

## E-Newsletter – 12<sup>th</sup> November 2020

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### **1) Information Corner**

#### **Yoda the cat has been found**

Just to let you all know that Yoda has been found safe and well after a call to the owners by a gentleman in St James Avenue. The owners rescued Yoda from the top of someone's roof in St Augustine's Avenue on Monday evening.

The owners have asked me to pass on their thanks to all who sent suggestions and kind wishes for his safe return.

#### **Online junk food advertising ban**

The Government has unveiled plans to introduce a total ban on online junk food advertising – the toughest digital marketing restrictions in the world – in an effort to tackle the growing obesity crisis.

#### **City Fibre**

The project for City fibre to provide full fibre broadband to well over 90% of Southend is under way and expected to be completed within the next 2 years.

Burges road is expected to be completed by mid 2021, the surrounding area will also be completed at a similar time.

## **School Street – Greenways - November and will be in operation Monday to Friday between 8:00am – 9:00am and 2:30pm – 3:30pm, term-time only.**

As part of the Department for Transport (DfT) Emergency Active Travel Funding, Southend Borough Council will be implementing an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) in Greenways. The TRO will create two pilot 'School Streets' within the Borough which will allow for adequate safe social distancing, encourage active travel modes of transport and result in a safer, healthier and more pleasant environment for all.

A School Street is essentially a road outside a school with a restriction on motorised traffic at school drop-off and pick-up times. The restriction applies to school traffic (excluding school staff) and through traffic only; residents of the street are exempt and can apply to Southend Council for a permit for their vehicle free of charge.

The Experimental Traffic Regulation Order is due to come into effect during November and will be in operation Monday to Friday between 8:00am – 9:00am and 2:30pm – 3:30pm, term-time only.

Greenways School are in full support of the proposal and Southend Borough Council intends to write to residents shortly to explain the pilot project in more detail; the school will also issue letters to all parents.

The only changes to the highway will be regulatory signs installed at both ends of the road and during hours of operation a removable School Street barrier and sign will be installed on the highway. The barrier will be removed to allow residents to move in and out of Greenways if required; residents will be asked to keep to 5mph at all times.

## **Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) - Dog Control**

Source: <https://yoursay.southend.gov.uk/pspo-dog-control>

The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 introduced several new tools and powers for use by councils and their partners to address anti-social behaviour in their local areas.

One such tool is a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) which deals with anti-social behaviour in an area which could have a harmful effect on the quality of life for those in the local community. It can ban certain behaviours, or introduce specific requirements. In this case the proposed order relates to the control of dogs in public areas.

The Council acknowledges and appreciates that most dog owners are responsible, properly control their dogs and clear up any dog fouling. However, it is important to identify and address the problems caused by irresponsible dog owners, and a PSPO is a potential way to address this.

The previous orders in relation to dog control expired in October 2020 and SBC are carrying out a full review to assist with the decision of if a further order is required.

The previous Dog Control Orders included the following:

**Cleaning up dog mess** - When a dog under your control fouls, it is your responsibility to clean up the mess.

**Limiting Number of Dogs being under the control of one individual** - A limit of walking no more than 4 dogs to ensure that dogs are kept under control by the handler

**Dogs on a lead** - Dogs must be kept on a lead along all pedestrian areas and roads. Dogs should also be kept on leads in all allotments, promenades and named formal gardens, cemeteries, church yards, bowling greens and car parks

**Putting a Dog on a Lead when requested to do so** - Designated Officers can instruct a dog handler to put and keep their dog on a lead, if they feel there are reasonable grounds to do so i.e. a dog is acting aggressively, or causing nuisance or concern to others

**Dog Exclusion Areas** - Dogs are excluded from named areas including Children's play areas, sports areas and in respect of all beaches between 1st May and 30th September.

Under any potential PSPO authorised officers could issue fixed penalty notices up to £100 for those who don't comply with the PSPO although in certain circumstances a warning or an opportunity to comply with the PSPO could be sufficient to remedy the breach.

SBC is pleased to be able to advise you that the current Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) for dog controls is now available for review and comment. The consultation is available to view at <https://yoursay.southend.gov.uk/pspo-dog-control> and will run until the 7th December 2020.

The review affects all potential dog control measures within the Borough and SBC want to hear what you think. SBC would like to hear your views on:

Is an order necessary?

