

# E-Newsletter – 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020

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## **1) Information Corner**

### **Free festive parking extended across the Borough**

All council run car parks across the Borough will be free on Thursdays after 4pm for late-night shopping and all day on Sundays until Christmas.

The free Christmas parking offer will start on Thursday 3 December and runs up to and including Thursday 24 December. In previous years the festive offer has only applied to car parks in Southend town centre, but in order to support all local businesses this festive season, the council has decided to expand the scheme across the Borough.

The offer applies to council run 'off-street' car parks, but not 'on-street' parking bays. A list of council car parks is available on our website, [www.southend.gov.uk](http://www.southend.gov.uk).

### **Number of Southend-on-Sea venues to re-open this week**

Leisure and cultural venues will reopen this week following the Government's announcement of the national tier system.

Southend Leisure and Tennis Centre, Southend Pier, Central Museum, the Beecroft Gallery and the Borough's libraries are among the places set to welcome back members of the public from Wednesday 2 December, as the town enters Tier 2 high level restrictions.

The council announced in November that leisure centres and tourism and cultural venues were to close in line with the national restrictions announced by the Prime Minister on Saturday 31 October. The latest government advice states that leisure centres, gyms and swimming pools can reopen from Wednesday 2 December. Southend Leisure and Tennis Centre will reopen, however Chase Sports and Fitness Centre and Shoeburyness Leisure Centre, which are all managed by Fusion Lifestyle, will remain closed to the public, but will be available for school use as before. Belfairs Swim Centre remains closed, and Belfairs golf course will also reopen to golfers on Wednesday.

Southend Pier will welcome visitors back from 11.15am Wednesday, returning to normal opening hours from Thursday, and residents who booked tickets to see Santa on the Pier have been told they will be able to attend as planned. The Cliffs Pavilion and Palace Theatre will remain closed for the time being, although the coffee shop at the Cliffs Pavilion will reopen.

The Borough's libraries, which have provided an essential home delivery and click and collect service throughout the recent restrictions, will also open their doors for browsing once again. Click and collect and the home library service will also continue.

The town's museums and art galleries will also start to reopen, and visitors to museums, galleries and libraries must wear face coverings when inside, unless medically exempt.

The following venues in the Borough will reopen from Wednesday 2 December:

- Southend Central Museum will re-open on Wednesday 2 December
- Prittlewell Priory visitor centre will re-open on Wednesday 2 December
- Focal Point Gallery will re-open on Wednesday 2 December
- Cliffs Pavilion coffee shop will re-open on Wednesday 2 December
- Southend Leisure and Tennis Centre will re-open on Wednesday 2 December
- Prittlewell Priory will re-open on Saturday 5 December.
- Southchurch Hall will re-open on Saturday 5 December
- Beecroft Gallery will re-open on Saturday 12 December
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For more information about closures and changes to council services, please visit [www.southend.gov.uk/affectedservices](http://www.southend.gov.uk/affectedservices)

### **Healthwatch Southend - Call NHS 111 before you go - new A&E system:**

We would like to share the news release from Mid and South Essex Hospitals regarding the Emergency Department service change.

From 1st December 2020, residents who think they need to visit their local hospital emergency department will be asked to call NHS 111 first.

If needed, they will be given an appointment to go to the emergency department - and the NHS 111 team will let them know when the patient is coming.

For those with life-threatening illness or serious injury, the 999 service remains in place.

We have updated our website with the information. Here is the information for the full article:

<https://www.healthwatchsouthend.co.uk/news/2020-11-30/think-nhs-111-first-hws-share-mid-and-south-essex-hospitals-news-release>

## **Deck the shops with decorations – Best Festive Business returns**

Small businesses across Southend-on-Sea are being encouraged to get involved in a festive competition, which could win them a free promotional video worth £500.

For the eighth consecutive year, Southend-on-Sea Borough Council has launched the 'Best Festive Business' competition, which aims to encourage small businesses across the Borough to decorate their windows or offices with their best Christmas decorations to be in with the chance of winning a free promotional video, created by Blatella Films, worth up to £500.

