

Biggleswade Town Council COVID-19 Statement and Public Health England Update

In these uncertain times and with the current government Tier 4 restrictions affecting Biggleswade, it is essential that we all remain abreast of the latest news and regulations related to COVID-19. This will help to ensure compliance and that we are taking all the necessary precautions to remain safe and well.

The latest update, issued by Public Health England on December 17, 2020, is as follows:

As of Thursday 17 December 2020, 1,948,660 people have tested positive for coronavirus in the UK (pillar 1 and 2) and there have been 66,052 deaths. Further information on the data is available [here](#))

Announcements

Please read this [blog](#) which explains how self-isolating protects your friends, family and community.

[Letter from Dame Glenys Stacey to AoC, Sixth Form Colleges' Association, HOLEX, AELP, the Exams Office and ASCL](#) Ofqual's Acting Chief Regulator writes about vocational and technical qualifications in letter to education sector bodies. Updated: 17 December 2020

[COVID-19 infection rates in schools mirror rates in the community](#) Study finds infection rates among students and staff in schools were linked to those found in the wider community at the peak of the second wave. Updated: 17 December 2020

[Contingencies fund advance: 17 December 2020](#) Notification of COVID-19 support fund expenditure. Updated: 17 December 2020

[Joint statement on staying safe at Christmas from the UK Government, Scottish Government, and Welsh Government](#) A joint statement on staying safe at Christmas from the UK Government, Scottish Government, and Welsh Government. Updated: 16 December 2020

[Community testing offer rolled out to highest risk Tier 2 areas](#) Community testing programmes will be offered to worst-affected Tier 2 areas, in addition to Tier 3 areas, to help prevent areas in Tier 2 moving into the toughest restrictions. Updated: 16 December 2020

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Letters from Kelly Tolhurst to caravan and park home owners](#) Letters from Kelly Tolhurst, Minister for Rough Sleeping and Housing, to trade bodies representing caravan and park home site owners. Updated: 16 December 2020

[Prime Minister's statement on coronavirus \(COVID-19\): 16 December 2020](#) Prime Minister Boris Johnson gave a statement at the coronavirus press conference. Updated: 16 December 2020

[Regulatory approval of Pfizer / BioNTech vaccine for COVID-19](#) Information for healthcare professionals and the public about the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine. Updated: 16 December 2020

[HMG suspends import tariffs on Covid-19 products to fight virus](#) Tariffs suspended on a wide range of goods in the fight against Covid-19 including face masks, gloves and other protective equipment. Updated: 16 December 2020

[More than 137,000 people in UK receive first dose of COVID vaccine in one week](#) The majority of the vaccines have been administered to the over-80s, care home workers and NHS staff through more than 70 sites across the UK. Updated: 16 December 2020

[UK and India to accelerate collaboration on vaccines to prevent future pandemics](#) Whilst in India, the Foreign Secretary announced that experts from India and the UK will work together on vaccines for COVID-19 and other deadly viruses. Updated: 16 December 2020

[New UK Government Covid testing site opens in Kilmarnock](#) The UK Government has opened a new walk-through coronavirus testing centre at the Grand Hall in Kilmarnock. Updated: 16 December 2020

[Fifth COVID-19 vaccine starts UK clinical trials](#) Valneva begins first UK clinical trials for its promising COVID-19 vaccine, being developed in Livingston, West Lothian. Updated: 16 December 2020

[Argentina and the UK Joint Webinar: COVID-19 vaccines in Latin America and the Caribbean](#) Argentina and the UK host a virtual seminar on vaccine profiles, distribution challenges and countering vaccine disinformation. Updated: 15 December 2020

[Test to Release for International Travel goes live](#) The Transport Secretary has announced the launch of COVID-19 testing strategy for international arrivals, potentially shortening their self-isolation period. Updated: 15 December 2020

Data

[Mortality Insights from GAD - December 2020](#) The GAD Mortality Insights bulletin provides succinct and accessible information on current developments in the area of longevity research. Updated: 17 December 2020

[Survey of childcare and early years providers and coronavirus \(COVID-19\): wave 2](#) Wave 2 of research with childcare providers in relation to coronavirus (COVID-19). Updated: 17 December 2020

[Number of COVID-19 tests in defence and positive cases in the UK Armed Forces 2020](#) Summary statistics on the number of defence personnel who have had a COVID-19 test; and for the UK Armed Forces, the number of positive cases of COVID-19. Updated: 17 December 2020

[Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme statistics: December 2020](#) Time series and statistics as at 31 October on the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, with analysis by scheme size, sector, geography, gender and flexible furlough. Updated: 17 December 2020

[COVID-19 Schools Infection Survey Round 1, England: November 2020](#) Initial estimates of staff and pupils testing positive for COVID-19 from the COVID-19 Schools Infection Survey across a sample of schools, within high and low prevalence Local Authority areas in England. Updated: 17 December 2020

[Coronavirus and the latest indicators for the UK economy and society: 17 December 2020](#) Early experimental data on the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) on the UK economy and society. Updated: 17 December 2020

[Business insights and impact on the UK economy: 17 December 2020](#) Experimental data from the voluntary fortnightly business survey (BICS) about financial performance, workforce, prices, trade, and business resilience. Updated: 17 December 2020

[Results from Phases 1 to 6 of the NISRA Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Opinion Survey](#) Results from phases 1 to 6 of the NISRA Coronavirus (COVID-19) Opinion Survey. Updated: 17 December 2020

[Home Office – Statistics at Home Office](#) Producing Home Office statistics that count. Updated: 16 December 2020

[Transport use during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) pandemic](#) To monitor the use of the transport system during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Updated: 16 December 2020

[Estimating the prevalence of long-COVID symptoms and COVID-19 complications](#) Estimates of the prevalence and duration of long-COVID symptoms, and rates of adverse events for hospitalised COVID-19 patients compared with those for matched control patients. Updated: 16 December 2020

[Attendance in education and early years settings during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak: 23 March to 10 December 2020](#) A summary of attendance in education settings since Monday 23 March and early years settings since Thursday 16 April. Updated: 15 December 2020

[PPE deliveries \(England\): 7 December to 13 December 2020](#) Experimental statistics showing the latest number of personal protective equipment (PPE) items distributed for use by health and social care services in England. Updated: 15 December 2020

Information, advice and guidance

[Higher education restructuring regime guidance for applicants](#) Details of the restructuring regime for higher education providers in England facing financial difficulties as a result of coronavirus (COVID-19). Updated: 16 December 2020

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): temporary measures to support customers](#) How we are delivering our services during the coronavirus outbreak. Updated: 16 December 2020

[Getting help with daily activities outside your home during coronavirus](#) If you need support while outside your home, this guide explains what you and the people helping you should do to limit the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19). Updated: 15 December 2020

[Tier 3: Very High alert](#) What you can and cannot do in an area in Tier 3 of local restrictions. Updated: 15 December 2020

[Tier 2: High alert](#) What you can and cannot do in an area in Tier 2 of local restrictions. Updated: 15 December 2020

[Travel advice: coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#) Guidance for British people travelling overseas during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, if they are legally permitted to travel internationally. Updated: 15 December 2020

[Tier 1: Medium alert](#) What you can and cannot do in an area in Tier 1 of local restrictions.
Updated: 15 December 2020

[COVID-19 vaccination: guide for healthcare workers](#) Information for frontline healthcare workers on COVID-19 vaccination. Updated: 15 December 2020

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) workforce fund for colleges](#) Funding to support colleges and special post-16 institutions with the costs of staff absences for the period from 1 November 2020 to 31 December 2020. Updated: 15 December 2020

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) workforce fund for schools](#) Funding to support schools facing significant staff absences and financial pressures with the costs of staff cover for the period from 1 November to 31 December 2020. Updated: 15 December 2020

[Coming to the UK for seasonal agricultural work on English farms](#) Advice for seasonal agricultural workers coming to England to pick fruit and vegetables on farms, and their employers. Updated: 15 December 2020

[COVID-19: guidance for providers of accommodation for asylum seekers](#) Guidance aimed at all staff involved in the support of asylum seekers in all accommodation settings. Updated: 15 December 2020

[COVID-19 vaccination: a guide for social care staff](#) Information for frontline social care workers on COVID-19 vaccination. Updated: 15 December 2020

[COVID-19 vaccination: guide for older adults](#) Information for eligible adults on COVID-19 vaccination. Updated: 15 December 2020

For all the latest COVID-19 information released by Public Health England, the Department of Health and Social Care and the World Health Organisation, please find the corresponding links below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-of-health-and-social-care>

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>