If yes:

Do there need to be any changes to the previous restrictions?

Do there need to be any changes to the areas that were included?

Should any of the previous restrictions be excluded?

Are there any additional disruptive behaviours that were not previously included?

The consultation runs for four weeks and is open to all residents and businesses living or trading in the Borough.

SBC hopes you will have an opportunity to review the PSPO and take part in the consultation and provide any comments you may have via the consultation portal.

The results of this consultation will be published in the early 2021. These will be available on the SBC "Your Say" Southend site.

## **Support grants available for Southend businesses forced to close in second lockdown**

Businesses which have been ordered to close for four weeks due to the national COVID-19 restrictions may be eligible for a government grant of up to £3,000.

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council will be able to provide these grants across the borough. Businesses that are eligible include those that have been required to close during the 4-week lockdown from 5 November 2020 to 2 December 2020 and which are in the non-essential retail, leisure, personal care, sports facilities and hospitality sectors. The amount of grant available is as follows:

For properties with a rateable value of £15k or under, grants to be £1,334 per month, or £667 per two weeks

For properties with a rateable value of between £15k-£51k grants to be £2,000 per month, or £1,000 per two weeks

For properties with a rateable value of £51k or over grants to be £3,000 per month, or £1,500 per two weeks

Businesses must be closed for the entirety of the 28-day payment cycle to be eligible and must complete a simple form on the council's website in order to apply. The Government have advised that an application must be completed to adhere to the state aid regulations, and to provide confirmation of bank details.

We will ensure payments reach our businesses within a few days and would ask businesses to avoid contacting us unless they have not received their grant after a day 10-day period.

Applicants can receive an update by emailing [businessrates@southend.gov.uk](mailto:businessrates@southend.gov.uk) and putting "Call back" with their service request number in the email subject field.

Further information and a link to the application form, please visit [www.southend.gov.uk/businesscorona](http://www.southend.gov.uk/businesscorona)

### **Requirement to Self-Isolate**

Businesses are reminded that if people have been in close contact with a positive case or have been advised to self-isolate, they **MUST** still complete the statutory 14 day isolation period. Taking a test, regardless of the outcome, does not negate this requirement. A negative test result does not mean they are free from the risk of subsequently becoming infectious and passing on the virus, therefore they are still required, by law, to isolate for the required period of time.

### **Risk Assessments**

All businesses are reminded of the legal requirement to have a COVID-19 risk assessment and share this with staff. Our ad-hoc inspections have indicated that there are still businesses that have not completed a risk assessment, recorded it and shared it with their staff.

If your business is one that has been required to close, now is a good time to check through your procedures to ensure they are COVID-19 compliant, ready for when your business can re-open.

### **Business closures**

We have received a large number of calls and emails relating to the guidance on closures and would ask all businesses to review the COVID-19 guidance that was issued by Government.

## **Reporting of positive COVID cases within your workforce**

If you have a confirmed COVID-19 case within your business, please refer to the Guidance and Action Card for your sector and contact the Health Protection Team on 0300 303 8537, option 1 or email [EastofEnglandHPT@phe.gov.uk](mailto:EastofEnglandHPT@phe.gov.uk)

## **2) Temporary Road Closures**

**London Road, Westcliff-On-Sea – 23<sup>rd</sup> November till 28<sup>th</sup> November – Safety of public and workforce whilst gas works take place.**

The Effect of the order will be to:

Prohibit any vehicle from parking, waiting, loading & unloading on London Road Westcliff on Sea from outside & opposite No 853 to its junction with Southbourne Grove.

The works are scheduled to commence on **23th November 2020 till 28th November 2020** or where appropriate signs are showing and weather permitting.

The closure is required for the safety of the public and workforce whilst gas works take place. Access for emergency vehicles, residents and pedestrians will be maintained at all times during the closure.

## **3) A127 Major Works (A127 and the Bell Junction)**

### **A127 Bell Junction - 9th Nov to 13th Nov**

There will be off-peak (09:00 to 15:00) northbound lane closures on Hopleythick Lane, and westbound off-peak (09:00 to 15:00) lane closures on the A127 (at the Bell Junction), for new carriageway widening and footway works.

### **A127 Essential Major Maintenance - 9th Nov to 13th Nov**

Carriageway stabilisation works will be undertaken during night-time (20:00 to 06:30) westbound road closures, from Kent Elms to Bellhouse Lane.

