 70-74 year olds have received their first dose of vaccine
- 92% of 65-69 year olds have received their first dose of vaccine
- 94% of 60-64 year olds have received their first dose of vaccine
- 82% of 55-59 year olds have received their first dose of vaccine
- 70% of 50-54 year olds have received their first dose of vaccine

Calling carers and those over 50

The CCG has now circulated the attached to local and regional media and published on their website: <https://www.norfolkandwaveneyccg.nhs.uk/news/251-calling-everyone-over-the-age-of-50-who-hasn-t-yet-booked-their-covid-19-vaccine>. This is a call to all over 50s that have not yet booked a vaccination appointment to either contact their GP practice to book an appointment or preferably, turn up at a drop-in centre taking place from today (26 March) onwards.

They have also shared a post on Facebook and Twitter linking to the news release on their website and we would be hugely grateful if everyone could share this/post your own messages on your channels to engage with your respective audiences.

The CCG will also be sharing targeted adverts with community groups and forums on Facebook – this will include the use of targeted adverts for geographical areas. A paid for Facebook campaign will also start, again, focussed on individuals over the age of 50 across Norfolk and Waveney.

The CCG are trying to get these messages spread far and wide, so anything you can do would be hugely appreciated.

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/>

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. The following week testing will be only at Fairstead Community centre. There will be no testing on Good Friday or Easter Monday. Symptom-free testing is available from 8am-4pm.

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 £20M 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 \(west-norfolk.gov.uk\)](#)

Business Support

In conjunction with the Norfolk Chamber of Commerce we are running an online 'Ask the Experts' session for businesses who will be opening hopefully from 12 April onwards. Please ensure you pass this information on to your business contacts. Booking is available to West Norfolk businesses only and should be done through this link.

<https://www.norfolkchamber.co.uk/events/kings-lynn-west-norfolk-lets-communicate-ask-expert-webinar>

We are putting together a range of resources in readiness for the reopening of non-essential retail, these include promotional materials in our towns, a handy guide for businesses, tables and chairs in King's Lynn, and a book bench trail across the three towns to encourage people to visit.

Over the coming weeks we will be able to announce new activities, including Go Digital – support to get businesses online, further grants and potential public realm improvements to make our market and coastal towns more attractive.

Community Renewal Fund

Norfolk organisations can now bid for a share of the Government's £220m UK Community Renewal Fund to support innovative pilot projects that boost the economy.

Projects should contribute to a reduction in greenhouse gases (with the exception of skills and employment projects) and be largely revenue-based.

Bids should seek a minimum of £250,000 UK Community Renewal Funding, with a preferred bid size of £500,000 plus. All successful projects must be complete and funding spent before the end of March 2022.

Projects submitted for the UK Community Renewal Fund will help inform the design of the longer-term Shared Prosperity Fund, which is due to be launched in 2022.

Who can apply?

A range of organisations can submit bids, including:

- Councils
- Universities

- Voluntary and community sector
- Business support organisations

Download our [invitation to bid](#).

Bid categories

- Investment in skills
- Supporting people into employment
- Investment for local business
- Investment in communities and place

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/business/grants-and-funding/community-renewal-fund>

A reminder of the roadmap steps below:



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 \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/covid-19-roadmap)

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

Out of Hours

The office will be closed on Good Friday and Easter Monday. For emergencies, such as homelessness, during the closure please call 01553 616601.