

E-Newsletter – 12th March 2021

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1) Information Corner

Renewal Reminder

If you have not renewed your membership but wish to continue to be a member, please complete the membership form and return it to me or Mike, along with the £10 subscription by the 31st March 2021, as after that time if you have not re-joined your e-newsletters will no longer be distributed. Alternatively, please see our membership, payments page for other ways to pay.

Action Fraud warning as holiday bookings surge after lockdown exit plans announced

Action Fraud and ABTA, The Travel Association, are reminding the public to think twice before handing over their money and personal information when booking holidays this year.

What is holiday fraud?

Holiday fraud can vary from fake accommodation listings that don't actually exist, to "too good to be true" offers with flights being particularly targeted. Criminals can approach you over the phone, via text, email and social media, offering incredibly cheap deals to tempt you into booking a holiday with them. In reality, the holiday you've booked, or parts of it, doesn't exist at all.

Before you buy:

- Do your research—make sure you've read plenty of reviews and have checked that the company is an ABTA member

- Pay Safe—use a credit card where possible and avoid paying into bank accounts
- If it's too good to be true, it usually is!

****IMPORTANT MESSAGE** from Head of Waste, Environmental Care and Street Cleansing**

You may have read in the press or on social media, a report relating to the amount of recycled waste from Southend being sent for incineration -

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/mar/07/revealed-why-hundreds-of-thousands-of-tonnes-of-recycling-are-going-up-in-smoke>. The article is advance promotion of a Channel 4 Dispatches TV programme being shown this evening (8th March 2021) “Dirty truth about your rubbish”. The report quotes a figure of 45%, which is based off an erroneous response given by the council in an FOI request, which means this is incorrect. The figure for Southend is in fact only 9%.

The only waste which is sent to incineration (energy from waste) is non-recyclable items which have been placed in the pink recycling sacks incorrectly – this includes items such as used nappies, crisp packets, polystyrene and sanitary items. The total amount of non-recyclables sent to energy from waste in 2019-2020 was just over 2100 tonnes. This represents 9% of the total recycling collected or 3% of the total household waste collected in the Borough.

We have notified Channel 4 and the relevant press of this error, so for those of you who watch Dispatches tonight, please bear this in mind.

This error coming to light has served to highlight the need for all of us nationwide to recycle properly. Information on what can be recycled can be found at our website www.southend.gov.uk/recycling.

The Council's waste contractor Veolia currently makes the arrangements for the sorting and processing of the Borough's recycling and therefore needs to find disposal outlets for the non-recyclables which may be presented in the pink recycling sacks.

Leigh and Thorpe Bay to see 20mph zones by end of 2021

Source: https://www.echo-news.co.uk/news/local_news/19145885.leigh-thorpe-bay-see-20mph-zones-end-2021/

New 20mph zones will be trialled in two towns to help reduce emissions in Southend. Leigh and Thorpe Bay will both see the ‘environmental zones’ introduced by the end of the year, council bosses revealed.

A specific date has yet to be determined for the trial, but Ron Woodley, deputy leader of the council, confirmed the two towns will see the zones implemented soon.

The Echo revealed in June how all Southend residential roads will have a 20mph speed limit under plans to improve the environment and improve safety.

Mr Woodley cited speeding as a huge issue that the 20mph zones will solve.

He said: “We’re trialling two wards in Southend which we know are both wanted by councillors.

“We will then go ward by ward across Southend to introduce the environmental zones.

“We are dealing with the minority of people who are speeding in the town.

“Unfortunately the Southend Tories are opposed to it, so we’ve been banging our heads against the wall for a while. I don’t want to do that anymore.

“We need to get on with it.”

The Echo understands Shoebury will be the next ward to be part of the 20mph zone trial.

As lockdown eases please remember ‘stay at home’ regulation remains in force until end of March

Over 61,700 people in Southend-on-Sea have now received their first dose of the Covid-19 vaccine and rates of infection in the Borough continue to fall.

This week also saw schools reopen across the Borough in the first step of the government’s four-part plan to lift the COVID-19 lockdown in England.

