

## Hertfordshire Local Resilience Forum Stakeholder Update – 23 October 2020

### A message from Cllr Linda Haysey, Leader of East Herts Council, and Chair of the community reassurance cell of the Local Resilience Forum

Dear stakeholder,

Here's the latest update from Hertfordshire's Local Resilience Forum, a multi-agency partnership of public services working to coordinate our approach to COVID-19.



Cllr Linda Haysey

#### Update on COVID-19 Case Numbers in Hertfordshire

Partners can keep up to date with county wide and district data by accessing [this dashboard](#).

#### Supporting our communities

**Policing update:** We are working in partnership with local authorities, licensing authorities and businesses to ensure the coronavirus regulations are being followed with extra high-visibility patrols targeting hotspots across the county. This dedicated operation, called Op Sunrise, has seen extra police officers and environmental health officers visit hundreds of businesses to check they are COVID-compliant in the last week.

Police officers are engaging, explaining and encouraging people to act responsibly and follow the rules on face-coverings, social-distancing, the 'rule of six' and self-isolation. Officers have had to take enforcement action and issue fixed penalty notices in a number of cases because of flagrant breaches, where individuals are not taking responsibility for their actions and therefore putting themselves and others at risk.

If you are concerned that an individual is breaking the law or you are experiencing anti-social behaviour, you can report this to police, who will consider the most appropriate response and will target the most problematic behaviour. Reports should be made online at [herts.police.uk/contact](https://herts.police.uk/contact) or via 101 wherever possible. In an emergency dial 999.

If you're concerned that a business is breaching coronavirus rules, please contact your local district or borough council in the first instance.

**Test and Trace Support Payment:** Payments of £500 are now available for residents who meet the eligibility criteria and have received notification from NHS Test and Trace to self-isolate. Contact details for districts and borough councils in Hertfordshire that are administering the payments are in the table below. Information regarding national support can be found on the [NHS website](#).

| Local Authority | Website for application   | Contact phone number |
|-----------------|---|----------------------|
| Broxbourne      | <a href="https://www.broxbourne.gov.uk/finance/covid-19-test-trace-support-payment">https://www.broxbourne.gov.uk/finance/covid-19-test-trace-support-payment</a>               | 01992 785555         |
| Dacorum         | <a href="http://www.dacorum.gov.uk/home/benefits/covid-19---test-and-trace-support-scheme">http://www.dacorum.gov.uk/home/benefits/covid-19---test-and-trace-support-scheme</a> | 01442 228000         |

|                        |   |               |
|------------------------|---|---------------|
| <b>East Herts</b>      | <a href="https://www.eastherts.gov.uk/benefits-and-financial-support/test-and-trace-support-payment">https://www.eastherts.gov.uk/benefits-and-financial-support/test-and-trace-support-payment</a>   | 01279 655261  |
| <b>Hertsmere</b>       | <a href="https://www.hertsmere.gov.uk/Health--Wellbeing/Financial-support-when-self-isolating.aspx">https://www.hertsmere.gov.uk/Health--Wellbeing/Financial-support-when-self-isolating.aspx</a>   | 020 8207 2277 |
| <b>North Herts</b>     | <a href="https://www.north-herts.gov.uk/home/emergency-planning/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-and-support/test-and-trace-support-payments">https://www.north-herts.gov.uk/home/emergency-planning/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-and-support/test-and-trace-support-payments</a> | 01462 474000  |
| <b>St Albans</b>       | <a href="https://www.stalbans.gov.uk/covid-19-self-isolation-payments">https://www.stalbans.gov.uk/covid-19-self-isolation-payments</a>   | 01727 866100  |
| <b>Stevenage</b>       | <a href="https://www.stevenage.gov.uk/town-and-community/emergencies/coronavirus">https://www.stevenage.gov.uk/town-and-community/emergencies/coronavirus</a>   | 01438 242242  |
| <b>Three Rivers</b>    | <a href="https://www.threerivers.gov.uk/egcl-page/self-isolating#Financial support for residents self-isolating">https://www.threerivers.gov.uk/egcl-page/self-isolating#Financial support for residents self-isolating</a>   | 01923 278023  |
| <b>Watford</b>         | <a href="https://www.watford.gov.uk/info/20286/coronavirus/1121/track_and_trace_payment_scheme">https://www.watford.gov.uk/info/20286/coronavirus/1121/track_and_trace_payment_scheme</a>   | 01923 278023  |
| <b>Welwyn Hatfield</b> | <a href="https://www.welhat.gov.uk/test-and-trace-support">https://www.welhat.gov.uk/test-and-trace-support</a>   | 01707 357000  |

**Operation Sustain:** As of Tuesday 13 October, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government have published a document to act as a framework for providing COVID-19 guidance to local authorities for supporting clinically extremely vulnerable individuals who have been advised to shield. Should national or local shielding be re-instated, this document provides useful guidance on how to prepare and respond to this scenario. Hertfordshire County Council is continuing to work closely with partners to ensure this preparation aligns closely with the current support offer and plans for a response to a local outbreak scenario.

