

## E-Newsletter – 23rd December 2020

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### **1) Information Corner**

#### **General Warning:**

There are not so nice people out there as we have been contacted by a member who had their home broken into last week.

The member said a lady knocked on his door a few days previous to this and asked him where The Broadway was. The member now believes that she was a scout seeing what type of security he had, what was in the house and who lived there. A few nights later, they went to bed and when they got up in the morning their car had been stolen. As they did not double lock their front door, the burglar was able to put

a wire hanger through their letterbox and pull down the door handle. The searched downstairs and found their car keys and stole their car.

Remember:

- Please do not leave your keys downstairs, take them up with you.
- Double lock your front door before you go to bed or when you go out

## **Pollinator strategy creating a buzz in Southend**

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council is seeking residents' views and comments on an updated pollinator strategy, which looks at improving and increasing habitats for pollinators across the borough.

Pollinators play a key role in fertilising plants, in turn improving the local eco-system and creating a habitat for pollinators to thrive in the town. In short, pollinators eat pollen and nectar from flowers, it sticks to their bodies, it transfers between flowers they visit, and this fertilises the plants visited and allows the plants to reproduce and grow fruits and seeds.

The council is committed to delivering on the following outcomes, which form part of the strategy:

- More, bigger, better, joined-up, diverse and high-quality flower-rich habitats (including nesting places and shelter) supporting our pollinators across the borough
- Healthy bees and other pollinators which are more resilient to climate change and severe weather events
- Enhanced awareness across the borough including a greater public understanding of the essential needs of pollinators
- Evidence of actions taken to support pollinators

The consultation, which went live Tuesday 15 December and runs until Tuesday 16 February, can be found at [www.southend.gov.uk/beehappy](http://www.southend.gov.uk/beehappy)

## **Possible Scam**

We have been contacted by a member and please see his comments below:

Within the space of one hour we received 5 calls on the home phone, each from different mobile numbers but the recorded message on each call was the same. An American female voice told us that the iPhone we had ordered from Amazon would be delivered tomorrow and the £900 plus £7.99 express delivery would be billed to our credit card. If this was ordered in error please press 1. Obviously a scam, probably a premium rate number as we didn't order anything from Amazon.

Please be extremely careful, do not press any numbers and put the phone down if you do not know or have not ordered anything.

Please see below a letter that I have received from **Mid and South Essex Health and Care Partnership** that I wanted to share with you.

‘As our fight against COVID-19 continues, the number of hospital admissions have again risen to challenging levels which requires of us immediate and timely responses to ensure the safety and care of both our patients and staff.

Whilst our hospitals are busy it is important to reassure the public that they are open.

To support the care of the increasing numbers of COVID-19 related admissions, some routine planned operations are being paused and surgery will continue to be prioritised based on clinical need. Cancer care remains unaffected. We have made these risk-based judgements most reluctantly as we realise they will inevitably affect the concerted efforts that we have maintained thus far to tackle the backlog of cases that developed during Wave 1. We shall however continue to prioritise cancer surgery and clinically urgent cases so far as is possible in these challenging circumstances.

The public are being advised that planned appointments should be attended unless contacted otherwise.

As we did in the first wave of the pandemic we are now having to make some changes to how services are delivered in our community inpatient and out of hospital provisions to support the acute hospitals.

Whilst these are temporary in nature, they may well continue for a number of months yet as we balance managing patients who are COVID-19 positive alongside the increased seasonal demands we see on our services at this time of year. Many of the adjustments being made are necessary so that we can make best use of available staff.

These decisions by necessity continue to be rapid, which has meant we were unable to follow the normal process of engaging with you and our local populations in working together to change, align and reprioritise service provision to meet our residents’ needs.

From this week all patients recovering from having a stroke who need community inpatient rehabilitation will now be treated at St Peter’s Hospital in Maldon.

This move is to enable them to be treated in one place away from other patients as they are at greater risk of complications from coronavirus.

These patients were previously being cared for at the Cumberlege Intermediate Care Centre (CICC) in Rochford and St Peter’s so this change centralises all the beds allocated for stroke inpatient rehabilitation on a single site as we did back in March.

CICC will now support discharge for the acute hospitals with all of its 22 beds available for intermediate care patients, including positive COVID-19 patients, with appropriate infection prevention control measures in place.

Similarly a larger intermediate care ward is being set up at Braintree Community Hospital by combining the current facility at Halstead Community Hospital at the single site.

