

E-Newsletter – 19th February 2021

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1) Information Corner

Renewal Reminder

Thank you to all those members who have already renewed their membership as without you, BERA could not continue to do all of the good work that we do for our area.

If you have not yet re-joined, please renew as soon as possible by completing the membership form (on the home page) and paying by either cash, cheque, bank transfer or Paypal. Please click on the 'membership' header and on the drop down menu, select 'payment' and this will give you all of the details that you need to pay.

Please note

If you are unable to complete a membership form, please enclose a note with your payment with your name, address, telephone number and email address in order for you to be renewed. If you are paying by Paypal, please ensure that your name, address and email address are quoted on the Paypal form, as if different details are given or omitted, then your membership cannot be located.

Thank you

Photographs for the website

Thank you to the members who have sent in photographs of the area for our website. In order for them to be compatible with our website, please ensure that they are in landscape and taken with a high resolution camera or a professional camera so that photographs maintain their high quality when transferred onto the website.

2) Temporary Road Closures

Alexandra Road, Southend-On-Sea – 23rd February 2021 for 4 days - Tree Maintenance

To facilitate essential tree maintenance works, they have imposed a TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF ENTRY, WAITING, LOADING & UNLOADING IN ALEXANDRA ROAD SOUTHEND-ON-SEA

Whilst this notice is in operation, all vehicles will be prohibited from Entering, Waiting Loading & Unloading in Alexandra Road as detailed below:

23rd February - Alexandra Road from its junction with Capel Terrace to its junction with Runwell Terrace.

24th February –from its junction with Runwell Terrace to the common boundary and opposite Nos 102/104 Alexandra Road

25th February – From the common boundary and opposite Nos 102/104 to the common boundary and opposite Nos 126/128

26th February – From the common boundary and opposite Nos126/128 to the junction with Wilson Road

These prohibitions or restrictions will come into effect from **23rd February 2021 for 4 days**. This notice will remain in force for 5 days to allow for unexpected events/delays and possible remedial works. Access for residents will be maintained where possible.

Gasworks Phase 2 Coach Parking Improvements

Following planning approval and a capital funding grant, phase 2 of the parking improvements at the gasworks car park are due to commence. Enabling works will begin **Tuesday 16th February 2021**. The completed works will include up to 40 dedicated coach spaces and additional overflow car parking.

It is hoped that works will be complete in 6 weeks time. Our term contractor Marlborough Highways will be undertaking the works and will ensure that any disruption is kept to an absolute minimum.

City Fibre

Please find below the roads in Thorpe Ward where CityFibre are working next week.

CF Permit Reference	Road Name	Scheduled start	Scheduled End Date
KG027SE-FFTH-PN038-21	Victoria Road	04/01/2021	24/02/2021

KG027SE-FTTH- PN081-02	Woodgrange Drive	18/01/2021	27/02/2021
KG027SE-FTTH- PN015-03	St. Augustines Avenue	15/02/2021	26/02/2021
KG027SE-FTTH- PN071-07	Burges Road	16/02/2021	08/03/2021
KG027SE-FTTH- PN06-09	Shaftesbury Avenue	17/02/2021	23/02/2021
KG027SE-FTTH- PN080-11	Greenways	18/02/2021	24/02/2021
KG027SE-FTTH- PN005-02	Marcus Avenue	22/02/2021	05/03/2021
KG027SE-FTTH- PN005-03	Marcus Gardens	22/02/2021	05/03/2021
KG027SE-FTTH- PN005-06	Maplin Way	22/02/2021	05/03/2021
KG027SE-FTTH- PN06-08	Eastern Esplanade	24/02/2021	09/03/2021
KG027SE-FTTH- PN081-09	Butterys	25/02/2021	01/03/2021

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

A127 Bell Junction - 15th Feb to 19th Feb

Mon-Fri there will be daytime off peak (09:00 to 15:00) northbound lane closures; and eastbound 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.

Full time left turn closure into Rochford Road for A127 eastbound traffic; for construction of new kerb lines and new pedestrian crossing island.

