



Fw: Suffolk County Council: COVID-19 - Daily Bulletin 18/03/20

Eriswell Parish Clerk <eriswellparishclerk@outlook.com>

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Important information from SCC

Dear all,

We wanted to share with you the first of a daily update from Suffolk County Council about COVID-19. At the time of emailing, this includes the most current UK and Suffolk information and Government guidance, but, as you will be aware, the situation is evolving almost hourly so please be aware that this information may date quite quickly.

We are living in unprecedented times. It is clear that this virus will have an impact on each of our lives, but we must continue to look out for our most vulnerable neighbours, whilst remembering the guidance on social distancing. There is a lot of national guidelines available (the website are listed below) and these remain the best source of up-to-date national information.

Please feel free to share this more widely if you wish.

With best wishes,

Matthew Hicks
Leader, Suffolk County Council

Nicola Beach
Chief Executive, Suffolk County Council

Stuart Keeble
Director of Public Health, Suffolk County Council

Current UK Risk Level: HIGH

The risk to the UK has been raised to high (as of 13/03/2020).

As of 13 Mar, UK is in the 'delay' phase of the government's action plan to limit the spread of the virus.

Current Situation (17/03/20)

UK

- As of 9am on 17 March 2020, 50,442 people have been tested in the UK, of which 48,492 were confirmed negative and 1,950 were confirmed as positive. There have been 60 confirmed deaths in the UK. In Suffolk we have 3 confirmed cases. However, with routine community testing discontinued, these figures will not describe the full extent of cases locally.

- [Emergency bill](#) to strengthen coronavirus (COVID-19) response plans will aim to protect public health, increase NHS capacity, strengthen social care and support the public to take the right action at the right time. Amongst other measures, this will include:
 - allowing recently retired NHS staff and social workers to return to work without any negative repercussions to their pensions;
 - allowing police and immigration officers to support and enforce public health measures, including powers to detain people and put them in appropriate isolation facilities if necessary to protect public health
 - making arrangements for statutory sick pay
 - allowing small businesses to reclaim statutory sick pay payments
- [New government structures to coordinate response to coronavirus](#). The new daily C-19 meeting of key ministers and officials will monitor progress and refine the measures agreed by COBR.
- Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab gave a [statement advising against all non-essential travel overseas](#) in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.
- Communities Secretary Robert Jenrick announces [£3.2 million emergency funding to help rough sleepers](#) to self-isolate.

SUFFOLK

- **Community Support:** We have partnered with the East Anglian Daily Times to launch their community campaign, *Home, but not alone*. The campaign looks at ways you can help in Suffolk during this time such as volunteering and making contact with your neighbours. To read more about it please visit; <https://www.eadt.co.uk/news/coronavirus-good-neighbourhood-scheme-orford-1-6566068> We will update on other community news in the update tomorrow.
- **Suffolk Highways:** The Senior Leadership Team at Suffolk Highways is meeting twice daily to ensure a close management of the highways service during this challenging time. We are working together with teams across the business to ensure we can continue to deliver a service for those travelling in Suffolk. We are absolutely committed to keeping our colleagues safe and healthy, whilst ensuring roads are maintained for the use of emergency services and those having to travel for essential tasks. To assist at this time whilst we suffer a shortage in resource, we are asking members of the public to only report more serious issues to us, such as deep potholes or a highway issue which is causing threat to public safety. We're continuing to carry out our routine inspections, inspection of customer reports and repairing problems on the network – however as you would expect, our focussed needs to be on responding to the highest priority areas.
- **Schools:** In Suffolk today there are 8 schools which are closed. This is mainly due to staffing issues or to deep clean the school. 7 other schools have part closed. To find out about school closures go to <http://schoolclosures.suffolk.gov.uk/>
- **Adult and Community Care:** Below details some of the urgent steps that Adult Community Services are taking to provide stability for the care market and to stimulate and access as much capacity as possible.
In order to immediately help to reassure and support extra capacity in the care market Suffolk County Council has taken the following action:
 - It will provide a payment per provider based on the average of the last three whole payment periods, plus an adjustment for inflation of 5.25%. This will support providers through the security of income over the coming months.

- To be paid on a 4-weekly basis for the next 3 months.

In return our requirement is that Providers commit to the following:

- Nursing and Residential Homes will continue to take new placement and re-admissions from hospital
- Nursing and Residential Homes will be expected to reduce wherever possible the delay between a bed becoming vacant and refilled
- Homecare providers will be expected to maintain all current care packages, we would not expect providers to hand back any customers during this period. We do recognise there may be exceptional circumstances which we will work with you as a system to resolve.

