



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.



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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Update – 17 March 2021 – From Martin Tett Leader of Buckinghamshire Council

Dear Resident,

It's really positive to have all Buckinghamshire children back in their classrooms and we're continuing to see [COVID-19 infection rates](#) fall across Buckinghamshire too. Whilst the lockdown has been a big factor in declining infection rates, we are also seeing a rapid fall in the rates for the over 65 year olds, which is most likely due to the roll out of the vaccine. Nearly 210,000 vaccine doses have now been given in Buckinghamshire, a fantastic achievement in this short space of time. Nevertheless, there is about half the adult population of the county still to be vaccinated. Therefore, we need to remain vigilant as restrictions ease to prevent a 'third spike' later in the summer or early winter.

The restrictions will change from Monday 29 March. From that date 'stay at home' will be lifted and we will be able to meet others in groups of up to six, or as two households, socially distanced, **outdoors only** including in private gardens. I'm sure many of us are thinking ahead to Easter and while we all deserve a break and an enjoyable time, please make sure you keep within the guidance, which doesn't change a great deal other than to allow more people to meet safely outdoors as the school holidays start. You can read more about the full roadmap [on the Government's website](#).

Vaccines

Vaccination appointments are now open for anyone aged 50 or above and people can book their jab themselves via the national system without having to wait to be contacted – [the details are on the NHS website](#). Some people are being alerted that they can book their vaccine via text, so while it's important to be on the look out for scams, please be assured that this is genuine. If in doubt do check with someone you trust. **The NHS will never ask you for money or for your bank details and you do not have to pay for your vaccine.**

If you are the main carer of someone who is elderly or disabled and at high risk if they catch COVID-19 you can also get your vaccine. If you are an unpaid carer make sure you register with [Carers Bucks](#) so you don't miss your invitation to get your appointment.

There has been a lot of publicity this week about some precautionary pausing on vaccine use by some European governments. Please do not let this put you off having the vaccination when offered. Both vaccines licensed for use in the UK have been through rigorous safety checks. Millions of doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine have been received in the UK following months of clinical trials, and the overall safety experience with both vaccines is as expected. Serious adverse reactions are rare and are in line with other types of routinely used vaccines. **Please do take up the offer of your vaccine when it's your turn, as the risks presented by COVID-19 are far greater than that of any vaccine.** Importantly the World Health Organisation continues to advocate use of the AstraZeneca vaccine as does the European Medicines Agency (EMA), which has said that there was "no indication" the jab causes blood clots. If you need any further



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reassurance then please read [the latest response from the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency](#) (MHRA) which approves all medicines for use in the UK, including the COVID-19 vaccine. You can also read more about the [COVID-19 vaccine on the NHS website](#).

New support grants for businesses

I know many of our local businesses are facing ongoing hardship because of the COVID-19 restrictions. I'm pleased to be able to say that we've directly helped nearly 3,000 local businesses through our "Additional Restrictions" grant scheme. While other councils have sat on their funding, we've focussed on trying to get every penny out to help local businesses, meaning we've paid out more than £14 million to date for this grant, one of the best rates in the country. We are currently awaiting news from the Government of any further funding for this scheme, and we hope to announce details on our website soon.

In total Buckinghamshire Council has spent over £100m on all business support grants. Please look out for news of the new [Business Restart grants scheme](#) that should be opening from next week. The 'Local Restrictions' grant scheme is also extended until 31 March – you can read all about the help available on the [business support section of our website](#).

Regular COVID-19 testing for school communities

All households with someone regularly going into school - including staff and pupils of all ages - can access regular asymptomatic testing, and I urge you to take advantage of this. The more cases we can pick up, the easier it will be to stop any potential outbreaks in their tracks and ultimately, this will help us keep more pupils in the classroom and infection rates down.

These households can test regularly by either visiting a site in person or collecting some test kits to do at home. If it's hard to travel to a test site then you can get test kits sent to your home. To find out more, including locations of test sites, check the [information on the Government's website](#).

Anyone who has regularly been using our Buckinghamshire rapid test sites please note the opening hours have changed - [please check our website for up to date information](#). Anyone who is leaving their home to work or volunteer can get tested regularly through our four rapid testing sites, so [please use this service](#) and help us keep everyone safe.

Stay safe and keep going

As I said earlier, until the vaccine roll-out is complete, we need to continue to take care. Also remember that the vaccine is only about 90% effective and not everyone has taken up the offer of vaccination. Therefore, the risk of transmission and illness, whilst reducing, still exists. Please continue to do your bit to stay safe. Where possible, keep the windows open and let plenty of fresh air in and let's all keep doing what we can to move the roadmap forward. Every action makes a difference and moves us in the right direction, from wearing your mask to keeping your distance, shopping alone, washing your hands and carrying your sanitiser and avoiding social contacts where you can. Please get your vaccine when your turn comes.



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Continued communication

Because of the forthcoming local elections on Thursday 6 May, the next email updates you get won't come direct from me, but please be assured we will continue to give you all the information you need about the pandemic as we move forwards and hopefully continue to progress through the Government's plans to open things back up again.

Keep looking after yourselves and each other,

Martin Tett

Leader of Buckinghamshire Council

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.