A127 Essential Major Maintenance - 15th Feb to 19th Feb

Mon-Fri there will be night-time (20:00 to 06:30) westbound road closures on the A127 Prince Avenue from the Cuckoo Corner Roundabout to the Tesco Roundabout Junction, for carriageway resurfacing works.

Weekly Major Works

Address	Dewsteignton
Start End	15/02/21 26/02/21
Works Reference	AZ007-1000862790
L.A Ref	100372
Traffic Management	Some carriageway incursion

Address **Independent footpath adjacent 381 to 419A Arterial Road**
Start End 17/11/20 01/03/21 **(date change)**
Works Reference AZ007-1000875190
L.A Ref 101628
Traffic Management Some carriageway incursion

Address **Burges Road**
Start End 15/02/21 12/04/21 **(date changes)**
Works Reference AZ007-1000994635
L.A Ref 111895
Traffic Management Road closure – delays likely

Address **Thorpe Hall Avenue**
Start End 15/02/21 05/03/21 **(date changes)**
Works Reference AZ007-1000994666
L.A Ref 111900
Traffic Management Road closure – delays likely

Address **Blackgate Road**
Start End 15/02/21 29/03/21
Works Reference AZ007-1001005277
L.A Ref 112695
Traffic Management Multiway signals – delays likely

Address **Elm Road**
Start End 15/02/21 29/03/21
Works Reference AZ007-1001005289
L.A Ref 112694
Traffic Management Multiway signals – delays likely

Address **Barnard Road**
Start End 15/02/21 05/03/21
Reference AZ007-1001014553
L.A Ref 113152
Traffic Management Road closure – delays likely

Address **Johnstone Road**
Start End 21/01/21 19/02/21 **(date change)**
Reference AZ007-1001016163
L.A Ref 113234
Traffic Management Give & take – delays possible

Address **The Broadway**
Start End 21/01/21 02/03/21
Reference AZ007-1001016164

L.A Ref 113235
 Traffic Management Road closure – delays likely (**T.M Change**)

Address **Thorpe Bay Gardens**
 Start End 15/02/21 31/03/21 (**date change**)
 Reference AZ007-1001016165
 L.A Ref 113232
 Traffic Management Road closure – delays likely

Address **Gloucester Terrace**
 Start End 15/02/21 10/03/21
 Reference AZ007-1001018980
 L.A Ref 113480
 Traffic Management Road closure – delays likely

Address **Pentland Avenue**
 Start End 15/02/21 24/02/21
 Reference AZ703-1001017181
 L.A Ref 113317
 Traffic Management Road closure – delays likely

Address **Burges Road**
 Start End 15/02/21 17/02/21 (**date changes**)
 Reference EN014-M14620
 L.A Ref 112662
 Traffic Management Road closure – delays likely

Address **Applerow**
 Start End 15/02/21 12/03/21
 Reference JR001-F/WRESURFAPPLEM/M
 L.A Ref 106833
 Traffic Management Give & take – delays possible

Address **Cuckoo Corner Roundabout**
 Start End 01/02/21 24/02/21
 Reference JR002-SURFACINGPRIOR2-1
 L.A Ref 113294
 Traffic Management Road closure – delays likely

Address **Prince Avenue**
 Start End 01/02/21 24/02/21
 Reference JR002-SURFACINGPRIOR2-2
 L.A Ref 113295
 Traffic Management Road closure – delays likely

