

County Councillor Report- Cleeve Prior
Month: November 2020
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Dear All,

Since my last report, the big news is the Government has announced a new national lockdown. This second national lockdown in England will be in force until 2 December.

What are the key provisions?

At home

You must not leave or be outside of your home except for specific purposes. You can leave home to buy things at shops which are open, for instance for food and medicine, or to collect any items – including food or drink – ordered through click-and-collect or as a takeaway, to obtain or deposit money, or to access critical public services

You can leave home to visit people in your [support bubble](#), or to provide informal childcare for children 13 and under as part of a childcare bubble, to provide care for vulnerable people, to provide emergency assistance, attend a support group (of up to 15 people), or receive respite care. People can also exercise outdoors or visit an outdoor public place.

You can leave home for any medical reason, including to get a Covid-19 test, appointments and emergencies, to visit someone who is giving birth or dying, to avoid or escape risk of injury or harm (such as domestic abuse), to visit someone in a care home (if permitted under care home guidance), hospice, hospital, to accompany them to a medical appointment, or to go to the vets (or other animal welfare services).

You can leave home to attend a place of worship for individual prayer, a funeral or a related event for someone who has died, to visit a burial ground or a remembrance garden, or to attend a deathbed wedding. A full list of what is allowed can be found in the [regulations](#).

Work

The regulations list the businesses and venues that can remain open.

The definition of 'key workers' will be the same as it was in the first lockdown.

Everyone who can work effectively from home must do so. Where it's not reasonably possible, people should continue to travel to work/attend their workplace, which is allowed under part 6, clause 4 of the regulations.

Where people cannot do so – including but not limited to people who work in critical national infrastructure, construction, or manufacturing – they should continue to travel to their workplace.

Where it is necessary to work in other people's homes – for example, for nannies, cleaners or tradespeople – you can do so.

The Chancellor has just announced that the furlough scheme will now be extended until March 2021. This means the government pay 80 per cent of wages for temporarily laid-off workers, up to a maximum of £2,500. Employers will be expected to cover national insurance and pension contributions.

For more information see <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/new-national-restrictions-from-5-november>

Download the NHS COVID-19 app today

<https://covid19.nhs.uk/>

Self-isolation support payment

From Monday, 28 September 2020, you are required by law to self-isolate if you are told to do so by NHS Test and Trace.

The Government has introduced a £500 support payment to help people on low incomes who have to self-isolate. The scheme will run until 31 January 2021 but is being kept under review by the Government. See for more details;

<https://www.wychavon.gov.uk/community-and-living/coronavirus-covid-19-update/self-isolation-support-payment>

How to get a COVID-19 test

Currently there is good testing capacity in Worcestershire. Supply is meeting demand in the county. To organise a test go to

https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20769/coronavirus_covid-19/2247/coronavirus_covid-19_testing

Local Testing Centres:

- Redditch Trescott Road Car Park
- University of Worcester, Arena Car Park
- Pershore Civic Centre Car Park
- Bromsgrove Stourbridge Road Car Park: to open 9th Nov
- Kidderminster Harriers Stadium Close Car Park: to open 9th Nov
- Malvern Victoria Rd Car Park: estimated to open 23rd Nov (no dates confirmed yet though)

Wear face coverings outside schools

Collecting and dropping off children at the start and end of the school day can mean keeping a safe distance is hard. Worcestershire Public Health is now asking parents and carers to wear a face mask when dropping off children if it not possible to social distance.

Why self-isolating is important

If you have symptoms of coronavirus you must self-isolate immediately and get a test.

By self-isolating, you are not only protecting your community, you are also helping all those who may become very sick if they become infected and those key workers who have worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic. It's an incredibly important and effective way of slowing the spread of a disease like covid-19.

We now know that people can pass the virus on even when they don't have symptoms. If you leave home while you could be infectious, even if you feel fine, you could pass the virus onto other people, including people who are vulnerable to very serious illness.

[Read more about why self-isolating is important to protect your loved ones and your community.](#)

COVID-19 STATISTICS IN WORCESTERSHIRE (as of 15th October)

- The number of cases in Worcestershire stands at 88 cases per 100,000. The England rate is 165 per 100,000. There were only 14 people in total in Worcestershire's hospitals with Covid-19, and only 1 person was in intensive care (ITU).
- Every publicly funded school in Worcestershire is open and 90.2% of pupils in Worcestershire are in school which is much better than the national average.
- There are 2,111 pupils currently self-isolating from a school population of more than 84,000.

