

Updated Information about COVID-19 – Novel Coronavirus

(8th June 2020)

Changes highlighted

Current situation

The national test and trace programme was launched on Thursday 28th May 2020. [Information about the programme](#) and [guidance for workplaces](#) is available.

Please read this in conjunction with more detailed guidance on the [NHS coronavirus webpage](#) and [national guidance outlining what coronavirus test results mean](#).

Please also see [national stay at home guidance](#) (for households with possible COVID-19 infection) and [guidance for non-household contacts of confirmed cases](#).

Additionally [a letter about test and trace for care staff has](#) been published, [alongside an external stakeholder briefing](#). [A Q&A document regarding 119](#) has also been disseminated.

The local programme continues to be developed, with Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull having been named as beacon councils in establishing a locally owned approach to the next phase. It is critical to remember that the Test and Trace programme alone will not be successful unless we continue to observe social distancing rules. Minimising unnecessary contact with people, within the guidance, remains a key message as we move forward.

[A new review has also just been published by PHE](#) regarding disparities in risks and outcomes related to COVID-19. Addressing the findings of this review is crucial as we go through the next phase of epidemic management. [An announcement about next steps has been made by the Equalities Minister](#).

Schools will be gradually reopening for certain year groups (Reception, Year 1 and Year 6), as of today - 1st June, [with some shops potentially also being allowed to reopen](#). [Some outdoor retailers are also allowed to open from 1st June 2020, with further non-essential retail opening from 15th June 2020](#)

Evidence and policy briefings regarding children and COVID can be found below, with further evidence being published:

- [Overview of information about Coronavirus and Children published by Department for Education](#)
- [Policy briefing on return to school by Children's Commissioner](#)

Opening of some hospitality venues may also start from July 2020. Importantly, restrictions may need to be put in place again should markers of infection rise.

All of the above forms part of the government's published [Covid-19 recovery strategy \(GOV.UK\)](#). This was published on 11th May 2020 and sets out the way in which a cautious approach will be taken to restarting certain activities in England over a period of weeks/months in the next phase of the Covid-19 epidemic.

[A new fund](#) has been announced that local authorities and partners can bid into, to support the safe reopening of high streets.

Further, [a plan to create new supported homes for rough sleepers](#) has been announced.

[The Heatwave Plan for England has also been published](#), which considers the impact that COVID and heatwaves may have on vulnerable groups. Local plans are also being developed.

In addition to the above, an excellent public health opportunity has been announced as part of a large emergency active travel fund that has now been made available for local authorities to reallocate road space for walking and cycling, with accompanying statutory guidance.

- [GOV.UK - £2 billion package to create new era for cycling and walking](#)

Funding has been announced to [support families of seriously ill or disabled children](#), and also further funding for small and medium sized charities has been announced ([press conference 20th May 2020](#)).

National data sources

- [GOV.UK - latest number of coronavirus cases and risk in the UK](#)
- [GOV.UK - Public Health England weekly surveillance reports](#)
- [Regional estimates for the value of R](#)

Current Key Messages and local Public Health advice

- **Stay at home and work from home if you can.** If you are unable to work from home, ensure you only return to work once your employer has put in place government advised measures to ensure a safe workplace.
- **Avoid public transport** and walk/cycle if, and when, you do need to go to work.
- You can exercise outdoors as often as you wish and play sports with a group of up to 6 people. **Always stay 2 metres away from others.**

- You can meet with a group of 6 people in total outside, as long as 2m distance is maintained between individuals. This can be in private gardens, but not inside.
- Other than for the above reasons, **limit leaving the house except for certain essential activities** (shopping for necessities, such as food or medicine), any medical need, or providing care to a vulnerable person.
- Follow [current national guidance](#) and **stay at home as much as you can if you have a long-term condition, are pregnant, or aged 70 or over**. People who are “extremely vulnerable” and are currently shielding should continue [following national guidance](#) to protect them from infection (updated on 31st May 2020)
- [Self-isolate with those in your household](#) if you develop Covid-19 symptoms (**however mild**). It is critical that you also access medical help you need for other reasons, when you need it - by phoning your GP or 999 in an emergency.
- **Get tested if you develop symptoms**, via www.nhs.uk/coronavirus or by ringing 119
- **Wash your hands regularly with soap and water** and clean surfaces that are regularly touched with detergents and chlorine-based disinfectants (1000 ppm chlorine). Wash your clothes regularly.
- **Check in on friends/neighbours/family who may be more vulnerable** - stay in touch by phone or other digital media. Make sure they are able to keep in touch and can access help if they need it.
- **Please see [advice regarding wearing cloth face coverings \(GOV.UK\)](#) in certain situations** (enclosed spaces where social distancing isn't possible and where you will come into contact with people you do not normally meet). Rigorous hand washing before and after putting on face coverings, avoiding touching your face and appropriate washing of coverings is critical. Note that wearing [face coverings on public transport will become mandatory](#) on 15th June 2020. **A further announcement was made on 5th June 2020 that face coverings would be made mandatory for all hospital visitors and those attending outpatients on 15th June. Type I or Type II surgical masks will be worn by all hospital staff from that date also.**