Address **Prince Avenue**

Start End	01/02/21 24/02/21
Reference	JR002-SURFACINGPRIOR2-3
L.A Ref	113298
Traffic Management	Road closure – delays likely
Address	Prince Avenue North
Start End	01/02/21 24/02/21
Reference	JR002-SURFACINGPRIOR2-4
L.A Ref	113299
Traffic Management	Road closure – delays likely
Address	Victoria Avenue
Start End	01/02/21 19/02/21
Reference	JR002-SURFACINGPRIORITY2
L.A Ref	113293
Traffic Management	Road closure – delays likely
Address	Victoria Avenue
Start End	15/02/21 06/03/21
Reference	JR002-SURFACINGPRIORITY4
L.A Ref	113284
Traffic Management	Road closure – delays likely
Address	Groewood Avenue
Start End	04/12/20 14/04/21
Reference	JR101-TEMPDIST2988
L.A Ref	113064
Traffic Management	No carriageway incursion – delays unlikely
Address	Burges Close
Start End	08/01/21 17/02/21
Reference	JR101-TEMPDIST2991
L.A Ref	113206
Traffic Management	Some carriageway incursion
Address	Colchester Road
Start End	01/02/21 01/03/21
Reference	JR101-TEMPDIST3003-1
L.A Ref	114074
Traffic Management	No carriageway incursion – delays unlikely

4) List of Applications Registered **Week Ending 19th February 2021**

Application Number: 21/00303/GPDE **Ward: Southchurch**
Officer: Oliver Hart
Erect single storey rear extension, projecting 4m beyond the existing rear wall of the dwelling, 2.43m high to eaves and with a maximum height of 3.62m
2 Appletree Close Southend-On-Sea Essex

Application Number: 21/00230/CLP **Ward: Thorpe**
Officer: Julie Ramsey
Erect dormer to rear with Juliette balcony to form habitable accommodation in the loftspace, install rooflights to front (certificate of lawful development - proposed)
17 Plas Newydd Thorpe Bay Essex

Application Number: 21/00233/FULH **Ward: Thorpe**
Officer: Scott Davison
Raise roof height of existing rear extension and extend to rear
176 Burges Road Thorpe Bay Essex

Application Number: 21/00246/FUL **Ward: Thorpe**
Officer: Oliver Hart
Replace existing beach hut
Beach Hut 159 Thorpe Esplanade Thorpe Bay

5) List of Decisions Issued **Week Ending 14th February 2021**

APPLN. NO: 20/02058/EDAS **Ward. Southchurch**
Officer: Oliver Hart
ERECT ADDITIONAL FLOOR TO EXISTING DWELLING (PRIOR APPROVAL FOR UPWARDS EXTENSION)
66 WILLINGALE WAY THORPE BAY ESSEX
Decision: Refuse additional storey dwellinghouse

APPLN. NO: 20/02152/FULH **Ward. Southchurch**
Officer: Oliver Hart
ERECT FIRST FLOOR SIDE EXTENSION AND INSTALL PITCHED ROOF OVER EXISTING REAR PROJECTION
178 SHOEBURY ROAD THORPE BAY ESSEX
Decision: Grant Conditional Permission

APPLN. NO: 20/02176/FULH **Ward. Southchurch**
Officer: Kara Elliott
ERECT SINGLE STOREY SIDE EXTENSION
27 PETWORTH GARDENS SOUTHEND-ON-SEA ESSEX
Decision: Grant Conditional Permission

APPLN. NO: 20/02199/CLP

Ward. Southchurch

Officer: Oliver Hart

HIP TO GABLE ROOF EXTENSION WITH DORMER TO REAR (LAWFUL DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATE - PROPOSED)

55 HAMSTEL ROAD SOUTHEND-ON-SEA ESSEX

Decision: Grant Lawful Dev Certificate (Proposed)

APPLN. NO: 20/01980/FULH

Ward. Thorpe

Officer: Kara Elliott

ERECT SINGLE STOREY SIDE AND REAR EXTENSION, ALTER ELEVATIONS

15 MARCUS AVENUE THORPE BAY ESSEX

Decision: Grant Conditional Permission

APPLN. NO: 20/02010/FULH

Ward. Thorpe

Officer: Julie Ramsey

ERECT SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSION AND RAISED PLATFORM

76 HUNTINGDON ROAD SOUTHEND-ON-SEA ESSEX

Decision: Grant Conditional Permission

APPLN. NO: 20/02135/CLP

Ward. Thorpe

Officer: Oliver Hart

HIPPED TO GABLE ROOF EXTENSION TO REAR AND DORMERS TO SIDES TO FORM HABITABLE ACCOMMODATION IN THE LOFTSPACE (CERTIFICATE OF LAWFUL DEVELOPMENT - PROPOSED)