Hertfordshire County Council is working closely alongside districts and boroughs to support those who may be struggling with keeping their homes warm or free of damp. HCC is making sure that at-risk groups have the support they need now to make their homes warmer, free from damp and mould, and safer, which for some means providing trusted information and advice. This is happening by understanding the range of support available across the county and ensuring a coordinated countywide response.

**Impacts of COVID-19 on people from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic backgrounds:** A webinar took place on Friday 9 October discuss the impacts of COVID-19 on BAME people in Hertfordshire. If you were unable to attend the webinar, you can watch it [here](#).

## Health update

### Acute hospital update

All services have now restarted at West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust and East and North Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust, although the number of people who can be seen and treated at any one time has been reduced to allow for social distancing. Trusts are continuing to address the backlog of appointments caused by the suspension of routine activity during the COVID-19 pandemic. Patient waiting lists are being clinically checked and each patient's risks have been individually assessed as they wait for planned treatments. This process is taking place in line with national guidance and following the leadership of professional clinical bodies such as the Royal College of Surgeons.

### East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust

The trust has made significant progress in returning non-emergency activity to pre-pandemic levels, and emergency department attendances have also increased significantly.

There has been an increase in patients testing positive for COVID-19 and the trust continues with separate COVID and non-COVID emergency departments, and separate patient pathways for COVID-positive patients.

Virtual and phone appointments continue where appropriate, and the trust is working closely with health and social care system partners to manage increasing demand.

### **Guide to staying well for older residents in Hertfordshire**



To help our older and more vulnerable residents to access the help and care they need over the winter, a new advice booklet has been produced by the two Hertfordshire Clinical Commissioning Groups.

The booklet includes advice on a wide range of topics, including staying mobile, advice on keeping well-nourished, help with heating your home, sources of mental health support and staying safe. There's also health and financial information and links to local sources of support.

The booklet has been produced and will be distributed with help from Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service and Hertfordshire Independent Living Service (HILS).

Copies will be delivered directly to Hertfordshire residents by public sector and voluntary organisations who work with older, less mobile people. If you have any family or neighbours who you think would benefit from receiving this advice, please email us on [enhertscg.communications@nhs.net](mailto:enhertscg.communications@nhs.net) and we would be happy to send you a few copies.

### **Flu vaccination update**

The flu vaccination programme for priority groups is going well so far, with the numbers vaccinated ahead of where we were this time last year. Just over 50% of the over-65s had been vaccinated by 11 October in Hertfordshire and most care home residents will have been vaccinated soon.

So that our health services can match the demand for the flu vaccination to the supplies of the vaccine, the vaccination is being rolled out in phases so that those who are the most at risk can be vaccinated first.

If you are in one of the priority groups entitled to a free NHS flu vaccination your GP practice should be in touch with arrangements for you to get your jab. Careful measures are being taken to ensure that all vaccinations are carried out in a way that is COVID-secure. More people than ever before are entitled to an NHS vaccination this year and the full list can be found on [the NHS website](#).

If you are not in one of these groups, but are considering paying for a flu jab at a pharmacy, Public Health England have asked that you wait until later this winter to get your jab, to ensure that the vaccine can be given to those who are at the greatest risk from the virus first. This leaflet from Public Health England [Why am I being asked to wait to have my flu vaccine?](#) explains more about this.

## **Economic Recovery**

**Elstree Studio expansion:** Plans for the expansion of Elstree Studios have been given the final green light. The scheme to build two new soundstages and ancillary workshops can officially proceed after a £6 million government funding deal was successfully secured by studio owners, Hertsmere Borough Council. The deal was approved by Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) on behalf of the government. Read the story in full [here](#).

**Hertfordshire Apprenticeships:** A Hertfordshire apprenticeships campaign has been drawn up with the aim of offsetting the marked impact COVID-19 has had on our young people, with the 'class of 2020', lower skilled adults and the poorest in our communities most vulnerable. Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership's Skills Advisory Panel will have oversight and this pan-Hertfordshire campaign will be taken forward in January 2021 with a range of key stakeholders.

## **Upcoming events**

**Halloween:** Council leaders across Hertfordshire are encouraging people to celebrate Halloween safely. This year, many Halloween traditions such as trick or treating carry a risk and are not encouraged. Alternatives to trick or treating include taking part in a local 'spot the pumpkin' trail throughout half term week or carving or decorating pumpkins. Why not carve a rainbow in your pumpkin? [Here's a handy 'how to' video](#).

**Remembrance Events:** Hertfordshire County Council has published some [Guiding Principles for Remembrance Sunday events](#).

Thank you.