

Update and Newsletter, 04 July 2020

Dear All,

You will all be aware that as of today Government guidance will allow people to keep a social distance of 'one meter plus'; pubs, restaurants, hotels and hairdressers can re-open; and two households will be able to meet up in any setting. With the easing of lockdown restrictions, the health of the whole country is dependent on every single one of us acting responsibly.

As the first peak of Coronavirus cases recedes and the planning for the future reset and recovery proceeds, we can never be complacent about the ongoing risk of a second surge in cases. Kent County Council's work on both "Response" and "Recovery" to Covid-19 will continue side by side for some time yet.

Over the last few weeks, as much effort has gone into ensuring Kent County Council are ready to deal with any local outbreaks as has gone in to supporting our residents and our businesses as they navigate safely and effectively through to a less restricted life and a return to economic health and vitality.

A new campaign was launched on Thursday, encouraging people to 'Protect Kent and Medway' by playing their part if contacted by the NHS Test and Trace programme. It is designed to raise awareness and understanding (and reduce confusion) amongst residents and communities of the Test and Trace system and the Kent and Medway Outbreak Management Plan, and how they are operating locally. It aims to instill a sense of personal and collective responsibility amongst communities to stop the spread of the virus by knowing how to protect themselves and others. As leaders of local Public Health advice and guidance, all of us at Kent County Council want our residents to feel assured that the approach to Test and Trace and outbreak management is well managed and effective.

All of us at Kent County Council have put as much effort into supporting the county through and out of this period of crisis as we have in keeping people safe. This recent statement <https://kccmediahub.net/stay-safe-this-weekend-a-message-from-kcc-leader-roger-gough745>, gives a flavour of some of the things that have been done. There is of course far more – opening Household Waste and Recycling Centres; providing PPE; repairing roads; welcome people to our country parks; continuing to deliver services to vulnerable people; supporting schools and businesses to name but a few.

Finally, I thought you might like to see the latest KCC newsletter - <https://mailchi.mp/kent.gov.uk/updates-from-kent-county-council> - which has gone out to all those who have subscribed to Kent County Council's recently launched information service for residents. You can sign up for these regular updates via the following link:

<https://mailchi.mp/kent.gov.uk/subscribe>

So much of what I have said above requires a high level of community action and access to up to date information will play a key part in this alongside the information available on the kent.gov website.

As we move into a period which sees us having more freedom to do what we want than has been the case for some time, I wish you all a very happy and safe weekend and look forward to seeing you all very soon -whether in person or “virtually”.

With my very best wishes

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