

## Update for borough and parish councillors

### National Covid Alert: Stay Home

This week, from 5 November, new restrictions came into force in England. These restrictions, which will stay in place until 2 December, are:

- Requiring people to stay at home, except for specific purposes;
- Preventing gathering with people you do not live with, except for specific purposes;
- Closing certain businesses and venues.

Full details of the guidance can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/new-national-restrictions-from-5-november>

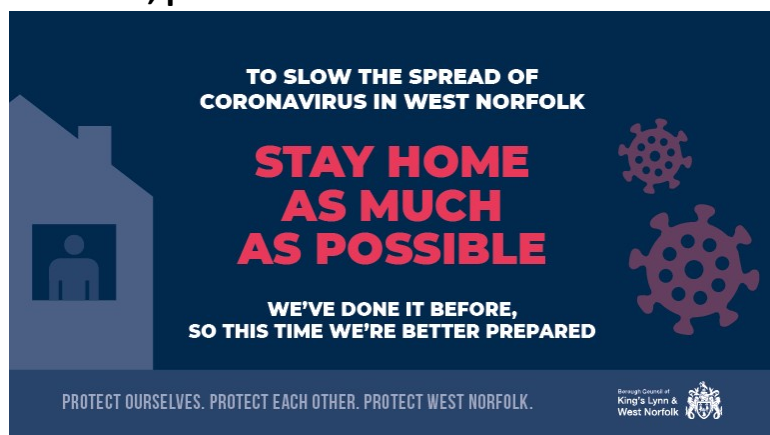
We are working through the guidance and adapting services and provision accordingly; we will be able to share more details with you in the coming weeks.



### Protect ourselves, protect each other, protect west Norfolk

In west Norfolk, our key message is 'protect ourselves, protect each other, protect west Norfolk'. We will also be reminding people of these other messages:

- We've all got to play our part;
- Coronavirus is on the rise in west Norfolk;
- Let's keep people we care about safe.



These messages will be shared across our communications – including our social media channels – over the next four weeks. We are very keen to emphasise the protect ourselves, protect each other, protect west Norfolk key message as much as possible. If anyone would like to use any of our communications materials, please get in touch with [communications@west-norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:communications@west-norfolk.gov.uk)

### Latest updates

Here are this week's latest updates:

#### Business Grants

As part of the national lockdown the government has announced further business grants for businesses which are legally required to close under the national lockdown restrictions.

It is expected that businesses who are closed for 'in person' services, but are still offering a Click and Collect service will be eligible for the grants.

The amount of the grant depends on the rateable value of the business on the date lockdown started and is:

- **£1,334** per 28 day period for eligible businesses with a rateable value up to and including £15,000,
- **£2,000** per 28 day period for eligible businesses with a rateable value from £15,001 to £50,999, and
- **£3,000** per 28 day period for eligible businesses with a rateable value of £51,000 or more

An application process will be in place for the grants, and businesses will need to complete the form to confirm they are eligible for the grant, including declaring that they have been legally required to close. Grants will not be paid without an application form.

An '**Additional Restrictions Grant**' is also available for local authorities to design a scheme to support local businesses. We will receive a grant of just over £3m to be spent in 20/21 and 21/22. We will be able to provide further details about this in due course.

### **Care Homes**

The priority is to keep residents, staff and visitors in care homes safe and well. Whilst the decision on allowing visitors, and in what circumstances, remain with the care home provider, the Director of Public Health's guidance is that alternatives to traditional face to face visits should be considered in certain areas.

On a fortnightly basis district level data will be reviewed and those areas considered to be high risk will be identified. Care providers will be informed of this and it will be recommended they consider alternatives to traditional face to face visits

Further information can be found here: [www.gov.uk/government/news/new-guidance-to-support-safe-care-home-visits-during-lockdown](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-guidance-to-support-safe-care-home-visits-during-lockdown)

### **Clinically Extremely Vulnerable**

Letters from the Department for Health and Social Care have been sent out to people who are termed clinically extremely vulnerable advising these individuals to stay at home as much as possible, except to go outdoors for exercise or to attend health appointments. They are advised they may wish to meet up with one other person from outside their household or support bubble to exercise outdoors, for example in an outdoor public place.

Those who are deemed clinically extremely vulnerable are advised to work from home and if they can't work from home then not to go to work, not to go to the shops and pharmacies, and travel only where essential. Clinically extremely vulnerable children whose GP/ clinician has confirmed they need to remain on the clinically extremely vulnerable list should not attend school, and their school will make arrangements for them to continue their education at home.

The letter is a formal shielding notification and can act as evidence for employers, including for statutory sick pay (SSP) purposes.

Everyone on the list will also receive another letter from Norfolk County Council offering support. The council will continue to offer support to residents through Lily.

More information on supporting extremely vulnerable people from Covid-19 can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19>

### **Coronavirus cases**

Coronavirus cases are on the rise in west Norfolk. The latest figures were published in a county-wide press release issued on 5 November.

Rates of coronavirus in Norfolk continue to increase with 92.2 cases per 100,000 in the seven days to October 30, compared with 89.2 per 100,000 the previous week. The highest rates are in Great Yarmouth (170), Breckland (118) and King's Lynn and West Norfolk (116).

There are now 107 people in hospital in Norfolk and Waveney and six in intensive care, this compares with 89 people in hospital last week, when two people were in intensive care.

\*The figures are changing frequently. The latest figures can be found on the Government website:

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

### **Emergency Accommodation at North Lynn**

We have written to North Lynn residents to let them know that as part of our response to the Covid 19 Pandemic, the borough council will be using the grounds of North Lynn Community Centre for the provision of emergency accommodation throughout the winter. The accommodation will consist of 6 self-contained welfare cabins which will be delivered to the site on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2020. The site will be supervised by security 24/7. There will also be four additional pods located in South Lynn.

### **Self-Isolating**

Self-isolating is crucial in helping to stop the spread of coronavirus. The guidance is:

- If you have COVID-19 symptoms or have received a positive test result you must stay at home and begin to self-isolate for 10 days from when your symptoms start.
- If you live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 you must stay at home for 14 days. The 14-day period starts from the day the first person in your house developed symptoms or, if they do not have symptoms, from the day their test was taken.

In practice, self-isolating requires people to:

- stay at home
- not go to work, school or to public areas
- not use public transport like buses, trains, tubes or taxis
- avoid visitors to your home
- ask friends, local family members or delivery services to carry out errands for you - such as getting groceries, medications or other shopping.

You can find more stay at home guidance here, including how to reduce the spread of Covid-19 in households: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

**Borough Council service impacts**

All of our service impacts can be found here: [www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/coronavirus)

Please remember our council offices are no longer 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](mailto:communications@west-norfolk.gov.uk)