84 PARKANAUR AVENUE THORPE BAY ESSEX

Decision: Grant Lawful Dev Certificate (Proposed)

APPLN. NO: 20/02136/FUL

Ward. Thorpe

Officer: Scott Davison

ALTER SHOPFRONT TO INCORPORATE NEW ACCESS DOOR TO UPPER FLOORS AND ALTER ELEVATION TO REAR TO FORM NEW ACCESS

161 - 163 THE BROADWAY THORPE BAY ESSEX

Decision: Grant Conditional Permission

APPLN. NO: 20/02137/FULH

Ward. Thorpe

Officer: Kara Elliott

ERECT SINGLE STOREY SIDE AND REAR EXTENSION

11 WOODGRANGE CLOSE THORPE BAY ESSEX

Decision: Refuse Permission

APPLN. NO: 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

Decision: Prior Approval Refused COU

APPLN. NO: 20/02154/FULH
Officer: Kara Elliott
ERECT FIRST FLOOR SIDE EXTENSION
16 WALTON ROAD THORPE BAY ESSEX
Decision: Grant Conditional Permission

Ward. Thorpe

APPLN. NO: 20/02163/FULH
Officer: Oliver Hart
ERECT SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSION WITH ROOF LANTERN
116 KENSINGTON ROAD SOUTHEND-ON-SEA ESSEX
Decision: Refuse Permission

Ward. Thorpe

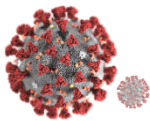
APPLN. NO: 20/01930/FULH
Officer: Abbie Greenwood
ERECT PART SINGLE/PART TWO STOREY SIDE AND REAR EXTENSION WITH
ROOF LANTERN TO REAR
150 MAPLIN WAY THORPE BAY ESSEX
Decision: Grant Conditional Permission

Ward. West Shoebury

APPLN. NO: 20/02148/CLP
Officer: Julie Ramsey
INSTALL DORMER TO REAR TO FORM HABITABLE ACCOMMODATION IN THE
LOFTSPACE, ERECT SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSION AND INSTALL
ROOFLIGHTS TO FRONT (CERTIFICATE OF LAWFUL DEVELOPMENT -
PROPOSED)
9 APPLEDORE SHOEBURYNESS ESSEX
Decision: Grant Lawful Dev Certificate (Proposed)

Ward. West Shoebury

6) Coronavirus Information



New phase begins after first vaccine target hit

The rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine in England has begun a new phase, after the Prime Minister said that the most vulnerable groups had all been offered a jab. More than 15 million people in the UK have now received their first dose. The rollout has now been officially expanded to the over-65s and young people in at-risk groups.

Hotel quarantine comes into force

All British and Irish citizens and UK residents arriving in England after being in a high-risk country for COVID-19 are now required to quarantine in hotels. The “red list” includes 33 countries such as Portugal, Brazil and South Africa.

PM urges 'optimistic but patient approach' to pandemic

People must be "optimistic but patient" about the coronavirus situation in the UK and the end to restrictions, the Prime Minister has said. Boris Johnson said there were still more people in hospital than at the peak of the first wave, and steps taken to ease lockdown should be "cautious but irreversible", ahead of his setting out a roadmap next week for lifting England's restrictions.

COVID lockdown to continue until cases drop below 1,000 a day

Lockdown is unlikely to be eased significantly until daily COVID-19 cases are in the hundreds. Boris Johnson is due to publish a roadmap out of the restrictions next week, beginning with the reopening of schools from March 8. COVID-19 cases have fallen significantly in recent weeks and could reach less than 1,000 a day by early April if they continue to decline at the current rate.

New Covid variant with potentially worrying mutations found in UK

Another coronavirus variant with a potentially worrying set of mutations has been detected in the UK and should be targeted in surge testing, according to experts. The variant, known as B1525, is the subject of a report by researchers at the University of Edinburgh, who say it has been detected through genome sequencing in 10 countries including Denmark, the US and Australia, with 32 cases found in the UK so far.

