



Dear resident,

From today (Monday 16 August), people who have been fully vaccinated and those aged under 18 no longer need to self-isolate if they are identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19.

Young people in Hillingdon aged over 16 are now eligible to attend any of the walk-in vaccination sites in north-west London. Find out more at www.nwlondonccg.nhs.uk/coronavirus/vaccine-centres.

In addition, vaccines are available for children aged 12 to 15 who have a higher risk of getting seriously ill from COVID-19 or who live with someone at high risk of catching it. Please talk to your GP to find out more.

I encourage residents to get tested regularly and to take both doses of the COVID-19 vaccine when offered for stronger and longer lasting protection.

As we learn to live with COVID-19, please continue to play your part in keeping your loved ones and our community safe.



Latest government guidance

Individuals who are fully vaccinated and those aged under 18 no longer need to self-isolate if they are identified by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of someone with COVID-19.

They are advised to take a PCR test as soon as possible to check if they have the virus and for variants of concern. You can order a PCR home test online or by calling 119 or going to a test site.



Coronavirus remains a serious health risk. You should stay cautious to help protect yourself and others. The government recommends:

- meeting outside, or opening windows and doors for indoor visitors
- staying at home if you think you have symptoms and taking a PCR test
- wearing face coverings in crowded and enclosed places and on public transport
- getting tested regularly even if you don't have symptoms of COVID-19
- checking in to venues when you go out
- washing your hands with soap regularly, and for at least 20 seconds
- getting vaccinated if you're aged 16 or over (or aged 12 to 15 if COVID-19 poses a serious health risk).

[Read the latest government guidance](#)

Heritage open days return to Hillingdon

Every September, venues across the borough throw open their doors to celebrate Hillingdon's heritage, community and history.

It's your chance to see hidden places and try out new experiences. 'Edible England' is this year's theme and food is a key topic for many of the historically themed events. There's a huge range of free activities on offer including a vintage car rally, nature walk, and guided tours of an archaeological dig.

Events take place until Sunday 19 September.



[Find out more](#)

August Bank Holiday waste and recycling collection dates

To minimise disruption to waste and recycling collections over the August Bank Holiday, we will be working on Saturday 4 September.

Normal collection day	Revised collection day
Monday 30 August (Bank Holiday)	Tuesday 31 August
Tuesday 31 August	Wednesday 1 September
Wednesday 1 September	Thursday 2 September
Thursday 2 September	Friday 3 September
Friday 3 September	Saturday 4 September

Please leave your rubbish out for collection by 6am, near your front gate, but not on the pavement. Separate arrangements are in place for flats and business premises.

[Read more](#)

New textile recycling service

From Monday 20 September, our textile collections will change. We're enhancing the service and making it easier and quicker for you to recycle unwanted clothes, shoes and accessories (such as scarves, gloves and jewellery).

Instead of offering kerbside collections, we've partnered with the charity TRAIID to run a free home collection scheme – and you can even include small electrical items.

This new service is open to all residents – including for the first time residents living in flats (who were previously unable to use our textile kerbside collection service).

The service allows you to book a collection of a minimum of one large bag or three small carrier bags of textiles on a day that suits you.



[Find out more](#)

Meet our recycling officers and collect your free recycling bags

Our recycling officers will be at various locations to answer your questions on all things waste and recycling. Find out about the services we offer to help you recycle more – and collect your free recycling bags.

The team will be at the following locations from 10am to 4pm:

- Hayes town centre on Friday 27 August
- Ickenham Village Hall on Wednesday 1 September
- Duckpond Market, Ruislip on Sunday 5 September
- Uxbridge High Street on Tuesday 21 September
- Yiewsley High Street on Wednesday 22 September
- Hayes town centre on Thursday 23 September

[Read more](#)



Heated outdoor pool at Uxbridge lido

On Saturday 7 August, the lido at Hillingdon Sports and Leisure Complex in Uxbridge was heated for the first time as part of a joint initiative between the council and its leisure centre provider Better to enable visitors to use the historic outdoor pool all year round.

The council has invested £370,000 in the project which will provide more swimming capacity in the borough for residents to keep fit and healthy.

[Find out more and book](#)



Groups for residents living with dementia

Our dementia groups are available to support residents and carers who are in the early to mid-stages of dementia.

The sessions offer an opportunity for residents to meet others who are also living with the condition. Activities include reminiscence sessions, chair exercise classes, Boccia, bingo, art, music and much more.

Groups meet face-to-face and online via Zoom. For more information and to book, email sdurner@hillingdon.gov.uk or call 01895 277137.

[Find out more](#)



Compass Theatre welcomes back visitors

The Compass Theatre welcomed back audiences in July after a long break when the venue was forced to temporarily close at the start of coronavirus pandemic in March 2020.

To continue to keep attendees safe the theatre has introduced measures in line with government and industry guidelines, such as regular COVID-19 testing of theatre employees and volunteers, enhanced cleaning in between performances and there is increased ventilation in the theatre. The theatre has also been operating at half its capacity or less since reopening as an extra precaution but will be hosting full capacity audiences from October.

Forthcoming productions include Verdi's opera *A Masked Ball* which will be performed by Harrow Opera; Proscenium's play *Old World* and a volunteer-led production entitled *Compass Christmas* and this year's pantomime will be *Beauty and the Beast*.



[Find out more and book](#)

Supporting Hillingdon families

On Monday 2 August, the council launched a pioneering new way of working across its social care services to enable teams to intervene early and ensure that local families have fast access to a wide range of support services around the clock.

The new Stronger Families service will enable teams to engage families earlier and provide long-lasting solutions to ensure a safe, stable and nurturing environment in which children, young people and parents can thrive.

The introduction of a unique Stronger Families 'hub' offers information, advice and support 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The hub is one of the first of its kind and will be a single point of contact for all professionals and residents, with a dedicated email address and phone number and one single online referral form.



[Find out more](#)

Get involved in the Summer Reading Challenge

Children aged from four to 11 still have time to enter this year's annual Summer Reading Challenge.

The ever-popular initiative, run by Hillingdon libraries in conjunction with the Reading Agency, launched on Saturday 10 July and will run until September.

Children are being invited to visit their local library at least three times during the school summer holidays and borrow books in return for a series of rewards.

This year's theme, *Wild World Heroes*, is aimed at inspiring young readers to think about how they can make a difference to the environment.

Youngsters are also being encouraged to put their creative skills to the test as part of a nature themed photography competition.

Summer Reading Challenge 2021

WILD WORLD Heroes

Presented by The Reading Agency.
Delivered in partnership with libraries.

[Find out more and get involved](#)

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