



## Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19): Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland stakeholder bulletin #23



Issued on behalf of the NHS in LLR

Date of issue: 7th August 2020

Through these bulletins we will keep you updated on the NHS response to Coronavirus in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

We will try to ensure you have the latest information, but as you are aware the situation is rapidly changing. If you have any questions or would like to ask about a topic please email us at:

[PressOfficeLLRCCGs@leicestershire.nhs.uk](mailto:PressOfficeLLRCCGs@leicestershire.nhs.uk)

Please continue to support the message on staying at home and in particular help us to tackle misinformation by promoting the official sources of information: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>.

### LOCAL LOCKDOWN LATEST

#### **Melton Mowbray residents urged to play their part by taking a test**

Residents in parts of Melton Mowbray are being urged to get tested for coronavirus and help reduce infection rates following a rise in cases.

Over the next week, just under 20,000 people in the north and west areas of the town will receive a leaflet, and a text from their GP, telling them to get tested if they have symptoms.

Latest data for the borough shows that although the number of cases is still relatively small, the rate means it is in the top 10 areas in the country. Data shows that there have been 32 cases in the last fortnight and the rate per 100,000 is 37.2, which is significantly higher than the national average of 8.8 per 100,000 people.

Residents who are being urged to get tested will receive a text from the local NHS and a leaflet telling them how the testing process works.

A mobile testing unit is due to be at the Melton Borough Council Offices, Parkside car park from the 6th August.

You can book a test via the [NHS website](#) or call 119.

### COVID-19 GUIDANCE UPDATES

#### **Shielding guidance**

The [guidance](#) for the clinically extremely vulnerable has been updated in line with what was announced on Monday 22 June. The clinically extremely vulnerable are no longer advised to shield, and can now visit shops, places of worship and other venues. They can also return to work if the workplace is COVID-secure but should carry on working from home wherever possible. More information on how to keep safe can be found [here](#).

#### **Face coverings**

The guidance on face coverings was updated last week to reflect changes on when face coverings should be worn. From 8 August, the list of places where it will be mandatory for members of the public to wear a face covering will be expanded. The full list and guidance is available [here](#).

#### **NHS rapid coronavirus tests**

The government has announced that from next week rapid coronavirus tests will be rolled out to hospitals, care homes and labs across the UK to increase testing capacity ahead of winter.

Two new tests, both able to detect the virus in just 90 minutes, will be made available. Read the full announcement at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/roll-out-of-2-new-rapid-coronavirus-tests-ahead-of-winter>

## **Transmission of coronavirus in and between households**

We know that coronavirus is being passed within households in Leicester, as well as between households. It's vital that we do all we can to stop this. Please do not go into other people's home or gardens, or invite them into yours. Continue to wash your hands frequently, for 20 seconds, and clean surfaces regularly. There's more advice on stopping the spread of viruses on the [Germ Defence website](#).

## **COVID – 19 RELATED NEWS**

### **Leicester leading the way on safer campuses**

The University of Leicester will be launching a new COVID-19 screening programme for all staff and students. From October 2020, students and staff at the University of Leicester will be screened for COVID-19 as part of plans to keep the campus and wider community safe, as students return to the city for their studies.

The University has been working hard behind the scenes to ensure it is ready to welcome new students to campus. Small groups of students will form 'bubbles', which will help ensure that any case of coronavirus can be contained.

If a member of staff or a student tests positive for COVID-19, they will be asked to follow Government guidelines for self-isolation and those within their 'bubble' will be provided with assistance.

### **Supporting NHS COVID-19 plasma donation**

NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) is now urgently appealing for people to donate convalescent plasma.

NHSBT needs as many donors as possible to come forward from the first wave of infections to enable as many donations as possible to be taken now.

The welcome decline in new infections means every potential donor is now even more valuable. Antibody levels are at their highest soon after recovery. A successful trial will enable convalescent plasma to be an additional line of protection during any second wave.

If you've had coronavirus, please offer to donate by calling or 0300 123 23 23 or visiting [www.nhsbt.nhs.uk](http://www.nhsbt.nhs.uk).

### **NHS recruitment drive to tackle loneliness and improve lives**

The NHS is recruiting a growing army of social prescribing link workers to combat loneliness and isolation fuelled by coronavirus.

More than 1,200 are already helping people to improve their mental health and get more exercise by taking part in activities from gardening to ballroom dancing. Now the NHS is fast-tracking the recruitment of an additional 500, who will work with family doctors and the growing number of clinical staff working in primary care to provide personalised support to 125,000 more people per year.

Now, with the coronavirus pandemic compounding loneliness, isolation and mental health problems for many people, the NHS is providing extra funding to groups of GPs to allow them to go further, so that more than 400,000 people a year can benefit from the additional support that link workers can provide to local communities.

## **FURTHER INFORMATION**

[Leicester City Council](#)

[Leicestershire County Council](#)

[Leicestershire Police](#)

[One Prepared LLR](#)

[Gov.uk](#)