



# Norfolk County Council

## Latest Information, Advice, Useful Links and Service Updates

Updated 6 January 2022

This weekly briefing is intended as a resource to keep you up to date with the latest information and advice.

### COVID-19 Trusted sources of information

The most recent **verified data on cases in the UK and Norfolk** is available from [Public Health England](#) and [Norfolk Insights](#).

Everyone has a key role in promoting [www.nhs.uk/coronavirus](http://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus) and [www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus) as trusted sources of information to the public. It is important to ensure people go to the right sources of information and keep up to date with how to look after themselves.

**Keep up to date:** We have [a dedicated webpage for coronavirus updates](#) in Norfolk and impact on Norfolk County Council services. This is updated regularly so please do re-visit this page.

**Service updates:** The most up to date information on council services can be found at [Norfolk County Council services disruptions](#). The council will continue to monitor its services and, if regulations and circumstances change, it will review its current plans.

### Norfolk and Waveney Health and Care Partnership: COVID-19

Astounding response from local people and the NHS sees Norfolk and Waveney reach number one in the region for booster vaccinations

The overwhelming support from local people in coming forward for their COVID-19 booster jabs means that Norfolk and Waveney is currently top in the East of England region for number of booster vaccinations given, with 56.5% of the total population having now had their COVID-19 booster.

Rates in Norfolk increased by 63% in the last week with the average number of daily new cases in the last seven days hitting an all-time high of over 2,000 cases per day.

It is vital that as people continue to come forward for their COVID-19 booster. The more people that come forward for their COVID-19 booster, the better Norfolk and Waveney will be protected. Please do share messages you see on social media and continue to encourage your friends and family to get their vaccinations if they haven't already.

[Click here to find out more about who is eligible to get a Covid booster jab, find walk-in sites and book online.](#)

In Norwich, the Castle Quarter Vaccination Centre will close on Sunday 9 January and move to City Hall. The City Hall site will be operational from Monday 10 January, with appointments available to book via the National Booking Service from the end of this week.

### **Norfolk and Waveney health and care system under pressure**

Health and care services in Norfolk and Waveney are under unprecedented pressure, people are being urged to use services wisely and to look after themselves and others.

Winter is always a time of pressure for NHS services and even more so this year with the threat of the COVID-19 Omicron variant. There is also an increase in seasonal illnesses such as flu and the winter vomiting bug.

It is vital that beds in acute hospitals are kept free for people needing urgent and emergency treatment, community hospitals are kept free to provide continuing care, and ambulances kept on the road able to respond to emergency calls.

It is important that people do not delay seeking help from the NHS if they feel unwell. However, with local health services increasingly stretched, people are being urged to only attend an Emergency Department if it's necessary.

### **Children's Services**

All parents and carers and young people aged 12 and over are encouraged to book appointments for a booster jab

Children and young people in Year 7 and above at secondary school or academy are required to wear face coverings in class until 26 January at the earliest. In Norfolk children in this age range have been asked to wear face coverings in communal areas, and while using school transport or public transport as an ongoing measure to protect them and those around them. This doesn't apply to primary age pupils.

For further information about this check with your child's school.

### **Norfolk schools pledge to do everything possible to keep children in school this January**

Parents and carers are being reassured that schools across Norfolk are determined to do all they can to keep children in school in the face of a predicted peak in Covid infections in the county this January.

More than 200 headteachers and education professionals met over the New Year bank holiday to prepare for what looks to be a challenging start to 2022. The virtual meeting was organised by headteacher's association Educate Norfolk and attended by Norfolk County Council education professionals and health and safety advisors.

The main challenge will be whether there are adequate staffing levels to assure student safety as increasing numbers of teachers and support staff either become unwell or are required to isolate.

Teachers in Norfolk want schools to be open and children to be learning in the classroom with their friends, taught by their usual teachers and support staff. However, parents should expect there may be changes to the normal routine in the

next few weeks, whether that is different adults teaching their children, slightly different lessons, or a short period of time learning from home.

Schools will be everything possible to keep any disruption to an absolute minimum.

Schools will be carrying out daily risk assessments on staffing levels to ensure particular classes, year groups, or the whole school can safely operate.

[Find out more about support for parents and children and young people at school.](#)

## **Adult Social Services**

### **Norfolk County Council welcomes support for adult social care's Covid costs**

Minister for Care, Gillian Keegan, has announced an extra £60 million for councils, to support the adult social care response to Covid 19 and the Omicron variant in January.

It will be used to help care providers and family carers, to maintain social care services in the community and to support staffing issues caused by higher levels of sickness caused by the COVID omicron wave.

The county council is awaiting further details from the Government about the grant and any conditions. It expects its proportionate share of the national funding to be around £600,000.

[Find out more about the extra £60 million for adult social care.](#)

## **Trading standards**

### **E-scooter safety, private e-scooters**

People are being urged to check the law on the use of private e-scooters, and to only buy from reputable suppliers after testing of a number of products on the market found a lack of compliance with UK safety regulations.

The East of England Trading Standards Association is looking at a number of brands after national concerns were raised about electrical safety compliance as well as the illegal on-street use of private scooters.

Full testing is still to be completed but Norfolk County Council Trading Standards officers are so concerned about the safe and legal use of e-scooters they are alerting consumers to the preliminary findings of the first batch of e-scooters tested. One scooter was found to be fitted with a plug that didn't meet UK safety standards as it had no fuse. Overall, three quarters of the first batch of e-scooters tested had incorrect documentation, which includes safety warnings, user instructions and traceability information.

Trading Standards Officers are keen to stress the importance of only buying from reputable suppliers and checking that products carry UKCA or CE marks to show they meet UK safety standards.

Norfolk Fire & Rescue Services say that consumers can reduce the risk of fire by not leaving any product, including e-scooters, on charge overnight and not overloading sockets.

It is illegal to use privately owned scooters on public roads, pavements, cycle lanes and in pedestrian-only areas.

Norfolk County Council stressed that there are no safety concerns with either of the government approved scooter models being used in the two official pilots taking place in Norfolk (Beryl in Norwich and Ginger in Great Yarmouth). They remain the safest and only legal way to try an e-scooter on the highway and support the council's goals to reduce congestion and pollution on shorter journeys.

The e-scooter trials are currently taking place in 50 cities and towns across the UK, with the government set to decide on their future use when it comes to an end in March 2022.