Teachers will be told to wait for COVID vaccine as under-50s are prioritised by age

Teachers and other key workers are unlikely to be given priority for vaccinations as scientific advisers prepare to recommend that jabs continue to be given by age. Tomorrow (18th) the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) is expected to sign off recommendations for the next phase of the vaccine programme.

Parents to test children for coronavirus twice a week

Government plans for a phased reopening of schools on 8 March will include parents of secondary pupils being asked to test their children twice a week for coronavirus. Mass testing of secondary students will be overseen in schools only once, when they reopen, whereupon responsibility for testing will fall to parents.

Weekly Briefing on Local Decisions & Actions re Coronavirus outbreak 12th February 2021

Key updates/actions

Vaccination: With the vaccination roll-out underway, regular information is being updated on the EPUT website. Figures are now also being reported by the national programme on a STP/ICS footprint – the latest weekly figures can be found at <https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/covid-19-vaccinations/> Over 70's and clinically extremely vulnerable can now book a vaccination. Read more on NHS.UK

COVID-19 testing: Testing is key to stop the spread and identify cases. Testing options includes three rapid testing LFD sites available across the Borough which are now available for both walk-ups and appointments. Full details of all the booking options are available at www.southend.gov.uk/gettested

Business grants: Small business and Retail, Hospitality and Leisure grants: Paid c. £37.5m to 3,086 businesses

Discretionary grants: Paid £1.941m to 611 businesses

New Government business grants in place from November lockdown: Paid £5.6m to 2,943 businesses with 996 outstanding out of 4,270 applications received.

Business testing: Businesses can now order tests if they have more than 50 employees. Read more on GOV.UK

Quarantine: From 15 February 2021 anyone travelling to the UK from a country on the UK's travel ban list will be required to quarantine in a Government-approved facility for 10 days. Read the update on GOV.UK. Read more on booking a quarantine hotel on GOV.UK

Stay Safe, Stay Apart, Stay Local: With the half term holidays fast approaching, the Council is urging residents to follow national guidance and stay safe, stay apart and stay local as we continue to fight the Coronavirus pandemic. Read the media release. Social media assets to share the campaign are on our Flickr site.

COVID conversations: A number of online 'COVID conversations' have been taking place in February aimed at updating and informing the local community about COVID. Krishna Ramkhelawon, the Council's Director of Public Health in Southend will be at each session, as well as colleagues from the Council, health partners from the NHS, and voluntary sector colleagues. Upcoming sessions - please book at: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/savs-sbc-and-southend-ccg-30731728714>

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 12 February is 198.2 per 100,000 (down from 245.2 per 100,000 on 5 February). The rate in the 60 and over age bracket is 226.4 per 100,000 (down from 241.8 per 100,000 on 5 February).

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 29 January 2021 but were registered up to 6 February 2021: 548 (+40).

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.

Weekly Briefing on Local Decisions & Actions re Coronavirus outbreak 19th February 2021

Key updates/actions

* Vaccination: With the vaccination roll-out underway, regular information is being updated on the EPUT <<https://eput.nhs.uk/news-events/coronavirus/coronavirus-vaccine/>> website. Figures are now also being reported by the national programme on a STP/ICS footprint – the latest weekly figures can be found at

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/covid-19-vaccinations/>

* Over 65's and clinically extremely vulnerable can now book a vaccination. Read more on NHS.UK <<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/>>

* COVID-19 testing: Please continue to support and promote the various testing options available across the Borough. Testing is key to stop the spread and identify cases.

Testing options includes three rapid testing LFD sites available across the Borough which are now available for both walk-ups and appointments.

Full details of all the booking options are available at

www.southend.gov.uk/gettested <<http://www.southend.gov.uk/gettested>>

* Please also find social media and digital assets on our Flickr

site <<https://www.flickr.com/photos/southendbc/albums/72157718349126193>>.

* Business grants:

New Government business grants in place from November lockdown: Paid £7m to 3,505 businesses with 870 outstanding out of 4,442 applications received.

