



# Norfolk County Council

## Latest Information, Advice, Useful Links and Service Updates

Updated 22 July 2021

This weekly briefing is intended as a resource to keep you up to date with the latest information and advice.

### 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](http://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus) and [www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus) as trusted sources of information to the public. It is 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

#### NHS Staff Pay Rise:

The Government has announced a [3% pay rise for all NHS workers](#) which includes nurses, paramedics, consultants, dentists, and salaried GPs. The pay rise will be backdated to April 2021, as NHS staff have been recognised for their contribution throughout the pandemic during an unprecedented year.

For the average nurse, this will amount to an additional £1,000 a year.

#### Unitary Deals Announced:

The Local Government Secretary, Robert Jenrick MP has announced that North Yorkshire and Somerset County Councils have been given the [approval to become unitary authorities](#), while Cumbria will be split into 2 unitary authorities. The plans will see the two tier local government system scrapped in all three areas, with local elections held in May 2022.

In Cumbria, an East Cumbria unitary will cover Barrow, Eden and South Lakeland, while West Cumbria will be made up of Allerdale, Carlisle and Copeland.

The announcement follows a letter from the [Secretary of State to councils last week](#) which outlined options for county devolution deals. Unlike previous policy, it did not insist on local government reorganisation as a condition of devolution.

## Covid-19

### **Worker shortages:**

The UK is [experiencing worker shortages](#) following the NHS COVID app instructing hundreds of thousands of people to self-isolate. [Retailers have warned](#) that supply chains are suffering and they are struggling to keep shelves stocked due to a lack of workers. The Government announced at the beginning of this week that [fully vaccinated critical workers would be able to leave self-isolation](#) to avoid disruption to vital public services. The same exemption has not been applied to other key workers, but the Government is reportedly working on [a list of other key workers](#) who will be allowed to leave self-isolation.

### **Enhanced testing:**

[Enhanced testing has been deployed](#) in the East of Norfolk, following a rapid rise in cases there. The testing is being conducted in the parishes of Hemsby, Ormesby, Somerton, and Winterton. Everyone aged over 16 is being strongly encouraged to participate in the testing to identify cases which otherwise might not be found and help stop the spread of the virus.

### **IChoose Campaign:**

The council continues to promote its *IChoose* campaign, which encourages people to maintain measures to keep everyone safe. The council's advice is to:

- Continue familiar prevention behaviours such as hand washing and wearing a face covering in public indoor spaces
- Continue to meet outdoors where possible and ensure indoor places are well ventilated
- Carry out symptom-free testing two times per week, including for secondary school aged children. Free test kits are available from libraries and pharmacies

Particularly as cases are rising across Norfolk, it is important to bear in mind safety when going about daily business.

## Communities

### **Award for work with Armed Forces:**

Norfolk County Council [has been recognised for its outstanding support](#) of the armed forces community, following an announcement from the Ministry of Defence. The authority has been given the Gold award, which is the highest honour that can be awarded through the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme.

The Gold Award also acknowledges the Council's partnership working through the Norfolk Armed Forces Covenant Board.

This includes successfully addressing a significant gap in the dental service provision in the West of the County. It negotiated with the Ministry of Defence and NHS England, to ensure the opening of a new dental practice for serving and civilian families at RAF Marham and the surrounding area.

The Council also worked with the military family federations and with schools that have high numbers of service pupils to develop the Norfolk Service Pupil Premium booklet.

The Council has a strong track record of supporting people who are ex-service personnel into employment. The council offers a Guaranteed Interview Scheme that offers a chance to interview to any ex-military where they meet the minimum job criteria.

## Education and Schools

### Schools

There has been a significant increase in the number of education settings with a positive COVID-19 case in the last 28 days. As a result, there are more young people experiencing disruption at the end of term due to staff or pupils self-isolating.

During the week 11th to 16th July 2021, two primary schools were closed, for one day each, last week due to coronavirus related reasons. Two secondary schools were closed for one day each last week, due to non-coronavirus related reasons

Attendance of pupils in Norfolk remains in-line with the national averages:

- Overall last week, attendance was 89% in primary schools, compared to 91% the week before, and compared to 83% nationally
- Attendance in secondary schools was 77%, compared to 84% the week before and 67% nationally. These figures have been adjusted for Y11-13 not expected to attend
- Attendance in state-funded special schools was 82%, compared to 85% the week before and 74% nationally. These figures have been adjusted for Y11-13 not expected to attend

### Post 16's

September Guarantee offers have increased from 84.5% to 86.7% year 11 and from 60% to 63.2% Year 12 in the past week.

The Summer 21 Transition Challenge communications campaign is ready for launch this week. The campaign directs young people in years 11 and 12 who are unsure of their next steps to council services.

### Early Years

This week there were 671 settings open with 15,097 children attending. Of those 4,733 are children of critical workers, and 791 are vulnerable.

## Transport and Environment

### Bus Operators back IChoose campaign:

Bus operators across Norfolk are [supporting the council's IChoose campaign](#), which is designed to help keep people across the county safe as the UK moved into Step 4 of the lockdown easing roadmap at the beginning of this week.

The council's advice for the IChoose campaign is listed above.

## General Updates

### **Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service:**

The service is joining a national #KnowExactlyWhere campaign next week to highlight the benefits of using the app What3Words – which helps them to locate emergency incidents quickly and easily.

What3Words divides the world up into 3m x 3m squares and if emergency callers are able to give such a location, rescue teams can target resources to the exact spot quickly- particularly helpful with rural incidents.

You can watch a short video here about it <https://youtu.be/NHEjeUj-IXE>

Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service would encourage you to download the app and spread the word.