



EDLESBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

There are three simple actions we must all do to keep on protecting each other



Wash hands

keep washing your hands regularly



Cover face

wear a face covering in enclosed spaces



Make space

stay at least 2 metres apart - or 1 metre with a face covering or other precautions

In the first instance parishioners should refer to www.gov.uk/coronavirus as this has the most up to date information.

The Pastoral Team at St Mary's, Eaton Bray and The Eaton Bray Good Neighbours Scheme also cover Edlesborough and Northall.



In light of the current Coronavirus situation the Pastoral Care Team at St. Mary's, Eaton Bray welcomes your assistance in identifying any of our parishioners who might be sick or otherwise benefit from their support during this challenging time.

Please contact Gaye Soule on 07807924218 (m) or send an email to admin@stmaryseatonbray.org.uk in this regard.

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The Eaton Bray Good Neighbours scheme will continue to operate and the details of what they do can be seen in FOCUS.

Call them on 07930 987064 if you need assistance and they may be able to help. The line is manned from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday. At other times you can leave a message.

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If you know anyone living close to you who is not online or "internet savvy" please contact the Edlesborough Parish Clerk (01525 29358) for a printed version of this information.



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Dunstable foodbank

c/o Christ Church
West Street
Dunstable

Email: info@dunstablefoodbank.org.uk
Phone: 07874 200056

Dunstable Foodbank

Dunstable foodbank is here to supply emergency food parcels to individuals and families who live in LU5 and LU6 postcodes who cannot afford food.

Conventionally clients are referred to us by a number of agencies, but many are not operating normally in the Covid crisis.

People needing our help can approach Dunstable Citizens Advice - telephone numbers: 01582 670003 or 07367 457834.

Alternatively, we can be contacted directly by email:
info@dunstablefoodbank.org.uk or telephone: 07874 200056.

It can be difficult for clients living in the villages to collect food from one of our distribution centres in Dunstable or Houghton Regis. We do have a delivery service that currently operates on Wednesdays and Fridays, although if demand increases we will add extra days.

We remain very grateful for the continued support of our volunteers and donors in this increasingly busy time.

Mike Pittam
Operations Manager Dunstable foodbank





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Information from Martin Tett, Leader of Buckinghamshire Council

The whole country has again been placed into a full lockdown.

This means that we must all now **stay at home**, other than for a few specific reasons. It means that **schools and colleges have switched to remote learning** and that everyone should **work from home** if it's possible to do so. People who are Clinically Extremely Vulnerable have been advised to shield once again for this period.

Please wait to be contacted by the NHS as they will let you know when it's your turn to receive a vaccine and what you should do.

The current situation

As I wrote last week, prior to the new lockdown, we had already declared a 'Major Incident' due to the current pressures on our local health services. Sadly, we know that these additional restrictions are necessary as the NHS currently faces more pressure from COVID-19 than during the spring. The new variant of the virus is easier to catch and as a result our local hospitals are treating more COVID-19 patients now than at any other time during the pandemic. Our local case rate is around 1000 cases per 100,000 people in some parts of the county. You can see the latest figures for Buckinghamshire on our [COVID dashboard](#) and the number of new cases in the area you live in [via the Government's website](#).

While most people who get COVID will recover at home, hospital admissions are continuing to rise, and while the majority of patients are in the older age groups, there are younger people also currently seriously ill with COVID-19 in Buckinghamshire. While we can look to the future with far more hope, at the moment the current situation is grave and we must all follow the 'Stay at Home' rules to the letter to help protect each other and to protect the NHS.

The Stay at Home rules

The Government has set out what we all can and cannot do while England is in its current lockdown period.

We should not leave our homes or be outside our homes other than for a few specific reasons:

- To shop for basic necessities for you or a vulnerable person
- To go to work if you cannot work from home
- To provide essential voluntary or charitable services
- To exercise, once a day
- To meet your [support bubble](#) or [childcare bubble](#), if you are legally able to form one
- To seek medical assistance including getting a COVID test
- To avoid injury or risk of harm including domestic abuse
- To attend education or childcare, if you're eligible

There are some other exceptions where you can legally leave your home such as to take a pet to the vet or for children to move between households where parents don't live together, so please check the [full 'Stay at Home' advice on the Government's website](#).



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- Colleges, primary and secondary schools will be open for vulnerable children and children of key workers. All other children will learn remotely until February half term
- If you do leave your home you must stay in your local area unless you need to travel for a legally permitted reason such as work
- Other than for exercise, you should not meet anyone you don't live with, unless you're in a support or childcare bubble. One person can meet another individual from a different household to exercise outdoors and you should stay 2 metres apart
- Funerals can still take place with up to 30 guests. Weddings and equivalent ceremonies will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances and with up to six people

These are some of the main points of the current rules; please visit www.gov.uk/coronavirus for the full details of what we can and cannot do.

