

E-Newsletter – 9th April 2021

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1) Information Corner

His Royal Highness The Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh.

We join the nation in expressing our very great sadness at the announcement today of the death of His Royal Highness The Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh.

Below is a summary of our support and communication today:

Flags

The flags at the Civic Centre, Porters and in the parks have been lowered to half-mast.

Statement

A statement from The Mayor has been released and has been placed:

- i. On the corporate website His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh: Statement from The Mayor – Southend-on-Sea Borough Council
- ii. On Facebook and Twitter (using the official image).

A dedicated e-newsletter was sent to residents containing the statement from the Mayor.

Corporate website

A commemorative header image has been added to the homepage.

Three top news stories are:

- i. Statement from The Mayor
- ii. Flags at half-mast in Southend
- iii. Royal Family Announcement

Communications previously planned for the day

All unrelated social media posts and media releases have been paused. However urgent notices will still be communicated.

Book of Condolence

An online book of condolence has been created by The Royal Family which is now live www.royal.uk

In accordance with guidance, we are pointing our residents to this book to leave their sympathies and pay their respects, where it will be viewable by The Royal Family.

Council urges residents and visitors to play their part in keeping Southend tidy

A key part of 'Operation Heatwave' – the plan to ensure the Borough is ready to welcome back visitors and keep residents safe – includes additional resources to deal with and manage the extra waste generated by the increased number of visitors to the Borough. This has already been seen-with the easing of restrictions, the Easter holidays and bursts of warm weather.

Alongside its usual street cleansing programme, the council has introduced the following additional measures to manage waste during peak times:

- Additional larger EuroBins have been put in place across the Borough including two more in Old Leigh (making four in total), four at East Beach and ten more at City Beach (20 in total).
- Additional litter picking and bin emptying will take place in our main parks at weekends and during the school holidays, with four staff based at Belfairs Park, Priory Park, Chalkwell Park and Southchurch Park from 11:30am to 7:30pm.
- Additional litter picking and bin emptying will also take place at Thorpe Bay Gardens, Shoebury Common, Leigh Cliffs and Marine Parade/Belton Hills (in addition to Southend Cliffs, Prittlewell Square, Warrior Square Gardens). Two extra mobile litter pickers will support other areas

While the majority of people are responsible, litter can often be left behind. The council is now urging residents and visitors to do their bit and take responsibility for their rubbish and, if litter bins are full, find another one or take their rubbish home.

Our beaches and parks are there for everyone to enjoy and the council's request to residents and visitors is to be considerate when visiting.

Rubbish from fast food establishments is also a large contributor to the litter found on our streets. The plea is for pedestrians, and drivers especially, to take their items home with them if they cannot see a bin. Throwing rubbish from a car is never acceptable.

Thorpe Bay Bowling Club



We are happy to announce our bowling green is open from Monday 19th April to members old and new.

For anyone who would like to join us, or are new to the sport, we run trial sessions, and free coaching.

Contact us at tbbcinfo999@gmail.com

Club telephone no. 01702 582074

Website: www.thorpebaybowls.com

Top End Thorpe Hall Avenue

The Council has spoken to colleagues within Anglian Water Collection Team (team responsible for the piped network) regarding the concerns around flooding from the sewer network at Thorpe Hall Avenue.

At present they have responded saying that they are currently working on a long-term solution to address the issue but as it is very early days, they have no further details to share at present.

I do not feel this response is in anyway an attempt to not share findings or proposals with us, it is just that at the current time they are still actively investigating.

Should the residents wish to make contact with Anglian Water directly, then I suggest they contact Jonathan Glerum their Regional Flood Risk Manager via jGlerum@anglianwater.co.uk

A message from Which? - A better way to make us aware of scams

There's now a much easier way to make us aware of scams directly with our scam sharer tool.

Sharing details of the scam helps us to protect others as well as inform our scams content, research & policy work. With your help, we can continue to fight back against the fraudsters.

