



Latest Information, Advice, Useful Links and Service Updates (Updated 20 May 2021)

The information below is intended as a resource to keep you up to date with the latest information and advice. It is published weekly.

Covid-19 Trusted sources of information

- The most recent **verified data on cases in the UK and Norfolk** is available from Public Health England [here](#) and the Norfolk Insights website [here](#).
- Everyone has a key role in promoting www.nhs.uk/coronavirus and www.gov.uk/coronavirus as trusted sources of information to the public. It is really important to ensure people go to the right sources of information and keep up to date with how to look after themselves.
- **Keep up to date:** We have [a dedicated webpage for coronavirus updates](#) in Norfolk and impact on Norfolk County Council services. This is updated regularly so please do re-visit this page.
- **Service updates** - The most up to date information on council services can be found at [Norfolk County Council services disruptions](#). The council will continue to monitor its services and, if regulations and circumstances change, it will review its current plans.

Latest national announcements

- **Health Secretary's statement on coronavirus** – On 19 May, the Health Secretary, Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP, gave a [statement on coronavirus](#), he announced that the UK is launching a clinical trial of COVID-19 booster vaccines and provided an update on the COVID-19 B.1.617.2 variant.
- **More than 20 million UK adults receive both doses of COVID-19 vaccine** - On 16 May, the government [announced](#) that over 56 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine have now been administered in the UK, with over a third of adults having received both doses.

The milestone comes as government announces that appointments for a second dose of a vaccine will be brought forward from 12 to 8 weeks for the remaining people in the top nine priority groups yet to receive their second dose. This is to ensure people in these groups across the UK have the strongest possible protection from the virus at an earlier opportunity.

This is part of the government's plans to tackle rising cases of the B.1.617.2 variant of concern (VOC) first identified in India, which also include strengthened surge testing, genome sequencing and enhanced contact tracing measures deployed across the North West to control the spread.

The [online vaccination booking system](#) is now available to those aged 36 or over, or if you'll turn 36 before 1 July 2021.

- **NHS Campaign 'Open for business': to encourage public to seek care when needed** - The NHS has launched a new public information campaign to encourage people to contact their GP, attend hospital appointments and use the NHS 111 service if they have urgent care needs (or 999 in emergencies). The COVID-19 outbreak has resulted in a decrease in people accessing NHS services for a range of conditions that are not related to COVID-19.

Messages for residents

- **Meeting people indoors** – Since 17 May groups of up to 6 people or two households can meet indoors. COVID-19 spreads much more easily indoors, so remember to open a window to let fresh air in if you can.

If you are meeting friends and family, you can make a personal choice on whether to keep your distance from them, but you should still be cautious. [Read more about meeting indoors](#).

Covid-19

- **Advice from the Norfolk and Waveney CCG around second dose COVID-19 vaccinations** - People in Norfolk and Waveney are being urged not to contact local GP services to rebook appointments for their second dose of COVID-19 vaccine after it was announced that some jabs would be brought forward.

Following national guidance and in line with all areas of the country, people aged 50 and over and the clinically vulnerable are having their second doses brought forward. This is so people at greater risk of getting seriously ill due to coronavirus can get maximum protection earlier.

The standard window between your first and second dose should be on or around 12 weeks, but for people over the age of 50 and those in cohorts 1-9, this is being brought forward to eight weeks.

If you are already over the eight-week window since your first dose, please do not worry – you will be sent a text or contacted by an NHS organisation to change your appointment for an earlier date, shortly.

If you booked your appointment originally via the national booking system, you should have received a text to bring your second dose vaccination forward. Simply cancel your original appointment and rebook your second. Go to nhs.uk/covid-vaccination or call 119 (free), between 7am and 11pm seven days a week.

If you had your vaccine at a local GP surgery, a GP-led site, hospital hub or at a walk-in centre please wait to be contacted by the local NHS, do not contact your GP practice. Our GP practices continue to be very busy and we need to keep telephones clear for patients needing an appointment with a GP or nurse for other health issues and urgent care. Please be patient. No one will get left behind and our teams are doing a fantastic job to keep the vaccination programme moving and get people booked in.

The focus will be on contacting those who need to have their appointment brought forward and to have their second appointment as soon as possible. For everyone under the age of 50 and not part of cohorts 1-9, your second dose will take place on or around 12 weeks.

A single dose of the vaccine provides a good level of protection from COVID-19, but the second dose is important to ensure lasting protection. The second 'booster' dose is still safe and effective even if given after the 12-week interval.