The day unit at Braintree hospital will support a surgical ambulatory service and the prioritisation of cancer patients.

To ensure hospital care is there for patients who urgently need it we are accelerating our home-first model, so that all patients leaving hospital will now receive rehabilitation and therapy in their own homes, care homes or other designated settings.

Patients who need it will continue to receive 24-hour support. This will enable all community hospital beds to be used to support the current COVID-19 pandemic.

We also continue to have community based Urgent Care Response Teams available to attend to people in their own homes following a referral from either the GP, NHS 111 or the 999 service as appropriate from 8am to 8pm each day.

In making all of these decisions within the context of what is again a level four national incident we have taken account of the following factors:

- What the national guidance recommends
- What level of service can safely be continued
- The impact on GP practices and hospital services of suspending or reducing some community based services

Against this backdrop we are also working tirelessly to deliver the COVID-19 vaccination programme which saw our first hospital based vaccination hub open last week, whilst this week a host of primary care led vaccination hubs welcomed their first patients through the doors.

This amazing feat has seen our hospitals, GPs, community services, local authorities, voluntary sector, and charities all unite at pace to deliver this historic programme, and offers us real hope in tackling this pandemic.

The local NHS will contact people in the priority groups when it is their turn to receive the vaccine and local residents are being asked not to contact their practice enquiring about vaccination.

As you may be aware from our last briefing the NHS nationally has introduced a new system for people needing urgent medical care when it is not a “life or limb threatening” 999 emergency.

We are asking residents:

If you have an urgent medical problem or you're not sure what to do, just call NHS 111 first and they'll make sure you get to the best place for you to be seen safely and quickly.

In mid and south Essex our NHS 111 team has access to clinical experts and if you need to visit the emergency department they will book you a time slot when you should attend, and we are continuing to publicise this service across all partners within our local resilience forum'.

## **2) Temporary Road Closures**

**Colbert Road, Thorpe Hall Avenue, Johnstone Road & Burges Road, Southend-on-Sea – 11th January 2012 to 5th April 2021 - gas main replacement & fibre optic cabling works**

With this order we are allowing multiple works. Please see the phases below;-

The Effect of the order will be to prohibit any vehicle from;-

### **Phase 1**

1. Proceeding on Johnstone Road from its junctions with Tyrone Road & Thorpe Hall Avenue
2. Stopping, Waiting, Loading or unloading on Johnstone Road from its junction with Tyrone Road to Thorpe Hall Avenue
3. Stopping, Waiting, Loading or unloading on Thorpe Hall Avenue from No100 to No30

### **Phase 2**

1. Proceeding on Colbert Avenue from its junction with Warwick Road to Walton Road
2. Stopping, Waiting, Loading or unloading on Colbert Avenue from its junction with Warwick Road to Walton Road

### **Phase 3**

3. Proceeding on Colbert Avenue from its junction with Walton Road to Burges Terrace
4. Stopping, Waiting, Loading or unloading on Colbert Avenue from its junction with Walton Road to Burges Terrace

### **Phase 4**

1. Proceeding on Burges Road from its junctions with Burges Terrace to Tyrone Road
2. Stopping, Waiting, Loading or unloading on Burges Road from its junctions with Burges Terrace to Tyrone Road
3. Proceeding on Thorpe Hall Avenue from Burges Road to Thorpe Esplanade
4. Stopping, Waiting, Loading or unloading on Thorpe Hall Avenue from Burges Road to Thorpe Esplanade

### **Phase 5**

1. Proceeding on Burges Road from its junction with Tyrone Road to Parkanaur Avenue
2. Stopping, Waiting, Loading or unloading Burges Road from its junction with Tyrone Road to Parkanaur Avenue

### **Phase 6**

1. Proceeding on Burges Road from its junction with Parkanaur Avenue to St James Avenue

2. Stopping, Waiting, Loading or unloading Burges Road from its junction with Parkanaur Avenue to St James Avenue.

The closure is scheduled to commence on **11th January 2012 to 5th April 2021** or where appropriate signs are showing and weather permitting.

The alternative routes for each phase will be sign posted for local diversions.

- Phase 4 Diversion for closure of Thorpe Hall Avenue; - Thorpe Esplanade, Maplin Way, Station Road & Acacia Drive and vice versa

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

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

#### **A127 Bell Junction - 21st Dec to 24th Dec**

Mon-Tues, there will be night-time northbound lane closures (20:00 to 06:30) on Holeythick Lane, on Tuesday a daytime (09:00 to 15:00) northbound lane closure on Holeythick Lane; and westbound off-peak (09:00 to 15:00) lane closures Mon-Fri on the A127 (at the Bell Junction), for new carriageway widening and footway works.