The council has taken a proactive approach to support schools and we are one of the only authorities in the country to have set up a school-only LFD testing site to support schools, which is located at Southend Leisure and Tennis Centre in Eastern Avenue as well as the deployment of four mobile testing stations, in collaboration with St. John Ambulance. There are also public community LFD testing sites at University Square, Southend, St Aiden’s Church in Leigh-on-Sea and Shoebury Youth Centre in Shoeburyness.

Easing of restrictions also means recreation in a public space – such as a park – is now allowed between two people, meaning you can now sit down for a coffee or picnic.

Krishna Ramkhelawon, Southend’s Director of Public Health, said: “It’s fantastic to see schools reopen across the Borough as restrictions ease in the first step of the government’s roadmap back to a normal way of life. Whilst only a very small number of pupils have tested positive, we advise parents to continue testing at home or using the public LFD facilities to reduce rates and prevent any further disruption to education in the classrooms.

“We want people to get out and enjoy their local areas, exercise and meet up with a friend or family member, but please remember that the 'Stay at Home' regulation remains in force until 29 March, so meeting in groups and travelling outside your local area is still not allowed, and people should continue to work from home if possible.”

From 29 March outdoor gatherings of either six people or two households will be allowed. This will include gatherings in private gardens. Outdoor sports facilities such as tennis or basketball courts will reopen and organised adult and children's sport, such as grassroots football, will also return. The ‘stay at home’ rule will end on 29

March, but many restrictions will remain in place. People should continue to work from home where they can and minimise the number of journeys they make where possible, avoiding travel at the busiest times and routes.

More than half of cancer patients 'are not protected against Covid after one dose of Pfizer's vaccine', alarming study claims

Source: <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-9350033/HALF-cancer-patients-not-protected-against-Covid-one-dose-Pfizers-vaccine.html>

More than HALF of cancer patients 'are not protected against Covid after one dose of Pfizer's vaccine', alarming study claims - as experts and charities call for No10 to ditch 12-week gap for their second dose.

- Study of 150 cancer patients will put pressure on No10 to rethink vaccine rollout
- Just 39% with cancers such as breast or prostate had antibodies at three weeks
- Even less effective in patients with blood cancers, with just 13% having proteins
- If second dose of Pfizer jab given after 21 days of first, figure rose to up to 95%

More than half of cancer patients may not be protected against coronavirus after a single dose of the Pfizer vaccine, an alarming study has claimed.

Research of more than 150 patients found the jab stimulated an antibody response in just 39 per cent of people with solid cancers, such as in the breast or prostate, after three weeks.

The single dose was even less effective in blood and bone marrow cancer patients, with just 13 per cent developing the virus-fighting proteins, compared to 97 per cent of healthy people.

The King's College London study found that when patients were given the booster dose at 21 days, the percentage who showed signs of immunity more than doubled to up to 95 per cent.

Antibodies are not the only part of the immune response to Covid — white blood cells also play an important role. But having no detectable levels strongly suggests someone has little protection.

Cancer charities and scientists who led the research are urgently calling for Britain's 2million cancer patients to get their second injection sooner.

Under the current UK dosing regimen, Britons are being offered their second dose after 12 weeks on the advice of the Government's expert advisory group on vaccines.

Cancer patients are among the most vulnerable to dying from Covid and reliant on a vaccine because their immune system is already compromised. They are also normally on immunosuppressant drugs, which make it even more difficult for their bodies to naturally defend against the virus.

The study didn't look at Oxford University's coronavirus vaccine, which works slightly differently. But both of Britain's approved jabs have similar success rates.

Professor Adrian Hayday, an immunologist at King's, said: 'The vaccine is very impressive in its impact on healthy individuals and our study shows that it can clearly bring immense benefit to cancer patients too, but in most cases this is only after boosting.

'Cancer patients should be vaccinated and boosted quickly and their responses, particularly those of blood cancer patients, should be intensively monitored so that those who mix with family, friends and carers can be confident of their environment.'

Dr Simon Vincent, director of research, support and influencing at Breast Cancer Now, described the study as 'worrying' and called on an urgent rethink to the vaccine programme.