Tell us (Which?) your experiences of phishing emails, fake texts, cold calls and other types of fraud.

Please share this information with your friends, family and neighbours - anyone who may find it helpful. Or they can sign up to receive this directly to their inbox.

c2c update: New recovery timetable from Monday

We will be introducing our new recovery timetable from Monday, following the confirmation by the Prime Minister that lockdown restrictions will be eased next week.

This recovery timetable is intended to provide extra capacity where it is needed most, and allow our customers to return with confidence - while still ensuring we do not run empty or under-utilised trains at unnecessary cost to the taxpayer. It will provide 30% more services each weekday, adding around 12,000 more peak-time seats, and nearly 36,000 extra seats across the whole day.

The full timetable is published at: <https://www.c2c-online.co.uk/media-centre/latest-news/new-recovery-timetable/>. Probably the most notable difference to our normal timetable will now be during the off-peak, when we will be running a half-hourly service on all lines. This is because off-peak passenger numbers continue to be low.

We intend to operate this timetable for the next few months at least, and as you'd expect, we'll continue to monitor passenger numbers very closely. Once the data is available, we'll share it with our customers to provide them with a guide to how busy each individual train is at peak times.

Alongside this, all the work our team has been doing over the past year to help keep customers safe continues. We are maintaining our enhanced cleaning regime, offering hand sanitiser at our stations, and heavily promoting the importance of wearing a face covering and onboard our trains.

2) Temporary Road Closures

a) Fermoy Road, Southend-on-Sea – 19th April 2021 till 9th May 2021 - Fibre Optic Cabling Works

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

1. Proceeding on Fermoy Road between its junctions of Thorpe Hall Avenue to Tyrone Road

2. Stopping, waiting, loading & Unloading on Fermoy Road between its junctions of Thorpe Hall Avenue to Tyrone Road
3. Proceeding on Fermoy Road between its junctions of Tyrone Road to The Broadway
4. Stopping, waiting, loading & Unloading on Fermoy Road between its junctions of Tyrone Road to The Broadway
5. Turning left into Fermoy Road from The Broadway.
6. Proceeding on Fermoy Road between its junctions of The Broadway to Parkanaur Avenue
7. Stopping, waiting, loading & Unloading on Fermoy Road between its junctions of The Broadway to Parkanaur Avenue

The closure is scheduled to commence on **19th April 2021 till 9th May 2021** or where appropriate signs are showing and weather permitting.

The alternative route will be sign posted on site and all for local traffic.

The closure is required for the safety of the public and workforce whilst fibre optic cabling works take place.

Access for emergency vehicles, residents and pedestrians will be maintained at all times during the closure.

b) Leonard Road & Retreat Road, Westcliff-On-Sea – 26th April from 07:00 till 18:00 - Network Rail complete maintenance to the trees over the railway tracks.

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

1. Proceeding on Retreat Road from outside No8 & No7 to Leonard Road.
2. Proceeding on Leonard Road from Cossington Road to Retreat Road
3. Parking, stopping, waiting, loading & unloading on Retreat Road from outside No8 & No7 to Leonard Road
4. Parking, stopping, waiting, loading & unloading on Leonard Road from Cossington Road to Retreat Road

The closure is scheduled to commence on **26th April 2021 from 07:00 till 18:00**

The alternative route will be via Retreat Road, Canewdon Road & Cossington Road and vice versa

The closure is required for the safety of the public and workforce whilst Network Rail complete maintenance to the trees over the railway tracks.

Access for emergency vehicles, residents and pedestrians will be maintained at all times during the closure.

3) A127 & the Bell Junction

A127 Gas Incident

You may or may not be aware of an ongoing incident on the A127.

Our contractors working on the junction improvements at the Bell smelt gas earlier this evening and notified Cadent.

