

From:

Sent:

Subject:

Blaby DC Residents Newsletter - A guide to Thursday's new restrictions

Categories:

Residents' newsletter

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The graphic features a close-up of a person's eyes wearing a surgical mask. The NHS logo and 'HM Government' are in the top left. The main text on a yellow background reads: 'Got any coronavirus symptoms? Book a test now, even if you don't feel too bad.' Below this, it says 'Use the NHS COVID-19 app or go to gov.uk/coronavirus'. Three icons represent symptoms: a thermometer for 'High temperature', a person coughing for 'New continuous cough', and a crossed-out nose for 'Change/loss of smell/taste'. A red-bordered box in the bottom right says 'STAY ALERT CONTROL THE VIRUS SAVE LIVES'.

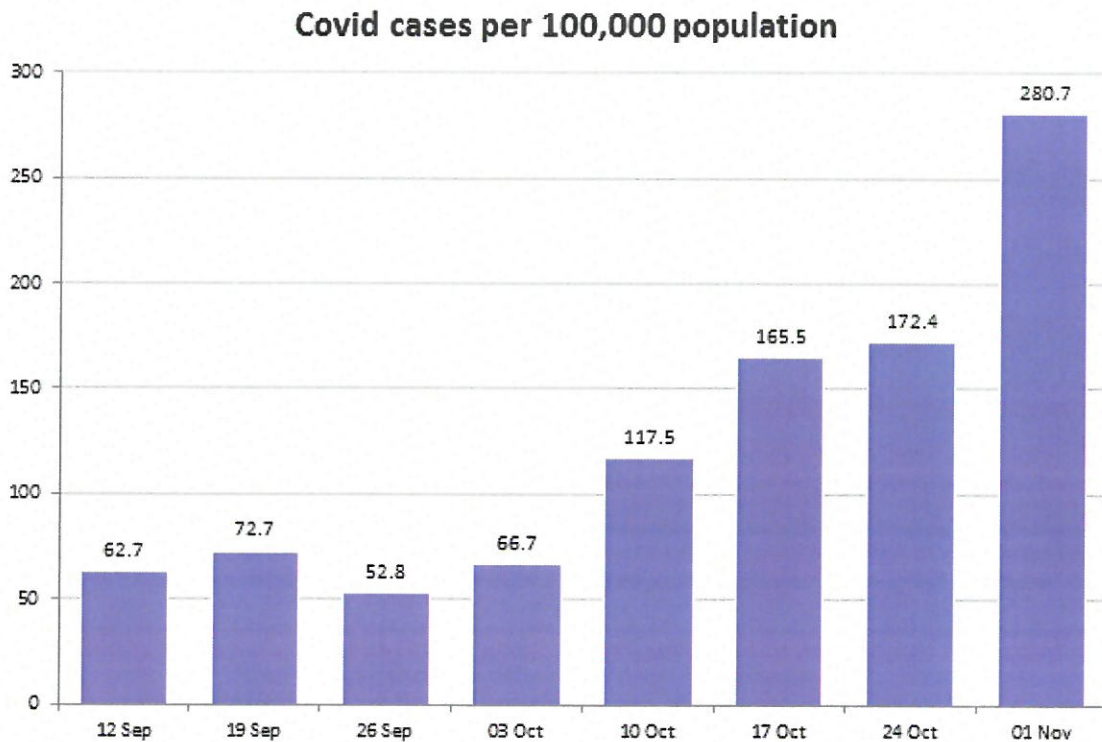
Cases are rising

Across the district Covid-19 cases have continued to rise at a very worrying pace and hospital admissions are also on the increase. Overall in the district there are now **280.7 cases per 100,000 people**.

This is one of the highest figures in the county, and alarmingly we are seeing a significant increase in the over 60 years now as well as younger people. The **national average is 226.4 per 100,000** so you can see that we are now well above that figure.

The latest district figures are available on [Leicestershire County Council's](#) website.

The graph below highlights that our figures have increased across our district in the last few weeks.



Testing

It's essential that if you or anyone you live with develops symptoms of coronavirus, no matter how mild, that the whole household isolates immediately and that anyone with symptoms gets a test.

New national restrictions

Regulations come into force from tomorrow (05 November)

As you are no doubt aware, the Prime Minister has announced a second national lockdown which will start from tomorrow, Thursday, subject to the MPs vote today.

This means that **from tomorrow, we will all have to stay at home** other than for a few very specific reasons. This means:

- No household mixing indoors or in private gardens (unless in your support bubble)

- Individuals can meet **one other person** from another household outside in a public place

We recognise how difficult this is in so many different ways; the impact on our businesses that have worked so hard already to introduce COVID safe measures, the impact of being separated from friends and loved ones and the impact particularly on the vulnerable and the isolated.

We are currently talking with Government to confirm exactly what this means in terms of what activities are still allowed, which shops or buildings may remain open and what support will be available to our most vulnerable residents.

