

Councillor and Parish Council Update – 9 April 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 04/04/21, and comparisons are with the week ending 28/03/21:

- The case rate per 100,000 for all ages is: Norfolk 18.2 (34 previous week), East of England 23.4 (40.2 previous week) and England 31.9 (52.9 previous week). Overall, this represents a decrease in Norfolk of 46.6%.
- In King's Lynn and West Norfolk, the case rate per 100,000 of all ages is 26.4 compared to 37.7 the previous week – a decrease of 29.8%.
- This compares to figures for the rest of Norfolk this week: Breckland 22.9; Broadland 24.5; Great Yarmouth 12.1; North Norfolk 7.6; Norwich 12.1; and South Norfolk 17.
- The total number of people tested for Covid-19 in the last 7 days is 20,654, compared to 23,359 for the previous 7 days (11.6% decrease).

The figures show a decrease in west Norfolk. But with some restrictions lifting on Monday it is vital that we continue to be vigilant and communicate the need to minimise travel, continue to work from home where possible and to follow the hands, face space advice. This applies whether you have had your vaccine or not, please encourage everyone to continue to follow the guidance in place to control the virus and save lives. We want the figures to continue to go down as we move towards the next trigger date in the Government's roadmap out of lockdown of 17 May.

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 NHS vaccination programme continues to make strong progress in Norfolk and Waveney.

According to data published Thursday by NHS England and NHS Improvement 653,273 doses of vaccine have been given in Norfolk and Waveney. Some 564,212 people have received their first dose and 89,061 their second dose. In the week to last Sunday, 44,268 doses of vaccine were given in Norfolk and Waveney, 8,995 were first doses and 35,273 were second doses. 50% of over 80s have had their second dose.

The figures show that 66% of people aged over 16 in Norfolk and Waveney have received their first dose, compared to 59% of adults in England. This puts us fourth out of the 42 health and care systems in England.

96% of over 50s in Norfolk and Waveney have now received their first dose of vaccine, and more opportunities are available to those that haven't yet had theirs.

A number of walk-in vaccination clinics are open across Norfolk and Waveney and no appointment is necessary. The walk-in clinics are for first doses only and for people in priority groups 1-9, which includes:

- Anyone aged 50+
- Individuals who are Clinically Extremely Vulnerable
- Health and social care staff
- Care home workers and residents
- Carers (paid and unpaid)

Please note that even if you are in priority groups 1-9, but under the age of 30, you cannot attend the walk-in clinics. This is due to the current type of vaccine available and changes to national guidance.

The walk-in clinics are at:

- Norwich – Bowthorpe Health Centre, Wendene, Norwich NR5 9HA, Saturday 10 April, 9am to 6.30pm, no appointment necessary
- King's Lynn – The Inspire Centre at The Queen Elizabeth Hospital, PE30 4ES, Tuesday 13 April 9am to 2pm, no appointment necessary
- Downham Market Town Hall, Bridge Street, Downham Market, PE38 9DW, Sunday 11 April, Monday 12 April, Thursday 15 April and Sunday 18 April 9 am to 2 pm - no appointment necessary

Alternatively, people in cohorts 1-9 can continue to book their first vaccine appointments at large vaccination centres across the county via www.nhs.uk/coronavirus or by ringing 119 for free.

Paid and unpaid carers should book via the NCC website at <https://apps.norfolk.gov.uk/carervax> – a 24/7 telephone voicemail service 01603 257 256 is also available but is only intended for people who are unable to register online.

Whilst 66% of people aged over 16 in Norfolk and Waveney have already received the vaccine, it is vital that those who are eligible for a vaccine and have not already booked an appointment are reminded and encouraged to do so. If patients have an appointment already booked over the coming weeks, it is important those appointments are kept and attended rather than a drop-in appointment being selected as a substitute.

Second doses - If you had your first vaccination at a GP led site or Hospital Hub, they will contact you when it is time for your second dose and we strongly encourage everyone who is due to have their second dose to attend their appointment. If you have booked your vaccinations via the national booking system, you should already have your second dose appointment booked.

