



**Rutland**  
County Council

# Briefing

## **RUTLAND COUNTY COUNCIL WEEKLY ROUNDUP** **5 February 2021**

Good afternoon,

After several weeks of gradual decline in Rutland's COVID-19 numbers, we have seen a sharp increase in our infection rate, with local cases per 100,000 people now back above 200.

By far the largest contributing factor to this increase has been a localised outbreak at HMP Stocken, in the North of the County. The Ministry of Justice, together with Public Health England, have responded in order to bring the outbreak under control, with support from our own Public Health Team.

Even though the source of the increase is known to us, we understand there will be concern among our residents – particularly in those communities nearest to Stocken. We want to provide reassurance that every effort is being made to combat the outbreak and reduce the risk of transmission.

In addition to providing support for this very specific situation, we've also this week reached out to Rutland's local businesses to make sure they have everything they need to keep their staff and customers safe. Many of our local businesses are currently closed due to lockdown. However, those which remain open have a vital role to play in helping to stop the virus. This can be by supporting staff to work from home or implementing COVID-secure guidelines for their industry or sector.

We know this has been a punishing time for local businesses, who are already stretched because of COVID, which is why we want to make it clear that we are here to help and support them to take whatever steps are needed.

Regards,

Mark

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## 1. COVID-19

### a. Latest situation

As of 8.30am on Friday 5 February, 3,892,459 people have tested positive for coronavirus in the UK.

As of 8.30am on 5 February, of those tested positive for coronavirus in the UK, 112,660 people have died across all settings within 28 days of a positive test.

As of 8.30am on 5 February, 10,490,487 people have received their first dose vaccination and 501,957 have received their second dose vaccination.

These figures will also be published on the daily dashboard:

[coronavirus.data.gov.uk](https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk).

Rutland recorded 92 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the latest week (25 to 31 January). This is an increase of 23 cases compared to the previous week. This equates to 230 cases per 100,000 people. The average area in England had 239.

A total of 43 coronavirus-related deaths have been registered in Rutland as of 5 February.

### b. HMP Stocken

Rutland's recent increase in Covid-19 cases has been affected by a localised outbreak at HMP Stocken. Our Public Health Team are working with the Prison Outbreak Control Team and Public Health England to manage this.

The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) has made clear that its priority is to limit the spread of the virus and protect the lives of those who live and work in the prison.

Prior to this, HMP Stocken has been free of COVID for 11 months. More information on how the MoJ manages COVID-19 in prisons can be found online:

[www.gov.uk/government/news/managing-the-pandemic-in-prisons](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/managing-the-pandemic-in-prisons)

### c. Vaccination centre update

Rutland's COVID-19 vaccination centre at Catmose has now administered the first vaccination to 94.7% of patients aged over 80, along with 93.5% of those aged between 75-79 and 25.7% of those aged 70-74.

Residents of all 11 care homes, and approximately 800 health and social care staff have also now been vaccinated. Health and social care workers are continuing to be offered vaccinations at NHS staff sites at the Leicester Hospitals.

Rutland Primary Care Network (PCN) is now inviting patients from cohort 4 – patients aged over 70 and those who are [clinically extremely vulnerable](#). There is another group of vulnerable patients (cohort 6 – people who have long term conditions) who will be contacted shortly.

Patients aged over 70 and those who are clinically extremely vulnerable will receive invitations to book appointments over the next two weeks. Invitations will be sent via text message to those with a mobile phone, or by telephone. The PCN have other systems in place for those who cannot use the phone, to make sure no one is missed.

### Second vaccination

All vaccination centres are working to the same rules and cannot administer second vaccinations at this time.

People who have their first vaccination at a mass vaccination centre will need to return there for their second dose. Rutland PCN are hoping to receive the information that will allow them to book second vaccinations very soon. The second vaccination will be 11-12 weeks after the first dose.

It is expected that second vaccinations will start in March. You are not fully protected until you have had both vaccinations.

### Vaccinations for priority groups

People who are currently a priority for COVID vaccinations, who have not had it yet, are also being offered the ability to book a vaccination at one of three hospitals sites, if that is preferable to local arrangements through their GPs.

People in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland are eligible to book a vaccination if they are waiting for their first dose and:

- Are 75 years of age and over
- Are 70 years of age and over and clinically extremely vulnerable (not including pregnant women and those under 16 years of age) and hold a shielding letter.