Carriageway drainage gully repairs and installation works are continuing during night-time (20:00 to 06:30) westbound lane closures, from Bellhouse Lane to the Borough Boundary

### **A127 Kent Elms - 14th Nov to 15th Nov**

Carriageway markings to be undertaken during a night-time (20:00 to 06:30 Sat) eastbound closure, from Bellhouse Lane to Tesco Roundabout, and night-time (20:00 to 06:30 Sun) westbound closure, from Tesco Roundabout to Bellhouse Lane.

## **A127 Essential Major Maintenance - Kent Elms to Bellhouse Lane road closures**

Following on from the essential carriageway strengthening and repair work that was undertaken in September in the A127 east bound carriageway between Bellhouse Lane and Kent Elms. These works required overnight road closures and also required a weekend closure. Works are now proposed to be undertaken in the A127 westbound carriageway between Kent Elms and Bellhouse Lane, again these works require overnight road closures and a weekend closure.

The contractor Eurovia will commence overnight (8pm - 6:30am) road closures from 9 November. The weekend closure is proposed for the weekend of Friday 27 November until Monday 6:30am 30 November. As you will appreciate these time scales are dependent on weather conditions, Covid-19 restrictions and progress on site.

As previously, residents and businesses within the road closure will be provided access. Eurovia are issuing a letter to local businesses, residents and key stakeholders, including buses and taxi's. Variable message signs and local signage will inform drivers.

## **Lane and road closures planned for essential A127 works**

Two overnight road closures will be in place this weekend as Eurovia carry out essential maintenance work along stretches of the A127.

The closures will be in place on Saturday 14 (eastbound) and Sunday 15 (westbound), between Bellhouse Lane and Tesco roundabout so that Eurovia can carry out lining works close to the Kent Elms Junction.

Full details of the closures are below:

- Saturday 14 November (eastbound) 8pm – 6.30am Sunday 15 November – From Bellhouse Lane to Tesco roundabout
- Rayleigh Road access - no access on to the A127
- Bridgwater Drive – left turn only onto A127 westbound
- Sunday 15 November (westbound) 8pm – 6.30am Monday 16 November - from Tesco roundabout to Bellhouse Lane
- A1158 (Prince Avenue) no access on to the A127
- Bridgwater Drive - no access on to the A127
- Rayleigh Road – left turn only onto A127 eastbound

Diversions for the eastbound closures will be Bellhouse Lane to Prittlewell Chase. Diversion for the westbound closures will be Prittlewell Chase to Bellhouse Lane.

In addition, essential maintenance works are currently taking place on a very poor section of the A127 westbound between Kent Elms and Bellhouse Lane. The work involves filling voids under the concrete carriageway, removing tarmac to expose the concrete slab, repairing the concrete slab and then replacing the road surface back to existing levels. The works require a number of overnight road closures and a full weekend closure from 8pm Friday 27 November until 6:30am Monday 30 November to ensure the safety of the public and workers. Vehicle access will be provided to residents and businesses during this closure.

Diversions will be via Rayleigh Road, turning right at Kent Elms junction, Rayleigh Road and then Progress Road back on to the A127. All diversions will be clearly signposted.

Variable message signs and local traffic management signs will inform drivers. Traffic signal engineers will be monitoring the traffic signals and flows during the weekend closure.

#### **4) List of Applications Registered** **Week Ending 6<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

APPLN. NO: 20/01767/FULH  
Officer: Oliver Hart  
ERECT SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSION  
**72 GLYNDE WAY SOUTHEND-ON-SEA ESSEX**

**Ward. Southchurch**  
Date Valid. 22 October 2020

APPLN. NO: 20/01812/FULH  
Officer: Spyros Mouratidis  
REPLACE CONSERVATORY WITH SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSION WITH  
ROOF LANTERNS  
**WINDYRIDGE REBELS LANE SOUTHEND-ON-SEA**

**Ward. Southchurch**  
Date Valid. 27 October 2020

APPLN. NO: 20/01817/FULH  
Officer: Julie Ramsey  
ERECT TWO STOREY REAR AND SIDE EXTENSIONS, ERECT FIRST FLOOR  
EXTENSION OVER EXISTING PORCH TO FRONT, ROOF EXTENSION TO REAR  
AND DORMER TO SIDE TO FORM HABITABLE ACCOMMODATION IN THE  
LOFTSPACE  
**52 DAINES WAY THORPE BAY ESSEX**