**Beyond the 24th Dec**, there will be no further daytime closures and night-time closures planned until the start of the New Year.

#### **A127 Essential Major Maintenance - 21st Dec to 25th Dec**

No further daytime closures and night-time closures planned until the start of the New Year.

#### **East Beach coastal defences**

Thank you to Councillors that have been in touch about the damage and erosion of the coastal defences at East Beach. Repair works are being taken forward by the Civil Engineering team as part of the SARCC (Sustainable and Resilient Coastal Cities) EU funded project. Design optioneering is currently underway and consultation with ward members is due to start in late January/early February 2021.

Address	<b>Independent Footpath Adjacent 381 to 419A Arterial Road</b>
Start End Works	17/11/2020 15/02/2021 (change of date)
Reference	AZ007-1000875190
Works Type	Major

L.A Ref 101628  
 Traffic Management **Some carriageway incursion – delays unlikely**

Address **Grange Close**  
 Start End Works 04/01/2021 25/01/2021 (change of dates)  
 Reference AZ007-1000875057  
 Works Type Major

L.A Ref 101618  
 Traffic Management **Some carriageway incursion – delays unlikely**

Address **Rowan Close**  
 Start End Works 05/01/2021 12/04/2021  
 Reference AZ007- 1000875069

Works Type Major  
 L.A Ref 101635  
 Traffic Management **Some carriageway incursion – delays unlikely**

Address **Heycroft Road**  
 Start End Works 04/01/2021 15/03/2021  
 Reference AZ007-1000876043

Works Type Major  
 L.A Ref 101719  
 Traffic Management **Some carriageway incursion – delays unlikely**

Address **Thorpe Hall Avenue**  
 Start End Works 04/01/2021 02/02/2021  
 Reference AZ007-1000906945

Works Type Major  
 L.A Ref 104540  
 Traffic Management **Some carriageway incursion – delays unlikely**

Address **Sunnybank Close**  
 Start End Works 04/01/2021 01/02/2021  
 Reference AZ007-1000964816

Works Type Major  
 L.A Ref 109230  
 Traffic Management **Some carriageway incursion – delays unlikely**

Address **Bishopsteignton**  
 Start End Works 05/01/2021 22/02/2021  
 Reference AZ007-1000964855

Works Type Major  
 L.A Ref 109233  
 Traffic Management **Some carriageway incursion – delays unlikely**

Address **Drake Road**

Start End Works 08/01/2021 19/02/2021 (change of dates)  
 Reference AZ007-1000987001  
 Works Type Major  
 L.A Ref 111335  
 Traffic Management **Give & take – delays possible**

Address **Fortescue Chase**  
 Start End Works 05/01/2021 08/03/2021  
 Reference AZ007-1000992008  
 Works Type Major  
 L.A Ref 111709  
 Traffic Management **Some carriageway incursion – delays unlikely**

Address **Trinity Road**  
 Start End Works 06/01/2021 12/01/2021  
 Reference AZ703-1000983702  
 Works Type Major  
 L.A Ref 111039  
 Traffic Management **Some carriageway incursion – delays unlikely**

Address **Groewood Avenue**  
 Start End Works 04/12/2020 14/04/2021  
 Reference JR101-TEMPDIST2988  
 Works Type Major  
 L.A Ref 113064  
 Traffic Management **No carriageway incursion – delays unlikely**

Address **Burges Close**  
 Start End Works 08/01/2021 17/02/2021  
 Reference JR101-TEMPDIST2991  
 Works Type Major  
 L.A Ref 113206  
 Traffic Management **Some carriageway incursion – delays unlikely**

## **4) List of Applications Registered** **Week Ending 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

Application Number: 20/02034/FUL **Ward: Southchurch**  
 Officer: Robert Lilburn  
 Demolish existing agricultural building, erect no.3 detached dwelling houses with associated parking and amenity space  
**New Wick Farm Wakering Road Southend-On-Sea**

Application Number: 20/02094/CLP **Ward: Southchurch**  
 Officer: Robert Lilburn

Hipped to gable roof extension with dormer to rear to form habitable accommodation in the loft space (Certificate of Lawful Development - Proposed)

**73 Riviera Drive Southend-On-Sea Essex**

Application Number: 20/02068/GPDE

**Ward: Southchurch**

Officer: Oliver Hart Date

Erect single storey rear extension, projecting 6m beyond the existing rear wall of the dwelling, 2.07m high to eaves and with a maximum height of 3.01m

**66 Willingale Way Thorpe Bay Essex**

Application Number: 20/02125/FULH

**Ward: Thorpe**

Officer: Julie Ramsey

Erect single storey rear extension and form pitched roof to front of existing garage 25

**Tyrone Road Thorpe Bay Essex**

Application Number: 20/02145/PA3COU

**Ward: Thorpe**

Officer: Scott Davison

Change of use and convert first and second floors from Office Space (Class B1a) to form 2 self-contained flats and form entrance door to front for access to upper levels.

