



## Latest update from Uttlesford District Council – 31 July

This briefing note is designed to keep you updated on the evolving situation around coronavirus (Covid-19). It includes some of the actions being taken in the district, as well as other useful information.

We have changed the frequency of these briefing notes to once a month.

For advice and updates:

[www.uttlesford.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/coronavirus)

[www.twitter.com/UttlesfordDC](https://www.twitter.com/UttlesfordDC)

[www.facebook.com/UttlesfordDC](https://www.facebook.com/UttlesfordDC)

### In this briefing

- Useful information
- Community Response hub
- Business support grants
- Leisure centres
- Summer holiday activity camps
- Speed enforcement updates

### Useful information

#### From Uttlesford District Council

- Our London Road offices and all council buildings remain closed to the public. As and when we have more information, we will keep you up to date.
- We continue to promote the Public Health England messages on our social media channels and via our e-newsletters (you can subscribe for the newsletters at [www.uttlesford.gov.uk/keepmeposted](http://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/keepmeposted)). The promoted materials include NHS Test and Trace, Stay Alert, face coverings etc.
- For those who are suffering financial hardship due to unforeseen circumstances such as the coronavirus outbreak, the council has an Exceptional Hardship Fund: [www.uttlesford.gov.uk/ehf](http://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/ehf).
- We also have advice and links to resources for staying physically and mentally well on our website: [www.uttlesford.gov.uk/article/6688/Wellbeing-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak](http://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/article/6688/Wellbeing-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak)

#### From central government

- Public Health England has launched a major new adult health campaign to encourage people to lose weight and cut Covid-19 risk. The [Better Health campaign](#) launched on Monday.
- **Staying alert and safe** – you can see the government's advice on what you can and cannot do: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/staying-alert-and-safe-social-distancing/staying-alert-and-safe-social-distancing-after-4-july](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/staying-alert-and-safe-social-distancing/staying-alert-and-safe-social-distancing-after-4-july).

For the latest FAQs, see [www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do).

- **Face coverings:** the current advice is to wear a face covering in the following settings:
  - Shops and supermarkets
  - indoor shopping centres
  - public transport
  - banks, building societies, and post offices
  - indoor transport hubs (such as airports, stations and terminals)

You do not need to wear a face covering if you have a legitimate reason not to. See: [Face coverings: when to wear one and how to make your own](#) for the latest guidance.

- **Shielding** – From 1 August, the government will pause shielding. The guidance on shielding and protecting people who are clinically extremely vulnerable can be found here: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19)
- **Reopening businesses safely** – the government has an online toolkit to help businesses reopen safely: [www.gov.uk/coronavirus-business-reopening](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus-business-reopening).
- **Restaurants, pubs, bars and takeaway services** – There is also new [guidance for people who work in or run restaurants, pubs, bars, cafes or takeaways](#).
- **NHS Test and trace** – keep up to date with the latest advice here: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/nhs-test-and-trace-if-youve-been-in-contact-with-a-person-who-has-coronavirus/>
- **Community centres, village halls and other multi-use community facilities** – guidance on the safe use of multi-purpose community facilities is available here: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-multi-purpose-community-facilities/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-multi-purpose-community-facilities#core-principles-for-safely-reopening-community-facilities](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-multi-purpose-community-facilities/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-multi-purpose-community-facilities#core-principles-for-safely-reopening-community-facilities).
- **Every Mind Matters** – The [www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters](http://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters) website highlights some of the things we can all do to look after our mental wellbeing and help others.

#### From Essex County Council

- **Local outbreak control plan** – Essex County Council has issued a draft plan for local outbreaks of Covid-19 in the Essex County Council area. The plan outlines details of the local response and how it will work with regional and national systems for Covid-19 control. See: [www.essex.gov.uk/local-outbreak-control-plan](http://www.essex.gov.uk/local-outbreak-control-plan) for more information.
- **Coronavirus testing** – guidance on coronavirus testing available in Essex, including who can get tested and where you can get a test: [www.essex.gov.uk/getting-tested-for-covid-19](http://www.essex.gov.uk/getting-tested-for-covid-19).
- **Libraries** – from 20 July a further eight libraries opened, including Thaxted. You can see [information about the safety measures in the libraries](#) or [watch a video on what to expect](#) when visiting the libraries.
- **Free business support** – free advice and support to help businesses grow during the Covid-19 pandemic and beyond: [www.backtobusinessessex.co.uk](http://www.backtobusinessessex.co.uk).