**Ward. Southchurch**  
Date Valid. 3 November 2020

APPLN. NO: 20/01839/FULH  
Officer: Abbie Greenwood  
ERECT SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSION, ERECT FIRST FLOOR SIDE  
EXTENSION AND PART CONVERT GARAGE INTO HABITABLE  
ACOMMODATION

**Ward. Southchurch**  
Date Valid. 2 November 2020

## 21 WANSFELL GARDENS THORPE BAY ESSEX

APPLN. NO: 20/01657/FUL

Officer: Robert Lilburn

ERECT FIRST FLOOR EXTENSION TO REAR  
**187 THE BROADWAY THORPE BAY ESSEX**

**Ward. Thorpe**

Date Valid. 30 October 2020

APPLN. NO: 20/01786/FULH

Officer: Scott Davison

RAISE RIDGE HEIGHT, HIP TO GABLE ROOF EXTENSIONS, ERECT DORMERS TO FRONT AND REAR, INSTALL TERRACE TO FIRST FLOOR TO REAR AND JULIETTE BALCONY TO SECOND FLOOR TO REAR, ALTER ROOF TO EXISTING SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSION, ALTER ELEVATIONS  
**95 THE BROADWAY THORPE BAY ESSEX**

**Ward. Thorpe**

Date Valid. 5 November 2020

## **5) List of Decisions Issued** **Week Ending 8<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

APPLN. NO: 20/01495/FULH

Officer: Oliver Hart

HIP TO GABLE ROOF EXTENSION AND INSTALL DORMER TO REAR WITH JULIETTE BALCONY TO FORM HABITABLE ACCOMMODATION IN THE LOFTSPACE, ERECT TWO STOREY SIDE EXTENSION WITH RECESSED BALCONY TO REAR AND ERECT SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSION  
**31 ULSTER AVENUE SHOEBURYNES SOUTHEND-ON-SEA**

Decision: Refuse Permission

**Ward. West Shoebury**

APPLN. NO: 20/01510/FULH

Officer: Kara Elliott

ERECT SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSION, CONVERT GARAGE INTO HABITABLE ACCOMMODATION, ALTER ELEVATIONS  
**9 FITZWARREN SHOEBURYNES SOUTHEND-ON-SEA**

Decision: Grant Conditional Permission

**Ward. West Shoebury**

APPLN. NO: 20/01537/CLP

Officer: Oliver Hart

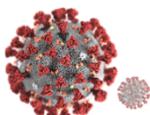
CONVERT GARAGE INTO HABITABLE ACCOMMODATION, ALTER FRONT ELEVATIONS (LAWFUL DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATE-PROPOSED)

**179 BISHOPSTEIGNTON SHOEBURYNES ESSEX**

Decision: Refuse Lawful Development Certificate

**Ward. West Shoebury**

## **6) Coronavirus Information**



## PHE Report - 9<sup>th</sup> November

Public Health England	<b>Report date: 09/11/2020</b>
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### Summary

Unitary LA	Individuals tested per 100,000 population (7-day moving average)	Percentage individuals test positive (weekly)	Case rate per 100,000 population this week (weekly)	Case rate per 100,000 population last week (weekly)	Rate of case rate rise (%)
Southend-on-Sea	366.8	4.3%	101	91.7	10.1%

### Students to go home in evacuation-style operation

An evacuation-style operation is to be launched to enable students to return home safely for Christmas, once the national lockdown in England ends. Universities will work with their local public health bodies to allocate their students travel slots during the week of 3 to 9 December. New guidance is due to be issued by the Department for Education.

### Vaccination drive to get under way on Dec 1

The NHS has been told to get ready for mass COVID-19 vaccination of the public from December 1, in one of the biggest immunisation drives in British history. This will see up to 1,500 GP practices and drive-through centres instructed to open every day from 8am to 8pm, each dispensing a minimum of 1,000 jabs a week. It means there will be capacity for at least one million doses to be administered each week.

### Hospitals on alert for new strain of coronavirus

Every hospital has been told to isolate suspected 'mink virus' patients, a new strain of the virus feared to be resistant to vaccines. The strain, identified in Denmark, has been detected in 12 people after jumping from mink to humans. The NHS alert warns that anyone who travelled to Denmark in the last two weeks must not be offered routine outpatient, ambulatory or primary care and non-urgent procedures should be delayed.

