

Local Alert Level 2 Announcement for the East Riding of Yorkshire

This message is sent at the request of Councillor Richard Burton, leader of the council, and Caroline Lacey, chief executive

Dear town and parish councils,

Following a rise in COVID-19 cases, the East Riding will move into local alert level 2 (High) of the three-level restrictions system on **Saturday, 31 October 2020 at 00.01am.**

In today's announcement by the Department for Health and Social Care, it was confirmed that there are 239 COVID-19 cases per 100,000 in the East Riding.

This will mean that, from this date and time, additional restrictions, such as no indoor mixing of different households (unless they are part of a support bubble), will come into effect across the whole of the East Riding.

The Government announced that the East Riding, along with neighbouring areas including Hull, North East Lincolnshire and North Lincolnshire, would move into this level together, with the extra restrictions aimed at helping to control the spread of the virus.

Moving to local alert level 2 (High) will mean that council will, in addition to providing support to residents and communities, will also be providing business support.

The business support, announced by the Chancellor, will include business grants, support for the self-employed and the job support scheme: www.gov.uk/government/news/plan-for-jobs-chancellor-increases-financial-support-for-businesses-and-workers

We are awaiting further guidance on these from the Government and will communicate about the support available and how to access it via our corporate communications channels and directly with businesses.

The information will be located on the website at www.eastriding.gov.uk/business/coronavirus-grants-for-businesses-and-charities/ including how to apply. This is the preferred route for businesses to access assistance.

With respect to support for residents, members may want to promote the HEY Smile Foundation's befriending service – CALLER - on (01482) 215929.

Members can also signpost residents to our emergency assistance information at www.eastriding.gov.uk/living/emergency-assistance/ this covers all the help available, including the new COVID-19 scheme, and the online application forms. This is the preferred route for residents to access assistance.

Otherwise they can call (01482) 394799 and talk to our benefits contact centre.

We appreciate that this will be a very tough winter for our residents and businesses, especially with the onset of colder weather, and we as a council will continue to do all we can to provide the best support possible.

In the coming weeks, the council will refresh its online health and wellbeing offer to help residents during the winter and we will also continue to work with our partners and with businesses to keep offering controlled and safe spaces for people to enjoy and to keep the East Riding as a fantastic and safe place to live, work, shop, learn, play, invest and visit.

It is likely that, over the coming months, we will have staff having to self-isolate and this will have an impact on services.

The council is continuing to do all it can to maintain services wherever possible during these challenging times, while prioritising resource on where it is needed most.

During this extraordinary period, please direct any questions and suggestions you may have to the group offices and please bear with us as we won't be able to respond to lots of member communications as quickly as normal. Please bear in mind we are focussing on essential service delivery only.

Below is an overview of what the new restrictions are, should you be asked by a resident or business:

From just after midnight on Saturday, 31 October 2020, the new local alert level 2 restrictions for the East Riding will mean:

- You must not meet socially with friends and family indoors in any setting unless you live with them or have formed a support bubble with them. This includes private homes and any other indoor venues such as pubs and restaurants.
- You may continue to see friends and family you do not live with outdoors, including in a garden or other outdoor space. When you do so, you must not meet in a group of more than six people.
- Visiting indoor hospitality/leisure/retail settings is restricted to one household i.e. two households must not meet in these settings (unless those two households are in a support bubble).
- In agreement with the Government, the council is looking at ways to facilitate visits in care homes. However, the absolute priority is that we need to continue keeping COVID-19 out of care settings.
- You may continue to travel to venues or amenities which are open, for work, voluntary, charitable or youth services, or to access education, within a high alert level area, but you should and aim to reduce the number of journeys you make where possible. If you need to travel we encourage you to walk or cycle where possible, or

to plan ahead and avoid busy times and routes on public transport. This will allow you to practice social distancing while you travel.

- You can still go on holiday outside of your area, but you should only do this with people you live with, or have formed a support bubble with (dependent on any local restrictions in the area you are visiting).
- People can play a team sport only where this is formally organised by a sports club or similar organisation, and sports-governing body guidance has been issued.
- People should not attend amateur or professional sporting events as spectators.
- Wedding receptions and celebrations can continue for up to 15 people in the form of a sit-down meal and in a COVID-19-secure setting, not in a private dwelling.
- Up to 30 people can attend a funeral, and 15 for a wake in a COVID-19-secure setting, not in a private dwelling.

To learn more about the new measures and what support is available for residents, businesses and local communities, visit www.eastriding.gov.uk/3stepstosafety

Most importantly, it is vital that our public health messaging continues to be promoted and followed. We would ask all members to promote these new changes in their ward areas.

The council asks that residents follow the **3 Steps to Safety: Prevent. Notice. Act.**

Prevent the spread of COVID-19 through handwashing, social distancing and wearing face coverings (unless exempt), be quick to **notice** symptoms and **act** immediately to get tested and by self-isolating if necessary.

Self-isolation is a crucial part of reducing infection rates and preventing transmission. National reports suggest 80% of people who should be self-isolating are either failing to do it at all or are not doing it properly.

Anyone who has either tested positive, has symptoms, is waiting for a test result or has been contacted and advised to self-isolate by the NHS Test and Trace service or by the council needs to stay at home.

If you do have any symptoms of COVID-19 - a high temperature, a new, continuous cough or a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste - you can request a test at www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test or by calling 119.

Members can also help spread the word and not the virus, by supporting the council's COVID-19 public health campaign messaging.

New artwork has been created for use in email signatures, as backgrounds for Microsoft Teams' meetings, social media assets and posters. All with the aim of reducing cases of coronavirus in the East Riding.

The artwork promotes the council's **3 Steps To Safety** messaging as well as its most recent '**Don't be the link. Stop the spread. Save lives.**' campaign, which is asking people to self-isolate if they have tested positive, have symptoms, are awaiting a test result or have been contacted by NHS Test and Trace or by the council.

You can find all of these assets on the council's website, [click here](#)

As we have done throughout the pandemic, we will continue to keep you updated as regularly as possible.