He added: 'Worryingly, this study suggests that people affected by cancer, including breast cancer, get little protection against the virus when they only receive a single dose of the Pfizer Covid vaccine, and then do not receive their vaccine boost in the following three weeks.

'In contrast, the study identifies that when patients received a second dose of the vaccine within three weeks, they had significantly improved immune response and protection against coronavirus.

'In light of these findings we are calling on the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation to urgently review the evidence presented in this study, and to consider adapting its strategy to ensure that people who may benefit from this approach, including those with breast cancer, receive both the first and second dose of the Pfizer Covid vaccine within a three week timeframe to minimize their risk of both contracting and becoming seriously ill with coronavirus.'

The KCL study, which has not yet been published in a scientific journal, looked at 151 cancer patients and 54 healthy controls. It was done in collaboration with the Francis Crick Institute in London.

Researchers took antibody levels from cancer patients and healthy volunteers three weeks after getting the first dose.

They found 97 per cent of healthy people had antibodies, compared to just 39 per cent of patients with solid cancers and 13 per cent of those with blood cancers.

Forty-seven cancer patients were given their second dose later that day at Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust, King's College Hospital or Princess Royal University Hospital in Bromley.

Antibody levels were then retested at five weeks in all three groups: cancer patients given both doses, cancer patients who had the second injection delayed and healthy participants not given the booster jab.

Results showed 95 per cent of patients with solid cancers given both doses had detectable antibodies. For those with blood cancers the sample size was too small but there was a 'noticeable improvement', researchers said.

Every healthy participant who received one dose tested positive for the proteins.

And among those cancer patients who had the booster shot delayed, 8 per cent of blood cancer patients had antibodies. The figure was 43 per cent in solid cancer patients.

The trial will continue to follow cancer patients post vaccination for up to six months to see how antibody levels change over time on various dosing regimens.

Dr Sheeba Irshad, a senior clinical lecturer from King's College London who co-led the study, said: 'Our data provides the first real-world evidence of immune efficacy following one dose of the Pfizer vaccine in immunocompromised patient populations.

'We show that following first dose, most solid and haematological cancer patients remained immunologically unprotected up until at least five weeks following primary injection; but this poor one dose efficacy can be rescued with an early booster at day 21.

'Based on our findings, we would recommend an urgent review of the vaccine strategy for clinically extremely vulnerable groups.

'Until then, it is important that cancer patients continue to observe all public health measures in place such as social distancing and shielding when attending hospitals, even after vaccination.'

2) Temporary Road Closures

Weekly Major Works

Address 1	Start	End	Works Reference	L.A.Ref	Traffic Management
DREWSTEIGNTON	05/03/2021	18/03/2021	AZ007-1000862790	100372	Some carriageway incursion – delays unlikely
INDEPENDENT FOOTPATH ADJACENT 381 TO 419A ARTERIAL ROAD	17/11/2020	15/03/2021	AZ007-1000875190	101628	Some carriageway incursion
HEYCROFT ROAD	05/01/2021	16/03/2021	AZ007-1000876043	101719	Some carriageway incursion
BLATCHES CHASE	01/03/2021	24/03/2021	AZ007-1000891103	103443	Some carriageway incursion
FULFORD DRIVE	08/03/2021	31/03/2021	AZ007-1000891719	103514	No carriageway incursion – delays unlikely
MEAKINS CLOSE	01/03/2021	19/04/2021	AZ007-1000892072	103566	Give and take - delays possible
BISHOPSTEIGNTON	20/01/2021	23/03/2021	AZ007-1000964855	109233	Some carriageway incursion
THORPE HALL AVENUE	13/01/2021	31/03/2021	AZ007-1000994632	111886	Road closure - delays likely
THORPE HALL AVENUE	15/02/2021	19/03/2021	AZ007-1000994666	111900	Road closure - delays likely
RAPHAEL DRIVE	08/03/2021	11/06/2021	AZ007-1001014417	113138	Some carriageway incursion
GROVEWOOD AVENUE	15/03/2021	04/05/2021	AZ007-1001014529	113153	Give and take – delays possible
SERVICE ROAD FOR 447 TO 481 ARTERIAL ROAD AND 6 TO 36 GROVE HILL	15/03/2021	07/04/2021	AZ007-1001014610	113159	Give and take – delays possible
THE BROADWAY	21/01/2021	31/03/2021	AZ007-1001016164	113235	Multiway signals – delays likely
THORPE BAY GARDENS	15/02/2021	31/03/2021	AZ007-1001016165	113232	Multiway signals – delays likely