### UK first country in Europe to pass 50,000 COVID-19 deaths

The UK has become the first country in Europe to pass 50,000 coronavirus deaths, government figures show. A total of 50,365 people have died within 28 days of a positive test, up 595 in the past 24 hours, while a further 22,950 cases of coronavirus were recorded yesterday (11<sup>th</sup>).

### Simplified regional lockdown system considered

The tier system of coronavirus restrictions will reportedly be changed before it is reintroduced due to concerns over compliance. The Government is said to be considering dividing England up into large regions, that will then be placed into tiers in order to simplify the system introduced last month.

## **A message from Southend's Director of Public Health - Why it's still important for Southend to stick to the rules - Covid 19 update**

On the first day of the new national restrictions, our local Director of Public Health, explains the main changes to the rules, and why they're important to our borough.

He gives an important thank you message at the end, to everyone who's continuing to work hard to keep our cases down - that's you, our citizens and businesses.

Please take 3 minutes to watch. Thank you.

#StaySafeSouthend#Coronavirus#ThankYou#KeepGoingSouthend

For full details of the latest Government restrictions please visit the Gov website

## **Support for businesses that are required to close**

Information on support for businesses that experience increased costs or disruptions to their cash flow, as a result of this lockdown can be found on our website.

This includes grant funding for companies which match certain criteria.

Those that qualify will be required to complete an application form which will be made available as soon as possible on the same page.

For trusted information, please visit: [www.southend.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.southend.gov.uk/coronavirus)

If you need help and have no family or support locally please call our helpline on 01702 212497.

## **Weekly Briefing on Local Decisions & Actions re Coronavirus outbreak 6<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

### **Key updates/actions**

**National restrictions** – Came in to effect on Thursday 5 November 2020. Please see full details of the restrictions on GOV.UK

**Coronavirus case data:** This is published on our website and now also includes the daily 7 day rate of positive cases per 100,000. Some of the data from that page has been pulled out and is below:

7-day rate of positive cases as of 5 November was 88.5 per 100,000 (down from 92.8 per 100,000 on 29 October – it was 67.7 per 100,000 on 22 October). The rate in the 60 and over age bracket is at 55 per 100,000 (down from 76.9 per 100,000 on 29 October).

ONS death data: Southend-on-Sea residents' deaths registered inside and outside of Southend-on-Sea with any mention of COVID-19 on the death certificate that occurred up to 23 October 2020 but were registered up to 31 October 2020: 214 (no change)

**Changes to Council services:** Closures and changes to Council services are updated as they happen and are available in the coronavirus section of the corporate website

**Closure** - specific media releases were sent for:

Leisure and tourism closures

Library closures (but click and collect and home delivery remain available)

**Other service updates:**

There are currently no changes to the waste service. Household waste and recycling centres remain open.

There are currently no changes to parking. Car parks are open and enforcement continues as normal.

**Stay at home:** Messages promoted throughout the week using national campaign material and local messaging, encouraging the public to heed the Government's national restrictions. A public video by the Director of Public Health was shared on our social media accounts, to explain why the national restrictions are important to Southend.

**School gates:** Parents are being urged to wear face coverings on the school run to protect others.

**Adult college learners:** A food voucher scheme has been launched for adult college learners who are struggling during the pandemic. Read our media release

**National and local data:** A link to the national NHS Digital information shows information by time intervals (for example, 3-days, 7-days, 30-days, etc), as well as the total numbers and requests or referrals to NHS 111.

**Other**

- Members of the public who need to self-isolate but are stuck and have no local support from friends and family can call the helpline on 01702 212497. A full list of support contact numbers is available on the corporate website

## **Out of hours:**

Urgent issues arising out of hours should be reported to the out of hours service in accordance with standard practice.

The phone number is 01702 215000.

The out of hours service will then contact the relevant Council officer who is on-call or the relevant contractor such as Veolia. They also have access to the town link radio and CCTV.

## **Summary of Covid-19 related Government announcements 5<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

### **The Chancellor has today confirmed that:**

- The Furlough Job Retention scheme and self-employment support is to be extended until the end of March with government paying up to 80% of wages.
- Schemes will be reviewed in January and a decision taken as to whether employer contributions need to increase.