**161 - 163 The Broadway Thorpe Bay Essex**

Application Number: 20/02052/FUL

**Ward: West Shoebury**

Officer: Oliver Hart

Form new first floor with pitched roof, convert part of loft space into storage, erect new staircase for access and two external fire escapes

**11 Towerfield Road Shoeburyness Southend-On-Sea**

## **5) List of Decisions Issued** **Week Ending 20<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

APPLN. NO: 20/01740/TPO

**Ward. Southchurch**

Officer: Abbie Greenwood

TREE 2 (T10 ON TPO 8/90) TWIN ACER PSEUDOPLATANUS (SYCAMORE) - FELL AND REPLACE; TREE 3 (PART OF G1 ON TPO 8/90) MULTI - STEMMED AESCULUS HIPPOCASTANUM (HORSE CHESTNUT) - REDUCE BY 2-3M OVER HIGHWAY, DEADWOOD AND REMOVE IVY, CROWN LIFT TO 6M OVER HIGHWAY, REMOVE DAMAGED LIMB OVER DRIVEWAY; TREE 5 (T8 ON TPO) FAGUS SYLVATICA (BEECH) - CROWN THIN BY 10% INCLUDING REMOVAL OF MINOR DAMAGED LIMBS; TREE 6 (T9 ON TPO) FAGUS SYLVATICA (BEECH) - CROWN THIN BY 10% INCLUDING REMOVAL OF MINOR DAMAGED LIMBS (APPLICATION FOR WORKS TO TREES SUBJECT TO A TREE PRESERVATION ORDER)

**SOUTHCHURCH LAWN WAKERING ROAD SOUTHEND-ON-SEA**

**Decision: Grant consent to carry out work to trees**

APPLN. NO: 20/01767/FULH

**Ward. Southchurch**

Officer: Oliver Hart

ERECT SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSION

## **72 GLYNDE WAY SOUTHEND-ON-SEA ESSEX**

**Decision: Grant Conditional Permission**

APPLN. NO: 20/01687/CLP

**Ward. Thorpe**

Officer: Hayley Thompson

HIP TO GABLE ROOF EXTENSION, DORMER TO REAR TO FORM HABITABLE ACCOMMODATION IN ROOFSPACE, ROOFLIGHTS TO FRONT, ALTER ELEVATIONS (LAWFUL DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATE-PROPOSED)

## **18 BRUNSWICK ROAD SOUTHEND-ON-SEA ESSEX**

**Decision: Grant Lawful Dev Certificate (Proposed)**

APPLN. NO: 20/01876/AD

**Ward. Thorpe**

Officer: Hayley Thompson

APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF DETAILS PURSUANT TO CONDITION 04 (DETAILS OF HARD AND SOFT LANDSCAPING) OF PLANNING PERMISSION 17/02239/FUL DATED 14.02.2018

## **99 THORPE BAY GARDENS THORPE BAY ESSEX**

**Decision: Grant Permission**

APPLN. NO: 20/01448/AD

**Ward. West Shoebury**

Officer: Robert Lilburn

APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF DETAILS PURSUANT TO CONDITIONS 03 (MATERIALS), 15 (DETAILS OF MITIGATION MEASURES), 17 (DETAILS OF BUILDING LEVELS AND LANDSCAPE) AND 20 (HARD AND SOFT LANDSCAPING) OF PLANNING PERMISSION 18/01015/AMDT DATED 19/09/2018

