**Coronavirus Latest Information, Advice and Useful Links (Updated 26 May 2020)**

This is a very fast-moving situation and our focus right now is on delaying the spread of coronavirus and ensuring our services are responding well. This is clearly hugely important and requires all of our attention.

The **Norfolk Resilience Forum** is driving our local response through multi-agency strategic and tactical delivery groups.

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

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| **Trusted sources of information** |
| * The most recent **verified data on cases in the UK and Norfolk** is available from Public Health England [here](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-track-coronavirus-cases).
* Everyone has a key role in promoting [www.nhs.uk/coronavirus](http://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus) and [www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://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.
* PHE is addressing **common questions** on its [Public Health Matters blog](https://publichealthmatters.blog.gov.uk/2020/01/23/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-what-you-need-to-know/).
* **Keep up to date:** We have [a dedicated webpage for coronavirus updates](https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/care-support-and-health/health-and-wellbeing/adults-health/coronavirus/community-support-for-people-at-home/help-with-home-food-and-finances/help-if-you-are-self-isolating) in Norfolk, and impacts on Norfolk County Council services. This is updated regularly so please do re-visit this page.
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| **Latest national announcements**  |
| * The latest information on the **government response** can be found [here](https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response).
* **Reopening High Streets Safely Fund -** A new [£50 million fund for councils to support their local high streets get safely back to business](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/50-million-boost-to-support-the-recovery-of-our-high-streets) announced today by High Streets Minister Simon Clarke (24 May). To prepare for the reopening of non-essential retail when the scientific advice allows, the Reopening High Streets Safely Fund will help councils in England introduce a range of safety measures in a move to kick-start local economies, get people back to work and customers back to the shops. It will also support a range of practical safety measures including new signs, street markings and temporary barriers. This will help get businesses get ready for when they can begin trading safely, not only in high streets and town and city centres, but also in other public spaces like beachfronts and promenades. Councils will also be able to use this money to develop local marketing campaigns to explain the changes to the public and reassure them that their high streets and other commercial areas are safe.
* **NHS support staff and social care workers’ bereavement scheme extended** - The Home Office announced it is [extending the offer of indefinite leave to remain](https://norfolkcounty.sharepoint.com/sites/Membersbriefings/Shared%20Documents/General/%E2%80%A2%09https%3A/www.gov.uk/government/news/home-office-extends-bereavement-scheme-to-nhs-support-staff-and-social-care-workers) to the families and dependants of NHS support staff and social care workers who die as result of contracting coronavirus.  The offer of indefinite leave to remain was effective immediately and retrospectively.
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| **Public information – Key messages for residents** |
| * Public Health England have made a [factsheet for children](https://coronavirusresources.phe.gov.uk/nhs-resources-facilities/resources/coronavirus-fact-sheet-children/) available. It's designed to help children understand the importance of hand washing and how to stop the spread of coronavirus.
* **Honours** - the Prime Minister announced a new process for honours nominations, making it easier to nominate those who have contributed to the coronavirus response. Contributions can include:
* frontline work supporting the most vulnerable members of society and those who have caught coronavirus
* providing critical care to coronavirus patients
* developing innovations to support the vulnerable and those with coronavirus
* going to extraordinary lengths to keep critical services going
* volunteering in the community or for service organisations in support of those affected by coronavirus
* The nomination form requires details about the candidate and a summary of the impact the person has made.

