



Latest Information, Advice, Useful Links and Service Updates (Updated 13 May 2021)

The information below is intended as a resource to keep you up to date with the latest information and advice. It is published weekly.

Covid-19 Trusted sources of information

- The most recent **verified data on cases in the UK and Norfolk** is available from Public Health England [here](#) and the Norfolk Insights website [here](#).
- Everyone has a key role in promoting www.nhs.uk/coronavirus and 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.
- **Keep up to date:** We have [a dedicated webpage for coronavirus updates](#) in Norfolk and impact on Norfolk County Council services. This is updated regularly so please do re-visit this page.
- **Service updates** - The most up to date information on council services can be found at [Norfolk County Council services disruptions](#). The council will continue to monitor its services and, if regulations and circumstances change, it will review its current plans.

Latest national announcements

- **Her Majesty The Queen's speech** – On 11 May, Her Majesty The Queen set out the government's legislative priorities at the State Opening of Parliament.
In the [speech](#), it was announced that the government would support the national recovery from the COVID-19 outbreak by supporting jobs, businesses and economic growth and addressing the impact of the outbreak on public services. It was also [announced](#) that the government plans to bring forward a number of bills in this term of Parliament which include:
 - Planning and Leasehold Reform (Ground Rent)
 - Health and Social Care
 - Skills and Post-16 Education
 - Environment[The full announcement can be found here](#)
- **COVID-19 alert level update** - On 10 May, it was [announced](#) that, following advice from the Joint Biosecurity Centre and in the light of the most recent data, the UK Chief Medical Officers and NHS England National Medical Director agree that the UK COVID-19 alert level should move from level four to level three. The level three alert level means a COVID-19 epidemic is in general circulation.

Messages for residents

- **Further easing of COVID restrictions confirmed for 17 May** – The Prime Minister has confirmed the government's four tests for easing COVID-19 restrictions have been met and [planned easements can go ahead from 17 May](#).
This includes the reopening of indoor hospitality and indoor and outdoor entertainment, including cinemas, museums, children's play areas and outdoor performances.
Gathering limits will be eased. Outdoor gatherings will be limited to 30 people and indoor gatherings will be limited to 6 people or 2 households (each household can include a support bubble, if eligible).
Up to 30 people will be able to attend weddings, receptions, and commemorative events including wakes. The number of people able to attend a funeral will be determined by the number that can be safely accommodated in the venue with social distancing in place.

You should continue to work from home if you can. When travelling within the UK, you should aim to do so safely and plan your journey in advance.

You should [get a test](#) and follow the [stay at home guidance](#) if you have COVID-19 symptoms.

From the same date, face coverings will no longer be required in classrooms, or for students in communal areas in secondary schools and colleges, and all remaining university students will be eligible to return to in-person teaching and learning. Read the announcement [here](#).

The Stay in the UK restriction will be lifted and people will be able to travel to green list countries, if they permit inbound travel.

[The full details of what you can and cannot do is available here.](#)

- **EU Settlement Scheme – 50 days left to apply** - This week the Home Office marked 50 days to go until the 30 June 2021 deadline for applications to be made to the [EU Settlement Scheme](#) (EUSS).

The milestone is an opportunity to bring the deadline to the attention of EU, EEA and Swiss citizens wherever possible.

All EU, EEA and Swiss citizens and their family members, who were resident in the UK by 31 December 2020, should [apply](#) without delay so that they can continue to work, study, access free healthcare and benefits in the UK after 30 June 2021.

Further information about local support services where people can get additional support to apply can be found [here](#).

Covid-19

- **Norfolk County Council launches new mobile coronavirus testing service** - Norfolk County Council is asking people to climb aboard one of four new buses to get tested for COVID-19. This can help to identify the one in three people who may have Covid without any symptoms so they can avoid passing the virus on to family, friends and colleagues.

The authority is the first in the country to commission and deploy multiple units of the specially converted mobile clinical buses, which are out and about in Norfolk from Monday (10 May). The buses are for people who aren't showing any symptoms of coronavirus, to have rapid lateral flow device (LFD) tests.

The buses have been converted by Project MOVE, a scheme created to help provide mobile clinical services in more locations. The converted Oxford Bus Company vehicles will be operated by Norfolk Go-Ahead Group sister company Konectbus.

Each bus has the capacity to undertake up to 100 observed rapid tests a day. Observed tests are where people swab themselves under the guidance of a trained operator who then processes the test, reads the result and records it.

People may want to get an observed test because:

- It is more likely to get an accurate result as a trained operator is present
- They're simple and supervised to help get it right
- People just need to turn up or book at a site
- The team register the test onto the national NHS Test and Trace system

Mobile Testing Units will be in place at the Eaton Centre Waitrose, Longwater Next and the Tesco stores in Watton and Sprowston between May 10-15.

Communities

- **Could your street be the Street that Saved?** - A call is being made for Norfolk-based communities to take part in the Street that Saved challenge this summer. The challenge will see households aiming to cut as much food waste as possible, and as an extra incentive it will pit one Norfolk community against another in Suffolk, to see who can save the most!