In addition, we will be commissioning homecare and support contracts to accredited providers outside of our current framework for a period of 3 months.

We are increasing our capacity in Home First through the deployment of other staff across ACS. We will extend this to the wider SCC workforce and the wider public sector workforce if and when required. There is a rolling programme of basic training beginning this week and we are aiming to increase capacity by 35% in the short term (135 staff) and then to 50%. We will increase this if required. This will, in addition to the financial and contractual measures being taken, help us to support the market and the growth in demand.

We are similarly establishing a rolling programme of training for the redeployment of staff into Customer First to respond to the anticipated demand.

We are working with Suffolk Family Carers to establish a direct access helpline for carers who are not in receipt of services and need support due to the virus with caring for their loved one, linked to Customer First.

We have been working with health partners to plan additional capacity needs for hospital discharge. Yesterday Simon Stevens announced the plans to immediately free up 30,000 hospital beds through urgently discharging all patients medically fit for discharge. New government funding for these discharge packages and to support the supply and resilience of out-of-hospital care more broadly is being made available. Trusts, CCGs and the Local Authority will work together to ensure that additional capacity is appropriately commissioned and plans are actively being explored. This is one of the three actions, the others being a national programme of block purchasing beds from private hospitals and the cancellation of non-urgent elective operations.

The Local Resilience Forums (LRFs) have lead responsibility for overseeing support for older and vulnerable people who are going to be 'shielded' at home over the coming months.

Community Health services have been asked to support the LRF's in this work. There is a workstream within our current emergency planning arrangements focusing upon this and working in partnership with the voluntary sector.

- **Suffolk Fire and Rescue:** Latest statement: We are continually monitoring the coronavirus situation and the guidance issued from government, Home Office and the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC). We are focused on keeping our staff safe and protecting the communities we serve. We will continue to respond to emergency 999 calls. We have reduced some work to minimise risks, including some firefighter training, non-essential home visits and we are adapting our operations to continue to protect the most vulnerable in our society. We are advising members of the public to take extra vigilance at the present time and continue to test smoke alarms on a weekly basis'.
- **Suffolk Libraries: Closures:** The following libraries are closed due to staff shortages: Saxmundham Library, Southwold Library. At this moment the other libraries are open, but there is a possibility some or all will close. If you would like to borrow books please do this as soon as possible. **Renewals, reservations and charges:** All overdue charges incurred from 17 March onwards have been suspended. To renew books due back before 17 March. Reservation collection dates extended in case libraries are closed or you've self-isolated. We're keeping our libraries open for now as there has been no government

decision to close them and are in close discussion with the county council about the situation. **Library Statement:** In line with Government guidance we've cancelled all activities and events in libraries. As closures may be likely we're recommending that people stock up on books. We've made life as easy as possible by suspending fines and extending return dates for the time being. Even if libraries close our customer service staff will be able to answer queries and provide help. As it happens we'd already launched a campaign to promote our eLibrary services – there are thousands of free ebooks, audiobooks, online newspapers and magazines as well as a film streaming service and free music. With plenty titles to keep children entertained too. We've also made it easier to sign up and use these. The mobile libraries are still running but we've decided to suspend the home library service due so many customers being older or with health issues. We are asking volunteers to call the customers so they don't feel too isolated.

- **Citizens Advice Bureau:** Issued from Ipswich CAB today. Following guidance from Government Citizens Advice Ipswich will be providing advice via phone and email until further notice. Nicky Willshire, chief officer, said: "We have taken the Government guidance and as a result will be offering telephone and email advice for the foreseeable future. We are contacting all clients who had an appointment booked with us to rearrange it to a telephone appointment. We know that many people will have concerns over coming weeks and we will be using social media, our website and offering advice remotely to seek to help find ways forward." Useful contact details: Telephone advice line: 0300 3301151. Email via our website citizensadviceipswich.org.uk. Help to Claim line for Universal Credit 0800 144 8444.
- **Business:** Issued by the New Anglia LEP. The Coronavirus outbreak presents a significant challenge to businesses around the globe. Norfolk and Suffolk businesses who have been affected, or feel they are likely to be affected by C19, are urged to seek advice and the Government has supplied a series of resources to inform employers on the latest developments and advice on protecting themselves and their employees. The Government has also announced a £330bn package of support for businesses. Government support for business can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19/covid-19-support-for-businesses>
- **Suffolk Trading Standards:** Advice and guidance about scams <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/news/cyber-experts-step-criminals-exploit-coronavirus>

Useful Websites (any new guidance is in RED)

The existing guidance is being updated extremely regularly (*and in some cases daily*) so please check any guidance relevant to your area to ensure that you are accessing the most up to date version. I will only be able to highlight newly published guidance in this bulletin.