## Community Response Hub

The Uttlesford Community Response Hub has now moved into the recovery stage of the crisis, and will continue to offer a contact service to residents for the foreseeable future.

The number **03333 408 218** is now available Monday to Friday, 9am to 4pm, which will enable people to access support for shopping and prescription pick-ups. People can also email [communityresponse@uttlesford.gov.uk](mailto:communityresponse@uttlesford.gov.uk). In addition, the Hub will offer support to those who are feeling lonely or isolated, as well as those affected by redundancy or needing mental health, domestic violence, debt, benefits or housing advice.

Through this one point of contact, residents will continue to be referred to a wide range of services or advice and information in relation to Covid-19 and the latest government updates.

## Support for businesses

- **Business support grants** – We are in the final stages of the grant funding programme. The vast majority of eligible businesses have now claimed grants and to date we have paid out a total of £18.6 million in grants to 1,500 businesses (£11.9 million in Small Business Grants and £6.7 million in Retail, Hospitality & Leisure Grants). Both schemes will close on 28 August in line with government instructions.  
If you think a business in your area is eligible for a grant, but they have not yet been in touch with us, please ask them to contact us as soon as possible. They can email [revenues@uttlesford.gov.uk](mailto:revenues@uttlesford.gov.uk) or call 01799 510510.  
More information about the grants is also available on our website: [www.uttlesford.gov.uk/covid19-business-grants-fund](http://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/covid19-business-grants-fund).
- **Uttlesford Discretionary Grant Fund** – The scheme closed on 21 June and in total we received more than 230 applications. We have paid out £732,000 to 103 businesses and are currently reviewing a further 19 requests.
- **Advice for pubs and restaurants** – We have issued information to hospitality businesses such as pubs and restaurants on the latest guidance on how to keep premises, customers and staff safe. The information links to several sources, including a summary of the guidance which is available on our website: [www.uttlesford.gov.uk/article/6755/Coronavirus-reopening-guidance-for-pubs-and-restaurants](http://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/article/6755/Coronavirus-reopening-guidance-for-pubs-and-restaurants).
- **Shop Local, Shop Safe** – We continue to work with partners and local business groups to monitor closely the situations within our town and village centres on a number of issues such as queues, compliance with government guidance and traffic calming measures.  
We also continue to remind shoppers to follow the advice on how to stay safe while out shopping, where to park and getting further updates as new businesses open.  
In addition, we commissioned a video to show the changes and what customers would need to look out for as more businesses reopen. You can get a link to the video here: <https://youtu.be/ZVJkl4MwNqM>. Please do help in sharing this widely.

## Leisure centres

The Lord Butler and Great Dunmow leisure centres have been successfully reopened this week. The Mountfitchet Romeera will be reopened on Monday 10 August.

1Life has upskilled, upgraded and redefined its health and safety procedures as well as its operating standards to ensure social distancing and hygiene complies with the government guidelines. A number of measures are in place to keep staff and members safe. The reports we are receiving are

encouraging – gym members are returning to the centres and are adhering to the guidelines. We will continue to support 1Life in its phased programme to reopen the facilities.

You can read more about the re-openings and the measures in place on our website [here](#).

### **Summer Holiday activity camps**

Essex Boys & Girls Clubs will be running an activity camp for 5 to 13 year olds in Uttlesford every day (Monday to Friday, 10am to 2pm) of the summer holidays. The programme will take place on:

- Monday and Tuesday at Newport Youth Club
- Wednesday and Thursday at Thaxted Youth Club
- Friday at Sampfords Youth Club

See [www.essexboysandgirlsclubs.org/summer-fun-and-food](http://www.essexboysandgirlsclubs.org/summer-fun-and-food) for more information and bookings. Please do share this information within your communities as appropriate.

### **Speed enforcement updates**

Finally, whilst not coronavirus-related, we have been asked to share details provided by the Road Crime Team who were out in Uttlesford last weekend completing speed enforcement. In total, the team travelled 1,590 miles over the two days and detected 596 speeding vehicles. They also made two arrests for drug driving, seized three vehicles and dealt with five other offences.