To find out more or nominate your street or neighbourhood visit: www.foodsavvy.org.uk/the-street-that-saved

This exciting new challenge is part of the work Norfolk County Council's waste and recycling team does with [Food Savvy](#) - a collaborative food waste reduction campaign led by Norfolk County Council, [Suffolk Waste Partnership](#) and environmental charity, [Hubbub](#).

We ask our Members to promote this initiative within their local community.

Social care

- **Foster carers** - Norfolk County Council is asking more people to consider becoming foster carers for the county's most vulnerable children. The call for more people to open their homes comes at the beginning of Foster Care Fortnight (10-23 May). The theme this year is 'Why We Care' and foster families in Norfolk have been sharing their reasons for welcoming vulnerable children and young people into their lives.

The campaign is asking people to think about a career in foster care, especially if they are reassessing their lives and priorities in the wake of the pandemic. This past year, many foster carers stepped up despite the extraordinary circumstances. One carer recently put the needs of the young person first even though he was a high risk of being in contact with Covid-19. The carer provided emergency accommodation for this young person, regardless of the chance they'd been exposed to coronavirus due to sofa surfing and kept them over the bank holiday weekend. The carer has provided support to this young person twice more since.

There are just under 1,100 Looked After Children in Norfolk, and 350 foster caring households, with more demand for couples or individuals willing to support sibling groups or children who need to experience opportunities to enjoy their childhoods.

[Find out more about becoming a foster carer in Norfolk](#)

- **More restrictions eased for care homes** - The government [announced](#) that, from 17 May, care home residents will be able to have more named visitors and more opportunities to make visits out with no need to self-isolate when they return.

As part of step three of the roadmap, the number of named family members or friends able to visit care homes will be increased from two to five, with a maximum of two visitors allowed at any one time or on any given day.

Education and settings

- **Schools** - This week again all schools were open to all children and attendance of pupils in Norfolk remains in line with the national average. Overall last week, attendance was 95.4% in primary schools, compared to 95.7% the week before and compared to 95% nationally. Attendance in secondary schools was 89.7%, compared to 90.2% last week and 89% nationally. The Department for Education have issued new guidance to take effect on May 17th, including changes to face coverings in schools - no requirement for pupils in school, but continued requirement on transport. Most other measures of control are being maintained.
- **Post 16's** - We currently have 769 young people not in education, employment or training (NEET), which represents 4.5% of young people aged 16-24. As well as supporting young people who are NEET, work is in progress with mainstream, special and the short stay schools for Norfolk (SSFN) schools to identify year 11 students who are at risk of becoming NEET so that we can target support to them over the summer period. A staged programme of transition support is planned from June through to September.

General updates

- **New Deputy Lieutenant Announced - Ian Lonsdale** - Her Majesty The Queen has approved the appointment of a new Deputy Lieutenant for the County of Norfolk. Deputy Lieutenants support the work of the Lieutenancy and represent the Lord-Lieutenant at various events throughout the county.

Having been chosen on the basis of service already given, a Deputy Lieutenant will continue to serve the community both within and outside the framework of the Lieutenancy. Their post nominals are DL.

Lieutenant Colonel Ian Lonsdale lives in the East Harling area and was born in Norwich in 1957. He was educated at Norwich School and King's College, London before he joined the Regular Army by entering RMA Sandhurst in 1978 and being commissioned into the Royal Artillery serving until 1990 obtaining the rank of Major; and then latterly in the Army Reserve until 2018, achieving the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Ian attended the Royal Agricultural College in Cirencester and obtained a BSc in Rural Estate Management then joined Francis Hornor & Son/Brown & Co based in Norwich in 1995 and has worked for a number of years as a Chartered Surveyor specialising in General Property Management. As well as representing various Regiments at Nordic Skiing and Biathlon, Orienteering, Athletics and Cross County Running at Army level, Ian also is keenly interested in most equestrian sports, fine art, furniture, antique books and Church Architecture. He is a past Chairman of the Norfolk Churches Trust.

- **Successful conviction for Norfolk County Council's Trading Standards team** - A man has on Wednesday 12 May, pleaded guilty to causing unnecessary suffering to a foal at a trial at King's Lynn magistrates court. The court heard how the defendant Mr Oliver Jones, 31, formerly of Leys Lane, Attleborough, and currently of Somerville, Peterborough, severely neglected a foal. A vet who examined the emaciated horse found it was suffering multiple health issues caused by the neglect. The case was brought to the attention of Trading Standards by World Horse Welfare in July 2019. The team started a formal investigation, which after two years, resulted in a conviction under the Animal Welfare Act 2006. Norfolk County Council Trading Standards also obtained a deprivation order giving the service the ownership of the foal. The Court awarded the county council £5,000 in costs (which have to be paid within 2 years).

If you find a welfare issue on a farm report it to our partners Citizens Advice immediately on 03454 040 506