I can confirm that whilst we were in the process of applying lane closures either side of the central reservation for safety, the emergency services Essex Police and Essex Fire and Rescue Service applied a full closure between Cuckoo Corner and Tesco Roundabout including the junctions at Hopleythick Lane and Rochford Road.

When Cadent arrived on site they have confirmed that the valve is in a poor state and is now leaking and would need replacing immediately and the leak is unlikely to be a result of any Council works in the surrounding area. Before they are able to fix the leak, they need to close off the downstream valves and wait for the pipe to vent/clear before replacing the valve. Cadent wouldn't give guarantees on timescales, but have indicated this would likely take about 2/3 hours to replace (from about 17:00).

Cadent had to evacuate the area of the junction (and local shops) as a precautionary measure and in line with their standard procedures for any emergency works on a medium pressure main.

We are providing regular twitter updates via Better Southend to the public and will continue to do so until the road is open and we are constantly monitoring the situation.

4) List of Applications Registered Week Ending 9th April 2021

Application Number: 21/00598/CLP
Officer: Kara Elliott

Ward: Southchurch

Hipped to gable roof extension with dormer and juliette balcony to rear to form habitable accommodation in the roof (Certificate of Lawful Development - Proposed)
32 Castleton Road Southend-On-Sea Essex

Application Number: 21/00630/FULH

Ward: Southchurch

Officer: Spyros Mouratidis

Erect outbuilding to rear for temporary use as dwellinghouse and storage

23 Wick Chase Southend-On-Sea Essex Applicant

Application Number: 21/00094/FULH

Ward: Thorpe

Officer: Oliver Hart

Replace existing windows to side elevation with same style and configuration
(Retrospective)

75 Tyrone Road Thorpe Bay Essex

Application Number: 21/00591/FULH

Ward: Thorpe

Officer: Kara Elliott

Erect single storey rear/side extension

123 Maplin Way Thorpe Bay Essex

Application Number: 21/00590/FULH

Ward: Thorpe

Officer: Kara Elliott

Erect part single/part two storey front, side and rear extensions, convert garage into habitable accommodation, alter elevations

189 Burges Road Thorpe Bay Essex

Application Number: 21/00607/FULH

Ward: Thorpe

Officer: Robert Lilburn

Erect single storey side and rear extension, install rooflights, alter elevations
(Amended Proposal)

175 Maplin Way Thorpe Bay Essex

Application Number: 21/00615/FULH

Ward: Thorpe

Officer: Oliver Hart

Erect front extension and raise roof to existing garage, raise ridge height and extend roof with dormers to rear to form habitable accommodation in roof, pitched roof to front porch, balconies to front and rear elevations and alterations to elevations
(Amended Proposal)

532 Woodgrange Drive Southend-On-Sea Essex

5) List of Decisions Issued **Week Ending 4th April 2021**

APPLN. NO: 21/00179/FULH

Ward. Southchurch

Officer: Kara Elliott

DEMOLISH EXISTING CONSERVATORY AND ERECT SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSION, ALTER REAR ELEVATION TO FORM JULIET BALCONY AT REAR FIRST FLOOR LEVEL AND INSTALL RETRACTABLE AWNING TO REAR

84 SOUTHCHURCH BOULEVARD SOUTHEND-ON-SEA ESSEX

Decision: Grant Conditional Permission

APPLN. NO: 21/00202/FULH

Ward. Southchurch

Officer: Oliver Hart

ERECT SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSION, RAISE HEIGHT AND CONVERT EXISTING GARAGE IN TO HABITABLE ACCOMMODATION, INSTALL ROOFLIGHTS TO SIDE ELEVATIONS AND ALTERATIONS (PART-RETROSPECTIVE)

29 SAMUELS DRIVE THORPE BAY ESSEX

Decision: Grant Conditional Permission

APPLN. NO: 21/00294/FULH

Ward. Southchurch

Officer: Oliver Hart

ERECT SINGLE STOREY FRONT EXTENSION, PART SINGLE/PART TWO STOREY REAR EXTENSION WITH ROOF LANTERN AND RELOCATE DECKING TO REAR