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GLOUCESTER TERRACE	15/02/2021	19/03/2021 (date change)	AZ007-1001018980	113480	Road closure – delays likely
TYRONE ROAD	22/02/2021	22/03/2021	AZ007-1001019111	113488	Road closure - delays likely
WAKERING ROAD	08/03/2021	27/04/2021	AZ007-1001036248	114462	Two way signals – delays possible
AYLESBEARE	08/02/2021	29/03/2021	AZ007-1001042515	114958	Some carriageway incursion
LORD ROBERTS AVENUE	18/03/2021	19/03/2021	AZ703-1000997181	112108	Give and take – delays possible
LEIGH PARK ROAD	15/03/2021	19/03/2021	AZ703-1001013180	113071	Give and take – delays possible
SHAFTESBURY AVENUE	08/03/2021	24/04/2021	EC300-54882910	113050	Multiway signals – delays likely
BRYANT AVENUE	08/03/2021	24/04/2021	EC300-61216659	113052	Multiway signals – delays likely
ELIZABETH ROAD	08/03/2021	24/04/2021	EC300-62730292	113053	Multiway signals – delays likely
LIFSTAN WAY	08/03/2021	24/04/2021	EC300-89077138	113051	Multiway signals – delays likely
APPLEROW	15/02/2021	12/03/2021	JR001-F/WRESURFAPPLEM/M	106833	Give and take – delays possible
GROVEWOOD AVENUE	04/12/2020	14/04/2021	JR101-TEMPDIST2988	113064	No carriageway incursion – delays unlikely
CHALLACOMBE	01/03/2021	20/03/2021	KG027-SE-FTTH-PN014-12	114573	Give and take – delays possible
SHOEBURY ROAD	25/02/2021	19/03/2021	KG027-SE-FTTH-PN029-15	114777	Two way signals – delays possible
BURGES ROAD	16/02/2021	13/04/2021 (date change)	KG027-SE-FTTH-PN071-07	112319	Road closure - delays likely

CityFibre

Please find below the list of roads that CityFibre will be working in next week.

CF Permit Reference	Road Name	Scheduled start	Scheduled End Date
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KG027SE-FTTH- PN071-07	Burges Road	16/02/2021	13/04/2021
KG027SE-FTTH- PN081-10	Chelsworth Crescent	11/03/2021	15/03/2021
KG027SE-FTTH- PN081-11	Chelsworth Close	11/03/2021	15/03/2021
KG027SE-FTTH- PN080-11	Greenways	11/03/2021	15/03/2021
KG027SE-FTTH- PN06-11	Chelsea Avenue	11/03/2021	15/03/2021
KG027SE-FTTH- PN081-BL3	Wyatts Drive	11/03/2021	15/03/2021
KG027SE-FTTH- PN038-21	Northumberland Avenue	11/03/2021	15/03/2021
KG027SE-FTTH- PN015-03	St. Augustine's Avenue	15/03/2021	26/03/2021

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

A127 Bell Junction - 15th Mar - 19th Mar

Mon-Fri there will be daytime off peak (09:00 to 15:00) northbound lane closures on Holeythick Lane; 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 Mar to 19th Mar

Mon-Fri there will be night-time (20:00 to 06:30) westbound road closures on the A127 Southend Arterial from the Progress Road Junction to the Borough Boundary; for carriageway resurfacing works.

Thurs-Fri there will be night-time (20:00 to 06:30) northbound road closures on the A127 Victoria Avenue from the A13 Junction to the West Street Junction, and eastbound and westbound lane closures on the approaches to the A13 Junction; for carriageway resurfacing works.