Further details and nomination template: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-honours-nomination-form> * **Defra new social media content** - Defra has recently published a video on supporting local restaurants and takeaways. Councils are invited to share the content in their messaging.
* Twitter: <https://twitter.com/DefraGovUK/status/1263481714686529537>
* Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/DefraGovUK/videos/1129568704064081>
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| **Community support** |
| * **Funding for charities** - The Culture Secretary [announced that £150 million from dormant bank and building society accounts is to be unlocked to help charities](https://norfolkcounty.sharepoint.com/sites/Membersbriefings/Shared%20Documents/General/%E2%80%A2%09https%3A/www.gov.uk/government/news/government-unlocks-150-million-from-dormant-accounts-for-coronavirus-response), social enterprises and vulnerable individuals during the coronavirus outbreak. The funding will support urgent work to tackle youth unemployment, expand access to emergency loans for civil society organisations and help improve the availability of fair, affordable credit to people in vulnerable circumstances. The government has also announced that over [£22 million in grants will be awarded to life-saving health charities providing vital services](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/22-million-awarded-to-life-saving-health-charities-during-virus-outbreak) to ensure they can meet increased demand as a result of coronavirus.
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| **Health and Adult Social Care** |
| * **Antibodies testing** - The Health and Social Care Secretary announced that [antibody tests will be available to NHS and care staff, eligible patients, and care residents in England](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-to-offer-antibody-tests-to-health-and-social-care-staff-and-patients-in-england) to find out if they have had coronavirus as part of a new national antibody testing programme. Tests will be prioritised for NHS and care staff, and clinicians will be able to request them for patients in both hospital and social care settings if they deem it appropriate.
* **Test and Trace** - The government has announced £300 million additional funding for councils in England to support the new Test and Trace Service, and to develop tailored outbreak control plans. Norfolk has been selected to be one of only 11 pilots for this new service that will be launched over the coming weeks. This will be an integrated and world-class Covid-19 Test and Trace service, designed to control the virus and enable people to live a safer and more normal life. The service will focus on 7 key themes:
	+ Care homes and schools - Planning for local outbreaks in care homes and schools
	+ High risk places, locations and communities - Identifying and planning how to manage high risk places, locations and communities of interest
	+ Local testing capacity - Identifying methods for local testing to ensure a swift response that is accessible to the entire population
	+ Contact tracing in complex settings - Assessing local and regional contact tracing capability in complex settings
	+ Data integration - Integrating national and local data and scenario planning (e.g., data management planning, including data security, NHS data linkages)
	+ Vulnerable people - Supporting vulnerable local people to get help to self-isolate
	+ Local boards - Establishing governance structures led by existing Covid-19 Health Protection Boards in conjunction with local NHS and supported by existing Gold command forums and a new member-led Board to communicate with the general public.

NCC will be developing outbreak plans during June and will be launching a public information campaign to keep the people of Norfolk informed. More details will follow in subsequent Members’ briefings.* **Care Home support plan -** On 14 May, the government asked all local authorities to review or put in place a care home support plan, drawing on local resilience and business continuity plan. This support plan is part of the £600million nationally committed to support care homes. We are working across the system to develop Norfolk's support plan, which will be submitted by 29 May and will also be added to the NCC website.
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| **Children and young people** |
| * **Social care** - Staff availability levels have recently decreased slightly compared to the relative stability of last few weeks, with 10% (previously 7%) unavailable due to sickness. Teams are covering each other and as such, frontline casework continues to be delivered and covered, albeit a proportion of that being undertaken virtually. Referrals to social work teams continue to increase, currently about c.70-80% volumes compared to near normal levels. Service at early stages of planning regarding resumption and reintroduction of greater levels of BAU activity including more face to face home visits, short breaks for non crisis/edge of care CWD etc.
* **Support for post-16 year olds** - As part of the NCC response to COVID19, Advisers in the Participation and Transition Strategy team have been making regular Welfare Calls to NEET young people aged 16/17 yrs. Where no specific issues are identified they will call again in 4 weeks’ time. Themes that have emerged from the calls include:
* Some young people with ASD, social anxiety and similar issues are generally coping well and feedback from them and families is they feel less stress and pressure to go out and be doing things. The Keeping in Touch Team, who are following up young people who are in employment, is finding most of the young people have been furloughed.
* More frequent calls are arranged where specific issues are identified and where appropriate a referral to CADS will be made by the Adviser.
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| **Education, schools and settings** |
| * **Schools reopening** – The government has confirmed that schools, colleges and nurseries across England remain on track to open to more children **from 1 June**. Primary schools will welcome back children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6, while nurseries and other early years providers will begin welcoming back children of all ages.

