

Dear Residents,

Here is the latest news:

Key updates/actions

- **Vaccination:** With the vaccination roll-out underway, regular information is being updated on the [EPUT](#) website and the dedicated [Essex COVID vaccine website](#). Figures are now also being reported by the national programme on a STP/ICS footprint – the latest weekly figures can be found at <https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/covid-19-vaccinations/>.
- **COVID-19 testing:** Testing options includes four rapid testing **LFD** sites available across the Borough, including a new site on the central seafront in Unit 21. The St Aidan's site has relocated to Belfairs Methodist Church, in Eastwood Road North, Leigh-on-Sea, and opens on Saturday 10 April. Standard opening times will be Monday 8am to 4pm, Wednesday 8am to 3:30pm, Tuesday to Sunday 8am to 6pm. You don't need an appointment to get tested at the Belfairs site.

Full details of all the booking options are available at www.southend.gov.uk/gettested. Please continue to support and promote the various testing options available across the Borough to your local residents. Testing is key to stop the spread and identify cases.

- **Government reintroduces confirmatory PCR testing for assisted testing:** Read more <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested>
- **Visit Southend Safely:** as non-essential retail, gyms, hairdressers and other personal care businesses are due to reopen on Monday 12 April, people are urged to plan ahead. Advice remains to minimise travel and work from home where possible. Read [our media release](#).
- **Keep Southend tidy:** Additional resources are in place to manage the additional waste created as the Borough welcomes back visitors. A reminder to use bins or take litter home. Read [our media release](#).
- **Thank you to keyworkers:** from the Youth Council. A mug design competition was held and the winning design was printed on mugs and delivered to the fundraising team at Southend University Hospital, as a thank you for their essential service. Read [our media release](#)
- **Business grants:**
New Government business grants in place from November lockdown:
6,834 grant payments totaling £15,302,393 with 1,035 outstanding out of 5,649 applications received

Discretionary grants: Paid £1.941m to 611 businesses

Small business and Retail, Hospitality and Leisure grants: Paid c. £37.5m to 3,086 businesses

- **Coronavirus case data:** This is published on [our website](#) and now also includes the daily 7 day rate of positive cases per 100,000. Some of the data from that page has been pulled out and is below.

7-day rate of positive cases as of **9 April 2021 is 41.0 per 100,000** (slightly up from 35.5 per 100,000 on 1 April). The rate in the **60 and over age bracket is 15.4 per 100,000** (down from 19.8 on 1 April).

- **ONS death data:** Southend-on-Sea residents' deaths registered inside and outside of Southend-on-Sea with any mention of COVID-19 on the death certificate that occurred up to 26 March but were registered up to 3 April 2021: **666 (+4)**.
- **National and local data:** A link to the national [NHS Digital](#) information shows information by time intervals (for example, 3-days, 7-days, 30-days, etc), as well as the total numbers and requests or referrals to NHS 111.
- Members of the public who need to self-isolate but are stuck and have no local support from friends and family can call the helpline on 01702 212497. A full list of support contact numbers is available [on the corporate website](#)
- **Councillor queries and out of hours**

Out of hours:

Urgent issues arising out of hours should be reported to the out of hours service in accordance with standard practice.

The phone number is 01702 215000.

The out of hours service will then contact the relevant Council officer who is on-call or the relevant contractor such as Veolia. They also have access to the town link radio and CCTV.

- Please visit www.southend.gov.uk/coronavirus our webpage for local people.

- Please sign up for [regular e-newsletters on Coronavirus:](#)

Dear Councillors,

Here is your Weekly Briefing.

Key updates/actions

- **Vaccination:** [In an announcement](#), the JCVI has published phase two vaccination advice, setting out that the most effective way to minimise hospitalisations and deaths is to continue to prioritise people by age. [The JCVI recommends](#) adults aged 18-49 are prioritised in descending order: those aged 40-49; those aged 30-39; those aged 18-29. The DoHSC has confirmed that all four parts of the UK will follow the recommended

approach, with the understanding that age is assessed to be the strongest factor linked to mortality, morbidity and hospitalisations.

- [The Prime Minister confirmed](#) that adults over 50, the clinically vulnerable and health and social care workers have now been offered a coronavirus vaccine, and that the UK is moving to the next phase of the vaccination programme.
- With the vaccination roll-out underway, regular information is being updated on the [EPUT](#) website and the dedicated [Essex COVID vaccine website](#). Figures are now also being reported by the national programme on a STP/ICS footprint – the latest weekly figures can be found at <https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/covid-19-vaccinations/>.
- **COVID-19 testing:** Testing options includes four rapid testing **LFD** sites available across the Borough, including a new site on the central seafront in Unit 21.

Full details of all the booking options are available at www.southend.gov.uk/gettested Please continue to support and promote the various testing options available across the Borough to your local residents. Testing is key to stop the spread and identify cases.

Rapid Covid-19 self-test kits are being offered to everyone living and working in Southend-on-Sea under the Community Collect initiative to support the government's roadmap out of lockdown. Read the media release on [our website](#).

- **The Government has reintroduced confirmatory PCR testing for assisted testing:** Read more <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested>
- **All university students** to return to in-person teaching from Step 3 of the Government's roadmap, no earlier than 17 May. Read more on [GOV.UK](#)
- **Guidance for sports settings** has been released covering the [safe provision of team sport, contact combat sport and organised sport events](#).
- **Updated safety guidance for close contact, hospitality and non-essential services is available.** It includes additional information for different sectors on how coronavirus restrictions will be eased.
- **Visit Southend Safely:** non-essential retail, gyms, hairdressers and other personal care businesses reopened on Monday 12 April, with people still being urged to plan ahead. Advice remains to minimise travel and work from home where possible. Read [our media release](#).
- **Business grants:** Business grants in place from November lockdown: 6,896 grant payments totaling £15.37m

Restart Grants: 236 grant payments totaling £1.88m

Discretionary grants: Paid £1.941m to 611 businesses

Small business and Retail, Hospitality and Leisure grants: Paid c. £37.5m to 3,086 businesses

- **Coronavirus case data:** This is published on [our website](#) and now also includes the daily 7 day rate of positive cases per 100,000. Some of the data from that page has been pulled out and is below.
- **7-day rate** of positive cases as of **16 April 2021 is 21.3 per 100,000** (down from 41 per 100,000 on 9 April). **Please see graphic attached.** The rate in the **60 and over age bracket is 13.2 per 100,000** (down from 15.4 on 9 April). **Please see weekly graphics attached.**
- **ONS death data:** Southend-on-Sea residents' deaths registered inside and outside of Southend-on-Sea with any mention of COVID-19 on the death certificate that occurred up to 2 April but were registered up to 10 April 2021: **667 (+1)**.
- **National and local data:** A link to the national [NHS Digital](#) information shows information by time intervals (for example, 3-days, 7-days, 30-days, etc), as well as the total numbers and requests or referrals to NHS 111.
- Members of the public who need to self-isolate but are stuck and have no local support from friends and family can call the helpline on 01702 212497. A full list of support contact numbers is available [on the corporate website](#)
- Please visit www.southend.gov.uk/coronavirus for the latest information.
- Please sign up for [regular e-newsletters on Coronavirus:](#)