No	Title	Who For/Notes	Link
NEW	Coronavirus bill: what it will do		https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-bill-what-it-will-do
NEW	Coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance for local government	Local councils	https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-local-government

	COVID-19: guidance for employees, employers and businesses	for employees, employers and businesses	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19
UPDATED			
1	NHS	General Public – this is the only site we should be promoting to the public for information	https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19
2	NHS 111	General Public – For people to use incl a symptom checker	https://111.nhs.uk/service/covid-19
3	PHE UK Dashboard	UK Dashboard of cases and deaths	https://www.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/f94c3c90da5b4e9f9a0b19484dd4bb14
4	Gov.UK – Central public resource	Main cover webpage for all government guidance for public & professionals alike	https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response
5	PHE Health Matters	Post on General FAQs that include a section to submit questions at the bottom of the page.	https://publichealthmatters.blog.gov.uk/2020/01/23/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-what-you-need-to-know/
6	Gov.uk - Single central information source	For stakeholders or the media	https://www.gov.uk/guidance/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-information-for-the-public
7	PHE Campaign Resource Centre	Range of comms resources that can be used	https://campaignresources.phe.gov.uk/resources/campaigns/101-novel-coronavirus-/resources
8	Gov.uk - First Responder guidance	Initial guidance for first responders but can be adapted for others as required	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-interim-guidance-for-first-responders/interim-guidance-for-first-responders-and-others-in-close-contact-with-symptomatic-people-with-potential-2019-ncov
9	Gov.uk - Health Professionals Guidance	Central location for health guidance	https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/wuhan-novel-coronavirus

10	Gov.uk - Non health Specific Guidance	Guidance decontamination in non-health care settings	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-health-care-settings
11	Gov.uk - Infection Prevention and Control guidance	For health and social care professionals or others	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-infection-prevention-and-control/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-wn-cov-infection-prevention-and-control-guidance
12	COVID-19: residential care, supported living and home care guidance	Providers of residential care, supported living, and home care	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-residential-care-supported-living-and-home-care-guidance
13	Travel advice: coronavirus (COVID-19)	General public travelling and living overseas	https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-advice-novel-coronavirus
14	Stay at home: guidance for households with possible coronavirus (COVID-19) infection	General public	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection
15	COVID-19: guidance on social distancing and for vulnerable people	Guidance on social distancing for everyone in the UK and protecting older people and vulnerable people.	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people
16	COVID-19 guidance for mass gatherings	Guidance and advice for those arranging or planning to attend events in the UK.	https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-guidance-for-mass-gatherings
18	COVID-19: guidance for staff in the transport sector	Staff in the transport sector	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-staff-in-the-transport-sector
19	COVID-19 industry guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • educational settings such as schools or universities • prisons, immigration centres and 	https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-publishes-updated-covid-19-industry-guidance

		other places of detention <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • shipping and sea ports • transport hubs including airports and train stations • hostels and day centres (rough sleepers) 	
20	Coronaviruses (COVID-19): immigration guidance	for individuals affected by travel restrictions associated with coronavirus	https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-immigration-guidance-if-youre-unable-to-return-to-china-from-the-uk
21	WHO Corvid-19 Dashboard	For professionals using near real time data.	http://who.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/c88e37cfc43b4ed3baf977d77e4a0667

[Global – WHO Situation Report 57, 17 Mar](#)

- WHO RISK ASSESSMENT (Global Level) - Very High
- OpenWHO is an interactive, web-based, knowledge-transfer platform offering free online courses to improve the response to health emergencies. COVID-19 resources are available in the official WHO languages [here](#) and in additional national languages [here](#).

Situation in Numbers WHO SitRep 57, 17 Mar (new since last 24hrs)

Location	Confirmed	Deaths
Globally	179 112 confirmed (11 526)	7426 deaths (475)
Western Pacific Region	91 779 confirmed (289)	3357 deaths (23)
European Region	64 189 confirmed (8507)	3108 deaths (428)
South-East Asia	508 confirmed (124)	9 deaths (2)
Eastern Mediterranean Region	16 786 confirmed (330)	873 deaths (3)
Regions of the Americas	4910 confirmed (2234)	68 deaths (18)
African Region	228 confirmed (42)	4 deaths (1)

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