6 BROADCLYST GARDENS THORPE BAY ESSEX

Decision: Grant Conditional Permission

APPLN. NO: 20/02204/FUL

Ward. Thorpe

Officer: Robert Lilburn

ERECT EXTERNAL METAL STAIRCASE TO REAR FIRST FLOOR

32 SHAFTESBURY AVENUE SOUTHEND-ON-SEA

Decision: Grant Conditional Permission

APPLN. NO: 21/00233/FULH

Ward. Thorpe

Officer: Scott Davison

RAISE ROOF HEIGHT OF EXISTING REAR EXTENSION AND EXTEND TO REAR

176 BURGESS ROAD THORPE BAY ESSEX

Decision: Refuse Permission

APPLN. NO: 21/00270/FUL

Ward. Thorpe

Officer: Kara Elliott

REPLACE EXISTING BEACH HUT BEACH HUT

269 THORPE ESPLANADE THORPE BAY

Decision: Grant Conditional Permission

APPLN. NO: 21/00281/FULH

Ward. Thorpe

Officer: Kara Elliott

ERECT SINGLE STOREY OUTBUILDING TO REAR

22 THE BROADWAY THORPE BAY ESSEX

Decision: Grant Conditional Permission

APPLN. NO: 21/00115/FULH

Ward. West Shoebury

Officer: Kara Elliott

ERECT SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSION, INSTALL DORMER TO REAR TO FORM HABITABLE ACCOMMODATION IN THE ROOFSpace

17 SEDGEMOOR SHOEBURYNESS SOUTHEND-ON-SEA

Decision: Grant Conditional Permission

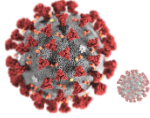
APPLN. NO: 21/00264/FULH

Ward. West Shoebury

Officer: Janine Rowley

ERECT SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSION
19 SEDGEMOOR SHOEBURYNESS SOUTHEND-ON-SEA
Decision: Grant Conditional Permission

6) Coronavirus Information



Pupils must wear facemasks at school until mid-May

Secondary school pupils and college students in England will need to continue wearing facemasks in class when they return after Easter, the Government has said. The measure, which it is hoped will limit transmission among older pupils while they are indoors, is likely to remain in place until the middle of next month.

Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine could have causal link to rare blood clots

Some UK drug safety experts believe there could be a causal link between the AstraZeneca jab and rare blood clotting events including cerebral venous sinus thrombosis (CVST). However, they said vaccination programmes must continue, with risk mitigation for women under 55. Medicine regulators are considering whether any action should be taken.

England's vaccine programme could slow, Sage says

The pace of first-dose vaccinations looks set to slow for several weeks after a downwards revision in official forecasts. A modelling paper produced for the Sage scientific advisory committee said the pace of England's vaccination programme could be squeezed from 3.2 million to 2.7 million a week until the end of July.

Shoppers may need vaccine passports

COVID-19 certificates could be needed in high street shops this summer, the government has hinted. However, the certificates will not be needed when non-essential retail opens on Monday, although social distancing rules will still be in place.

COVID-19 Business Update - 07/04/2021

The Roadmap to Recovery adheres to the timetable that the government set out earlier in the year. We are looking forward to a summer with fewer restrictions which is great news. To ensure that we continue to manage COVID-19 and reopen successfully and safely there are a few things to bear in mind.

- Remember hands – face – space
- Keep up to date with the latest information
- Encourage your staff to test regularly and take up the vaccine when offered
- Consider and manage the risk of your business reopening

Roadmap to recovery - getting ready to reopen

Many businesses are preparing to reopen from 12 April 2021 and some useful information has been published about Working safely during COVID-19 particularly for Heritage locations, Hotels and other guest accommodation, Performing arts and the Visitor economy.