4) List of Applications Registered Week Ending 12th March 2021

Application Number: 21/00360/FULH
 Officer: Oliver Hart
 Alter rear elevation and erect boundary wall to side
16 Moat End Thorpe Bay Essex

Ward: Southchurch

Application Number: 21/00365/FULH
Officer: Oliver Hart
Form vehicle crossover onto Newington Avenue
7 Newington Avenue Southend-On-Sea Essex

Ward: Southchurch

Application Number: 21/00310/FULH
Officer: Kara Elliott
Erect single storey side and rear extension
43 Clieveden Road Thorpe Bay Essex

Ward: Thorpe

Application Number: 21/00357/FULH
Officer: Kara Elliott
Erect single storey side/rear extension
44 The Broadway Thorpe Bay Essex

Ward: Thorpe

Application Number: 21/00376/FULH
Officer: Oliver Hart
Erect single storey side extension and alter roof on existing single storey side extension to match
79 Parkanaur Avenue Thorpe Bay Essex

Ward: Thorpe

Application Number: 21/00369/CLP
Officer: Oliver Hart
Single storey rear extension (Lawful development certificate-proposed)
23 Thorpedene Gardens Shoeburyness Southend-On-Sea

Ward: West Shoebury

Application Number: 21/00467/RES
Officer: Scott Davison
Approval of Reserved Matters (details of Access, Appearance, Landscaping, Layout and Scale) - of planning permission ref: 20/01188/OUT granted on 05.10.2020- Demolish existing building (Class A4), erect 9 dwellings with associated parking and vehicular access on to Seaview Road and Stour Close (Outline) (Amended Proposal)
22 Seaview Road Shoeburyness Southend-On-Sea

Ward: West Shoebury

5) List of Decisions Issued **Week Ending 7th March 2021**

APPLN. NO: 20/02172/FULH
Officer: Janine Rowley
ERECT FIRST FLOOR SIDE EXTENSION WITH BALCONY TO REAR AND CONVERT GARAGE INTO HABITABLE ACCOMMODATION
5 WILLINGALE WAY THORPE BAY ESSEX
Decision: Grant Conditional Permission

Ward. Southchurch

APPLN. NO: 20/02183/FULH
Officer: Janine Rowley

Ward. Southchurch

ERECT SINGLE STOREY REAR AND SIDE EXTENSION WITH ROOF LANTERN
142 BARNSTAPLE ROAD THORPE BAY ESSEX

Decision: Refuse Permission

APPLN. NO: 21/00197/GPDE

Ward. Southchurch

Officer: Oliver Hart

ERECT SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSION, PROJECTING 5M BEYOND THE EXISTING REAR WALL OF THE DWELLING, 3M HIGH TO EAVES AND WITH A MAXIMUM HEIGHT OF 3M

8 CHADACRE ROAD THORPE BAY ESSEX

Decision: GPD Non Conditional Date

APPLN. NO: 21/00213/GPDE

Ward. Southchurch

Officer: Kara Elliott

ERECT SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSION, PROJECTING 5.12M BEYOND THE EXISTING REAR WALL OF THE DWELLING, 2.4M HIGH TO EAVES AND WITH A MAXIMUM HEIGHT OF 3.56M

11 BARNSTAPLE CLOSE THORPE BAY ESSEX

Decision: GPD Refusal Date

APPLN. NO: 21/00226/GPDE

Ward. Southchurch

Officer: Oliver Hart

ERECT SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSION, PROJECTING 7.45M BEYOND THE EXISTING REAR WALL OF THE DWELLING, 2.58M HIGH TO EAVES AND WITH A MAXIMUM HEIGHT OF 2.83M

107 SOUTHCHURCH BOULEVARD SOUTHEND-ON-SEA ESSEX

Decision: GPD Refusal

APPLN. NO: 21/00391/PREAPF

Ward. Southchurch

Officer:

ERECT PART SINGLE/PART TWO STOREY REAR EXTENSION, TWO STOREY SIDE EXTENSION AND SINGLE STOREY FRONT EXTENSION

267 MAPLIN WAY NORTH THORPE BAY ESSEX

Decision: Withdrawn Date

APPLN. NO: 21/00004/CLP

Ward. Thorpe

Officer: Janine Rowley

SINGLE STOREY OUTBUILDING TO REAR (LAWFUL DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATE PROPOSED)