### **The Communities Secretary has announced a new fund for rough sleepers:**

- A further £15 million has been allocated called the 'Protect Programme' to support the ongoing efforts to provide accommodation for rough sleepers during the pandemic.
- Councils asked to make sure every rough sleeper offered somewhere safe to go, as new national restrictions start
- This will run alongside the ongoing 'Everyone In' campaign.

**The Equality and Human Rights Commission** is launching an inquiry into why lower-paid health and social care workers from ethnic minorities are at greater risk from coronavirus.

- The inquiry will examine "long-standing entrenched racial inequalities".

**Guidance for the public to take care at the coast** during lockdown to help ease pressure on the NHS and emergency services including the Coastguard.

### **Guidance for owners and operators of playgrounds and outdoor gyms has been updated:**

- outdoor gyms must be closed
- outdoor playgrounds can remain open

**Guidance for those managing council buildings** has been updated to reflect the new restrictions

**New guidance has been published for education and childcare settings** and how the new restrictions impact.

And additionally, **actions for schools has been updated**

**Guidance has been updated for all workplaces involved in the manufacturing, processing, warehousing, picking, packaging, retailing and service of food** in line with the new national restrictions.

An easy read poster has been published outlining the new restrictions

**The travel corridor pages have been updated:**

People arriving from Germany and Sweden from Saturday 7th Nov will be required to self-isolate.

**MHCLG** would also like to remind that the deadline for submitting the seventh round of the Coronavirus financial data return is 11pm on 6 November.

MHCLG will be unable to accept responses received after the deadline.

## **Summary of Covid-19 related Government announcements 6<sup>th</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

Boris Johnson delivered a press conference at 5pm on the 9<sup>th</sup>. He highlighted:

- **Vaccine development**

Preliminary Pfizer analysis is demonstrating 90% effective at protecting against the virus in its most recent trial, yet awaits peer review.

30m doses are ordered for the UK - enough for 33% of the population. The UK is ready to use it if it is approved for use. 500m doses have also been ordered from five other vaccine providers.

- **Data update**

On Friday, Sage reported that the  $r$  is above one in England - not accounting for current restrictions

Death cases are rising at around 300 per day – double the rate of 14 days ago.

Hospitalisations have risen from 10k two weeks ago to 13k on the 5<sup>th</sup> November.

- **Mass testing**

A testing pilot began on Friday in Liverpool, with 19 testing centres.

Hundreds of thousands of rapid lateral-flow tests are being delivered to local authorities in England and devolved administrations.

We are working with universities to establish similar mass testing for students.

- **Preventative measures**

It is more important than ever to follow the rules.

Remember hands, face, space to protect the NHS and save lives.

Brigadier Fossey also summarised the Military response to lateral-flow device rapid testing, described as 'a possible route out of lockdown':

- The military are 'standing ready to serve our communities'.
- Many rapid testing sites are established across the country, with 19 in Liverpool. The ambition is to break chains of transmission and drive down cases.
- The lateral-flow testing device returns results within one hour, by email or SMS, without lab requirements.
- There have been successes in translating the testing procedure into sign language at testing sites.

**Department of Health and Social Care has published:**

New guidance on how you can get informal childcare for children aged 13 or under from friends and family you do not live with.

**DfT has published:**

New guidance with the freight exemption removed so UK haulage drivers arriving from Denmark are now required to self-isolate on entry to England.

**Ofsted published:**

Updated guidance stating that during the period of national restrictions, they will carry out their work remotely where they can, only going on site where it is necessary to do so, or in response to urgent concerns.

**DWP has published:**

A new £170m Covid Winter Grant Scheme. This funding will be ring-fenced, with at least 80% earmarked to support with food and bills and will cover the period to the end of March 2021. Councils will receive the funding at the beginning of December 2020. This scheme will allow councils to support the hardest-hit families and individuals, as well as provide food for children who need it over the holidays. Councils understand which groups need support and are best placed to ensure appropriate holiday support is provided, which is why they will distribute the funds,

rather than schools, who will continue providing meals for disadvantaged children during term-time. The Holiday Activities and Food Programme, which has provided healthy food and enriching activities to disadvantaged children since 2018, will also be expanded across England next year. This programme will cover Easter, summer and Christmas in 2021, and will be available to children in every council in England.

