

Report from your County Councillor, Cllr Steffan Aquarone



Coronavirus update

With the most recent government announcements lurching England into a 'new normal' there are more and more rules, and alterations to previous rules, for everyone to comprehend. With the Covid-Alert Level dropping down to three, the virus is still in general circulation but transmission is no longer as high.

As of the 4th of July the rules on visiting households changed to allow groups of up to two households (with a support bubble counting as one household) in any location - indoors or outdoors. Households can mix, not restricting socialising to just two households, but social distancing measures must continue to be followed at all times.

In addition the 4th of July marked the reopening of many pubs, restaurants, bars and other leisure venues such as cinemas and museums. Holiday cottages and hotels are open allowing people to travel from one location to another and stay for several days. However, nightclubs, bowling alleys, indoor play areas, spas, fitness studios (including swimming pools) and beauty salons will remain closed.

As tempting as it is to rush out and return to normal, the virus is still a threat and should be treated as such. Careful consideration should be given to the undertaking of all activities, especially in light of such chaotic scenes across Holkham, Great Yarmouth and other UK destinations such as Bournemouth during the heatwave last month.

This consideration is vital to ensure the safety of not only ourselves but all of those around us.

As instructed by Government, Norfolk now has a Local Outbreak Control Plan. The council has been allocated £3.7 million to support the Test and Trace Programme in line with the Local Outbreak Control Plan.

The three key phases are: prevent, engage, contain.

The plan brings together Norfolk County Council, all the seven district Councils, the NHS Clinical Commissioning Group, emergency services and Public Health England. Our strong partnerships in Norfolk will be vital to the plan's success.

Six key delivery groups will focus on specific areas. The delivery groups are: care providers; education settings; health settings and emergency services; high risk public sector; business and public venues; and vulnerable people isolating.

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Businesses reopening

We face enormous challenges as we approach the next phase in Norfolk's coronavirus recovery. But there are also many opportunities to use what we have learned in the crisis to support a green economic recovery, celebrate our beautiful environment, and build compassion and kindness into the so-called 'new normal'.

One way to help is to support local businesses who are working hard to reopen safely. Local businesses are the lifeblood of our county: providing jobs and paying tax, not to mention supplying the goods and services we all need to lead a good life. We are blessed with thousands of brilliant, innovative and high quality shops, restaurants and services in Norfolk. Many have already had to shut their doors permanently, having suffered too much financial loss.

Whether it's buying from local suppliers, ordering takeaway from cafes and restaurants that can't reopen yet, or seeing which of your classes you can take online, please try and do your bit for the local economy.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any assistance.

Regular updates

I am sending regular updates to my local mailing list - to join, visit this link: <http://bit.ly/meltonconstable>