59 MARCUS AVENUE THORPE BAY ESSEX

Decision: Refuse Lawful Development Certificate

APPLN. NO: 21/00022/CLP

Ward. Thorpe

Officer: Kara Elliott

ERECT DORMER TO REAR WITH JULIETTE BALCONY TO FORM HABITABLE ACCOMMODATION IN THE LOFTSPACE, INSTALL ROOFLIGHTS TO FRONT (CERTIFICATE OF LAWFUL DEVELOPMENT - PROPOSED)

191 KENSINGTON ROAD SOUTHEND-ON-SEA ESSEX

Decision: Grant Lawful Dev Certificate (Proposed)

APPLN. NO: 21/00053/FULH

Ward. Thorpe

Officer: Spyros Mouratidis

INSTALL CHIMNEY FLUE FOR LOG BURNER TO OUTBUILDING AT REAR
(PARTRETROSPECTIVE) (AMENDED PROPOSAL)

140 THORPE HALL AVENUE THORPE BAY ESSEX

Decision: Grant Conditional Permission

APPLN. NO: 21/00063/FULH

Ward. Thorpe

Officer: Oliver Hart

ERECT SINGLE STOREY SIDE EXTENSION AND CONVERT EXISTING GARAGE
INTO HABITABLE ACCOMMODATION, ALTER ELEVATIONS

6 MEADOW DRIVE THORPE BAY ESSEX

Decision: Grant Conditional Permission

APPLN. NO: 20/02022/FUL

Ward. West Shoebury

Officer: Spyros Mouratidis

CHANGE OF USE OF REAR PART OF GROUND FLOOR RETAIL UNIT (CLASS
E) TO FORM SELF-CONTAINED ONE (1NO.) FLAT (CLASS C3), CONVERT
REAR PART OF FIRST FLOOR OFFICE (CLASS E) TO TWO (2NO.) SELF-
CONTAINED FLATS (CLASS C3), CONVERT EXISTING FLAT (CLASS C3) TO
TWO (2NO.) SELF-CONTAINED FLATS (CLASS C3) ALTER FRONT AND REAR
ELEVATION AND LAYOUT PARKING AND CYCLE STORE TO REAR

CO-OPERATIVE GROUP LIMITED 105 - 107 WEST ROAD SHOEBURYNESS

Decision: Grant Conditional Permission

APPLN. NO: 20/02132/FULH

Ward. West Shoebury

Officer: Janine Rowley

ERECT FIRST FLOOR SIDE EXTENSION, LOFT CONVERSION, SINGLE
STOREY REAR EXTENSION, CONVERSION OF PART OF THE GARAGE AND
ALTER ELEVATIONS

30 BUCKLAND SHOEBURYNESS ESSEX

Decision: Grant Conditional Permission

APPLN. NO: 20/02147/FULH

Ward. West Shoebury

Officer: Julie Ramsey

ERECT SINGLE STOREY SIDE EXTENSION

9 APPLEDORE SHOEBURYNESS ESSEX

Decision: Grant Conditional Permission

APPLN. NO: 21/00006/FULH

Ward. West Shoebury

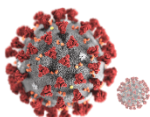
Officer: Kara Elliott

ERECT SINGLE STOREY FRONT AND SIDE EXTENSION

6 CONNAUGHT GARDENS SHOEBURYNESS ESSEX

Decision: Grant Permission

6) Coronavirus Information



Weekly Briefing on Local Decisions & Actions re Coronavirus outbreak 5th March 2021

Key updates/actions

- **Roadmap out of lockdown:** The Government published its four-step plan for easing national restrictions last week. From 8 March, people in England will see restrictions start to lift and the Government's four-step roadmap offer a route back to a more normal life.
- **Schools:** Pupils will start to fully return to school from Monday 8 March. Read more about the national LFD testing programme on GOV.UK.
Read our local media release about how we are supporting schools and testing. A national FAQ for parents and carers is also available on GOV.UK.
- **Furlough:** The furlough scheme and support grants for self-employed people are being extended until September. Find out more about coronavirus-related changes in this year's Government Budget announced earlier this week.
- **Vaccination:** With the vaccination roll-out underway, regular information is being updated on the EPUT website and the dedicated Essex COVID 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/>
- **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.

