

4 December 2020

Together We're Better Stakeholder Update

No doubt you are all aware that this week we came out of the second national lockdown in England, straight into Tier 3 for both Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire. Another main headline this week was the announcement, from Dr June Raine, Chief Executive of the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), that the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine has been approved for use in the UK.

We are now working through the details on a local level to support the mobilisation from next week. This announcement follows months of rigorous clinical trials and a thorough analysis by experts at the MHRA and they have concluded that the vaccine meets their strict standards of safety, quality and effectiveness, so we can expect delivery in a few days with potential for vaccinations to commence next week.

We are still some way from a return to any sort of normal though. The tier system is tougher and tighter than it was the first time, with 99% of the English population in Tiers 2 or 3. If you need to remind yourself about what you can and can't do now, then the [Gov.uk website](#) has some really helpful information. What's more, the emphasis on hands, face, space still applies, so please continue to follow the restrictions – [do it for what matters](#).

Thank you to everyone, for persevering and adjusting to the second lockdown during November. Although it was shorter than the first one, it has still been difficult for many people who are missing seeing family and friends in person. Social contact is important, even those that are comfortable with their own company still need some level of human connection and if lockdown has taught us anything, it's the importance of staying in touch with each other. On Wednesday 02 December, 36 people and organisations across the whole of Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent came together for the NHS to deliver a special message to the public - [you are not alone](#). The message capitalises on a number of key social media hashtags and addresses the fact that we are here to help you - #youarenotalone #mentalhealth #staffordshire #stokeontrent #nhs #support. You can watch the video, [here](#).

Last week confirmation was received about regulations that will be in place over the Christmas period. Between 23 and 27 December travel restrictions between tiers, and between UK nations, will be lifted to allow up to three households to form an exclusive 'bubble' to meet at home, at a place of worship and outdoors. Further information on making a Christmas bubble with friends and family can be found [here](#).

We are being urged to use our judgement over this period, as we are still in a pandemic. So please, keep your Christmas bubbles as small as possible, keep taking steps to help to ensure that you reduce the risk of spreading the virus and don't forget to keep following the three simple actions we must all do to keep on protecting each other.

Useful Resources

National lockdown restriction resources can be found [here](#).

Materials are available for the following campaigns; please can we ask for your help to promote them across your networks:

- [Tiering](#)
- [COVID-19 vaccine](#)
- [University end of term](#)
- [Local Alert Level resources](#)
- [Hands. Face. Space resources](#)
- [Stay Alert to Stay Safe](#): new youth messaging focusing on 'consequences' - social animations
- [Stay Alert to Stay Safe posters](#): White background easy print for face coverings and distance
- [NHS Test and Trace posters](#): White background easy print for drive through testing and self-isolate
- [Symptoms posters](#): Symptoms posters: White background easy print for taste and smell
- [NHS COVID-19 App resources](#)
- [Wearing a face mask – translations](#) (Arabic/French/Kurdish/Lithuanian/Pashto/ Polish/Portuguese/Romanian/Russian/Spanish/Tigrinya)
- [Test and Trace materials](#) are available to use on the Public Health England Campaign Resource Centre. This includes BSL, easy read and large print formats [here](#).
- [Signposting materials](#) with useful information on how people can contact their GP, order repeat prescriptions and manage wellbeing and existing conditions at home: <https://coronavirusresources.phe.gov.uk/nhs-resources-facilities/resources/health-at-home/>
- [Public Health England guide on how older adults can stay active at home during coronavirus to maintain strength and balance](#)
- [Translated information leaflets for parents with new-borns during coronavirus](#)
- [Mental wellbeing whilst staying at home](#)
- [North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust mental health support and advice guide](#)
- [Guidance on shielding](#)
- [Blood donation materials](#)

Public Health England has updated its coronavirus guidance in light of changes to the government's advice and continue to ensure guidance for the public is timely and up to date. All guidance for members of the public, as well as for people in clinical and non-clinical settings, is published and updated regularly on the GOV.UK collection page.

For the latest information on coronavirus, please visit the [NHS](#) and [government](#) websites.

Together We're Better is the partnership of NHS and local government organisations, alongside independent and voluntary sector groups, that is working together to transform health and care services. You can find out more about us on our website: <https://www.twbstaffsandstoke.org.uk/>