

**Latest Information, Advice, Useful Links and Service Updates (Updated 29 April 2021)**

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

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| **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](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-track-coronavirus-cases) and the Norfolk Insights website [here](https://www.norfolkinsight.org.uk/coronavirus/).
* 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.
* **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/) 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](https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/safety/service-disruptions). The council will continue to monitor its services and, if regulations and circumstances change, it will review its current plans.
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| **Latest national announcements** |
| * **Health Secretary’s statement on coronavirus -** On28 April, the Health Secretary, Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP, gave a [statement](https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/health-and-social-care-secretarys-statement-on-coronavirus-covid-19-28-april-2021) on coronavirus, and:
* confirmed that the government’s Vaccines Taskforce has secured a further [60 million doses of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-secures-extra-60-million-pfizerbiontech-covid-19-vaccines), as part of the booster programme from later this year
* provided an update on a [new study](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/one-dose-of-covid-19-vaccine-can-cut-household-transmission-by-up-to-half) by Public Health England (PHE). The study has shown that people who have had one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine were between 38% and 49% less likely to pass the virus on to their household contacts than those who were unvaccinated. Protection was seen from around 14 days after vaccination, with similar levels of protection regardless of age of cases or contacts. This protection is on top of the reduced risk of a vaccinated person developing symptomatic infection in the first place, which is around 60 to 65% four weeks after one dose of either vaccine.
* **Encouraging vaccine take-up** - Earlier this week, NHS England and Improvement launched a new national campaign called ‘Every vaccination gives us hope’, to encourage under-50s to take up the offer of a COVID-19 vaccine during the second phase of the roll-out. The campaign includes a TV advert which highlights the significant role the vaccine is playing in preventing infections, hospitalisations and deaths. It aired for the first time on ITV on 26 April and showcased the health workers and volunteers involved in the rollout across the UK, as well as those who have had the vaccine. The advert will also run across radio, multicultural media and social media.
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| **Messages for residents** |
| * **Take a test – help protect -** Taking a few simple preventative steps could help us all protect each other as COVID-19 restrictions lessen over the next couple of months. Residents now have a number of different ways of accessing symptom-free tests which have been shown to identify cases we would otherwise not find, allowing people to isolate, preventing further spread of the disease and saving lives. It is important to also remember that even with a negative test result, people must continue to follow national and local rules and guidelines including regular handwashing, social distancing and wearing face coverings, where required. Details on how to get tested can be found [here](https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/care-support-and-health/health-and-wellbeing/adults-health/coronavirus/testing).
* **Out and about in Norfolk** – Norfolk has a wonderful environment and heritage, and with the May bank holiday approaching, residents have the opportunity to explore both. Information on the Norfolk Trails, Norfolk Museums, cycling routes and activities for children and young people can be found [here.](https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/out-and-about-in-norfolk) Please make sure you comply with all the social distancing rules.
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| **Covid-19** |
| * **Vaccination -** The COVID-19 vaccine is being offered to [people who are eligible](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-why-you-are-being-asked-to-wait/why-you-have-to-wait-for-your-covid-19-vaccine). The NHS will contact you when it is your turn. The [NHS website](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/how-you-will-be-contacted/) also provides information on who can book an appointment **without** being contacted first.
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| **Social care** |
| * **Free PPE for Carers who live separately to those they care for -** Norfolk County Council is now able to provide a free PPE pack to any unpaid carers who live separately from the person they are caring for. This is being funded by the Department for Health and Social Care.

The packs will include Personal Protective Equipment PPE) to support them in their role as a carer. We have included gloves, masks, aprons and bottles of hand sanitiser. If you know anyone who would like to receive a pack, please direct them to the link below where they can register their details, tell us about their caring situation, and request a pack to be delivered to their home or nearby collection point.Please click on the link below which will take you straight to the form: <https://www.careplace.org.uk/Information/PPE_UnpaidCarers/?LA=Norfolk>  |
| **Education and settings** |
| * **Schools -** All schools are fully open to all children and attendance of pupils in Norfolk schools remains in line with the national average. Overall last week attendance was 96.2% in primary schools and 90.9% in secondary.
* **Post 16’s -** Planning for year 11 and 12 transitions into post 16 education has begun including targeting vulnerable cohorts e.g. home educated, CME and SSFN. Year 11 and 12 enhanced transition support into post 16 education through identification of Y11 at risk of NEET and planning for Summer 2021 Transition programme
* **Early Years -** We currently have 675 settings open, which leaves 35 as still closed and these are predominantly childminders. 14,053 children attending of which 4,508 are children of critical workers, and 713 of those are vulnerable - 240 have a social worker and 121 have an EHCP. As you will already know we are no longer offering workplace testing as the DfE have now allowed all providers to access LFTs to use at home.
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| **General updates** |
| * **Fire Service -**
	+ **Outdoor fire safety -** Patio heaters, barbecues and fire pits have been involved in a number of accidental fires attended by our crews in recent weeks, as people are keen to socialise outdoors and stay warm on cooler evenings. These devices have been placed near to flammable materials, causing fences, sheds, trees and homes to catch fire. Following two fires at licensed premises started by patio heaters, businesses are being asked to ensure they have carried out risk assessments if utilising outdoor spaces in new ways. The fire service is available to provide advice and support to Norfolk businesses. As it has been very dry and the weather is warming up ahead of the Bank Holiday weekend, there is also concern about the spread of wildfires. This week our crews were at a large forest fire in Suffolk and we are asking the public to be careful outdoors and not to use disposable barbecues or discard smoking materials in the countryside.
	+ **Water safety -** Our water safety work with partners including police and RNLI has been well received by business owners, who were offered throwline training to help them save people in the water. The week’s activities have received some good media coverage on TV, radio and in the press.
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