

18th August 2020

Dear resident

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We are sending emails like this one to residents of the New Forest with information about our services, and updates as we respond to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

You can unsubscribe at any time – see the end of this email.

Keep Hampshire safe

Organisations here in the county are working to keep Hampshire safe.

All areas have a ‘local outbreak plan’. This closely monitors the impact of the virus across the county, and would be used to co-ordinate any action needed to deal with issues if they arise.

As of 11 August, the daily lab-confirmed cases of COVID-19 per 100,000 people was 1.1 for the New Forest. And the district has had 470 confirmed cases in total since recording of cases started.

You can play your part in keeping Hampshire safe, by:

- self-isolating at home if you have symptoms of COVID-19 and getting tested
- keeping your distance from people not in your household or support bubble – 2 metres apart when possible
- wearing a face covering on public transport, shops and many indoor spaces; and
- washing your hands regularly

Symptoms of coronavirus are a recent onset of any of the following:

- new continuous cough
- high temperature
- loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell

If you have symptoms of COVID-19 however mild, you must self-isolate for at least 10 days from when your symptoms started. You should arrange to have a test to see if you have COVID-19

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>

Local data, information, and support

available: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Better health

With the NHS encouraging adults to kick start their health and reduce their risk of serious illness, including COVID-19, we are offering six weeks at our health and leisure centres for just £60.

Your six weeks includes:

- gym induction

- use of the gyms
- lane swimming
- group fitness classes
- use at any of the five centres

Get the six weeks for £60 offer

at: <https://newforest.gov.uk/article/1667/Six-weeks-for-60>

Please note that activities must be pre-booked.

Offer can be bought until Wednesday 30 September 2020.

Temporary pavement licences free to New Forest businesses

If you have a business that sells food and drink you may now be able to quickly get a temporary licence to use the pavement for outside eating and drinking, so that you can serve more customers safely.

We're waiving the fees on applications for these licences, one of the ways we're helping local businesses recover from the national lockdown.

There's more information on the licences and how to apply at <https://newforest.gov.uk/article/1647/NFDC-offers-free-pavement-licences-to-support-New-Forest-hospitality-businesses->

Back to school safely

Children and young people are due to return to schools and colleges full time from next month.

Since schools closed earlier in the year, the prevalence of coronavirus has decreased. The NHS Test and Trace system is up and running and more is understood about how to create safer environments in schools.

Schools will be following national guidance on how to be as safe as possible.

Some steps that schools are taking to lower the risk of coronavirus transmission may include:

- staggered start, finish, and break times
- increased hygiene and hand washing
- children remaining in consistent groups

More detail on the government guidance, and what parents and carers can do, is

at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term>

Travelling in a car with others

As people return to work and school, and more places reopen, you may be using your car more.

Try to only share a vehicle with people from your household or support bubble. If this is not possible, try to share the transport with the same people each time and:

- open the windows for ventilation

- wear a face covering for the duration of the journey
- sit as far away from each other as the vehicle will allow
- clean the car between journeys, including door handles and other areas people touch

Note: This guidance is for personal family owned cars. Taxi and private hire vehicles

guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-transport-guidance-for-operators>

How to reduce your water use

Water companies in Hampshire are asking people to put away their hosepipes and garden sprinklers to help reduce the pressure on supplies and to make sure there's enough to go around.

Simple changes like taking shorter showers, using dishwasher on the garden or using a broom instead of a hose to clean your patio or drive, can all save water and save you money.

You can find lots more tips to reduce your use in the hot weather and all year round at <https://waterwise.org.uk/save-water>

Claims open for self-employment income support grants

If you are self-employed and your business has been affected by coronavirus, you may be able to claim a grant of up to £6,570 in the latest round of government support.

To qualify you must have had trading profits of no more than £50,000, making up at least half of your total income.

If you think your business qualifies you have until 19 October to make a claim.

There is more information on the government website at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/claim-a-grant-through-the-coronavirus-covid-19-self-employment-income-support-scheme>

Latest information from NFDC:

<https://www.newforest.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Latest information from central

government: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

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