Businesses must submit a photo to @BusinessOnSea on Facebook via messenger or by emailing [economicd@southend.gov.uk](mailto:economicd@southend.gov.uk) for a chance to win the prize. All entry photos - limited to one per business - will be posted on the Business-on-Sea Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Businessonsea/> for the public to vote for their favourite display. The picture with the most likes will win the promotional film. Entries are now being accepted, and voting goes live on Thursday 3 December and closes at midnight Sunday 20 December. One lucky voter will also be randomly selected to receive a £100 shopping voucher for a local shop of their choice.

The competition has been developed as part of the Shop Local, Shop Southend-on-Sea <https://www.southend.gov.uk/news/article/2109/shop-local-this-christmas-and-support-local-businesses> campaign, and coincides with Southend-on-Sea entering the new Tier 2 restrictions.

Additionally, Southend Christmas market returns to Southend High Street on Thursday 3 December. The market, which consists of the regular general market traders as well as a selection of Christmas concessions, will be open every Thursday and Saturday from Thursday 3 December, and every day from Monday 14 - Thursday 24 December. Stalls will offer festive food and treats, fashion and accessories, plants and garden ornaments, homeware, jewellery, as well as crochet and personalised embroidery items, to name but a few.

If you are interested in setting up a stall within the Southend Christmas market, please visit [www.southend.gov.uk/southendmarket](http://www.southend.gov.uk/southendmarket)

## **Watchkeepers Needed For The NCI**

NCI watchkeepers provide the eyes and ears along the coast, monitoring radio channels and providing a listening watch in poor visibility. When people get into trouble, we are there to alert HM Coastguard and direct the appropriate rescue services to the casualty. If you think that you would like to become a watchkeeper at Southend NCI and give some of your time to helping the local sailors and beach users, then please contact us at <https://www.nci.org.uk/southend>

## **Lone Pensioners at Christmas**

Jacqui Kershaw and her daughter need your help to help the lone pensioners in Southend this Christmas. They have secured a church hall & volunteers who are going to cook 75 xmas meals on xmas day, however they need the following:

1. Use of an industrial bain-marie
2. 75 insulated boxes & paper bags
3. Volunteer drivers with DBS to deliver the meals

If you'd like to help, please email us at [Media@Savs-southend.co.uk](mailto:Media@Savs-southend.co.uk). If you can't help perhaps you know someone who might so please either pass this on or pass details on to us through the above email.

## **Possible Scam**

### **DPD**

A member has contacted us regarding an email that she received from DPD, please see below. The member was at home and has a Ring doorbell that videos continuously. There was no caller, hence scam suspected. Please be extra aware, as we are all ordering more this time of year.

From: DPD <[guendy.fabi@hotmail.it](mailto:guendy.fabi@hotmail.it)>  
Date: 28 November 2020 at 15:59:45 GMT  
To:  
Subject: Parcel Delivery 17:59:40 11/28/2020

Dear

ID: BvWSX - Today 17:59:40-11/28/2020 unable to deliver parcel.

Never miss a parcel delivery again.

New delivery today!

## **Shop Local this Christmas and support local businesses**

Shoppers are being encouraged to “Shop Local” and support Southend-based businesses in the run up to Christmas.

In preparation for the expected rush of Christmas shoppers to the town’s shops, the council has been working closely with local businesses across the Borough to offer a boost to the local economy following a challenging time for businesses up and down the country. As part of these plans, the council is promoting the following:

- The relaunch of ‘Shop Local’ campaign, which coincides with the change in the Government’s national restrictions and sees Southend entering the new Tier 2 restrictions. Whilst observing social distancing and other safety measures such as wearing face coverings, shoppers are being encouraged to visit their local shops. Shoppers are asked to promote their support for local businesses on social media, using #ShopLocal / #ShopSouthendonSea, and tag the local shops you have visited.
- Shopping locally via the Click and Collect service featured on the VisitSouthend website. The council has been working with partners and key stakeholders to develop a business directory where businesses in the Borough can sign up for free if they offer a click and collect service. Shoppers can easily navigate through the list and shop with local traders.