**People will already hold this letter and must not contact their GP requesting one**

To make a booking, people must have [an NHS number](#). Bookings can be made at one of the following hospital sites by clicking on the relevant link:

- Glenfield Hospital: [Book here](#)
- Leicester General Hospital: [Book here](#)
- Leicester Royal Infirmary: [Book here](#)

Photo ID and proof of eligibility (a current shielding letter) will need to be provided on arrival for clinically extremely vulnerable patients. Those aged 70+ will need to provide Photo ID only.

#### **d. COVID-19 Business Grants**

The Council continues to invite applications for grant support from businesses who do not pay rates and who do not necessarily have fixed property costs. Following the launch last week, we have processed and approved six claims for support totalling circa £65,000 to 21 businesses.

Information about who is eligible to make the claim is contained within the policy on the website. The policy and application process [can be viewed online here](#).

#### **e. Lateral Flow Testing**

Up to one third of people who have coronavirus show no visible symptoms. Lateral flow antigen tests are a new test kit used to test asymptomatic people, making it easier to identify and isolate more people who are at high likelihood of spreading the virus.

Lateral flow devices do not require a laboratory to process the test and can produce results within an hour. Swabbing and processing of these tests must currently be conducted at a dedicated testing site by trained personnel.

Anyone who tests positive must self-isolate along with their household immediately and their contacts will be traced. Eligible individuals who test positive – and contacts who are required to self-isolate. Those who test negative will need to continue to follow all national guidance.

We are currently finalising plans for Lateral Flow Testing Centre in Rutland will be able to provide more information about this in the coming weeks.

#### **f. Home working guidance for employers**

Businesses in Rutland are being urged to remember the latest national COVID-19 restrictions and support their employees to work from home, to avoid spreading the virus.

We understand that this has been an incredibly difficult time for businesses and having to adapt working patterns and environments has caused an additional strain.

The current lockdown rules for England state that people can only leave home for work if their job cannot reasonably be done from home. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Critical national infrastructure
- Construction
- Manufacturing
- Childcare or education

- Essential public services
- Essential retail, such as supermarkets and pharmacies

Employers are required to discuss working arrangements with their staff and ensure every possible step is taken to facilitate home working, including providing suitable IT and equipment to enable remote working.

All businesses must follow these guidelines, making sure that employees can work from home wherever possible and have access to support. We are in the process of contacting local businesses to remind them of this guidance and make sure they have access to the relevant information.

Further details on this can be viewed online at: [www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19).

## 2. WIDER COUNCIL OPERATIONS

### **a. Business rates billing**

In a written statement this week, the Financial Secretary to the Treasury asked billing authorities like Rutland to “consider issuing business rates bills after the Chancellor has set out his plan at the Budget [3 March 2021]”. This suggests very strongly that there will be additional reliefs or discounts announced in the Budget, for which we would have to issue new bills. We had previously intended to issue bills earlier than that date but will now defer billing until later. If reliefs are similar to those granted in 2020/21 then billing should proceed quickly. If there are changes to the relief system which requires a software upgrade then bills may be later.

### **b. Government funding reforms**

The Government has indicated that funding reforms are going to happen in 2022/23. In a response to a question in Parliament, Robert Jenrick could only say there would be an “opportunity” to implement the funding reforms in 2022-23.

If there are going to be major funding reforms in 2022/23, then we would expect a consultation paper published in July 2021. Rutland’s position remains unchanged and we will proceed with our plans for reducing the financial gap.

### **c. Rutland Draft Annual Budget 2021/22**

Consultation on Rutland's latest Draft Budget closed on Friday 29 January. The Budget is due to return to Cabinet on Tuesday 16 February, followed by Full Council on Monday 22 February.

All responses received as part of the budget consultation have been anonymised before being published on the Council's the website and can be viewed here: [www.rutland.gov.uk/budget](http://www.rutland.gov.uk/budget).

Thank you to all those who took part or helped to promote the consultation.

### **d. Design Guide Consultation**

A reminder that consultation on a Draft Design Guide for Rutland is now live and runs until Friday 12 March 2021.

The design guidelines, which cover Rutland and South Kesteven, aim to help improve the quality of new build developments in the area by setting out the Council's high design expectations and detailing the steps that must be taken for anyone wishing to apply for planning permission.

The guidance will also be used to assist with the assessment of development proposals, as well as informing anyone with an interest in design in the area.

The Design Guide has been funded from a special grant awarded by the Government to Rutland and South Kesteven, on the basis that this would be developed jointly between the two Councils.

The draft documents are available to view on Rutland County Council's website, where you can also find a link to complete an online consultation survey. Full details can be found at: [www.rutland.gov.uk/designguide](http://www.rutland.gov.uk/designguide).

