



Dear resident

As lockdown eases and society gradually begins to reopen, our latest e-newsletter includes a range of coronavirus-related updates and guidance for Hillingdon residents.

The NHS Test and Trace service is now available to everyone, and allows people to check their symptoms, access a test and help identify people they came into recent contact with. Anyone with a new, continuous cough, high temperature or change in their sense of smell/taste should immediately self-isolate and [book a test](#).

Primary schools in Hillingdon have started welcoming back children in nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. Secondary schools, sixth forms and colleges are also working towards the possibility of providing face-to-face contact with young people in Year 10 and year 12 to help them prepare for exams next year.

In accordance with the latest government guidelines, you will be required to wear a face covering on public transport from Monday 15 June. Face masks can reduce the spread of the virus in enclosed spaces where social distancing isn't possible and where you will come into contact with people you do not normally meet.

If you have friends or relatives travelling to England from overseas, including Britons, they must now self-isolate for 14 days, with some limited exceptions. A breach of self-isolation could result in a £1,000 fixed penalty notice, or potential prosecution.

All of our award-winning parks and open spaces have remained open during the coronavirus pandemic, and you can meet outside in groups of up to six people from different households, as long as you maintain a social distance of two metres at all times.

If you are shielding, you can now leave your home and spend time outdoors with members of your own household. If you live alone, you can go outside with one person from another household as long as social distancing guidelines are adhered to.

From tomorrow, the government has also advised that single adult households - adults living alone or single parents with children under 18 - are allowed to form a '[support bubble](#)' with one other household.

We will begin to see more local shops reopen over the next few weeks, and the council is offering a new package of support to help businesses to reopen safely. We would like to encourage residents to shop locally and support the borough's high streets. To help the local economy return to some level of normality, drivers will once again be required to pay to park in council-owned public car parks and on-street pay and display bays. You can read more about this below.

Thank you again to all of Hillingdon's key workers who are protecting and supporting the local community, and to our residents who continue to follow government advice on coronavirus. Please remember to keep a safe distance from others and continue to wash your hands regularly.

You can keep up to date with the latest government coronavirus advice and council service updates on our [website](#) and our [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) pages.





Support for businesses

The council is assisting businesses across the borough during this difficult time by providing a range of targeted support to help the local economy to bounce back.

We are continuing to provide financial assistance through business support grants and this now includes the Local Authority Discretionary Grants Fund. This fund is aimed at small businesses which were not eligible for the Small Business Grant Fund or the Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Fund. Applications for the Local Authority Discretionary Grants close on Friday 19 June and you must read the full guidance before applying.

We are also offering a new package of support for businesses to help them to reopen safely for both employees and customers.

The new support services include:

- Providing a free street marking service for premises to ensure a consistent approach across the borough.
- Providing assistance with tables and chairs licence applications.
- Providing support and templates for Covid Secure Workplace Risk Assessments.
- Providing guidance for food, licensed and hospitality premises preparing to reopen.

[Find out more](#)



Parking update

From Monday 15 June, we will be reinstating parking restrictions and charges that had been temporarily lifted in response to the pandemic.

A number of parking concessions, including free and unlimited parking in council car parks and on-street bays, were introduced by the council at the end of March to support residents and key workers.

As lockdown eases and the council seeks to help the borough and its economy return to some level of normality, drivers will once again be required to pay to park in council-owned public car parks and on-street pay and display bays.

The issuing of free emergency residential permits, also in place since March, is under review but will remain in force until further notice.

Hillingdon will continue to allow NHS/care-related key workers to park free of charge in the borough. Other concessions, for blue badge holders whose permits have expired, will be honoured until 30 September.

[Read more](#)

Waste and recycling update

If you're doing a spring clean, our Waste Weekends at Tavistock Road, West Drayton have resumed for Hillingdon residents.

Residents will be required to show their HillingdonFirst card or a driving licence and a household bill.

New measures are in place to limit the spread of coronavirus and ensure that visitors adhere to social distancing guidelines.

Additionally, from Monday 15 June, Harefield Civic Amenity Site will be open Monday to Sunday, 8am to 6pm.

[Find out more](#)

Schools begin to reopen for more children

During the lockdown period, 87 Hillingdon schools remained open to support vulnerable children and children of critical workers.

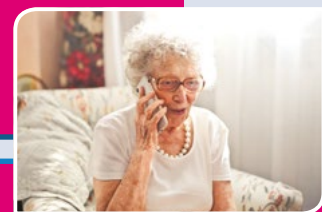
Primary schools have now begun to welcome back other children in nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6, to ensure that these children can benefit from attending whilst safely limiting the numbers within each school.

The council is providing support to help schools introduce protective measures to reduce the risk of spreading the virus. Schools will limit the amount of contact between different groups of children with smaller class sizes, introduce more frequent cleaning and encourage good hand and respiratory hygiene. The council has also provided schools with PPE and is offering a mental health support service to help parents and teachers cope with personal concerns and the pressures of teaching during COVID-19.

From Monday 15 June, some secondary schools, sixth form, and further education colleges will begin to offer some face-to-face support to Year 10 and 12 pupils. Please contact schools individually for more information.

For those years who are unable to return yet, there are a range of [online education resources](#).

Supporting residents most at risk



The council continues to work with local organisations and volunteer groups to offer support to residents most at risk.

If you are unable to leave the house because you're ill, because of your caring role or if you are self-isolating due to the coronavirus and do not have a friend, neighbour or family member available to support you, then we can offer:

- help with food shopping
- emergency food parcels for eligible residents
- prescription registering and delivery
- a regular telephone call for those feeling isolated or struggling with their emotions

- information and advice on the welfare benefits system
- dog walking and posting mail

If you would like to use this service, email COVID19Hub@hillington.gov.uk or call 020 3949 5786 from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday. It is closed on Saturdays and Sundays.

Hillingdon in Bloom



Whether you're planting your first pot plant or you're a seasoned gardener, our virtual [Hillingdon in Bloom](#) gardening competition has something for all ages and abilities.

We're asking residents to enter photos for the competition by email, with categories including best first-time entrant, best residential garden and best hanging basket. Our new best rainbow display category encourages residents to create a colourful display in your garden, balcony or plant pot to celebrate and thank all our key workers in Hillingdon.

Gardening not only keeps your body fit and active, but it also has many benefits for your mental health and wellbeing. You can watch video tutorials and top gardening tips on our Facebook, Twitter and Instagram pages, including how to plant a hanging basket and growing plants from seeds.

To enter, email a photo to inbloom@hillington.gov.uk and tell us why you think you should win. The deadline for all entries is Friday 31 July.



The Reading Agency and Libraries Present

SILLY SQUAD

Summer Reading Challenge 2020



Illustrations © Laura Ellen Anderson 2020

Children aged 4 to 11 can now take part in this year's Silly Squad-themed virtual Summer Reading Challenge.

Read lots of books, take part in activities, unlock digital badges and earn a certificate!

[Find out more](#)