Discretionary grants: Paid £1.941m to 611 businesses

Small business and Retail, Hospitality and Leisure grants: Paid c. £37.5m to 3,086 businesses

* Business testing: Businesses can now order tests if they have more than 50 employees. Read more on GOV.UK<<https://www.gov.uk/get-workplace-coronavirus-tests>>

* Shielding guidance: A new group of people will be sent a letter by the Government asking them to shield. If you've been told to shield, you're strongly advised not to attend work, school, college or university. You can read the guidance on who counts as clinically extremely vulnerable on GOV.UK<<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19>>.

* International travel: If you arrive in England from a country on the travel ban list<<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/transport-measures-to-protect-the-uk-from-variant-strains-of-covid-19>> (sometimes called the 'red list') you'll need to self-isolate in a quarantine hotel for at least 10 days. Before you travel, you'll need to book and pay for your hotel room<<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/booking-and-staying-in-a-quarantine-hotel-when-you-arrive-in-england>> and 2 COVID-19 tests to take during your stay. If you're coming from a country not on the banned travel list, you'll need to self-isolate at home<<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/how-to-quarantine-when-you-arrive-in-england>> for 10 days and book 2 COVID-19 tests.

* Stay Safe, Stay Apart, Stay Local: With the weather improving this weekend, the Council is reminding people to stick to the current national regulations.

* COVID conversations: A number of online 'COVID conversations' have been taking place in February aimed at updating and informing the local community about COVID. Krishna Ramkhelawon, the Council's Director of Public Health in Southend will be at each session, as well as colleagues from the Council, health partners from the NHS, and voluntary sector colleagues. The next session is titled 'reaching all our communities' -please book at: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/savs-sbc-and-southend-ccg-30731728714>

* Coronavirus case data: This is published on our website<<https://www.southend.gov.uk/health-wellbeing/test-trace/6?documentId=1014&categoryId=200233>> and now also includes the daily 7 day rate of positive cases per 100,000.

* 7-day rate of positive cases as of 19 February 2021 is 115.2 per 100,000 (down from 198.2 per 100,000 on 12 February). The rate in the 60 and over age bracket is 140.7 per 100,000 (down from 226.4 per 100,000 on 12 February).

* 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 5 February 2021 but were registered up to 13 February 2021: 575 (+27).

* National and local data: A link to the national NHS Digital<<https://digital.nhs.uk/dashboards/progression>> 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<<https://www.southend.gov.uk/health-wellbeing/coronavirus/10>>

Summary of Covid-19 related Government announcements 12th February 2021

PMO has published:

Updated information that outlines the appointment of Sir Kevan Collins as Education Recovery Commissioner. Added 'Education Recovery Commissioner: role specification and terms of reference'.

DfT has published:

New guidance highlighting apprentices and employers across the UK who have been keeping the country running during the pandemic.

Updated information on walking, cycling, and travelling in vehicles or on public transport. Information about new testing, self-isolation and quarantine rules from 15 February.

DfE has published:

Updated information on the return of students and NHS Test and Trace channels. Updates made to 'Higher education: reopening buildings and campuses' including renaming it 'Higher education: operational guidance' to reflect that it is no longer about the start of the 2020/21 academic year and ensure that it is consistent with other published guidance.

New guidance that further funding is available to help raise educational standards, improve services and provide practical support to children with special educational needs and disabilities

DoHSC has published:

New information on how to book a place in a quarantine hotel and arrange tests if you're travelling to England from a country on the banned travel list.

New information on what to do before and after you arrive in England, including staying at home and ordering tests.

New information that thousands more NHS patients who are hospitalised will be able to receive the life-saving treatment tocilizumab.

Summary of Covid-19 related Government announcements 13th – 15th February 2021

The PM led today's Covid-19 response update:

Meeting the 15m vaccination target was an "unprecedented achievement" - but it is not the time to relax.

The PM wants this to be the last lockdown, and progress to be "cautious but irreversible".