### **e. Local Plan Submission**

Rutland's Local Plan has been submitted to the Secretary of State, for independent examination.

Regulation 19 Consultation inviting residents, businesses and other stakeholders to comment on the soundness of the Local Plan took place between August and November last year.

Responses submitted as part of the Regulation 19 Consultation, together with the Local Plan and all supporting documents, were submitted to the Secretary of State on Wednesday 3 February 2021.

The Secretary of State will appoint an independent Planning Inspectorate, who will conduct an independent review of the plan and all of the representations received, to determine whether the plan is sound. This is called an Examination in Public.

The Council will be advised of the timetable for the public examination after the independent Planning Inspector has been appointed.



For more information about the Local Plan process in Rutland, including details of the submission made to the Secretary of State, visit:

[www.rutland.gov.uk/localplanreview](http://www.rutland.gov.uk/localplanreview) or email: [localplan@rutland.gov.uk](mailto:localplan@rutland.gov.uk).

#### **f. Safer Internet Day**

Rutland County Council are supporting Safer Internet Day 2021, with people across the county encouraged to take part in free webinars aiming to raise cyber awareness and help everyone stay safe online.

The free sessions are due to take place on Tuesday 9 and Thursday 11 February, and will cover topics like:

- Keeping youngsters safe online, including – advice about home schooling
- Device safety and protection
- Password guidance and account security
- Protecting your personal information
- Using social media safely
- Risks of free or public Wi-Fi
- Social engineering and phishing emails/texts
- Telephone and letterbox scams
- Where to report scams
- Online shopping and online banking safely
- Using tech responsibly, respectfully, critically and creatively
- Signposting to more sources of support and resources

Both Internet Safety Day webinars are being organised through the website Eventbrite and can be booked for free:

- Tuesday 9 February at 6.30pm. Book online: [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/136800167985](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/136800167985)
- Thursday 11 February at 3.30pm: Book online: [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/137412521551](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/137412521551)

For more information about Safer Internet Day, visit: [www.saferinternet.org.uk](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk).

#### **g. Carers Passport**

A new 'Carers Passport' campaign is being launched in conjunction with Leicester and Leicestershire. The campaign aims to provide support to carers across the three areas through an ID card that will enable them to access a range of services, as well as acting as a valuable identification document in case of emergencies.

The Carers Passport will be recognised across Rutland, Leicester and Leicestershire and aid carers in going about their daily tasks. The free ID card is available as a



wallet sized card, downloadable onto smartphones or can be won with a lanyard if preferred.

The card will enable carers to access supermarkets and shops in the vulnerable time slots, visit their patients in care facilities or private homes easier and collect necessities such as medicines or essentials which often involves multiple trips by acting as an easily recognisable ID card.

Carers that are registered at Support for Carers will receive the passport in the post, or they can contact the carers team at Rutland County Council on [01572 722577](tel:01572722577) or [carersteam@Rutland.gov.uk](mailto:carersteam@Rutland.gov.uk).

### 3. GOVERNANCE AND DECISION MAKING

#### a. Look ahead

The following meetings are due to take place next week (week commencing Monday 8 February 2021):

- [Monday 8 February - Parish Council Forum](#)
- [Tuesday 9 February - Planning and Licensing Committee](#)
- [Thursday 11 February - Schools' Forum](#)

The latest version of the RCC Forward Plan [can be viewed online, here](#).

### 4. STAFF NEWS

#### a. Starters

We welcomed the following new starters to RCC in the past week:

- Andy Tatt – Principal Highways Manager

### 5. RCC IN THE NEWS

#### a. Press releases issued this week

- [Free events will help people to stay safe online](#)
- [Home working guidance for local businesses](#)
- [Rutland Local Plan submission](#)
- [Air Vice Marshall Nigel Sudborough](#)
- [Flags lowered in honour of Captain Sir Tom Moore](#)

- [Remembering Captain Sir Tom Moore](#)
- [Consultation seeks views on new design guidelines for Rutland](#)

**b. Other media coverage**

- [An outbreak of coronavirus has been confirmed at HMP Stocken in Rutland](#)
- [Plans to extend Greetham Quarry to within 150m of homes prompts fears and frustration](#)
- [Have your say on planning design guidelines in Rutland and South Kesteven](#)
- ['Do not travel around Rutland for daily exercise'](#)
- [Rutland Youth Council launches campaign to tackle food waste in county](#)

**ENDS**