Full details of all the booking options are available at www.southend.gov.uk/gettested

- **Business grants:**

New Government business grants in place from November lockdown: Paid £10.47m in 4,906 grant payments with 471 outstanding out of 4,691 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

- **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 **5 March 2021 is 51.9 per 100,000** (down from 82.5 per 100,000 on 26 February). The rate in the **60 and over age bracket is 41.8 per 100,000** (down from 70.3 per 100,000 on 26 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 19 February 2021 but were registered up to 27 February 2021: **620 (+18)**.
- **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 5th March 2021

DfE has published:

- Updated guidance on the devices and support available to provide remote education and access to children's social care. Updated to clarify who is eligible for connectivity support.
- Updates to the FE operational guidance to include changes to the sections on physical activity and sports, support for students who are unable to access remote digital education to include information on requesting free data and the 16 to 19 tuition fund. We have also updated the examinations and assessments section to reflect the announcement last week about awarding qualifications in 2021.

- Updated guidance on 'Changes to the school suspension and expulsion process during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak' to highlight the changes from 25 March 2021.

HO has published:

Updated advice for visa customers and applicants in the UK, visa customers outside of the UK and British nationals overseas who need to apply for a passport affected by travel restrictions. Updated guidance in the 'if you intend to stay in the UK' section.

DHSC has published:

- Updated guidance which has been replaced with a new version to reflect the announcements in the roadmap published on 22 February (COVID-19 Response – Spring 2021) for the next phase in opening up care home visiting. Added a new document: 'Summary of guidance for visitors'.
- New speech by Minister for Innovation Lord Bethell at the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Clinical Research Network National Industry Event.
- New information that millions more children and young people will have access to significantly expanded mental health services, backed by £79m.

PHE has published:

- New guidance on the ventilation of indoor spaces.

DBEIS has published:

Updated guidance for local authorities on paying grants to support businesses during national lockdown periods and periods of local restrictions. All guidance documents updated: closing dates added; subsidy allowance guidelines amended; requirement for a business to have been trading before restrictions were announced in order to be eligible for funding has been clarified.

Summary of Covid-19 related Government announcements 8th March 2021

Today the PM gave a statement on coronavirus, and provided an update on schools going back and care home visits. He highlighted

- The return to schooling, the first roadmap step to recovery.
- The efforts of researchers.
- Disproportionality in home-schooling, with the role falling mostly to women.
- A programme of recovery to help children catch-up.
- Hospitalisations being 8x higher than in summer.
- Transmission increase is likely, yet the most vulnerable are now protected.

Cabinet Office

National lockdown guidance is updated with the latest rules and restrictions from 8 March.

DfT

Guidance is updated on safer travel for passengers, to include a declaration form for international travel.

Department for Environment, Food, Rural Affairs

Guidance on accessing green spaces safely is updated with new rules that apply from 8 March.

DfE

- HE provider guidance is updated for 'students returning to, and starting, higher education in the spring term' to include advice on students travelling home for their Easter break and updated guidance for new and returning students travelling from overseas.
- Secondary school face covering guidance is updated to clarify the use of reasonable adjustments for disabled pupils and students.

Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy

• Closed Businesses Lockdown Payment guidance is updated to include the grant scheme closing date and details of new subsidy allowance confirmed.

MHCLG

- Guidance for owners and operators of playgrounds and outdoor gyms is updated to reflect the current roadmap.

In an announcement today, provisions are to be extended around pavement licences for a further 12 months, subject to parliamentary approval. Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP wrote to councils on measures to support hospitality businesses to reopen safely and asking councils to do 'everything possible' to get ready for high streets reopening. The extension is part of wider measures to help hospitality businesses. These include:

- Relaxation of planning rules to allow pubs and restaurants to operate as takeaways
- Greater flexibility for land to be used for temporary events, such as markets and motorsports
- Planning freedoms to allow outdoor markets, marquees, pop-up car-boot sales or summer fairs without the need of a planning application

DoHSC

- In an announcement, rapid tests are available for all businesses. Businesses are encouraged to register interest by 31 March to order free lateral flow tests for their employees.
- Guidance for arrangements for visiting out of the care home is updated to reflect the current roadmap.