A roadmap for the "route to normality" will be released on 22 February.

Groups 1-4 should book vaccinations if still needed.

By end of April, the offer is extended to those 65-69; those 16-64 with underlying health conditions; and younger adults in care homes or communal settings.

On daily figures:

We have high daily case rates, but they are reducing.

657 is most recent 7-day average death figure.

HO has published:

New information that Police forces will be reimbursed with £60m to support increased enforcement of coronavirus rules.

Department of Health and Social Care has published:

New information that from vaccination buses to WhatsApp groups and charity engagement, the new COVID-19 vaccine uptake plan aims to boost vaccine uptake in vulnerable and under-served groups.

New advice that people who do not have to take a test on or before day 2 or after day 8 of quarantine

MHCLG has published:

New guidance that renters will continue to be supported during the ongoing national lockdown restrictions, with an extension to the ban on bailiff evictions.

Summary of Covid-19 related Government announcements 16th February 2021

DOHSC

New technology has been introduced to help clinicians identify groups of people who may be at high risk from COVID-19.

The research found several health and personal factors, such as age, ethnicity and BMI, plus certain medical conditions and treatments, which, when combined, could increase risk.

Up to 1.7m patients have been identified.

Getting tested guidance is updated to reflect additional outbreak testing and 90-day testing window guidance.

In a press release, anyone who has visited a country on the UK's travel ban list in the last 10 days will have to quarantine in hotels from today. The Government has produced guidance on which countries are affected, what to expect from staying in a managed quarantine facility and how to fill in a passenger locator form.

Guidance on quarantining when you arrive in England is updated to include a section on testing in quarantine.

Guidance on staying in quarantine hotels now includes information on additional day rates, car parking, funerals and visiting dying family members.

Guidance on the return of elite sport now includes isolation requirements for international travel

DFE

Guidance on supporting children's remote education is updated with tips, links for the Reading Well booklist that supports mental health, local library info, and online support to keep children safe from online harm.

Guidance on the School support recovery offer is updated to clarify that support funded through this programme will come from someone external to the school or trust receiving support.

Cabinet Office

Stay home guidance was updated yesterday to provide clarity on attendance at support groups; and international travel, including guidance on booking and staying in a quarantine hotel.

Summary of Covid-19 related Government announcements 17th February 2021

Clinically extremely vulnerable

The Government has published reference-only versions of the letters sent to people who are clinically extremely vulnerable, following additions announced yesterday to the Shielded Patient List.

Vaccinations

The NHS is inviting the next cohort of people to be vaccinated:

This includes those aged over 65 and other clinically vulnerable people aged between 16 and 64 with underlying health conditions.

Adult carers are also being invited to receive their vaccines.

Additional testing

DHSC has announced that, additional surge testing and genomic sequencing is being deployed to targeted areas within Norfolk (targeted areas within the IP22

postcode), Southampton (SO15) and Woking, Surrey (GU22) where the coronavirus variant first identified in South Africa has been found.

Summary of Covid-19 related Government announcements 18th February 2021

DHSC

Announced accessibility improvements to ordering home testing kits,

Test can now be ordered over the phone calling 119, for those without access to internet

New Test and Trace partnership with Royal Institute of Blind People (RIBP) to improve testing for visually impaired home testing

A new video call support service will also be available with trained staff to help people with vision impairments to test at home

Guidance on how adult day care centres can order PCR testing for staff

Guidance on designated setting scheme for people discharged from hospital to care home with positive COVID test, includes advice for setting up designated space, information for councils, discharge arrangements, supporting individuals with care.

Report findings, from Imperial College London Coronavirus study, interim findings show infection rates fell more than two-thirds from the last report, and R number 0.72 compared to previous interim findings. Infection rates are still high with more people in hospital compared to last April.

Announced £18.5m to research projects on the long term effects of long COVID to understand causes, symptoms and treatment

MHCLG

Updated guidance for councils including updates to: Housing, Public Health, Local Government Finance and Funding, School, Education, Social care, Testing and Other

Public Health England

Additional guidance on how to support for students

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