We strongly encourage all businesses, voluntary and community settings preparing to reopen or open more fully to complete a Health & Safety Executive COVID-19 risk assessment. The assessment will help you:

- Identify what work activity or situations might cause transmission of the virus
- Think about who could be at risk
- Decide how likely it is that someone could be exposed
- Act to remove the activity or situation, or if this isn't possible, control the risk

You might also seek additional guidance from a trade body, membership or sector leading organisation such as the CITB or UK Hospitality.

The Southend Retail Recover Partnership have issued guidance to support the re-opening of non-essential retail – for the latest information please check here

Testing

Regular weekly testing for everyone leaving home for work is a way of controlling COVID-19. Testing is available at one of the Southend drop-in Lateral Flow Device (LFD) testing sites. LDF test centre locations will change over the coming weeks and months as various community spaces resume their usual functions, so make sure you check the website before setting off for your test.

Businesses can order free rapid lateral flow tests to test your employees twice a week in the workplace. If you have 10 or more employees you can order tests for your employees to collect from their workplace and use at home twice a week. You **must register by 11:59pm on 12 April 2021**. If your business is closed or you cannot provide tests now, you should still register so you can order tests in the future.

You can register to order tests if:

- your business is registered in England
- your employees cannot work from home

Financial Support

The Chancellor has announced the launch of the **Recovery Loan Scheme**:

- Business loans from £25k - £10m
- Gov will provide 80% guarantee for all loan and interest rates will be capped.
- Scheme will run until 31 December 2021

- To be administered by the British Business Bank through accredited commercial lenders.

The council is now using a single application form and for most grants and you only need to apply once.

If you have questions about grants available, please direct them to the business rates team at the council. If you need to discuss your ongoing grant application and it has been 10 days or more since your submission, please call 01702 215001 or email

Travelling for work

Travel exemptions affecting some businesses have changed.

More information & staying up to date

Information and guidance on COVID-19 changes regularly and it can be difficult to keep up – there are four excellent ways of staying on top of the latest announcements and getting new information about doing business in Southend.

- The council's COVID-19 advice pages for businesses are regularly updated with new advice and guidance from central government.
- You can also check out the latest announcements from central government including the latest advice about reopening.
- To receive a monthly newsletter with useful information including support available for businesses throughout COVID-19 recovery and beyond, email and ask to be included on the Southend Business Partnership newsletter.
- A number of "Community Connectors" are currently helping pass on or signpost people to facts and support about the pandemic. Could this be you? Southend on Sea Borough Council, SAVS and partner organisations are reaching out to those who already share information in their community and could help this way. If you could help, please see this page for more info: <http://orlo.uk/1YZJv>

Weekly Briefing on Local Decisions & Actions re Coronavirus outbreak 9th April 2021

Key updates/actions

- **Death of His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh**
- **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 options includes four rapid testing **LFD** sites available across the Borough, including a new site on the central seafront in Unit 21. The St Aidan's site has relocated to Belfairs Methodist Church, in Eastwood Road North, Leigh-on-Sea, and opens on Saturday 10 April. Standard opening times will be Monday 8am to 4pm, Wednesday 8am to 3:30pm, Tuesday to Sunday 8am to 6pm. You don't need an appointment to get tested at the Belfairs site.

Full details of all the booking options are available at www.southend.gov.uk/gettested Testing is key to stop the spread and identify cases.

- **Government reintroduces confirmatory PCR testing for assisted testing:** Read more <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested>
- **Visit Southend Safely:** as non-essential retail, gyms, hairdressers and other personal care businesses are due to reopen on Monday 12 April, people are urged to plan ahead. Advice remains to minimise travel and work from home where possible.
- **Keep Southend tidy:** Additional resources are in place to manage the additional waste created as the Borough welcomes back visitors. A reminder to use bins or take litter home.
- **Thank you to keyworkers:** from the Youth Council. A mug design competition was held and the winning design was printed on mugs and delivered to the fundraising team at Southend University Hospital, as a thank you for their essential service.
- **Business grants:**

New Government business grants in place from November lockdown: 6,834 grant payments totaling £15,302,393 with 1,035 outstanding out of 5,649 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 **9 April 2021 is 41.0 per 100,000** (slightly up from 35.5 per 100,000 on 1 April). The rate in

the **60 and over age bracket is 15.4 per 100,000** (down from 19.8 on 1 April).