Guidance for managing beaches, the countryside and coastal areas is updated to reflect the current roadmap.

LGA

- The LGA is hosting a webinar for chief executives, council leaders, directors of public health and other interested members on local outbreak management plans at 3pm on 10 March.
- The LGA launched their LG Inform report on vaccination data. The report allows councils to view the count and rate of vaccinations in their area, both overall and by age-bands.

Summary of Covid-19 related Government announcements 9th March 2021

- Free rapid tests for all businesses
- Disposing of coronavirus waste
- Schools should segregate LFD waste from any recyclable packaging or other material.
- Outer packaging provided with the LFD test kits can be recycled or disposed of through your existing waste streams.
- Schools must ensure that all waste produced onsite, including from the LFD test kits, is handled appropriately by a licenced waste management company
- Updated guidance for those who provided unpaid care.
- SOP published to support carers to access a covid vaccine.

Summary of Covid-19 related Government announcements 10th March 2021

DfE

- Additional resources to support school communications are available for young people testing themselves at home. Guidance, primary communications, secondary communications.
- School meal guidance is updated to include that that schools should provide meal options for all pupils who are in school and that meals should be available free of charge to:
 - o all infant pupils
 - o pupils who meet the benefits-related free school meals eligibility criteria

- o For pupils eligible for FSM and self-isolating at home, schools should work with their school catering team or food provider to provide good quality lunch parcels.

DfT

- The PM today set out his vision to build back better by boosting transport connectivity, as part of ambitions to level up across the country. The government will also consult on cutting Air Passenger Duty (APD) on internal UK flights and will commit £20m to develop plans for upgraded rail, road, sea and air links.

MHCLG

- In an announcement today, the ban on bailiff enforced evictions is now extended until at least 31 May. This is for residential tenants, in all but the most serious circumstances.
- In a guidance update, the ban on commercial evictions is extended to 30 June
- New guidance is published on additional steps to reduce COVID-19 risk in shared-facility homes.

DoHSC

- Care home guidance is updated, setting out how care homes can support families and visitors to visit residents. The update confirms that being on the Shielded Patient List does not prevent a care home resident from receiving visitors.

Summary of Covid-19 related Government announcements 11th March 2021

Public Health England

- In a press release JCVI advised prioritising homeless people and rough sleepers for the vaccine in priority group 6.
- Updated confirmed cases of COVID-19 variant identified in UK
- Updated Campaign Resource Centre (CRC) with new campaigns and resources for 'Back to School' and 'Coronavirus vaccine cohort six'.
- Published weekly national flu and COVID surveillance report

DoHSC

- Updated guidance on surge testing to include London Borough of Wandsworth (SW11 and SW15) and London Borough of Croydon (CR0 and South Norwood, Thornton Heath), London Borough of Redbridge (Loxford and Clementswood wards).
- Health Minister wrote a letter in to JCVI in response to advice on vaccination of homeless people and rough sleepers, prisoners and prison officers and extended dosing strategy welcoming advising and asking NHS England and Improvement (NHSEI) to take this forward.

- Published guidance on providers of day 2 and day 8 coronavirus testing for international travel to include information on how to book, pay and take tests after arrival in England.
- Updated guidance on how homecare agencies can order and register for regular tests for homecare staff

DCMS

- Announced new social media campaign to tackle false vaccine information amongst ethnic minority communities

DfE

- Published the online form for schools to claim for the coronavirus workforce fund to support state-funded schools and colleges experiencing high staff absence and significant funding pressures.
- Recorded versions of 'Return to school webinar and rapid testing webinar' have been made available online for 4th March and 5th March sessions.

Office of National Statistics

- Published indicator report from Opinions and Lifestyle Survey to understand the impact of COVID on disabled people.

DfT

- Fix Your Bike Voucher Scheme, third batch of £50 vouchers is now available for the public to repair bicycle.

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