Council services and how to contact us

We are having to make some changes to how we do things, but most critical Buckinghamshire Council services will carry on as usual during this lockdown period:

- Household bin collections will continue as normal (please [check our website](#) for your bin collection day especially at this time following the Christmas period)
- Road repairs and street cleaning will carry on
- Household Recycling Centres will stay open
- Libraries will close during the lockdown period, but customers will still be able to borrow e-books and magazines and use online services; please keep [checking our website](#) as the libraries information is updated. Loans have been extended until 1 February and no fines will be charged
- The best way to contact the Council during this period is via our Contact Centre [either online](#) or by calling us on 0300 131 6000
- Council Access Points at Walton Street and The Gateway in Aylesbury, King George V House in Amersham and Queen Victoria Rd, High Wycombe will remain open for 'emergency' assistance and essential access to IT for residents to complete urgent online transactions while our libraries are closed. Please call the Contact Centre first as they may well be able to help you complete anything you're having difficulty with so you won't need to visit us in person

As ever, [please use our website](#) as your first port of call to find out the latest information on Buckinghamshire Council services.

Support for businesses

One of my biggest priorities during this period is securing the best possible support for our local businesses. I'm pleased that the government has today [announced a £4.6 billion package](#) which will hopefully enable us to continue to support many local businesses impacted by the ongoing restrictions. Eligible firms can still apply to us for support from the Local Restrictions Support Grant and through the discretionary scheme we put in place following the county moving into Tier 4 before Christmas. We will need time to review the latest announcement to establish how this will become available and whether we need to amend the current schemes.

Details of how to apply for the schemes and any changes that are made following the latest announcement will be available on our [online Business Support Hub](#).



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People who are Clinically Extremely Vulnerable

The 'shielding' programme is starting again and all residents who are classed as Clinically Extremely Vulnerable will get a letter from the Government. This means there is [special advice for people who are classed as 'Clinically Extremely Vulnerable'](#).

We will also continue to provide support as necessary for our Clinically Extremely Vulnerable residents organised through our local support hubs.

The hubs - which won't be open to the public - will act as co-ordination and distribution points for the council's volunteer support network to help with getting food to people, fuel top-up cards and help with getting medicines and medical appointments.

Please call us on **01296 395 000** if you have any questions about the 'shielding' programme.

Remember – Hands, Face, Space

The essential message in every update in terms of guarding against catching COVID and stopping the spread, it's critical that we all keep doing the following:

- Wash your hands thoroughly and regularly
- Keep a distance from people you don't live with or who you're not in a support bubble with
- Wear a face covering where required

If you or anyone you live with develops symptoms of coronavirus your whole household must isolate and anyone with symptoms must [book a test either online](#), via the [NHS COVID-19 app](#) or by calling 119.

Looking after ourselves and each other

This is a difficult situation for us all but with the vaccine roll out now underway, we can look forward much better times ahead.

In the meantime, if you're feeling low or anxious and want some extra help, do use our excellent local support services. You can find out more via the '[Health and Wellbeing Bucks](#)' website.

It's never been more important that we make sure we take care of ourselves. These **free** online [Live Life Well sessions](#) are available from the local NHS and Bucks Adult Learning to help you do that, giving tips on stress and anxiety, healthy eating, and physical activity.

Keep checking in on each other and above all, remember that we will get through this together.

[Press Release from Buckinghamshire Council](#)

05 January 2021

The new lockdown and support available for residents

During the Prime Minister's address to the nation on 4 January, he announced that people who are clinically extremely vulnerable will be asked to shield again.



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What does this mean?

If you are clinically extremely vulnerable you will receive a letter from the government in the coming days outlining what precautions you should take. You should not leave the house to go to work, to the shops or the pharmacy. When you receive your letter you will need to register on -

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus-shielding-support> - if you require support or wish to access a priority supermarket delivery slot.

If you would like to look at what local support is available to help you shield effectively, visit the Bucks Online Directory - <https://directory.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/>

If you need urgent help, fill in the contact us form on our website –

<https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/your-council/contact-us/> or call the council on 01296 395000.

For the latest shielding advice please visit –

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19>

I am not clinically extremely vulnerable but need support during the lockdown

Residents of Buckinghamshire who are struggling during lockdown can get support from the Council and the local community in a number of ways:

- To see a list of local support groups and services near you, visit - <https://directory.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/>
- Log onto our website and let us know what support you need – fill in the ‘contact us’ form – <https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/your-council/contact-us/>
- If you need to speak to someone about the impact of COVID on a vulnerable person or family, please call the Council on 01296 395000.

