



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 – 13th May 2021 – From Martin Tett Leader of Buckinghamshire Council

Dear Resident,

Following the end of election restrictions, it is good to be able to write to you personally again with an update on the Covid situation in Buckinghamshire. It's a particular pleasure as I am able to report that the infection rate in Buckinghamshire is following the national trend downwards and is now at 12.1 per 100,000 residents. This is far lower than it was just a few weeks ago. A tribute to the effects of both the observance of the lockdown but also particularly the high take-up rate locally of the vaccination programme. There are still some causes for caution and I will cover them a little later in this update.

On Monday next week (17 May) we can all look forward to further easing of Covid restrictions. You'll no doubt be aware that the government is satisfied its four tests are continuing to be met and that the roadmap can safely continue.

From Monday we'll be able to eat and drink inside pubs, cafes and restaurants. We can meet others indoors (two households or rule of six), and we can stay overnight in a hotel. Of huge importance to all of us, we can hug loved ones once again, and we can make our own choices on social distancing with close friends and family – this includes everyone, including anyone who's been shielding. All of these are freedoms we've been without and that I'm sure we will never take for granted again.

I must underline the importance of doing all of this cautiously. The message is clear; **let's take this next step carefully**. Covid hasn't gone away – people are still catching it and people are still spreading it. There are still rules in place that should be followed, such as the limits on numbers of people who can meet socially, so I ask you to make sure you are familiar with [what we can and cannot do](#) from Monday. When considering close contacts, weigh up the risks and stay cautious. Social distancing will still apply in settings like shops and hospitals. Still meet outside where you can and let fresh air in when you're indoors.

Importantly – get tested regularly and have your vaccine when it's your turn. We have new mobile testing units offering free rapid tests in various locations from this week – you can also visit one of the fixed sites and take test kits home if you prefer. There's more information [about rapid testing on our website](#) and you can also get up to date information on where the mobile testing units are on our social media channels ([Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)).

If you or someone you live with develops symptoms of Covid make sure your household isolates and [book a test for anyone with symptoms](#), either online or by calling 119.

Extra testing in Aylesbury

A small number of cases of the variant of Covid first identified in India have been found in the Kingsbrook area of Aylesbury. All the people involved have followed the guidance and have self-isolated. However, it's really important we track this as closely as possible, so Buckinghamshire Council and Public Health England have started



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targeted testing in the area this week. This is so we can help avoid the spread of this variant and understand whether it is spreading in our community.

We are asking everyone who visits, lives or works in the Oakfield Village area of the Kingsbrook estate (postcodes HP22 7AA to HP22 7BP) to come forward for a PCR test regardless of whether you have symptoms or not. There will be special mobile testing units in the area and we ask as many people as possible to visit them between today (Thursday 13 May) and Saturday 15 May. These test centres will be at four different locations, two in the centre of Aylesbury (Lidl Oakfield Road and Vale Retail Park) and two in Bierton (Aktiva Nursery and 'The Dog House' pub).

If you cannot attend a test site you can order a kit online; there will also be a team taking test kits door to door on Saturday for anyone who's not been able to get to a test site themselves. The full details are on [specially set up pages on our website](#).

The situation in Buckinghamshire

As I mentioned, the infection rates in Buckinghamshire are now very low with an overall rate of 12.1 and a rate as low as 6.2 in the former Chiltern District area. You can see all the detailed figures on the [Covid dashboard on our website](#). While every death is a terrible loss, the number of people dying from Covid in Bucks is currently very low. Nevertheless, the situation in Kingsbrook reminds us all of the need to stay vigilant.

Vaccine news

437,886 vaccinations have now been given in Buckinghamshire. The vaccine is safe and effective and anyone aged 38 or over (or who turns 38 before 1 July) is currently eligible to book their vaccination appointment.

You can [book your vaccine online](#) via the national booking system or by calling 119 – you can read more via [this NHS link](#). Please remember that while your first dose will offer a good level of protection a few weeks after you've had it, you need two doses to further increase your level of protection. It is very important you attend both appointments.

Local people are being offered appointments at the Guttman vaccination centre at Stoke Mandeville Stadium, Aylesbury and other large centres in neighbouring counties (which may be closer for some Bucks residents). Community pharmacies continue to offer appointments too. Some GP practices are only offering COVID-19 vaccinations to patients in [priority groups 1-9](#). Anyone not in these groups should book their appointment online using the national booking system when it's their turn.

People aged 18-39 with no underlying health conditions will receive an alternative vaccine to AstraZeneca (AZ) – either Pfizer or Moderna. This follows the [latest advice by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation](#).

For updates and news on all our local vaccination sites, including which vaccines are being offered, visit Buckinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group's [new local site update webpage](#).



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Lastly, a reminder that the vaccination clinic at the Odeon Cinema in Aylesbury has moved just up the road to Buckinghamshire New University, Aylesbury Campus. Anyone who has an appointment for the Odeon site is being contacted, so do make a note of this change if it affects your vaccination booking.

#WelcomeBackBucks

Many council services that were closed during lockdown are open for business again and it's brilliant to be welcoming customers back into libraries, leisure centres and other sites across Bucks. For details of opening times and arrangements at your local library [check our website](#).

It's fantastic that Bucks County Museum is opening its doors again next week too. The garden is already open and you can take a look at what's happening from next week too [on their website](#).

I should remind you that of course, Covid measures and social distancing will still be in place at all of these venues so please carry on sticking to the guidance to help keep us all safe.

Car parking

I hope as many people as possible are enjoying being able to shop, eat, exercise and enjoy themselves at our local businesses too. We expect even more people to return to our high streets with businesses such as pubs and restaurants being able to serve customers inside from Monday too. I just wanted to remind you that, after having been suspended for a month, parking charges do now apply again in Buckinghamshire Council car parks. We've put Covid safety measures in place such as marking out social distancing around ticket machines and there are ticketless and cashless payment options at more of our sites now.

Boost your Business

We know businesses across Bucks have faced unprecedented challenge this last year. If you're a business owner then do use our #WelcomeBackBucks hashtag in your social media promotion to reach a bigger audience. We've also produced a free '[Boost your Business' digital toolkit](#) to help our local businesses get back on their feet, containing poster templates and a marketing guide – so do check it out if you want that extra support and advice.

Business grants

With businesses able to start trading again, the government support grants scheme we've been operating has now closed. I'm delighted to say we've been able to pay out more than £140 million during the pandemic to help our local firms to help cover losses caused by the necessary Covid restrictions. Unlike many other councils, we prioritised getting these grants paid so every penny of available help could be passed onto local businesses.

Stay safe, stay cautious and enjoy getting more of our freedoms back,

Martin Tett

Leader of Buckinghamshire Council



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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.