Official statistics and information are available on the links below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-track-coronavirus-cases>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-covid-19-surveillance-reports#history>

WHERE CAN I GET FURTHER INFORMATION, HELP AND ADVICE?

Reminder that the Here2Help website www.worcestershire.gov.uk/here2help is the first point of contact if people want to offer assistance or gain support. The other option is the telephone contact number which is staffed 8am-6pm 6 days a week – 01905 768053.

Carers who support a family member or friend who require support should contact the Worcestershire Association of Carers on www.carersworcs.org.uk or call the Helpline 0300 012 4272.

<http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/coronavirus>

NHS Website for information on Coronavirus
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Financial support for you

If you are struggling financially then the advice is to make a claim for Universal Credit, Council Tax Support and other benefits you may be eligible for.

There is more information on the [coronavirus employments and benefits page](#).

Help paying your Council Tax

If you are of working age and already receiving Council Tax Support, you will get a one off reduction of up to £150. This will be applied automatically to your bill. New bills will be issued in the next few weeks.

You can apply online for [Council Tax Support](#) if you are struggling to pay your bill.

More information is available on our [Benefits and Council Tax page](#).

Even if you are not eligible for Council Tax Support, you still may be able to defer your payments for a short period or spread them over 12 months instead of ten.

Please contact the Council's team by emailing Revenues@southworcestershirevenues.gov.uk or call 03004 560560 to discuss your circumstances and they will do their best to help you.

Help to find a job

If you have been made redundant, are facing redundancy or are looking for work then the [Worcestershire Jobs Match scheme](#) can help. It has been created to help match businesses struggling to fill vacancies with individuals who have lost their jobs as a result of the Covid-19 outbreak.

Also, an 'Entry to Employment Services' guide has been launched to help those who have been made redundant or un-employed during the Coronavirus pandemic. The guide aims to showcase the support that is available across the county for those who have experienced a major career change over the last few months.

To find out more and to download the guide, please visit the [Local Support Section of the COVID-19 Business Support section of the One Worcestershire website](#).

You can find out more about job opportunities available on our local farms, and other opportunities, on our [Local Job Opportunities page](#).

Support for businesses

The Council's new business support programme, **Here2Help Business** is live http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20807/here2help_business
It is a £3m programme designed to assist local Worcestershire Businesses to recover, adapt, develop and support future resilience as lockdown measures reduce

Also see the Government website www.businesssupport.gov.uk which has details of all the support available to businesses.

And the latest information on the extension to the Furlough scheme and the self-employed support can be found on this link;- <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-extends-furlough-to-march-and-increases-self-employed-support>

Highways

To keep up to date on the roads affected see

http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20602/roadworks_in_worcestershire

Or look at the national roadworks website below, and type in Bretforton in the top right box to search. www.roadworks.org or use <https://one.network/>

1. **Speeding on the B4035 Badsey** – Mobile Camera opposite the entrance to Sladden Close has been agreed by Safer Road Partnership. Grasscrete platform to be laid on grass verge Mobile Camera Van is being installed w/c 9/11/20.

As always, if you have any issues on any Highways matters, please report it on the WCC website http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/homepage/98/report_it

Also remember a photo of the Highways problem is as good as “a thousand words” so always take a photo where possible.

REMINDER to clear all brooks, gullies and ditches and gullies before winter flood season – a reminder to all land owners and Parish councils to check all ditches, gullies and brooks NOW to ensure no obstructions that could make things worse in flood situations.

A £4 million centre of engineering has just been completed in Worcestershire

The Duckworth Centre of Engineering has been built to help meet the local need for engineers with a focus on automotive, plumbing and heating engineering students; with dedicated workshops and classrooms on site.

Cecil Duckworth was the founder of [Worcester Bosch](#), which has grown into one of the city’s most successful businesses. He is also Life President of Worcester Warriors.

The Duckworth Centre of Engineering is one of the [Worcestershire LEP](#)’s Local Growth Fund projects receiving a total investment of £4.01 million.

County Council Divisional Fund

- Cleeve Prior – possible grant for bus shelter
- Bretforton Allotments – grant requested for a strimmer.
- Honeybourne Harriers – grant for portable flood lights so the youngsters can continue training on the Honeybourne Sports Field during the dark evenings.
- Pebworth In Bloom have applied for a grant to help cover the cost of the bedding plants and hanging baskets planted around the village.

If you run a community organisation that needs a little support to buy equipment or some essential service, then please apply for a Divisional Fund by contacting me.

Your County Councillor, Alastair Adams can be contacted on
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