Update for Town and Parish Councils - Major Incident declared in Buckinghamshire – 30/12/2020

Buckinghamshire Council, in consultation with NHS partners, has declared a ‘Major Incident’, amid fears the number of COVID-19 cases could overwhelm our local health and social care services. At this time of year we would usually expect some added pressure to hospitals, but cases of Covid-19 locally are now at 514 per 100,000 people, and expected to increase to closer to 800 per 100,000 by next week. We need to act now to ensure our hospitals do not become overwhelmed in coming weeks.

What does this mean for Buckinghamshire?

The intention with declaring a Major Incident is to help protect our local healthcare services now, ensuring care is still available for those who need it most. This means;

- **Keeping our hospitals for those that need them most and are seriously ill.** NHS111 is available 24/7 for advice; they will make sure that anyone unwell or injured is seen by the right people, in the right place, as quickly as possible (whether it’s a GP, the Urgent Treatment Centre, or A&E).



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- **Protecting the most vulnerable** to limit their risk of exposure to Covid-19, as well as other seasonal illnesses or injuries due to slips, trips and falls during this cold weather. [Our Support Hub](#) can help ensure the most vulnerable can get help with supplies like food or medication. Lots of other health and wellbeing information, including advice on self-care and looking after your mental health, is available via the Buckinghamshire [Ready for Winter](#) page.
- **Continuing to adhere closely to [tier 4 guidance](#)**; stay home where possible, avoid mixing with other households completely, and [remember hands, face, space](#). This has possibly never been more important. Anyone with Covid-19 symptoms should [book a test](#) by phone or online, **and not just turn up at hospital.**

What we're doing to help strain on hospitals

Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust has put in some temporary changes to ensure safe and appropriate staffing levels at all times, and that there are enough beds to meet current and anticipated demand. The NHS is still here for those who need it. Anyone who is concerned about their health and doesn't know where to go must **call 111**. They will ensure the right path of treatment, including booking appointments.

What you can do to help

The most important message we need to broadcast is about how people should be accessing health care if they need it. There is some text below which we would be grateful if you would share, whether via your email channels or social media, and an image you can download to support it:

Buckinghamshire Council

Bucks CC have an online community support hub

This will help people to find ways to get involved or find support
www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/coronavirus/

People without internet access

Bucks CC fully appreciate the community hub relies heavily on internet access. They are working on developing support through libraries and council receptions (the new council access points). We are also asking any vulnerable or older person who is self-isolating and needs support, or anyone concerned about them, to call the council on **01296 383 204**.

Advice for elderly or potentially vulnerable residents and Coronavirus

The link for people to register with the government as vulnerable and needing help is www.gov.uk/coronavirus-extremely-vulnerable and there is also a helpline on 0800 0288327.

- **EPC requests that dogs are kept on leads on Edlesborough Green to help reduce the risk of breaches in Social Distance Guidelines.**



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Doorstep Scamming

Please find below information and advice issued by Buckinghamshire Council regarding doorstep scamming of the elderly and vulnerable during the corona virus isolation of such groups.

To report scams in the Buckinghamshire area please use the following link trading.standards@bucksandsurreytradingstandards.gov.uk or call on 01296 388788.

Doorstep scammers are taking advantage of the coronavirus emergency to con elderly and vulnerable people.

There has been a rise in the number of scam complaints related to the coronavirus outbreak, according to Buckinghamshire and Surrey Trading Standards team, who are urging members of the public to be aware. Since the beginning of the month the total number of scam complaints has increased by 40%.

Residents are also being urged to be especially wary of people offering or selling:

- Virus testing kits – these are only offered by the NHS.
- Vaccines or miracle cures – there is currently no vaccine or cure.
- Shopping or medication collection services that require payment upfront.
- Home cleaning services.
- Overpriced or counterfeit products.

Residents must also be wary of emails, texts, telephone calls and messages via social media from scammers offering refunds on taxes or bills, as these are highly prevalent.

Trading Standards have provided some helpful tips to help prevent people from becoming victims of scams:

- Don't be pressurised into making a decision. If someone is trying to rush you or panic you, they are probably trying to scam you.
- Only purchase goods from trusted retailers.
- Be suspicious of requests for money upfront.
- Do not give your bank card or bank details to a stranger. Never write your PIN number down.
- Know who you're dealing with – if you don't know the person who's offering you help then ask to be introduced by someone that you know and trust.

If you have information or are worried about coronavirus related scams please contact Trading Standards. You can email

trading.standards@bucksandsurreytradingstandards.gov.uk or call on 01296 388788.