



COVID-19

Coronavirus

Cleveland Local Resilience Forum

Community messaging

Friday 17th April 2020



Government announces extension to lockdown

It was announced yesterday (16 April) that the Government's lockdown restrictions in the UK will continue for at least another three weeks.

In the Government's daily Coronavirus briefing, they advised that relaxing any lockdown measures now would risk harming public health and the economy, and that five conditions needed to be met before the lockdown was eased:

- Making sure the NHS could cope
- A "sustained and consistent" fall in the daily death rate
- Reliable data showing the rate of infection was decreasing to "manageable levels"
- Ensuring the supply of tests and personal protective equipment (PPE) could meet future demand
- Being confident any adjustments would not risk a second peak

In order for any ease in lockdown measures to be considered the public must stay at home, protect the NHS and save lives. Only go outside for food, health reasons or work (but only if you cannot work from home). If you go out, stay 2 metres (6ft) away from other people at all times. Wash your hands as soon as you get home. Do not meet others, even friends or family. You can spread the virus even if you don't have symptoms.

Sick note guidance for employees

The Government has launched a service for employees that need to demonstrate to their employers that they are on sick-leave due to self-isolation. The new online service will provide an 'isolation note' in order to provide their employer evidence for sickness absence. This service is also available to people that are living with someone that has symptoms of coronavirus and are affected in that way that they must also stay home and self-isolate. You do not need a note from your GP.

The service can be accessed via the online 111 service or nhs.uk/coronavirus

Children's educational resources

The school's Easter holidays are almost coming to an end and with the new week fast approaching children will once-again be starting their home-schooling.

The Government has brought together an additional list of online educational resources to help children to learn at home. The list is useful for parents in considering how they could support their children's education, but they should not be used in place of existing resources which schools may be using as part of their continued provision for pupils' education at this time. These websites have been identified by some of the country's leading educational experts and offer a wide range of support and resources for pupils of all ages. Subjects include Maths, English, PE, Science, Wellbeing and SEND (Special Education Needs and Disability).

This can be found here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-online-education-resources>

Advice for animal owners

Officials have reported there has been a recent increase in the number of pets being abandoned on the streets or at shelters across the Cleveland area. Pet owners should be reminded that there is no evidence of coronavirus circulating in pets or other animals in the UK and there is nothing to suggest animals may transmit the disease to humans.

The following advice provides further detail for pet owners and livestock keepers on maintaining the welfare of their animals during the coronavirus pandemic.

As with all general advice on fighting coronavirus, you should wash your hands regularly, including before and after contact with animals.

Pet owners should be reminded of the need to pick up their animal's poo and dispose of it accordingly in appropriate bags and bins.

All non-essential trips to vets should be avoided. If your pet needs urgent treatment, you must phone the vet to arrange the best approach to meet your pets' needs.

You may also leave your house to provide care or help a vulnerable person. This includes walking a dog for someone who is unable to leave their house because they are self-isolating or being shielded. If you do perform this duty, please remember to follow all social distancing guidance when collecting and returning the animal.

If you are too unwell to care for your animals and there is no one to help, you should call your local authority.

We would recommend you get prepared and identify a carer (family or friends) for your animal/animals should you need to be hospitalised. This would help adult social care teams and first responders within your area and also go some way to protect animal welfare should the need arise.

For further information please visit www.rspca.org.uk

Domestic abuse – help is at hand

Cleveland Police has teamed up with supermarkets and pharmacies across the force area to remind victims of domestic violence they can still access help and support during the so-called lockdown period of the coronavirus pandemic.

Posters with contact numbers for specialist organisations are being put up in toilet cubicles, in trolley bays or on noticeboards in dozens of stores so people on essential shopping trips can quickly note down the details or take a photo of them on their phone.

Temporary Detective Chief Inspector Jayne Downes said: "I'd like to thank the supermarkets and pharmacies who have got on board with this; we really appreciate their support.

"With people spending much more time inside their homes at the moment victims may feel more vulnerable and alone but I want to reassure them we are here for them.

"The safety of victims who experience abuse in the home is paramount – the message to stay at home does not mean that they should not seek urgent help, advice or support.

"Identifying perpetrators of domestic abuse and safeguarding victims is still an absolute priority for us and we're fortunate to have a number of local agencies whose staff can advise and support victims - regardless of their age, gender or circumstances.

"They can help with anything from safety advice, housing, finances and legal advice refuges, support at court and counselling amongst other things.

“There’s also specialist help available for children who can be traumatised by living in an abusive environment.

“I’d urge everyone to look out for our posters – in some circumstances it might just be easier than accessing the information online.”

“Victims - or those acting on their behalf - can report to Cleveland Police via the 101 number. And in an emergency you should dial 999.”