Please see further national guidance here

- [Guidance on staying safe outside your home](#)
- [Staying alert: Guidance on what you can and can't do](#)

Mental Wellbeing

There are many ways in which we can use technology to keep in touch with our family, friends and with people who might be more vulnerable/living alone. There are also many other ways in which we can look after our own wellbeing and that of others. A range of resources and guidance for maintaining and improving mental wellbeing can be found at the links below:

- [GOV.UK - Covid-19: guidance for the public on mental health and wellbeing](#)
- [GOV.UK - Covid-19: guidance on supporting children and young people's mental health and wellbeing](#)
- [Mental Health Foundation - Looking after your mental health during the coronavirus outbreak](#)
- [Warwickshire County Council – mental health advice and resources during the coronavirus outbreak](#)
- [Coventry City Council – mental health service information during Covid-19](#)
- [Sports England - Stay in, work out](#)
- [Getting outside and staying safe outside – a new resource from Ordnance Survey and Natural England \(to help people to decide where to go and what to do outside\)](#)
- [Living Well with Dementia in Warwickshire – support services for people living with or caring for someone with dementia in Coventry and Warwickshire](#)
- [Warwickshire County Council - Helping you manage your wellbeing if you care for someone during the Covid-19 outbreak \(PDF, 109KB\)](#)
- [Coventry City Council – Carers coronavirus information pack](#)
- [MARCHNetwork.org – social study looking at the psychological and social experiences of adults during the current Covid-19 epidemic](#)

Key public facing advice and support for vulnerable groups

Key links for public advice can be found at the links below:

- [NHS.UK - latest NHS information and advice about coronavirus](#)
- [GOV.UK - latest coronavirus guidance and support, announcements and press conference statements](#)

The GOV.UK website and translated guidance below will be in the process of being refreshed with new guidance shortly.

Translations and more accessible guidance

National advice documents have been translated into 51 languages courtesy of Doctors of the World.

- [Doctors of the World – coronavirus information in other languages](#)

National guidance is also included on the Welcome to Coventry app. The app relates to Coventry, but the information about Covid-19 is based on national guidance, is updated daily and the Browsealoud (orange button) allows people to have the text read to them and to also translate this into multiple languages.

- [Welcome to Coventry – Covid-19 guidance with Browsealoud](#)

[Coventry welcomes goes online](#) for Refugee week – 15th to 20th June

Support for people in the extremely vulnerable category (i.e. “shielding”):

- [Warwickshire County Council – Coronavirus: support for isolated, vulnerable residents](#)
- [Coventry City Council – Coronavirus: Operation Shield support advice](#)

Support and services for people who might be vulnerable and staying at home due to coronavirus:

- [Warwickshire County Council – get self-isolation help](#)
- [Coventry City Council – community support](#)

Information and support for people who experience domestic violence:

- [Talk2someone Warwickshire](#) - a new website just launched in Warwickshire
- [West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner – no excuse for abuse](#)

Information and support for people who may be bereaved:

- [Support for the bereaved](#)

Travel advice

Travel advice is changing regularly as the situation changes internationally. The Foreign Office recommends against all non-essential travel worldwide. New advice regarding the need to self-isolate (from 8th June 2020 onwards) on return to the UK (and exemptions to this) can be found also via the link below

- [GOV.UK - Coronavirus travel advice](#)

Useful guidance, resources and communications materials

- National guidance for a range of partners/sectors - [GOV.UK - Coronavirus guidance](#)
- An alternative way of accessing some of the key information and guidance - [GOV.UK - Coronavirus guidance and support](#)

A number of guidance documents were updated at these links on the 15th May 2020 including guidance for care of the deceased/funerals, guidance for employers and educational settings, guidance for decontamination in non-healthcare settings, guidance for businesses and food businesses and guidance regarding exposed health and care staff and patients. Infection control guidance has also been updated.