## **14 LODWICK SHOEBURYNES SOUTHEND-ON-SEA**

**Decision: Grant Permission**

APPLN. NO: 20/01642/FULH

**Ward. West Shoebury**

Officer: Kara Elliott

ERECT PART SINGLE/PART TWO STOREY REAR EXTENSION, ALTER ELEVATIONS

## **76 PENTLAND AVENUE SHOEBURYNES SOUTHEND-ON-SEA**

**Decision: Grant Conditional Permission**

APPLN. NO: 20/01683/FUL

**Ward. West Shoebury**

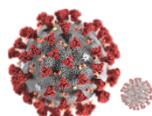
Officer: Oliver Hart

DEMOLISH EXISTING BUILDING, ERECT CHALET BUNGALOW WITH BASEMENT LEVEL, BALCONY TO REAR, LAYOUT PARKING TO FRONT (AMENDED PROPOSAL)

## **60 LEITRIM AVENUE SHOEBURYNES SOUTHEND-ON-SEA**

**Decision: Grant Conditional Permission**

## **6) Coronavirus Information**



## **Southend-on-Sea to enter Tier 4 restrictions on Sunday**

The Government has announced that Southend-on-Sea will be placed into tier 4 restrictions at 00:01 on Sunday 20 December.

The Prime Minister announced earlier today that a number of areas would face tighter restrictions as cases in London, the south east and the east of England continue to rise.

The new rules in place mean the following:

- You must stay at home, except for the reasons outlined by the Government.
- All non-essential retail will have to close, along with personal care services such as hairdressers and nail bars, and indoor entertainment venues
- You can leave home to buy things at shops which are permitted to open in your area, but you should stay local
- Gyms and indoor leisure facilities will close
- You should work from home unless you are unable to do so
- Don't mix indoors with anyone from outside of your household/bubble
- You can only meet one other person from another household/bubble, outdoors in a public place
- Christmas bubbles have been cancelled for tier 4 areas and you cannot join a Christmas bubble in a lower tier area.

## **More areas to be in Tier 4 from Boxing Day**

More parts of England could move into Tier 4 from Boxing Day amid fears over the spread of a new variant of COVID-19. There is also a "high chance" of a full national lockdown in the New Year, Government sources say. On Tuesday, the UK recorded its highest number of coronavirus cases yet, with 36,804 people testing positive.

## **Schools may not return in January**

Schools in areas where the new COVID-19 variant has been detected have been told they should prepare for the possibility they may not be able to return as planned in January. Scientists are currently studying evidence that children might be more affected than previously, which could mean a return to home schooling for children in these hotspots.

## **Rapid testing sites for those with symptoms shelved**

Plans to open instant COVID-19 testing sites for people with symptoms have reportedly been shelved by ministers over concerns about their accuracy were raised. The lateral flow tests, which give a result in around half an hour, were to be used to help cope with a surge in demand in the run-up to Christmas but are not as accurate as standard tests.

## **Nightingale questions asked as patients in hospitals near April peak**

The number of patients in English hospitals with COVID-19 is on track to pass the April peak within days, leading some medical experts to question why only two of the UK's 10 Nightingale hospitals are accepting patients with coronavirus. The field

hospitals were set up in spring to cope with demand for beds when hospitals were full, but as cases rise, British Medical Association leader Dr Chaand Nagpaul says there are 80,000 NHS staff vacancies preventing the Nightingales from being used for COVID-19 treatment.

## France ease travel ban with UK

France have re-opened their border with the UK following a travel ban over its fears of the newly discovered COVID-19 variant. French citizens, hauliers and British nationals who live in France can now return provided they have a recent negative test. Thousands of vehicles have been stuck in Kent since the border closed on Sunday, and soldiers have joined NHS Test and Trace staff to carry out rapid tests on stranded lorry drivers.

## Weekly Briefing on Local Decisions & Actions re Coronavirus outbreak 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020

### Key updates/actions

- **COVID-19 testing 'collect and drop off point':** A new COVID-19 testing 'collect and drop off' opened in Leigh-on-Sea today for people without symptoms. It is open from 9am to 3pm in front of Leigh-on-Sea community centre (Leigh Town Council offices) in Elm Road, and it is hoped that another site in the east of the Borough will open early next week.
- **Winter funding:** A scheme to give vulnerable households financial peace of mind over the winter months has launched thanks to additional Government funding.
- **COVID-19 pulse survey:** The Council is asking residents to let it know about their experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic and what steps they think the borough can take to ensure a positive future.
- **Unemployment stats for November**
- **Coronavirus case data:** This is published on our website and now also includes the daily 7 day rate of positive cases per 100,000.
- **7-day rate** of positive cases as of **18 December** was **384.4 per 100,000** (up from 193.9 per 100,000 on Friday 11 December). The rate in the **60 and over age bracket** is **288 per 100,000**, up from 118.7 per 100,000 on 11 December.
- **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 4 December 2020 but were registered up to 12 December 2020: **239 (+7)**.