New guidance that jobcentres will remain open, as they have throughout this pandemic, to provide essential services and support customer that need help at this difficult time.

## **MHCLG has published:**

Updated guidance which outlines how the traditional Armistice Day wreath laying events can take place on 11 November.

Updated guidance for small marriages and civil partnerships in line with the new national restrictions that commenced on 5 November, to confirm that wedding and civil partnership receptions and celebrations are not permitted to take place.

## **Summary of Covid-19 related Government announcements 10<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

### **HM Revenue and Customs**

- Guidance to check if you can claim back Statutory Sick Pay paid to employees is updated for employees who have been advised by letter to shield because they're clinically extremely vulnerable.

### **Department of Health and Social Care**

- In a press release, 600,000 rapid-turnaround lateral flow tests will be sent out by NHS Test and Trace to local public health leaders this week.
  - o Test kits will be issued to over 50 directors of public health to enable local teams to direct and deliver community testing based on local knowledge. Each will receive a batch of 10,000 antigen lateral flow devices to pilot test priority groups.
  - o Directors of public health will determine how to prioritise allocation, based on the specific needs of their communities, and will determine how people in the local area are tested.

### **DfE**

- In new guidance on school leadership support, DfE are offering time-limited, school-to-school recovery support to schools and academy trusts, to help overcome challenges this year.
  - o Support will be in the form of dedicated time with an experienced system leader for up to five days. Additional support to schools with particularly challenging needs may also be provided.

- o Further information on the support available, eligibility criteria and how to apply can be found in the guidance on school leadership support.

## **OFSTED**

- OFSTED published its second report on the effects of the pandemic across the sectors it inspects and regulates. The report finds that some children, of all ages and backgrounds, have lost some basic skills and learning as a result of school closures and restrictions on movement.

## **MHCLG**

- Two pieces of Local Authority guidance are published on funding and accounting for council housing. These cover the operation of the Housing Revenue Account ring-fence as well as guidance for formal applications to disapply government rent policy.

## **Summary of Covid-19 related Government announcements 11<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

### **DfE**

- New guidance is published on how higher education providers can support students to travel home at the end of the term, if they choose to do so, while controlling coronavirus transmission risk.

### **Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy**

- Guidance is updated for councils on paying grants to support businesses during the period of new national restrictions and periods of local restrictions.

### **OFSTED**

- Guidance is published on how business owners and managers should report a coronavirus incident at their nursery, childminder business or other day care to OFSTED.

### **Education and Skills Funding Agency**

- Education and Skills Funding Agency has published their latest information and actions for academies, schools, colleges, councils and further education providers.

### **MHCLG**

- In an announcement today (11<sup>th</sup>), restaurants, pubs and cafes will get automatic freedoms to provide food takeaway services for another year. This was due to end on 23 March 2021, but will now be extended. The measures help give these businesses the confidence they need to continue to serve customers and retain their staff. It will also help them adapt to longer-term changes they may wish to introduce, such as serving their customers from market stalls.

## **C19 National Foresight Group**

The C19 National Foresight Group have made their “Second Wave Briefing: Lessons from the First Wave” report available to the public. The document highlights the main learning from the C19 National Foresight Group across the UK from the first wave.

### **Summary of Covid-19 related Government announcements 12<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

The Business Secretary made a statement on the response to coronavirus and outlined levels of support for businesses and included an update on the Kickstart Scheme and Vaccines Taskforce.

Guidance has been updated on what parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges

Guidance has also been updated on what further education (FE) colleges and providers need to know for the autumn term.

MHCLG has highlighted that Gypsy and Traveller communities are likely to be particularly vulnerable to coronavirus and may need assistance during the period of new national restrictions.

Imperial College London and Ipsos MORI have published full results from the sixth report of one of the country’s largest studies into coronavirus infections in England.

An extensive clinical evaluation from Public Health England (PHE) Porton Down and Oxford University has shown that newly deployed lateral flow tests are highly reliable, sensitive and accurate in multiple settings.

A report from Public Health England has found that people with learning disabilities had higher death rate from COVID-19

The travel corridor lists have been updated and several countries removed. This means that travellers arriving in the UK will need to self-isolate from:

UAE, Qatar, Turks and Caicos Islands, Laos, Iceland, Cambodia, Chile, and Bahrain

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