Additional useful guidance can also be found elsewhere on the GOV.UK website and is listed below:

- [Guidance for workplaces – how to make workplaces “Covid-19 secure” \(includes new “Shops and Branches” guidance updated on 26th May 2020\)](#)
- [GOV.UK - Guidance on social distancing in workplace](#)
- [Social distancing guidance for workplaces](#)
- [Health & Safety Executive - How to perform a Covid-19 risk assessment](#)
- [Guidance for the charity sector](#)
- [Guidance for schools and other educational settings \(updated 15th May 2020, and new guidance for parents published on 2nd June 2020\)](#)
- [Guidance on access to PPE for schools](#)
- [Actions for higher education providers](#)
- [Adult social care action plan \(PDF, 284KB\)](#)
- [Support for care homes guidance \(published 15th May 2020\)](#)
- [Suite of adult social care guidance](#)
- [Guidance for staff supporting adults with learning disabilities and autistic adults](#)
- [Children’s social care guidance](#)
- [Guidance for staff looking after people who lack mental capacity](#)
- [Guidance for drug and alcohol service commissioners \(updated 15th May 2020\)](#)
- [Guidance for consumers about coronavirus and food](#)
- [Hospital discharge guidance](#)
- [Guidance \(including for parents\) about staying safe online](#)
- [Safeguarding guidance for community volunteers](#)
- [Guidance on disposal of personal protective equipment for the public](#)
- [Guidance regarding health inequalities and COVID-19](#)

Warwickshire and Coventry have produced local guidance for domiciliary care/visiting staff and some local care home guidance regarding test interpretation. Please always check here for the latest versions.

- [Guidance for staff who provide personal care/therapy for individuals in homes and visiting staff \(PDF, 1.2MB\)](#)
- [Guidance for care homes on interpretation of staff and resident COVID test results](#)

Guidance for migrant communities

The [West Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership website](#) brings together a range of resources relevant to refugee and migrant communities.

The [NHS entitlements: migrant health guide](#) has been updated to make it clear that no charge can be made to overseas visitors for testing/treatment of Covid-19 (this goes for all communicable disease, sexual health services, and a range of other exemptions including primary care and emergency care, NHS111, with a range of further exemptions for vulnerable individuals.

The [Welcome to Coventry website](#) has a list of free and paid services for asylum seekers, refugees and migrants that can be translated into different languages.

Campaign resources, research and testing guidance

The Coronavirus Emergency Measures Bill has been brought before parliament and a summary of the key impacts has been published:

- [GOV.UK - Coronavirus bill: summary of impacts](#)

Public Health England (PHE) has issued advice against the use of Covid-19 rapid tests that are being marketed:

- [Public Health England - rapid point of care tests for use in community pharmacies or at home](#)

PHE has pulled together a bank of resources to help those working on the coronavirus outbreak to identify and assess emerging evidence as it's published:

- [Public Health England – Finding the evidence: coronavirus](#)

A new blog about real-time tracking of the virus has been published

- [Public Health England – real-time tracking of COVID-19](#)

Campaign materials can be accessed on the national campaign website:

- [GOV.UK - Coronavirus resource centre](#)

A range of new resources have been added regarding the Test and Trace Programme, and as well as new resources from DEFRA about staying safe whilst outside and whilst shopping, and further return to school resources:

[Schools campaign resources](#)

[Return to school campaign resources](#)

New resources have been added to the main campaign centre site, including “active at home” guidance to support older adults with home based activities to maintain strength and balance and new test and trace resources.

The Children’s commissioner has produced a [children’s guide to Coronavirus](#). This should be circulated alongside the [NHS handwashing video](#).

Online Learning

London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine has worked with Future Learn to develop a free to access online learning programme on Covid-19.

- [Future Learn – Covid-19: tackling the Novel Coronavirus](#)

Imperial College London has also developed an online Covid-19 course:

- [Coursera.org - Science matters: Let’s talk about Covid-19](#)