## **Do your research before buying a new pet this Christmas**

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council is supporting the Government’s ‘Petfished’ campaign to encourage residents to do their research before buying a pet this Christmas.

Named after ‘catfishing’ when someone creates a fictional online presence, the petfished website is designed to help potential pet buyers buy the right pet, from the right breeder.

This is after an increase in demand during the pandemic for pets, particularly puppies, enabling some breeders and sellers to increase their prices to take advantage of the situation.

If you are considering getting a puppy then please carry out research first. Research the breed that you want and contact a reputable rescue organisation such as The Dog’s Trust, the RSPCA or a licensed breeder that is part of the Kennel Club’s assured breeder scheme.

Checking where puppies have come from limits the success of puppy farms and the imported puppies trade, both of which can see puppies being subjected to terrible conditions, suffering lifelong illnesses, and suffering from trauma and behavioural problems.

Please contact the council for more information. Other advice you need to read before embarking on the journey of getting a new pet can be found at the following links:

<https://www.dogstrust.org.uk/help-advice/buyer-advice/>

<https://www.rspca.org.uk/adviceandwelfare/pets/dogs/puppy>

<https://puppycontract.org.uk/>

<https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/getting-a-dog/>

## **Information from your Community Safety and Engagement Officers**

### Focus on Dwelling Burglary

Burglaries across the borough of Southend are falling, help us to keep it that way by following some simple steps:

- Close and lock all your doors and windows, even if you're only going out for a few minutes;
- Make sure that any valuables are out of sight;
- Keep handbags away from the letterbox or catflap and hide all keys including car keys, as a thief could hook keys or valuables through even a small opening;
- Never leave car documents or ID in obvious places such as kitchens or hallways;
- In the evening, shut the curtains and leave lights on. If you're out all day, then it's advisable to use a timer device to automatically turn lights and a radio on at night;
- Set your burglar alarm;
- Make sure the side gate is locked.

Further advice can be found at:

<https://www.essex.police.uk/.../cri.../residentialburglary/>

If you have any information about these or any other crimes, please contact us by calling 101, or report it online on the Essex Police Website or you can call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. In an emergency call 999

Did you know... We have launched 'Live Chat' - Every day between 7am-11pm, you can report non-emergency crime or provide us with information through Live Chat.

Further information about 'Live Chat' can be found at:

<https://www.essex.police.uk/.../2020/november/digital-101/>

## **Essex Police Fraud Alert System - HMRC Self Assessment Scams**

Self assessment customers are being warned to be vigilant following reports of a number of HMRC scams ahead of the return deadline on 31st January 2021.

Scams use the deadline to panic customers into sharing personal or financial details. Criminals contact customer via SMS text message, email or phone calls pretending to be HMRC offering financial help, tax rebates or refunds.

Customers are also warned to be aware of fake websites charging for government services.

## Ways to spot a tax scam - It could be a scam if it:

- is unexpected
- offers a refund, tax rebate or grant
- asks for personal information like bank details
- is threatening
- tells you to transfer money.

You can report suspicious activity to HMRC at [phishing@hmrc.gov.uk](mailto:phishing@hmrc.gov.uk) and texts to 60599.

For more information or to report phone scams online go to [GOV.UK](http://GOV.UK)

If you or someone you know is vulnerable and has been a victim of fraud, please call Essex Police on 101 or in an emergency always call 999. Report fraud or attempted fraud by contacting Action Fraud at [actionfraud.police.uk](http://actionfraud.police.uk) or call 0300 123 2040.

To keep up to date with fraud and do even more online at [essex.police.uk](http://essex.police.uk)

### **Streetsafe for a better Southchurch**

We have been in discussion with Southend Borough Council, Safer Southend and Southend Community Police Teams. We have made significant progress on CCTV issues, although not advanced enough to share with you yet. We continue to work closely with the agencies and are grateful to Safer Southend for increased CSO patrols in and around the Project Southchurch Area.

We have issues around obstructions on pavements hindering movement of pedestrians. The Community Police Team are aware of the issue and will follow up any incidents.

