



23rd October 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.

What to do in local COVID alert level medium

The New Forest is currently in the medium alert level. However, cases of coronavirus continue to increase, and we should all ensure we are doing what we can to slow the spread of the virus and keep Hampshire safe.

Remember:

- Hands – wash your hands regularly and for 20 seconds
- Face – wear a face covering, over your mouth and nose, in indoor settings where social distancing may be difficult, and where you will come into contact with people you do not normally meet
- Space – stay 2 metres apart from people you do not live with where possible, or 1 metre with extra precautions in place (such as wearing face coverings or increasing ventilation indoors)
- Rule of 6 – You must not meet in groups of more than 6, indoors and out

Read more at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-covid-alert-level-medium>

Thank you for updating your voter details

Thank you for updating your voter information in our annual household electoral canvass.

Every year, by law, we have to check the voter details for every home in the district so that those who are eligible can join the electoral register in order to vote.

This year, to keep everyone safe, we asked that people respond to us online or by phone where possible. Around 8,500 people replied online, by phone or by text. Thanks to your efforts we've had the best response ever and have confirmed details for nearly all of the over 80,000 homes in the New Forest district.

If you were asked to respond and haven't updated your details yet, you still have until 13 November to respond using the details in the letter or email we sent. Or you can visit <https://www.gov.uk/register-to->

[vote](#) to join the electoral register and make sure you can make your voice heard in local elections next May.

Crimestoppers COVID fraud hotline

Don't let criminals profit from a crisis.

If you suspect someone has fraudulently claimed Government grants or loans intended to help those struggling through the COVID pandemic, report it anonymously and free of charge on

0800 587 5030

or online at <https://forms.theiline.co.uk/crimestopperscovidfraudhotline>

The COVID Fraud Hotline is open 24/7, 365 days a year to report those abusing schemes set up to help those in genuine need, and stealing from public funds by claiming support illegally.

More testing sites in Hampshire

Five new testing sites will open in the coming weeks in Hampshire, making it easier for local people to access testing for coronavirus.

Read Hampshire County Council's announcement on the new sites: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/202016102020localtesting>

For when and how to get a test, please see information from the NHS at: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

Complete a survey about food shopping and cooking

Hampshire County Council wants to know how your food shopping and cooking habits may have changed and whether you've made any new habits that you're still sticking to.

Complete the survey by 12 November for the chance to win a selection of recipe

books: <https://ete Hampshirecc.researchfeedback.net/s.asp?k=160155366812>

Be prepared in a power cut

Scottish and Southern Electricity Network (SSEN) look after the national power grid to properties in the New Forest, whatever company supplies your electricity. They have this advice to prepare for possible power cuts this winter.

Join the priority services register:

If you, or someone you know needs extra support in a power cut you can join the free Priority Services Register. You'll get priority updates during a power cut and a priority 24 hour phone line to report problems. Sign up to the register if you:

- Use medical equipment or refrigerated medication reliant on electricity
- Have a chronic illness or a disability
- Live with children under 5
- Are aged over 60
- Have another need for priority support

Find out more at <https://www.ssen.co.uk/psr/> or call 0800 294 3259

Download the free Power Track app to report and track power disruption and be kept up to date with when service will be restored.

In the case of a power cut:

- call 105
- turn off appliances that shouldn't be left unattended, for when the power is restored
- leave a light on so you can see when power comes back on
- use a torch, it's safer than candles
- stay warm
- look out for your neighbours who may need extra help or support.

Get more advice on what to do in a power cut at <https://www.powercut105.com/experience>

Know before you go. Plan ahead, and book before you travel.

To help everyone stay safe and help us all look after the National Park, we and our partners at Go New Forest, the National Park Authority and Forestry England, are asking that people plan ahead and book before visiting venues or businesses. For details please see the official tourism website at <https://www.thenewforest.co.uk/>

Pannage season extended until 21 December

A large number of acorns fell in the New Forest this year and so the pannage season has been extended until Monday 21 December.

Pannage season dates back to William the Conqueror and is when pigs are released into the forest to eat the acorns which are poisonous to ponies.

If you are exploring the forest this autumn and come across pigs, please remember to keep your distance, and do not feed them.

With the increased number of animals in the forest and the darker evenings, we are again supporting the National Park Authority's add three minutes campaign, encouraging drivers to add extra time to their journey the help reduce the number of animal collisions.

Read more about pannage

season: <https://www.thenewforest.co.uk/ideas-and-inspiration/blog/read/2020/09/pannage-pigs-in-the-new-forest-2020-b175>

Missed an email? Read previous residents emails

at: <https://newforest.gov.uk/article/1610/Residents-email-archive>

- Latest information from NFDC: <https://www.newforest.gov.uk/coronavirus>
- Information on coronavirus from Hampshire County Council: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/coronavirus>
- Latest information from central government: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

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