As your local authority, we will do our best in the coming days and weeks to outline the kinds of support that will be available for anyone who is struggling, whatever their circumstances. We know our local businesses in particular will find this uncertainty worrying and we are seeking to confirm the level of support that will be available as soon as we are able to.

It is important for all of us, including residents and businesses, that we come out of these restrictions with lower rates of infection to make sure that the spread of the virus is reduced, and to ensure these restrictions are not extended into Christmas.

Please follow the latest guidelines and the advice to help stop the spread. Together we can try to make sure this is only a temporary measure.

Below is a guide of the key information for you as we head into the month-long restrictions. Legislation and guidance is being updated this week, we have summarised some of the changes on our [website](#), but please visit the [Government's website](#) for the latest information.

Offices Closed to the public

We remain open for business, however our offices are temporarily closed to visitors with the introduction of the new restrictions. Our website has information on

the services you need, and if you need to get in touch you can find our contact details.

[Contact Us](#)



Enjoy Bonfire night safely

It's never been more important to do everything we can to celebrate safely. There will be no organised firework displays this year. Some families will have their own fireworks in private gardens.

Please follow the firework code, only buying fireworks that conform to the British safety standard and are suitable for the size of your garden – and only from a legitimate supplier.

Fireworks should never be let off on the street or in busy places, and it's against the law to let them off after 11pm at night.

Supporting the Vulnerable

Those who are "clinically vulnerable" are asked to be 'especially careful' but you are not being asked to resume shielding.

Those who are "[clinically extremely vulnerable](#)" will receive a letter from the government in the next few days setting out the advice. The main advice will be to stay at home as much as possible, but encouraged to go outside for exercise. The list of clinically extremely vulnerable remains the same, with the addition of two new groups; adults with Down Syndrome and with Stage 5 Chronic Kidney Disease.

The detailed advice that is in place will be available in the letter sent to anyone in this category. More information about those at higher risk of coronavirus is [available on the Government's website](#).

If you are classed as clinically extremely vulnerable and need help you **MUST** register for support on the website address that is provided in the letter.

You can also [register on the Government website](#) if you have a medical condition and are classed as clinically extremely vulnerable, needing support.

For those that are self isolating and need help or support, you should contact the Council's [Community Hub](#). The service will prioritise those people who have no one else to help them and who are the most vulnerable.

Volunteering for those in need

We are looking for volunteers to help people who might need some extra support during the pandemic whether that be shopping, delivering food or becoming a telephone befriender. If you are interested in becoming a Blaby District Council volunteer, please complete the online form and we will be in touch.

[Become a volunteer](#)

Support for Businesses

Businesses required to close in England due to local or national restrictions will be

eligible for funding. Like with the first government support, this will depend on the business' rateable value, up to £3,000 per month.

More initial information on this is [available on the Government website](#). We are awaiting guidance and will be opening applications for the grant funding as soon as possible.

Businesses during lockdown

Since the new restrictions were announced, our Environmental Health team have been working hard to answer queries from businesses. We have received contact from residents and businesses, with the most common queries answered below.

- Enderby and Huncote Leisure Centres will close from Thursday
- Tanning salons and hairdressers must close, including mobile hairdressers
- Tradespeople can continue to work in homes as long as no one is showing covid-19 symptoms
- Following a change in the guidelines, pubs complying with the legal requirements CAN sell alcohol to be consumed off their premises

The [Government's website](#) will have full details, and we'll be updating our website with key information affecting residents and businesses.

Marshals in district to encourage compliance

As part of the national requirement for local authority areas, marshals will be out and about across the district patrolling to ensure compliance with the regulations.

All marshals will have Blaby District Council high-visibility clothing and body cameras and will be travelling across the district to areas including parks, popular open spaces, retail outlets and pubs/restaurants.

They will begin their work from Friday 06 November.

Remembrance Sunday

This year's Remembrance Sunday will be a little different this year, as churches and the Royal British Legion ask people to find other ways to honour those who served and sacrificed themselves in the line of duty.

Communal services cannot take place from Thursday 05 November unless organised by local authorities or faith leaders, which must meet the [Government's guidelines](#).

Some churches will be offering online streams and videos of their remembrance services to ensure you can still be part of the occasion. Find out more about commemorating remembrance differently this year on the [Royal British Legion](#) website.

Physical Activity

Unfortunately we will be suspending all community physical activity and health improvement sessions which had previously restarted. These include:

- Community walks
- Falls classes
- Exercise Referral

The Health and Leisure team are working on a phone service for some of these services and also making wellbeing calls to those on their programmes who are classed as vulnerable.

Mortgage Holidays

The government have announced that borrowers who have been impacted by coronavirus and have not yet had a mortgage payment holiday will be entitled to a six month holiday.

Those that have already started a mortgage payment holiday will be able to top up to six months without this being recorded on their credit file.



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