As we approach Christmas, there is the potential of an increase in opportunist crimes. We can prevent the temptation. Any cardboard that is left over from deliveries remove all identification notifications, such as address labels or bar codes. If you're throwing them out, please don't put out until the day of your collection. Place cardboard in recycling bags or boxes, if possible, so there is no description of the contents visible. Make sure all outbuildings, sheds and garages are securely locked. Please don't leave any valuables inside your car overnight. Statistically there is only a small chance of been affected by this type of crime.

### **CityFibre Roll-Out Thorpe Ward**

The roll-out of the £30 million investment of full fibre broadband to homes in Southend has recently started in the Thorpe Ward and this work is set to increase during the first quarter of 2021. This is a critical infrastructure project and while short term it is disruptive to residents, the positive impact this will bring to the area along with the economic impact it will have in the future and the wider benefits of the technology that they are installing will be a benefit to all.

## **c2c - Check your journey before you travel**

Coronavirus has affected our staff availability and our ability to deliver our full timetable reliably. We remain committed to providing you with a safe and dependable service and are making changes when we can. Services can also be affected by engineering works, so it's important that you check your journey before you travel.

## **How to check your journey**

### Changes to the new reduced timetable

While our reduced timetable is in operation, and subject to change - you can get the most up to date information from our latest news page. You can find out when changes are planned, to which services and download a PDF timetable.

### National Rail Journey Planners

Network Rail update National timetables every Friday for the following week, and it can take some time to update on our systems. If you're using our Journey Planner, or other journey planners such as National Rail - it's best to check at the weekend for travel the following week to make sure you're seeing the latest train times.

## **Upcoming Changes**

### Wednesday 3 December

We will operate a half-hourly service via Ockendon, adding 25 extra services each day. This will allow more trains for shoppers travelling to Chafford Hundred as Lakeside Shopping centre reopens.

### Thursday 3 and Friday 4 December

Please note due to engineering work, a number of early-morning trains will depart three minutes earlier between Shoeburyness and Benfleet.

### Monday 7 December

We will add extra capacity and make other changes in both the morning peak and evening peaks. These changes will reduce the number of people on the busiest trains.

## **Avoiding busier trains**

Services before 8am tend to be the busiest. If you can, please travel after this time when our trains are generally quiet and comfortable with room to socially distance.

## **Student Travel Window**

From 3 to 9 December is the window in which students can travel home for Christmas, so there may be times when services are busier.

## **Latest information**

Find the most up to date information and Coronavirus travel advice on our website.



## 2) Road Order

### A) Order to introduce no waiting at any time – Bournemouth Park Road West

THE SOUTHEND-ON-SEA BOROUGH COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS)  
 (STOPPING, WAITING, LOADING AND UNLOADING PROHIBITIONS AND  
 RESTRICTIONS, PARKING PLACES AND PERMIT PARKING ZONES)  
 (CONSOLIDATION) ORDER 2016 (AMENDMENT NO. 8) ORDER 2020  
 Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984

#### To introduce: No Waiting at Any Time

File No.	325
Road	<b>Bournemouth Park Road</b>
Side of Road	West
Proposed Description	From a point 30m south of its junction with Eastern Avenue southwards for a distance of 43m

Copies of the Draft Order, Plans and Statement of the Council's Reasons for proposing to make the Order may be viewed online at:  
<https://www.southend.gov.uk/transport-policies-traffic-regulation-orders/traffic-regulation-ordersconsultations/2> or  
<http://www.southendtraffweb.co.uk/consult/main.html>

Comments on the proposals for or against, together with the reasons for which they are made should be sent in writing or via the southendtraffweb website to reach the Executive Director (Neighbourhoods & Environment) and marked for the attention of the Traffic Management & Road Safety Team at the address below by no later than 18th December 2020.

All written representations received concerning Traffic Regulation Orders are public documents that may be inspected by any person on demand.

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

### **A127 Bell Junction - 30th Nov to 4th Dec**

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

### **A127 Essential Major Maintenance - 30th Nov to 4th Dec**

Carriageway stabilisation works will be undertaken during night-time (20:00 to 06:30) westbound road closures, from Cuckoo Corner to Tesco Roundabout. Access to residences and businesses will be maintained.