- **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 26 March but were registered up to 3 April 2021: **666 (+4)**.
- **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 1st – 6th April 2021

Easement of lockdown

Further easing of restrictions from 12th April have been confirmed:

- Reopening of outdoor hospitality, gyms, non-essential retail, hairdressers and salons and outdoor attractions.
- The number of care home visitors will also increase to two per resident, all children will be able to attend any indoor children's activity, parent and child groups of up to 15 people can restart indoors and weddings will be able to take place with up to 15 attendees.
- Government also confirmed that a COVID-status certification system will be developed over the coming months. The system will take into account vaccination, a recent negative test, or natural immunity.
- Twice weekly rapid testing to be available to everyone in England.

- Anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 should continue to book a test online or by calling 119.

DCMS have announced which events will pilot host audiences as part of a return to live events, and will include:

- EFL Cup Final and the FA Cup semi-final
- Government has announced that face coverings will remain in schools after Easter

Treasury

The Chancellor has announced the launch of the Recovery Loan Scheme:

- Business loans from £25k - £10m
- Government will provide 80% guarantee for all loan and interest rates will be capped.
- Scheme will run until 31 December 2021
- To be administered by the British Business Bank through accredited commercial lenders.

DHSC

DHSC have written to LAs confirming that designated settings will continue to provide support for people who are COVID-19 positive on discharge and are therefore unable to move to a non-designated care home, in line with current infection prevention and control guidance.

Funding for this provision is included in the Discharge to Assess (D2A) funding allocation and covers 1 April to 30 September 2021.

The Designated Settings Indemnity Support (DSIS) will also be extended until 30th June 2021.

DHSC have confirmed that 5m people in the UK have received their second vaccination

Travel

DtF have announced that the following countries will be added to England's red list taking effect from 4am on 9 April:

Philippines, Pakistan, Kenya, and Bangladesh

Government have announced that when non-essential international travel does return it will do so with a risk-based "traffic light" system.

Other

DWP has announced that councils will be able to bid for a share of £3.87m to support parents and families experiencing severe relationship difficulties.

MHCLG has published a call for evidence on the moratorium on commercial lease evictions to understand how landlords and tenants are responding to the build-up of

rent arrears that has occurred as a result of businesses being unable to trade normally during the pandemic.

The evidence gathered will inform government policy regarding the exit from the existing measures and any need for additional measures to preserve businesses and jobs. The closing date for responses is 11:45pm on 4 May 2021.

Summary of Covid-19 related Government announcements 7th April 2021

UK regulator issues new advice on AstraZeneca vaccine:

JCVI advise that it is preferable for adults aged under 30, without underlying health conditions that put them at higher risk of severe COVID-19, to be offered an alternative COVID-19 vaccine, if available.

DCMS has published guidance for councils for safe organised events.

DfE has published travel allocations for school transport to account for additional services due to social distancing.

Guidance has been updated following announcements yesterday:

- Care home visits to increase to two people (with further guidance on visits involving children)
- A new recommendation for care home staff to wear eye protection within 2 meters of delivering care
- Face masks to continue in educational settings after Easter

Other local government news:

- Ofsted has published plans for a review into safeguarding policies and practices relating to sexual abuse in schools and colleges. Terms of Reference
- DfE has announced a £10m Behaviour Hubs programmes to support schools struggling with poor discipline.

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

PHE

Yesterday, a statement was published following updated advice from the MHRA on the Ox/AZ vaccine.

