

11 December 2020

Councillors' Connection

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All the latest information for residents is available on the [Coronavirus webpages](#) or over the phone on 0115 981 99 11.

COVID-19 vaccine update



Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust and Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust have been selected as two of the nationwide Hospital Hub sites that have started COVID-19 vaccinating this week.

Initially the focus will be on patients who are aged over 80s and care home staff and residents, alongside hospital, wider NHS and social care colleagues.

The trusts have been planning this vaccination roll-out for several months and last week held a simulation event to ensure that their operational model is robust.

Colleagues from across the health and care system have been contributing to the delivery of these plans throughout their development and are confident that they have the appropriate plans in place.

Patient-facing health and social care staff are set to be among those to receive the vaccine first, being in a priority group because of their heightened risk of exposure to the virus.

Over the coming weeks, they will be opening Vaccination Centres across the city and County at sites outside of the hospitals with good transport links. They are also planning the opening of smaller Local Vaccination Services to enable even more convenient access for citizens to get vaccinated.

Details on both of these other routes to the vaccine will be shared in due course.

See the NHS's website here: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-vaccine/>

If there are specific questions about safety and effectiveness of vaccines then the information here may be of use: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/why-vaccination-is-safe-and-important/>

Finally, it is important to note that this is a phased roll-out of the vaccine and it will take many weeks for all of the eligible groups to be vaccinated. Citizens will be contacted when it is their turn to be vaccinated and will be provided with all the relevant information then.

No one will be able to get booked in for a vaccination by calling their GP or turning up at a hospital without an appointment.

Please follow all the current advice on COVID-19 including 'Hands Face Space' at www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/coronavirus

Vital Tier 3 grants announced for eligible businesses



The Borough Council has now outlined plans to ensure vital central government grants reach businesses affected by the current Tier 3 COVID-19 restrictions.

Eligible owners can now apply for the funding at

www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/businesscoronavirus that is over and above any previous grant support.

To qualify for a grant, owners must occupy a property listed as liable for national non-domestic rates and have been instructed to close in line with the current Tier 3 restrictions in the Borough from December 2.

Those who already applied for a grant during the national lockdown period will be contacted with details of how to reapply.

All grants will be processed as quickly as possible with owners asked to ensure all supporting documents are included with any application.

The news builds on the borough distributing over £1.7m of further vital central government grants in November to nearly 500 eligible businesses, totalling over £21m in grants this year.

COVID digital recovery grant to give businesses a further boost



The Borough Council is also giving eligible high street businesses or established business groups another boost with a COVID Digital Recovery Grant that can further help them adapt and improve their online presence or sales.

Small to medium size retail, hospitality, personal care, leisure, tourism and other enterprises in the Borough can now access up to £1,000 over and above

existing central government grant support by visiting <https://bit.ly/3IQWfuG>

Part of the borough's recovery plan on the pandemic, the funds allow businesses to create or improve a website, seek advice and support on the improving their social media presence or create greater online transactional capability.

It can also aid local retail groups or traders' associations supporting or enhancing the development of, for example, an online market place for their town or village.

Applicants must be a High Street business that pays their business rates to the Council or receive small business rate relief with between 1.5 and 30 employees.

All appropriate licences and permissions must be in place and full criteria is available on the webpage.

St Giles' West Bridgford chosen for Rushcliffe's virtual Civic Carol Service



The Mayor Cllr Sue Mallender has confirmed our virtual Civic Carol Service will join that of St Giles' Church in West Bridgford on Sunday December 20 at 7.30pm.

Reverend Proudlove from the church will oversee proceedings and the service is set to include a range of musical styles, with contributions from all ages.

All are invited to the traditional service of Nine Lessons and Carols

which will be streamed online on their website at <http://www.stgilesparish.com/christmas.html>

Congratulations to all nominated for the Celebrating Rushcliffe Awards!



Congratulations to everyone who was shortlisted and a huge thank you to everyone who nominated a local hero for the Celebrating Rushcliffe Awards, which took place on [our YouTube channel](#) last week. The accolades showcased some of the Borough's wonderful volunteers, businesses and environmentalists, clubs, organisations, and the best of its health and wellbeing and food

and drink sectors, mindful of the impact COVID-19 has had on every part of the community and local enterprise.

Over 30 groups and individuals were shortlisted for this year's accolades and the full list of winners is available at <https://www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/> Rushcliffe. Alternatively, you can catch up on all three awards evenings by watching the ceremonies <https://www.youtube.com/user/RushcliffeBC>

Winners are now being presented with their awards. Look out for more on this in the coming days and weeks.

Congratulations from Councillors Richard and Sue Mallender to Lady Bay's The Good Weigh, winners in the Environmental category, and Musicworks and the Heron Music Cafe, winners in the Wellbeing category.

Residents advised how to avoid falls this winter



The County Council are outlining further advice to residents on how to avoid falls this winter.

Their [winter warmth advice](#) is now available and a section about staying steady which includes top tips on preventing a fall

www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/falls

They also recommend reading the informative '[Get Up and Go](#)' guides, which are packed with lots of useful

information including how to reduce the risk of trips and falls in the home and what to do if someone else has a fall.

Residents can contact the County Council on 0300 500 80 80 to get a free copy of the guide.

They are equally highlighting the need to exercise wherever possible. Unfortunately getting older can affect balance, muscle strength and bones, particularly for those over 75 but taking some simple steps can help.

The fear of falling may mean some would rather stay inactive in case they hurt themselves.

However, the evidence shows that long periods of sitting down can do more damage.

By doing regular exercise and stepping up your daily activity, residents can help to improve balance and muscle strength.

Anyone struggling to get out to exercise during the winter months can sign up to free virtual strength and balance classes for the over 55s by visiting [Your Health Your Way](#) and clicking 'refer today' or calling 0115 772 2515.

Homesearch website change



Housing customers and applicants in the Borough are being informed that Homesearch now has a new website with www.homesearch-rushcliffe.org.uk the new place to search for properties.

From today, residents interested in bidding on properties going forward, are invited save the link into their favourites to help check on their applications.

Methods of logging in to the system should not change. Some customers who are registered with multiple local authorities will be contacted separately about any application.

COVID-19 Local Testing Station now in place at Arena



A walk-through testing site for COVID-19 started operating at Rushcliffe Arena car park last Friday (December 4).

The site has been selected for a Local Testing Site by local public health leaders because it is well known, easy to find, and is a fairly large, level space and is a larger facility than the previous mobile testing station in the same location.

It will be open seven days a week from 8am to 8pm but there will be no knock-on effect to those parking to use the leisure centre.

To use the site, people should:

- Have at least one symptom of COVID-19 - a new, continuous cough, a high temperature or loss or change to their sense of smell or taste
- Book a test first before going to the site by calling 119 or visiting gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test
- Walk or cycle to the site wherever possible and if driving, park up using allocated spaces on the site's car park.
- Avoid taking public transport to get to the site or return home
- Stay out of any shops or other premises prior to their test and return home immediately afterwards
- Wear a face mask
- Adhere to social distancing
- Take a form of identification, such as a driving licence, passport, NHS card or utilities bill.

The site is run by the Department of Health and Social Care but tests at the site will be self-administered by those who request them. Parents will carry out tests on their children if they cannot manage to do their own.

Anyone with any issues regarding the site can contact us on 0115 981 9911 or email media@rushcliffe.gov.uk

Census 2021 roles available



Next year will see the Census 2021 take place and there's set to be lots of temporary job roles available for residents at <http://orlo.uk/U4o5s>.

Application windows are open now too for Census Area Managers, team leader and officers amongst others with many more going live in January.

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