



Latest update from Uttlesford District Council – 26 June

This briefing is to keep you updated on the evolving situation around coronavirus (Covid-19). It includes some of the actions being taken in the district as well as other useful information.

For advice and updates:

www.uttlesford.gov.uk/coronavirus

www.twitter.com/UttlesfordDC

www.facebook.com/UttlesfordDC

In this briefing

- Useful information
- Community Response hub
- Support for businesses

Useful information

From the government

- **New guidelines on social distancing come into effect on 4 July** – see www.gov.uk/government/publications/staying-alert-and-safe-social-distancing or for the latest FAQs on what you can and can't do until 4 July, see www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do
- **Working safely during coronavirus** – the government has produced some workplace safety guidance for businesses that are now allowed to open:
 - **Close contact services:** Guidance for people who provide close contact services, including hairdressers, barbers, beauticians, tattooists, sports and massage therapists, dress fitters, tailors and fashion designers: www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19/close-contact-services
 - **Restaurants, pubs, bars and takeaway services:** Guidance for people who work in or run restaurants, pubs, bars, cafes or takeaways: www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19/restaurants-offering-takeaway-or-delivery
- **Businesses that can open from 4 July** – the government has issued new guidance on which businesses can open from 4 July: www.uttlesford.gov.uk/article/6742/Pubs-restaurants-and-other-businesses-wanting-to-open-on-4-July
- **Test and trace** – latest guidance: www.uttlesford.gov.uk/article/6710/NHS-test-and-trace-service

From Essex County Council

- **Free business support** – free advice and support for business to grow during the Covid-19 pandemic and beyond: www.uttlesford.gov.uk/business/article/6731/Free-business-support-from-Essex-County-Council

- **Registrars** – 15 registrars in Essex are now available to register a birth only. A [registrar](#) will be at Dunmow Library, but people must [book an appointment](#) before they visit. There will be no registrar service available from the Uttlesford District Council offices in Saffron Walden.

From Uttlesford District Council

- **Reopening High Streets safely:** We have been working with local retail businesses, parish and town councils and partners to help support the safe opening of town centres and high streets for businesses and shoppers. The situation is being kept under review.
We continue to remind shoppers to follow the advice on how to stay safe while out shopping, where to park and getting further updates as new businesses open:
www.uttlesford.gov.uk/article/6502/Opening-up-advice-for-shoppers-and-visitors
- **Safety tips for taxi and private hire vehicle drivers and passengers** – for drivers, the [Essex Residence Forum](#) has put together a list of some things they can do to protect themselves and their passengers from coronavirus: www.uttlesford.gov.uk/article/6727/Coronavirus-safety-tips-for-taxi-and-private-hire-vehicle-drivers
And for passengers there are some similar safety tips:
www.uttlesford.gov.uk/article/6728/Coronavirus-safety-tips-for-taxi-and-private-hire-vehicle-passengers. These are based on government guidance on working safely in a vehicle.
- **Scams** – we have updated our website to include warnings about fake Facebook giveaways: www.uttlesford.gov.uk/article/6649/Scams-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak.
- **Exceptional Hardship Fund** – for those who are suffering financial hardship due to unforeseen circumstances such as the coronavirus outbreak: www.uttlesford.gov.uk/ehf.
- **Staying well** – guidance for staying physically and mentally well during the coronavirus outbreak: www.uttlesford.gov.uk/article/6688/Wellbeing-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak

Community Response Hub

The Community Response Hub is coming to the end of week 15 of supporting our vulnerable residents in the district. During the 'next steps' of the recovery phase we will continue to offer advice and support for all residents, but especially for those that have been shielding to help ease into the next stage whilst staying within government guidelines and remaining safe and well.

We will be helping to address any emerging issues, such as mental health and domestic abuse, by ensuring the appropriate referrals are made to the specialist services available and signposting our residents through the correct pathways.

The partnerships managed by the Community, Health and Wellbeing Team are now also holding their regular meetings virtually, allowing discussions around those emerging issues, and where they are able identifying funding to help address those problems.

The Community Safety Team has introduced a 'dial in' hub for partners to address any reported anti-social behaviour issues and they are now also facilitating a dial in for town and parish councils to enable any of their concerns to be addressed.

Partnership working with our town and parish councils is, more than ever, key to our work within our communities going forward alongside our volunteers.

Support for businesses

- **Uttlesford Discretionary Grant Fund** – The scheme closed on 21 June and we are not accepting any new applications at this point in time. We have received more than 230 applications. Those that are assessed as meeting the eligibility criteria will be prioritised for grants. We would remind applicants not to chase their application – our officers are working as quickly as they can and will notify all applicants of a decision as soon as possible.
- **Business support grants** – We have paid out more than £18 million in government support grants to around 1,500 local businesses. Details of the grants available and the criteria can be found at www.uttlesford.gov.uk/covid19-business-grants-fund. The online application form is available at www.uttlesford.gov.uk/business-grant-fund-application-form.
If there is a village hall or community centre in your parish that is run by a trust or something similar and is in receipt of Small Business Rate Relief, it may be eligible for the Small Business Grant (www.gov.uk/guidance/check-if-youre-eligible-for-the-coronavirus-small-business-grant-fund) or the Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Grant (www.gov.uk/guidance/check-if-youre-eligible-for-the-coronavirus-retail-hospitality-and-leisure-grant-fund). Lots of village halls have already received grant funding.
- **Business Growth Grant** – We are promoting the South East Business Boost's Growth Grant scheme which is now open for applications:
www.uttlesford.gov.uk/business/article/6720/Business-Growth-Grant.