



July 2020 Thedwastre North Parish Newsletter



Visit suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus for health advice, service changes, business support and schools' guidance.

Keep up to date on the latest guidance on COVID-19 from central government here: www.gov.uk/coronavirus

It probably seems obvious but if anyone asks about SCC provisions/resources available then I point them at the Suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus headings as listed above. The messages are still valid – and if we can keep to these measures then we can keep Suffolk as C-19 free as it has been.

New plan sets out how Suffolk will prevent and respond to COVID-19 outbreak

A plan which sets out how Suffolk would prevent and respond to a localised outbreak of COVID-19 was published on 30 June. Suffolk's Local Outbreak Control Plan will be triggered where there are suspected or confirmed COVID-19 outbreaks in any setting or community within the county.

The plan, a requirement of Government of all local authorities, outlines measures to prevent, manage, and contain outbreaks of Coronavirus and protect the public's health. It builds on existing relationships and processes in place with partner agencies across Suffolk.

The plan outlines how complex cases will be managed in more than 30 high-risk places, locations, and communities, particularly care homes and schools. It also outlines local testing capacity, use of data to identify and proactively manage outbreaks, and contact tracing in complex settings. An outbreak is defined when there are two or more cases in high-risk settings, or a greater than expected occurrence of COVID-19 compared with the usual level for a particular place and time.

Suffolk has received £2.79million from a £300million Government fund to support delivery of the Local Outbreak Control Plan.

A copy of the plan can be available [here](#).

Temporary relaxation of concessionary travel arrangements in Suffolk to end next month

As more people return to work, public transport operators face the challenge of meeting this extra demand and ensuring adherence to Government guidance.

Passenger numbers are highest at the beginning and end of the day, so people who need to make essential journey for shopping, care or health reasons are being encouraged to travel after 9.30am when buses are currently quieter.

Suffolk County Council and bus operators in the county have agreed to **end the temporary relaxation of concessionary travel rules from Monday 6 July 2020**.

The relaxation was introduced across Suffolk in late March and allowed those with concessionary passes to travel on buses for free before 9:30am. The aim was to provide more flexibility for older people, and those with disabilities, to visit supermarkets during the lockdown.

From Monday 6th July concessionary bus passes in Suffolk will only be valid Monday to Fridays 9.30am to 11pm, and all day on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays. Also, all passengers are now required to wear a face covering on public transport. For more information about concessionary travel in Suffolk, visit suffolkonboard.com.

Looking after the vulnerable is top priority

Extracts from an article by Councillor Beccy Hopfensperger, Cabinet Member for Adult Care. Published 23 June 2020.

Nationally the focus of Covid-19 within the care sector has been on care homes. In Suffolk, we recognise that the experience is the same in all care settings, including extra care housing and supported housing, although the prevalence has not been as great. Care settings have been on the frontline in terms of our local response to Covid-19. News of cases, the need for testing, and sadly people passing away as a result of this virus, has been widely reported.

Suffolk's care homes continue to care for residents with the utmost professionalism and kindness. They are following national guidance regarding social distancing,

hygiene standards and the correct use of personal protective equipment (PPE). Testing is available for all care homes - for the entire home, including staff and residents who are not displaying any symptoms.

Ahead of a national testing site being available, we started testing residents in care homes. Since testing began in mid-April, over 2,300 people have been tested across all care settings and testing continues. With more testing taking place, infection control and prevention measures can be more effective.

The number of people who have died in care homes in Suffolk due to Covid-19 is decreasing on a weekly basis. However, this doesn't take away from the fact that people have died because of this virus. It is a tragedy that families are losing their much-loved relatives and friends to this virus, and my deepest sympathies and condolences are with those who are grieving during this most difficult time.

In Suffolk, we are continuing to see a higher percentage of Covid-19 related deaths within care homes compared to some other areas. The reasons for this are complex, but factors we think are contributing to this are more people choosing to die in their usual place of residence and the high number of nursing beds that we have within care homes. These provide care for people with complex care needs who may be approaching the end of their life, and I would like to assure people that we have very good practices for providing end of life care in Suffolk.

Dying within a care home setting often reflects a person's wish to remain in their usual place of residence, in comfortable surroundings, with people around them who are familiar, as opposed to being in an unfamiliar hospital setting.

The council is standing shoulder to shoulder with our care providers as we continue to face this crisis, and I want to take one final moment to praise their monumental efforts and their continued dedication and professionalism. The kindness and warmth that they show our most vulnerable each day, despite the pressures they face, is deeply moving.

Improving Suffolk's wellbeing and mental health with a simple 'thank you'



A new, colourful way for people across Suffolk to show their appreciation for others, is underway in Suffolk.

Suffolk Says Thanks recognises the small acts of kindness taking place across the county in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

As a direct result of the current situation, people may be experiencing mental health issues, or their emotional wellbeing may be affected. To help with this, the simple act of saying 'thank you' is known to have a positive effect on both the person giving thanks, as well as the person receiving it.

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