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

**Friday 27th to Monday 30th, Full weekend road closure of the A127 Westbound carriageway (20:00 to 06:30), from the Kent Elms junction to Bellhouse Lane, for removal of all bituminous layers to concrete base, concrete repairs, and carriageway resurfacing. Traffic will be diverted via the A1159 Rayleigh Road onto Progress Road.**

Address **CORNEC CHASE**  
Start End Works 02/10/2020 **18/12/2020 (change of end date)**  
Reference AZ007-1000875002  
Works Type MAJOR  
L.A.Ref 101619  
Traffic Management Some carriageway incursion – delays unlikely

Address **GRANGE CLOSE**  
Start End Works **30/11/2020 12/12/2020 (change of dates)**  
Reference AZ007-1000875057  
Works Type MAJOR  
L.A Ref 101618  
Traffic Management Some carriageway incursion – delays unlikely

Address **WAKERING ROAD**  
Start End Works 26/10/2020 **18/12/2020 (change of end date)**  
Reference AZ007-1000964813  
Works Type MAJOR  
L.A Ref 109229  
Traffic Management Road closure- delays likely

Address **RAPHAEL DRIVE**  
Start End Works 23/11/2020 07/04/2021  
Reference AZ007-1000974106  
Works Type MAJOR  
L.A Ref 110133  
Traffic Management **Give & take – delays possible (change of T.M)**

Address **SOUTHCHURCH AVENUE**  
Start End Works 21/10/2020 **18/12/2020 (change of end date)**  
Reference AZ007-1000974112  
Works Type MAJOR  
L.A Ref 110132  
Traffic Management Multiway signals – delays likely

Address **BLACKGATE ROAD**  
Start End Works 06/11/2020 18/12/2020  
Reference AZ007-1001005277  
Works Type MAJOR  
L.A Ref 112695

Traffic Management Multiway signals – delays likely

Address **ELM ROAD**  
 Start End Works 06/11/2020 18/12/2020  
 Reference AZ007-1001005289  
 Works Type MAJOR  
 L.A Ref 112694  
 Traffic Management Multiway signals – delays likely

Address **WESTERN ESPLANADE**  
 Start End Works 02/04/2020 01/04/2022  
 Reference JR001-TEMPDIST2825  
 Works Type MAJOR  
 L.A Ref 106534  
 Traffic Management Some carriageway incursion – delays unlikely

Address **THE FAIRWAY**  
 Start End Works 20/11/2020 18/12/2020  
 Reference KG027-SE2-FTTH-PN042-02  
 Works Type MAJOR  
 L.A Ref 112565  
 Traffic Management No carriageway incursion – delays unlikely

#### **4) List of Applications Registered** **Week Ending 27<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

Application Number: 20/01980/FULH **Ward: Thorpe**  
 Officer: Kara Elliott Date Valid: 23 November 2020  
 Erect single storey side and rear extension, alter elevations  
**15 Marcus Avenue Thorpe Bay Essex**

#### **5) List of Decisions Issued** **Week Ending 29<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

APPLN. NO: 20/00678/AMDT **Ward. Southchurch**  
 Officer: Robert Lilburn  
 VARY CONDITION 02 (APPROVED PLANS) OF PLANNING PERMISSION  
 19/01817/AMDT TO REPLACE PLANS SHEET 2 OF 7 REV D (PROPOSED  
 GROUND AND FIRST FLOOR PLANS), SHEET 3 OF 7 REV F (PROPOSED  
 BASEMENT AND SECOND FLOOR PLANS) AND PL460/19/10.05 REV B  
 (ELEVATIONS) WITH 460/20/S73/PL10.01 (PROPOSED GROUND AND FIRST  
 FLOOR PLANS), 460/20/S73/PL10.02 (PROPOSED BASEMENT AND SECOND  
 FLOOR PLANS) AND 460/20/S73/PL10.05 A (PROPOSED ELEVATIONS) TO  
 ALLOW FOR ELEVATION ALTERATIONS (MINOR MATERIAL AMENDMENT OF  
 PLANNING PERMISSION 19/01817/AMDT 11.02.2020)  
**14 DAINES WAY THORPE BAY ESSEX**  
 Decision: Grant Conditional Permission