- **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 17<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

### **10 Downing St**

Boris Johnson held a press conference today, to reinforce messaging around Christmas, he highlighted:

Christmas bubble rules are not being reversed. We must exercise extreme caution and greatest personal responsibility.

Guidance for the Christmas period has been published today. Keep contacts as low as possible in the run up to Christmas. A smaller and shorter Christmas is a safer Christmas.

108,000 have received the vaccination so far.

### **DfE**

New guidance is published for schools and colleges about how they can start to test (asymptomatic) pupils and students from January.

A template is published to support schools when publishing information about their remote education provision on their websites during the spring term.

New guidance sets out the eligibility criteria and claims process for the coronavirus (COVID-19) workforce fund for schools. This funding is to support schools facing significant staff absences and financial pressures with the costs of staff cover for the period from 1 November to 31 December 2020.

## **DOHSC**

Tier 3 and Tier 2 guidance is updated to include links to financial support for businesses.

Guidance on Getting help with daily activities outside your home during coronavirus has been updated to reflect how the social contact rules in the local restriction tiers apply to people who need support.

New guidance sets out how and when to get tested for COVID-19 before a hospital procedure.

## **Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

Travel guidance is updated with links to guidance on getting a COVID-19 test to reduce self-isolation.

## **Home Office**

Guidance is published for EUSS applicants in or outside the UK who have been affected by restrictions associated with coronavirus.

## **Summary of Covid-19 related Government announcements 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

**DfT** has published:

New notification of COVID-19 support fund expenditure. The schemes include:

- Ø Emergency Measures Agreements and Emergency Recovery Measures Agreements with the train operating companies
- Ø the COVID-19 bus services support grant
- Ø safeguarding critical ferry freight routes
- Ø supporting regional transport networks such as Transport for London and light rail networks

**PHE** has published:

A new study finds infection rates among students and staff in schools were linked to those found in the wider community at the peak of the second wave.

**DfE** has published:

New guidance to help further education (FE) providers put in place testing to ensure education resumes in January 2021.

## **Summary of Covid-19 related Government announcements 21<sup>st</sup> December 2020**

### **10 Downing St**

- In a press briefing today, the PM highlighted:
  - o Despite UK freight restrictions imposed by France, the majority of foods and medicines will leave and arrive in UK as normal. He is working with France to ease restrictions.
  - o 500,000 people have now received their first vaccine dose.
  - o The new COVID-19 variant is in all regions of the UK.
- On 19 December, the PM gave a statement on a new COVID-19 variant, tougher restrictions for parts of England with a new Tier 4 alert level and changes to guidance around the Christmas period.

### **Cabinet Office**

- Christmas guidance is updated to exclude Tier 4 from mixing over the Christmas period. Tiers 1, 2, and 3 can mix indoors on 25 December only.
  - o Tier 4 - which includes Essex, may socialise one-to-one in a public outdoor space, and support bubbles may mix.

### **DOHSC**

- Local restriction tier guidance is updated to reflect the introduction of Tier 4.
- Tier 4 guidance is published. You must not leave or be outside of your home or garden without a 'reasonable excuse'.
- Guidance is updated for the clinically extremely vulnerable in Tier 4 areas. Those who fall into this group are strongly advised to stay at home, unless for exercise or medical appointments, and not to attend work, even if unable to work from home.
- Care home visiting guidance is updated for Tier 4.

### **DfT**

- Travel advice is updated to include those in Tier 4 areas will not be permitted to travel abroad apart from limited exceptions. Additionally, other countries have closed borders, and may restrict movement or bring in new quarantine rules with little warning.
- Safer travel guidance for passengers is updated for Tier 4 areas, to include that people cannot leave a tier 4 area to visit people in other tiers on Christmas Day.

- In updated travel corridor guidance, Namibia, Uruguay and US Virgin Islands were removed from the exempt list on 19 December.

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

- Working safely during coronavirus guidance includes updated information on local restriction tiers and protecting people who are at higher risk. Clinically extremely vulnerable individuals are strongly advised to work from home in Tier 4.

## **PHE**

- Details on the new COVID-19 variant 'VUI-202012/01 are published.
  - o Data suggests the new variant transmits more easily than other strains.
  - o There is currently no evidence that the variant is more likely to cause severe disease or mortality – but investigations continue.
  - o Statement from Chief Medical Officer.

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- END -