Secondary schools, sixth forms and colleges will also provide face-to-face contact for Year 10, Year 12 and equivalent 16-19 further education students to help them prepare for exams next year. It is expected this will begin **from 15 June**, with around a quarter of these secondary students in at any point. You can read the full statement [here](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-confirms-schools-colleges-and-nurseries-on-track-to-begin-phased-reopening).All schools remain open for children of key workers and vulnerable children, with a small number having provision at a partner school or no actual pupil demand. Within week commencing 18th May, approximately 6000 children attended school, which is a further increase on the previous week.* **Vulnerable Children** - our teams are continuing the discussions with schools, with a further 390 vulnerable pupils discussed last week. We have now held discussions with schools concerning 81% of Norfolk Children with a Social Worker. The percentage of attendance has risen for each vulnerable cohort, with the most recent information indicating that:
	+ 27% of children in need are attending school
	+ 42% of children with child protection plans are attending school.

Our next steps are to understand what is happening for the remaining 19% of children with a social worker, a proportion of these children will not be on a school roll or not in education, employment or training (NEET) and receiving other services.* **Digital Devices for disadvantaged children -** We have sent out a survey to schools asking them to review their children who are eligible for a digital device as part of the Government ‘devices for disadvantage children scheme’. This will help us ensure that our allocation of devices goes to those children who do not currently have access to a device. We expect the devices to be sent to us later in June, at which point we can commence distribution to the learning institutions of each identified child/young person, although the actual delivery date to NCC has not been confirmed to us.
* **School Provision over half term -** There is no central Government or LA directive for schools to remain open over half term. Our position, which matches updated DfE guidance, is that we trust schools to make arrangements that work for their school community, in consultation with parents and carers of vulnerable children and those who are critical workers. We have communicated this to schools.
* **Helping children continue their education during coronavirus** - The Department for Education has [published advice](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-secondary-school-children-continue-their-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19) for parents and carers on supporting the home learning of secondary school children.
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| **Business and economy**  |
| * **Timeline for retail to reopen** - The government has announced a roadmap for reopening a broader range of shops starting from next month.

From **1 June 2020**, it intends to allow outdoor markets to reopen, subject to all premises being made COVID-secure, as well as car showrooms, which often have significant outdoor space and where it is generally easier to apply social distancing.From **15 June 2020**, UK Government intends to allow all other retailers, ranging from shops selling clothes, shoes, toys, furniture, books, and electronics, plus tailors, auction houses, photography studios, and indoor markets, if the Government’s five tests are met and they follow the COVID-19 secure guidelines. You can read the full statement [here](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-sets-out-timeline-for-retail-to-reopen-in-june).* Updated guidance for the retail sector has been published alongside this announcement, detailing the measures retailers should take to meet the necessary social distancing and hygiene standards. You can find the guidance [here](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19/shops-and-branches).
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| **Service updates** |
| * **Norfolk Libraries provide lifeline for thousands during lockdown** - Thousands of residents have been [turning to Norfolk’s libraries during the lockdown](https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/news/2020/05/norfolk-libraries-provide-lifeline-for-thousands-during-lockdown) - with a surge in online borrowing and people using new digital library activities. Tens of thousands more eBooks were downloaded this April than last year - up 63%, while the number of people using the eBook service jumped 80% and just over two thousand new people signed up to use the library online for the first time, in March.

As well as books, many of Norfolk libraries’ popular events have gone digital to help keep people connected. Films of activities run by libraries for babies, children and young people have already been viewed over 172,000 times. That includes over 93,000 views of Bounce and Rhyme session videos which have gone online to help parents and carers keep their toddlers active.Norfolk’s libraries have also continued to support the county’s small businesses during lockdown through its Business and IP Centre (BIPC) by providing video content and have run 67 online events including 1-to-1 advisory clinics and free webinar tutorials.* **INFORMATION ON ALL NCC SERVICE DISRUPTIONS AND CLOSURES CAN BE FOUND** [HERE](https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/safety/service-disruptions)
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