APPLN. NO: 20/01582/FULH

**Ward. Southchurch**

Officer: Kara Elliott

ERECT DORMER TO REAR TO FORM HABITABLE ACCOMMODATION IN THE LOFTSPACE, ERECT SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSION WITH ROOF LANTERN AND PART CONVERT GARAGE INTO HABITABLE ACCOMMODATION, ALTER SIDE ELEVATION

**61 SOUTHCHURCH BOULEVARD SOUTHEND-ON-SEA ESSEX**

Decision: Grant Conditional Permission

APPLN. NO: 20/01452/FULH

**Ward. Thorpe**

Officer: Kara Elliott

RAISE RIDGE HEIGHT AND FORM NEW ROOF WITH ROOF EXTENSIONS TO FRONT, SIDE AND REAR ELEVATIONS AND DORMERS TO FRONT AND REAR TO FORM HABITABLE ACCOMMODATION IN THE ROOF, ERECT PART SINGLE/PART TWO STOREY REAR EXTENSION WITH BALCONIES TO REAR, ERECT PART SINGLE/PART TWO STOREY FRONT AND SIDE EXTENSION, ALTERATIONS TO FRONT FACADE AND ALTER ELEVATIONS (AMENDED PROPOSAL)

**132 BURGES ROAD THORPE BAY ESSEX**

Decision: Grant Conditional Permission

APPLN. NO: 20/01625/CLP

**Ward. Thorpe**

Officer: Oliver Hart

DORMER TO REAR AND ROOFLIGHTS TO FRONT AND SIDE TO FORM HABITABLE ACCOMMODATION IN ROOF AND ALTER SIDE AND REAR ELEVATIONS (LAWFUL DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATE - PROPOSED)

**155 ST AUGUSTINES AVENUE THORPE BAY ESSEX**

Decision: Grant Lawful Dev Certificate (Proposed)

APPLN. NO: 20/01794/GPDE

**Ward. Thorpe**

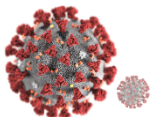
Officer: Oliver Hart

ERECT SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSION, PROJECTING 6.43M BEYOND THE EXISTING REAR WALL OF THE DWELLING, 2.3M HIGH TO EAVES AND WITH A MAXIMUM HEIGHT OF 2.6M

**527 WOODGRANGE DRIVE SOUTHEND-ON-SEA ESSEX**

Decision: GPD Non-Conditional

## **6) Coronavirus Information**



**Southend-on-Sea and the rest of the East of England is in tier 2  
COVID alert level HIGH**

From today (2<sup>nd</sup> December) we are in Tier 2 restrictions.

Restrictions include:

- you must not socialise with anyone you do not live with or who is not in your support bubble in any indoor setting, whether at home or in a public place. This includes in pubs and restaurants
- you must not socialise in a group of more than 6 people outside, including in a garden or a public space – this is called the ‘rule of 6’
- businesses and venues can continue to operate, in a COVID-Secure manner, other than those which remain closed by law, such as nightclubs
- pubs and bars must close, unless operating as restaurants. They may remain open for take-away services. Hospitality venues can only serve alcohol with substantial meals, must take last orders at 10pm and offer table service only
- Everyone who can work from home should do so. Where people cannot do so, they should continue to travel to their workplace.

And please continue to remember, ‘Hands. Face. Space’

You can find out more about the tier levels on the GOV.UK website.

### **COVID-19 Pfizer vaccine approved for use next week in UK**

The UK has become the first country in the world to approve the Pfizer/BioNTech coronavirus vaccine for widespread use. Immunisations could start within days for people in high priority groups. The UK has already ordered 40 million doses - enough to vaccinate 20 million people, with two shots each. Around 10 million doses should be available soon, with the first doses arriving in the UK in the coming days.

### **Vitamin D pills for people who are vulnerable**

More than 2.5 million people who are vulnerable in England will be offered free Vitamin D supplements this winter. Health officials say that even in a normal winter, everyone should take 10 micrograms of Vitamin D a day between October and March - and it's particularly important this year because of coronavirus.

