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Councillors' Connection

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Latest COVID-19 update



Along with the rest of England, Rushcliffe is now under [national COVID-19 measures](#).

The current national advice is:

Stay at home

This means you must not leave or be outside of your home except for specific purposes.

These include:

- for childcare or education, where this is not provided online
- for work purposes, where your place of work remains open and where you cannot work from home (including if your job involves working in other people's homes)
- to exercise outdoors or visit an outdoor public place - with the people you live with, with your support bubble or, when on your own, with one person from another household
- for any medical concerns, reasons, appointments and emergencies, or to avoid or escape risk of injury or harm - such as domestic abuse
- shopping for basic necessities, for example food and medicine, which should be as infrequent as possible
- to visit members of your [support bubble](#) or provide care for vulnerable people, or as a volunteer

Stay safe outside the home

You should minimise time spent outside your home and when around other people ensure that you are two metres apart from anyone not in your household or support bubble.

Remember - 'Hands. Face. Space':

- hands – wash your hands regularly and for 20 seconds
- face – wear a face covering in indoor settings where social distancing may be difficult, and where you will come into contact with people you do not normally meet
- space – stay 2 metres apart from people you do not live with where possible, or 1 metre with extra precautions in place (such as wearing face coverings or increasing ventilation indoors)

For further details on the national measures, please [visit our website](#).

Further COVID-19 business support grants announced for Rushcliffe businesses



Central government has announced a second wave of COVID-19 financial business support for eligible Rushcliffe and Nottinghamshire businesses. The Borough will administer the grants for businesses in the Borough who were affected when they entered Tier 2, Tier 3 and national lockdown restrictions.

Many eligible businesses can now access the discretionary Local Business Support Grant Scheme and

other support at www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/businesscoronavirus and information on other business support activities.

Grants will be processed as quickly as possible with business owners asked to ensure all supporting documents are included with any application.

The borough council have been working with fellow Nottinghamshire Councils to create a consistent scheme across the County seeking to support those in the non-essential retail, hospitality, leisure and accommodation sectors and those who directly supply them.

These include:

- Bookmakers
- Camping and caravan sites
- Exhibition centres, conference halls and event spaces
- Hotels
- Leisure centres, gyms, yoga or dance centres
- Licensed bars and pub
- Outdoor sporting venues such as golf clubs, stables and riding centres
- Play centres and soft play centres,
- Restaurants and cafes with indoor or outdoor seating,
- Tattoo parlours, tanning salons, spas and beauty services, hair salons and barbers
- Businesses and self-employed business owners operating predominantly in these sectors.

Other grants are also now available for businesses closed in line with national lockdown until December 2, those closed in line with tier 3 restrictions from October 30 to November 5 and businesses that were open in line with tier 2 restrictions from October 14 to November 5

Free online workshops available on-demand for high street businesses



A programme of free online workshops delivered by business experts are now available on-demand to help high street businesses reopen or continue to trade securely and successfully during COVID-19.

The recorded sessions are taken from the Borough Council's business support programme which used funding from the European Regional Development

Fund to help local businesses recover and operate safely during the pandemic.

A range of topics are available to provide advice and guidance to local businesses, including insights into shopper psychology, driving retail delivery and creating a post-lockdown marketing plan.

All these sessions and more can be accessed by emailing the Borough Council's Economic Development team at econdev@rushcliffe.gov.uk

The workshops are delivered by expert business consultancy firms Shamshad Walker Marketing and Grounded Places, both of which boast extensive experience in guiding and advising businesses to maximise their success.

Businesses seeking further advice on any matter can find out more [on Rushcliffe's business pages.](#)

Plea to use parks, open spaces and play areas at quieter times

The Borough Council are appealing to residents to use parks, open spaces and play areas at quieter times of the week and weekend to avoid overcrowding and ensure all continue to play their part in reducing transmission of COVID-19.

The Borough Council are aware of how popular the sites are across the Borough at this difficult time, particularly at weekends.

Therefore we are asking local people and visitors to adjust their regular routines to return at quieter times should they find facilities already busy during the current national restrictions.

All visitors to the sites should follow the on-site signage to socially distance from others at all times.

They should also wash their hands before and immediately after visiting and only one parent or support bubble member should accompany a child at any play area. No one should visit a site if they feel unwell.

All sites remain open in line with current central government advice as we recognise the important physical and mental benefits of fresh air and exercise.

Outdoor gym equipment at all sites remain closed as per the government guidance.

Sanitisation of facilities at all play parks takes place routinely each day and any feedback on the sites is requested to be sent to our facilities team at facilities@rushcliffe.gov.uk

National Careers Service Virtual Jobs Fair



National
Careers
Service

Residents can once again take part on a virtual jobs fair this month, featuring a live Q & A with a qualified advisor to address a wide range of queries.



The online session is available on Wednesday, November 18 from 9am to midday. Attendees are invited to check the

[@CareersEMids](https://twitter.com/CareersEMids) channel on Twitter for more information on how to sign up in the coming days.

West Bridgford teen honoured with bespoke bench courtesy of the National Lottery

A 15-year-old from West Bridgford has been honoured with a bespoke, handcrafted bench designed by furniture restorer and eco-designer Jay Blades.

Joseph Rutherford was chosen by the organisation to receive the tribute, which is now in place in Bridgford Park in the town, for his dedication during the pandemic to helping the Nottingham based disability charity 'Footprints' - who supported him as a child.

Joseph was born with Down's Syndrome and is one of 13 'Unsung Champions' National Lottery for their time and efforts in supporting some of the most vulnerable in communities during the pandemic.

The work the charity undertakes supports babies and pre-school children with conditions such as Cerebral Palsy and Down's Syndrome, improving their motor skills and communication

The bench features design motifs of small footprints. It is also emblazoned with Joseph's poignant quote "Let's Dance, Sing and Support Each Other".

A QR code will allow visitors to the bench to listen to an audio recording of Jay Blades regaling Joseph's story

Volunteers needed to sustain vital community support



Rushcliffe Community and Voluntary Service (RCVS) is stepping up its urgent appeal for more volunteers, to counter the impact of COVID-19 in Nottinghamshire.

Almost 800 vulnerable people have been supported by RCVS since the coronavirus lockdown started in March.

Services include helping with shopping or collecting prescriptions, transport for those who would otherwise be stuck at home, housekeeping, and telephone befriending to counter social isolation.

Almost 5,900 individual pieces of support have been provided in the Borough, Gedling and Broxtowe.

However, around 100 more volunteers are needed to meet ongoing demand. This is because two thirds of the 145 successfully recruited by RCVS earlier in the pandemic are no longer available.

As a result, the charity's voluntary transport scheme is providing essential journeys only, and there's a waiting list for the telephone befriending service.

Anyone interested in volunteering should call RCVS on 0115 969 9060 or email volunteer@rushcliffecvs.org.uk

All the latest information for residents is available on the [Coronavirus webpages](#) or over the phone on 0115 981 99 11.