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/>

Test Kits - New collection service for small businesses – NCC Library Collect

Because of new channels and supply of test kits from DHSC, NCC are now pleased to offer home test kits for small businesses and their employees. It will enable your staff to conduct twice-weekly testing in a manner more appropriate to your business and working practices. NCC have set up collection points at 33 libraries across the county (this will rise to all 47 in the next couple of weeks). You can simply collect home test kits from them for you and your employees.

What do you need to do next?

Please complete the form at this link below with your business details. This will be uploaded automatically to our database and the libraries informed – you won't receive further emails from us at this stage, you can then simply go and collect your test kits.

[NCC Library Collect - collection service of LFD home testing kits for small businesses](#)

Where can you get test kits?

Look on SiteFinder in the link below to find the nearest library that is currently providing test kits, as well as its opening hours. The staff at the library will just ask which business you are from and give you test kits commensurate to your staff numbers on your return. If those numbers have changed since submission not to worry – they will simply amend our database and give you the required number.

[Find a test centre \(test-and-trace.nhs.uk\)](#)

What will we get?

Due to current supply chain demands (constrained by the national DHSC roll-out of home testing to schools bubbles), you will be given 1 x box of home test kits per person. As supply improves we may be able to give 2 boxes at a time. Each box contains 7 x tests – enough for 3 ½ weeks of twice-weekly testing for an individual. We therefore currently ask you return in 3 weeks to ensure you do not run out. There are instructions included in the box as to how to administer a self-test at home. We recommend that if possible (and where you have not already done so) individuals attend a DATS testing site to be tested by a trained testing operative and to see how a test is correctly administered – this will increase the effectiveness of your home testing regime. These sites can be found and booked here:

[Symptom-free coronavirus testing - Norfolk County Council](#)

New channels and ways to get tested are opening up all the time, indeed many of your staff may already be eligible for these home kits via Community Collect as they are part of the School Bubble cohort.

Symptom-free Community testing

Community testing is available next week at Fairstead Community Centre for all residents and workers in King's Lynn. Symptom-free testing is available from 8am-6pm.

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 or just turn up.

Grants for business

Since November last year over £21M has been paid in business support grants. This is in addition to nearly £40M paid during lockdown 1.

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>.

The web page 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. The software to enable these grants to be paid has now been received and is being tested. We are now identifying businesses where we can make payments automatically. We hope that the majority of grants can be paid without the need for an application, although there will need to be an application process for some sectors, including retail. Please keep an eye on the website for the latest information.

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

We have put 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 plans for more in Hunstanton, and a book bench trail across the three towns to encourage people to visit. Signage, floor stickers, sanitising stations, are all in place encouraging people to shop safely and to observe the guidance on social distancing, wearing face coverings and washing or sanitising hands. Bus Stop posters and vinyl artwork will also be installed. On social media there will be a new animation providing safety advice and some videos are being produced to demonstrate the steps that businesses are taking to welcome back visits.

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.

Read the [press release](#). This includes links to the Business and Tourism Toolkit, and the pack of signage that is free to download and we are also offering to print materials for free through the council's print room.

Community Renewal Fund

This fund is being administered by Norfolk County Council and 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>

What are the changes from 12 April 2021

See the government webpages for the changes that come into effect on Monday, 12 April 2021.

Announcement: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/further-easing-of-covid-restrictions-confirmed-for-12-april>

Guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-coronavirus-restrictions-what-you-can-and-cannot-do>

Speech: <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-statement-at-coronavirus-press-conference-5-april-2021>

Care homes: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/two-visitors-allowed-in-care-homes-to-reunite-with-loved-ones>

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-response)

The key government message for communications is: Hands, face, space and fresh air. Locally, our emphasis is also on the 'protect west Norfolk' message.

Remote meetings

The MHCLG has issued a call for evidence which seeks to understand the experience of local authorities in the whole of the UK regarding remote meetings.

This is an open call for evidence. They are particularly seeking the views of individual members of the public; prospective and current local authority members/representatives; officers/leaders of local authorities who have been meeting remotely; and those bodies that represent the interests of local members/representatives at all levels.

This is the link to the MHCLG call for evidence:

[Local authority remote meetings: call for evidence - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/calls-for-evidence/local-authority-remote-meetings)

Please do provide your views and experience.

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