### **Care homes reopen to visitors**

Family and friends will be allowed to visit care home residents indoors from today (2<sup>nd</sup>) if they get a negative result from a rapid coronavirus test, the Government has said. More than a million tests will be sent out to care providers and local authorities over the next month, along with more PPE supplies.

## **Weekly Briefing on Local Decisions & Actions re Coronavirus outbreak 27<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

### **Key updates/actions**

**New tier system:** Southend-on-Sea will enter Tier 2 restrictions on Wednesday 2 December, along with Essex, Thurrock and the East of England. Read our media release. Read more detail on the Tier 2 restrictions on the GOV.UK website.

**Council service changes from 2 December:** Our website is being regularly updated regarding changes to Council services and venues which will be re-opening from Wednesday 2 December

**Libraries:** Library services will re-open from Wednesday 2 December. More details are on the council website.

**Guidance for hospitality:** New guidance has been issued for people who work in or run restaurants, pubs, bars, cafes or takeaways. Visit GOV.UK

**Coronavirus case data:** This is published on our website and now also includes the daily 7 day rate of positive cases per 100,000.

7-day rate of positive cases as of 27 November was 125.1 per 100,000 (down from 180.8 per 100,000 on 19 November – it was 67.7 per 100,000 on 22 October). The rate in the 60 and over age bracket is 79.1 per 100,000, down from 96.7 per 100,000 on 19 November.

**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 13 November 2020 but were registered up to 21 November 2020: 220 (+3)

**A flu vaccination campaign is now running:** In partnership with the CCG and NHS, we are running a campaign aiming at encouraging those over 65, or under 65 but with a long term health condition to take up their free flu jab via their GP. We are also setting straight facts about the vaccine and busting myths on social media as part of this work. You can test your own knowledge on flu vaccination facts by playing the CCG's Flu Bee game:

<https://games.focusgames.co.uk/Flubeemsessex/game/>

**EPUT COVID vaccine recruitment:** Essex Partnership University Trust (EPUT) are looking for healthcare professionals, administrators and volunteers from across Essex to help them gear up in the next few weeks to be ready to deliver a COVID-19 vaccination programme. Please share the following: <https://eput.nhs.uk/about-us/working-at-eput/vaccine-recruitment/>

**Voluntary and community sector grants:** Voluntary and community sector organisations can apply for grants of up to £3,000 from the Government's Infection Control fund received by the Council. This money is to enable infection control measures to be put in place for reopening of services or for specific projects. Email: [nicolamickleburgh@southend.gov.uk](mailto:nicolamickleburgh@southend.gov.uk) if you require further information about this grant.

**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.

## **Covid-19 Business Update 02/12/2020**

We are now able to confirm that opening on the 2 December will not affect the COVID business closure grant for those businesses mandated to close, which is for the period 5 November – 3 December.

### New Action Card for businesses

The government has created a series of action cards to help businesses in the event of a confirmed COVID-19 case within their business. The cards detail what the business is required to do in such a situation. The government have just updated all the cards, so we would recommend businesses take a look at this site and download the appropriate card for their business.

### Supporting an employee to claim the Test and Trace Support Payment

A helpline has been established for employers and other organisations to provide NHS Test and Trace with a list of people who have been identified as contacts of a case of COVID-19 in your establishment, and therefore who must self-isolate.

**This is ONLY required where a person has been identified as a contact outside of NHS Test and Trace.**

### I'm an employer, what do I need to do?

You should call 020 3743 6715 as soon as you have had a positive case in your establishment that has not been notified to you by NHS Test and Trace (and every time thereafter). This will enable NHS Test and Trace to log these contacts and provide them with an NHS T&T reference. Without the NHS Test & Trace reference, they cannot receive financial support while they self-isolate.

### What information do I need before I contact the Hub?

You will need the 8 digit NHS Test and Trace number of the person who had a positive test, in order to be able to record the contacts from your establishment – please ask the employee/person at your establishment who tested positive to provide this to you as soon as they receive it, so that you can call the hub as soon as possible to be able to support your employees and visitors at the earliest opportunity.