It reiterates that the vaccine is safe and effective and that both the MHRA and JCVI have said the benefits of the vaccine far outweigh the risks for the vast majority of adults.

The government will follow updated MHRA advice which sets out that, as a precaution, it is preferable for people < 30 with no underlying health conditions to be offered an alternative vaccine where possible.

NHS England has sent a letter to providing an update on the MHRA advice and setting out actions now required from vaccination sites.

PHE published new guidance on COVID-19 vaccination and blood clotting.

PHE have also updated their COVID-19 vaccination guide for adults and older adults, and guidance on what to expect after vaccination.

A national protocol is published for the administration of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine.

This week's national flu and COVID-19 surveillance report suggests COVID-19 case rates have fallen across all age groups in week 13 of 2021 with case rates continuing to be highest in those aged 10-19 with a case rate of 54.3 per 100,000.

DoHSC

In an announcement, the results from the REACT study are published. The study carried out by Imperial College London and Ipsos MORI, show infections fell by approximately 60% from the last study in February, with one in 500 people infected.

The data suggests that, while infections have led to fewer deaths since December, which coincides with the vaccination rollout and 'Stay at Home' rules during this period, prevalence of infections has now plateaued.

MHCLG

A slide deck is available containing suggestions for councils on how behavioural science principles could be applied in local, public safety communications as COVID-19 restrictions are relaxed over the spring and summer.

The slides are developed in partnership with councils and include ideas around signage and in keeping public spaces safe.

The Cabinet Office Behavioural Science team uses the latest theory and evidence to understand why people behave in the way that they do, and explores strategies and communications approaches to systematically remove barriers to behaviour change.

In a press release, British National (Overseas) families coming to the UK on the Hong Kong BN(O) route will benefit from a dedicated £43.1m package of support to help them settle successfully into life in the UK. Welcome guide; Council Guidance.

The Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, & the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport

Updated the working safely guidance for hospitality services. It now includes information on managing customer payments. It clarifies that, at venues serving alcohol, payment should be taken at the table or at another outdoor location. If it's

not possible to take payment outdoors, for example due to a technical issue, payment can be taken indoors as a last resort.

DfT

Updated safer transport guidance for transport operators and organisations to include information on coronavirus testing for workers.

It outlines measures to help transport organisations provide safe workplaces and services for themselves, their workers and passengers.

Transport operators and their workers should follow this guidance even if vaccinated.

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

DoHSC

Guidance on lateral flow testing for people without symptoms, is updated on what to do following a positive rapid lateral flow test, including when to self-isolate. Updated guidance on how to get regular rapid tests if you do not have symptoms.

Guidance on getting tested is updated with how to get regular rapid tests if you do not have symptoms.

In a press release, everyone in England is now eligible for free rapid COVID-19 tests, twice a week.

MHCLG

Safe use of places of worship guidance is updated to incorporate the changes at Steps 1 and 2 of the Roadmap published by the Prime Minister on 22 February.

HMRC

Self-Employment income support scheme guidance is updated with information about the fourth SEISS grant.

DfT

In a press release, the Global Travel Taskforce sets out framework to safely reopen international travel. Recommendations include the launch of a new traffic light system and 'green watchlist', and the introduction of travel certification.

Red list travel ban country guidance is updated, to add Bangladesh, Kenya, Pakistan and Philippines to the list 4am Friday 9 April.

Safer travel guidance for passengers is updated to add travel and coronavirus testing information.

In a press release, £18m is announced for cycle training for children and their families.

Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy & Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport

Working safely guidance is updated in the following areas to reflect Step 2 of the roadmap

Hotels and other guest accommodation

Providers of grassroots sport and sport facilities

The visitor economy

Restaurants, pubs, bars and takeaway services. With addition of information on managing customer payment at the venue. As a last resort, venues that serve alcohol can take payment indoors.

- END -