



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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Update - 25 February 2021 – From Martin Tett Leader of Buckinghamshire Council

Dear Resident,

Most of you will have read about or heard the Prime Minister's announcement this week on the Government's 'roadmap' to easing the COVID-19 restrictions in the coming months.

I'm sure that for you, like me, it's a huge relief to see a way out of this situation and for us to finally be able to consider a return to more normal life later this year. Of course, as life has resoundingly taught us in the last 12 months, we cannot be 100% sure of anything so these plans will be guided by the data as we move forward.

I'm pleased to be able to let you know that we've also been able to stand down the 'Major Incident' that we declared back in December when our local health services were under severe strain. This week's decision reflects that we are no longer in a crisis situation although I must stress that we still have COVID-19 patients in our local hospitals. Also please do bear in mind that national infection rates are still far higher than when we began the last major unlocking process last year, and overall the number of people in hospital with COVID-19 nationally has very recently been around the same as at the height of the first wave last April.

For some the Government's 'roadmap' is too slow and cautious, for some too fast. I believe that on balance they have got it about right with cautious opening up, checked at each stage with the data. I for one am looking forward to seeing friends and relatives again this summer and doing some 'real shopping'.

Infection rates

The decline in infection rates in Buckinghamshire is very encouraging. You can see the most recent figures for Buckinghamshire on our [COVID-19 dashboard](#) and on [the Government's website](#).

Nevertheless, while we can look to the future with real hope, we all need to stick at it a bit longer to get the infection rates down further still. We've done a brilliant job of this here in Buckinghamshire since Christmas so let's keep going just that little bit longer.

Extra testing in Wooburn Green and Flackwell Heath

Extensive surveillance of COVID-19 has identified a case in the Wooburn Green area of the variant first discovered in South Africa. The person has self-isolated and is following all of the guidance.

It means that, working with NHS Test and Trace, **Buckinghamshire Council is encouraging every person over the age of 16 living or working in the Wooburn Green area and parts of Flackwell Heath to take a PCR COVID-19 test regardless of whether they have symptoms.** If you live in or close to the Wooburn Green/Flackwell Heath HP10 postcode area please use the [online postcode checker](#) to see if you live in the 'surge testing' area – it takes in some, but not all HP10 postcodes.

Children aged five and over can also be tested if their parents/carers want this. We will be delivering home test kits to all households in Wooburn Green and parts of Flackwell Heath from today (Thursday 25 February) until Tuesday



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2 March. We will also have Mobile Testing Units in the area - you can also book a test online at www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/surgetesting. The mobile unit is for people **who do not have symptoms** of COVID-19. If you do have symptoms then please isolate your household and take one of the home testing kits or book a test through the [national testing system](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus/covid-19/testing/).

While I appreciate that this news may be worrying, please let me reassure you that there's currently no evidence to suggest that this variant is more serious than others or that our current precautions and treatments are not as effective against it. The extra testing, combined with all the existing measures in place, will help to suppress and control the spread of the virus and give us a better understanding of the new variant.

The four steps to easing lockdown

We are continuing to digest the information released by the government which details the step by step approach to cautiously easing the lockdown. The Prime Minister has explained that the dates given are the earliest by which the measures will start, and that a gap is being left between each 'step' so that the impact of each phase can be fully assessed.

The steps will only progress if the government's four tests are being met, namely that; i) the vaccination programme is continuing successfully, ii) there is evidence to show the vaccine programme is reducing hospitalisations and deaths, iii) the infection rates are such that there's not a risk of a surge in demand on NHS services, iv) that no new variants cause enough concern to threaten this approach.

Step 1 March 8:

- All schools and colleges fully reopen for face to face learning
- Individuals can meet one other person outdoors including gardens for recreation eg a coffee and a chat, as well as for exercise
- 'Stay at Home' will continue to apply other than for essential reasons, which will include the above from this date
- Maintain social distancing

March 29:

- Stay at home lifted but minimise travel, no holidays
- Rule of six or two households for outdoor meeting
- Some outdoor sport and leisure can resume
- Organised outdoor sport allowed
- Work from home where possible
- Clinically Extremely Vulnerable are advised not to attend work, school or education until 31 March

Step 2 No earlier than 12 April and subject to four tests still being met:

- Indoor leisure including gyms to reopen
- Libraries and community centres to reopen
- All retail to reopen
- Work from home where possible
- Personal care such as nail bars and hairdressers to reopen



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- Wedding guest numbers can increase from to 15
- Overnight stays/holidays allowed for single households only in self-contained accommodation
- Hospitality including pubs, cafes etc, can reopen for outdoor service only
- Minimise travel, no holidays abroad

Step 3 No earlier than 17 May and subject to four tests still being met:

- Rule of six/two households can meet indoors (subject to review)
- 30 person limit outdoors
- Hotels and other accommodation can reopen, overnight stays permitted
- Work from home where possible
- Indoor hospitality, entertainment and attractions can open
- Weddings, funerals and other significant life events can take place for up to 30 guests
- Some large events can recommence
- International travel may resume, subject to review

Step 4 No earlier than 21 June and subject to four tests still being met:

- No legal limits on social contact or life events
- Nightclubs to reopen and large events to resume

These lists capture some of the main points in each step but if you want the full detail including the rationale for these measures please read the [information in full on the Government's website](#). For now, **everyone needs to continue to socially distance from anyone they don't live with**. This advice will be reviewed and updated when it's possible to do so.

Schools reopening

We are working hard with all our schools to ensure the safe return of all Buckinghamshire students to the classroom from 8 March, the first major step in this 'unlocking' process. Schools will communicate directly with parents and carers about the processes for each individual site and of course, all schools will continue to operate with COVID-safe measures in place. We await the full details of how regular testing for school students will work which is how we will help to keep students and teachers safe and to minimise outbreaks.

Vaccination programme

The vaccine roll out continues at pace here in Bucks and I remain extremely grateful to everyone involved in this magnificent effort. NHS staff and volunteers continue to work down the priority list here and **145,000 people in Buckinghamshire have now had a vaccination**.

Please be aware that if you're in one of the top five priority groups you can now book your vaccine online yourself – you do not have to wait to be contacted. This means anyone in the following groups can [book their vaccine online](#) or call 119 to get an appointment:

- anyone aged 64 or over
- people who are clinically extremely vulnerable



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- people who are at moderate risk from COVID-19 (clinically vulnerable)
- people who live or work in care homes
- all health and social care workers
- anyone who is eligible for Carer's Allowance

You can read more about the [vaccination programme in Buckinghamshire on our website](#).

Rapid testing sites

If you have to leave your home to work or volunteer then please visit one of our rapid testing sites to get a COVID-19 test. We have four sites in the county, in Amersham, Aylesbury, Buckingham and Wycombe. You can find out more information including opening times [on our website](#). You can book your test online at this link too or simply walk in at a time that suits you. I do urge you to get tested if you are having to leave home for these reasons as it will help us to keep families and communities safe and to drive down infection.

As I reminded you last time, these rapid tests are not for people who **do** have symptoms of COVID-19. **If you have even very mild symptoms of COVID-19 then [please book a test](#) via the national system online or by calling 119. It's essential that you and everyone you live with isolates immediately.** If you are on a low income and can't work from home while you're isolating you might qualify for a [self-isolation payment](#) of £500.

Please continue to stay safe and look 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**.



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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.