**Summary of Covid-19 related Government announcements  
27<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

## **Department for Digital, Sport and Industrial Strategy has published:**

- A new emergency funding package to protect the immediate future of grassroots and national youth organisations across the country has been announced by the Government.

## **DHSC has published:**

- New evidence and analysis in relation to coronavirus and the health, economic and social effects of the Government's tiered approach. This paper also sets out some of the learning over the course of this year.

## **Competitions and Markets Authority has published:**

- New warnings to firms over concerns that couples are still not receiving fair refunds for weddings that could not go ahead during the pandemic.

## **PHE has published:**

- New guidance support frontline workers in delivering the coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine to the most vulnerable.

## **DfE has published:**

- New guidance on how settings can prepare for restrictions to help contain community transmission.
- New announcement that a coronavirus workforce fund to support schools and colleges facing the greatest combined staffing and funding pressures. The fund is designed for schools and colleges facing significant funding pressure and will cover the costs of high levels of staff absences over a minimum threshold, to help ensure schools and colleges can remain open. They will be able to claim via the new short-term fund which will be backdated to 1 November and detailed guidance is due to be published shortly. They also published an updated coronavirus contingency framework for education and childcare settings. This guidance sets out how the Government would manage the exceptional circumstances in which further restrictions were required on education, to help contain virus transmission within a community.

## **Cabinet Office has published:**

- New guidance for the Christmas period. From 2 December to 23 December, local restrictions in the tier in which you are staying should be followed. From 23 December to 27 December, you may choose to form a Christmas bubble which allows you to spend time together in private homes, to attend places of worship, or meet in a public outdoor place. From 28 December, you must follow the guidance for the tier in your area and Christmas bubbles will no longer apply.



## HMRC has published:

- Updated guidance stating if you're self-employed or a member of a partnership and have been impacted by COVID-19 you may be eligible to claim the grant, the third round has now opened online.

## MHCLG has published:

- A new announcement that retailers will be able to extend their daily opening hours from Monday to Saturday in the run up to Christmas and through January. From Wednesday 2 December, as England returns to a system of tiered restrictions, all non-essential retail across England will be able to reopen, and planning rules limiting opening hours will be eased to allow shops to be open for longer Monday to Saturday.
- Updated guidance for people moving into homes in England, whether as owner-occupiers or as private or social renters, in line with the local restriction tier system that will be in place in England from 2 December.
- Updated the guidance for those managing council buildings. It signposts to relevant guidance on a range of different activities that can take place in these buildings, in line with the local restriction tier system that will be in place in England from 2 December.

## Summary of Covid-19 related Government announcements 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020

Ofsted warns of **risk to children** 'out of sight' during pandemic

New guidance sets out how **care homes can support residents of working age** on visits outside of the care home and applies to residential care settings for older people and adults of working age.

- Visits out to family homes or outdoor spaces like parks may also be possible for some care home residents under 65
- Safe care home visits to be supported by the provision of over a million rapid tests and free personal protective equipment (PPE)

**Driving Tests** - Updated to confirm driving tests will restart in tier 1 and 2 areas in England on Wednesday 2 December, and in tier 3 areas on Thursday 3 December.

**Theory Tests** – Updated to confirm theory tests will restart in all areas of England on Wednesday 2 December 2020.

New guidance sets out information on **grassroots sport and physical activity** during COVID restrictions including the team sport framework, contact combat sport framework, and advice on organised sport participation events

**Support for pubs** that predominantly serve alcohol rather than food through festive period.

## **Summary of Covid-19 related Government announcements 2nd December 2020**

The Prime Minister made a statement on coronavirus at the evening press conference:

- This announcement included the news that the UK has authorised the Pfizer vaccine
- Rollout will begin from next week for those aged 80yrs and over as well as care home staff for older people. A full list of those prioritised for the first wave has been published.

Guidance on driving test centre waiting rooms has been published

Yesterday the Government announced £16m funding, delivered by the charity FareShare, which will allow thousands of local charities to distribute food to people struggling as a result of the pandemic.

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- END -