[Further information is available on the NHS Norfolk and Waveney CCG website.](#)

Communities

- **Chances** - For those looking for a job but who have health issues that mean they need support in the workplace, our Chances team is here to help. Chances offers 1 to 1 employment and health support to help people into work, boost their confidence and wellbeing, and support them to become more active and to improve or refresh their skills. We can also support people in their job search and preparing for interview. We have Chances advisers based across the county. [Visit our website for more information.](#)
- **Guidance for the safe use of multi-purpose community facilities** – On 17 May, MHCLG updated the [guidance for those managing community centres, village halls and other community facilities](#) on safely re-opening to reflect the further easing of national restrictions which came into effect yesterday.

Education and settings

- **Education, Schools, and Settings** - Although there are still daily changes, the overall position is now stabilising and key changes are expected in line with national easing of the lockdown.
All schools were again open to all children last week. Attendance of pupils in Norfolk remains in-line with the national average and overall last week, attendance was 94.9% in primary schools, compared to 95.4% the week before and compared to 95% nationally. Attendance in secondary schools was 89%, compared to 89.7% last week and 89% nationally.
- **Post 16's** – Those 'Not in Employment, Education and Training' (NEET) has reduced slightly to 4.4% (762 young people). 54 young people are taking part in NEET re-engagement provision and an additional study programme aimed at NEET is due to start in the week of 24 May. 91% of Elective Home Education (EHE) year 11 students identified as at risk of NEET have been contacted by our

advisers to discuss progression plans and offer support. The DfE Apprenticeship Support and Knowledge contract has been agreed for the new NCC Pathways to Work team to deliver.

- **Early Years** - There are 676 settings open this week with 14,514 children attending. Of those 4,611 are children of critical workers, and 750 are vulnerable. Of the vulnerable children 248 have a social worker and 131 have an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP).

Transport

- **Chance to help shape Norwich cycling and walking route plans** - To help encourage more people to cycle and walk in and around Norwich eight existing active travel routes have been earmarked for improvements. The ambition is to make better links for people to reach the places where they live, work and study, by bike and on foot.

People are being asked for their thoughts on the proposals developed by Norfolk County Council, Broadland District Council, South Norfolk Council and Norwich City Council.

The eight routes, known locally as Pedalways, could see a range of improvements over the coming years including redesigned junctions to help walkers and cyclists to use them more easily, new and improved cycle lanes and footpaths, improved cycle parking, and new bridges.

People will also be able to give their views on plans to improve two walking zones; one in the historic city centre, and another in the area around the UEA, hospital and research park.

[Further information can be found here.](#)

People are able to give their views on the proposals from 17 May - 28 June. To find out more and have your say visit: www.norfolk.gov.uk/activetravel

- **First chance to see plans for a new £1.65m roundabout at Hempton** - People are being asked for their views on plans for a much-needed junction improvement at the B1146/Dereham Road crossroads at Hempton, near Fakenham.

Proposals published this week, on Monday 17 May, reveal the potential new layout of the junction which would see the current crossroads replaced with a new roundabout, and new and improved paths and crossings for pedestrians. The aim of the scheme is to help improve safety and cut congestion at this location which has seen a number of collisions in recent years. Accident investigations have identified that replacing the existing crossroads with the proposed roundabout would reduce the level of risk at the junction in the future.

The proposed improvements are expected to cost £1.65m. Funding for the scheme would come from the extra £20m that has been allocated by the authority for highway capital projects. If approved, it is likely work would start on the scheme in 2022.

To see the plans, and fill in the short survey to let us know your views by 6 June, visit: www.norfolk.gov.uk/hempton

General updates

- **Museums update** - Five Norfolk Museums are open from 17 May: [Norwich Castle Museum & Art Gallery](#), [Time & Tide](#), [Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse](#), [Elizabethan House](#) and [Cromer Museum](#). [Lynn Museum](#) is open from 18 May and the [Museum of Norwich](#) from 22 May. Our other sites remain closed for the time being.

We have put in place a range of measures to ensure your visit can be as safe as possible. Entrance to the museums is by ticket only, which you will need to [book online](#), in advance. [Further information is available here.](#)

- **Fire Services update - Water safety training doesn't stop!** - We're anticipating a busy summer for water incidents due to the expected trend for holidays in the UK. Our crews continually undertake water safety training and also give training. We have been supporting business owners to help people in trouble by offering free throwline training to their staff.

This week, a crew from Great Yarmouth were invited to use the town's restored venetian waterways for a training exercise, and we plan to use this venue again to train and also to engage with residents and holidaymakers to help spread water safety messaging to the public. You can view a 30 second video about our first trip to the site here: <https://youtu.be/zVxJzpVTtPM>

Last year we attended several water deaths and even more rescues, on both coast and inland waterways.

Anything you can do to support the safety messaging to your communities is much appreciated.
[Respect the Water – National Drowning Prevention Campaign \(rnli.org\)](https://www.rnli.org)