

Update on fighting coronavirus in Buckinghamshire



Dear Resident,

I had the company of GP Dr Raj Bajwa during one of my video updates this week. Raj is also the Clinical GP Chair of NHS Buckinghamshire CCG (Clinical Commissioning Group). He had a hugely important message for everyone that I also want to remind people of.

Please do keep accessing your GP and other health services if you need to at this time. GP surgeries are still open for business – they are now doing phone or video appointments instead of face-to-face consultations, but they may still invite you in after that if there is a real need to. You should still get in touch with your GP if you or your children have any health issues you would usually try to see a doctor about.

Chest pain, funny turns, bowel changes, weight loss; these can all indicate important medical conditions that can be treated. Our GP surgeries and hospitals still want to help you so please don't just ignore your general health at this time.

Our video updates are a great way to get the latest important information like this – please take a look at them via [our website](#).

We also heard from the head teachers of some of our local schools on yesterday's video update, again with lots of really useful information and updates so please do take a look.

Vulnerable people

One of our biggest priorities during this crisis is to protect the most vulnerable people in Buckinghamshire. These people may not just have a greater risk to their health, they may already be isolated or have health conditions or challenging circumstances that mean they need extra support at this time.

Our **Adult Social Care team** is making regular, sometimes daily calls to more than 1,200 vulnerable adults to check they're OK. Please keep letting us know if you or someone you know needs extra support – call the team on 01296 383 204.

We have also been working hard to support **rough sleepers** into accommodation across the county. Buckinghamshire Council staff are working with local charities, churches, and other local organisations to provide support, food and medicines to our clients and we have housed around 40 people.

There are a small number of rough sleepers who don't want to accept offers of accommodation and the teams continue to support them to try to keep them safe and well during this time.

If you see someone sleeping rough please use the following contacts:

Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm:

- Aylesbury Vale, tel: 01296 585 168 email: homeless.av@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
- Chiltern and South Bucks, tel: 01494 732 013
email: housingoptions.csb@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
- High Wycombe, tel: 01494 421 212 email: housingoptions@wycombe.gov.uk

Out of hours please contact Streetlink [via their website](#) or by calling 0300 500 0914.

If you have immediate concerns about a person's health or wellbeing call 999.

Please also keep using our online [Community Support Hub](#) to see what help and support is out there in Buckinghamshire – you can also use it to volunteer too.

#ProudoofBucks – spreading Easter cheer to local families



We've seen another fantastic #ProudofBucks effort this week.

The Storehouse Covid 19 Crisis Community Volunteer Response Programme has already been supporting local families by distributing food parcels. In the run up to the Easter weekend, the charity arranged delivery of 6,000 Easter eggs and 400 boxes of crafts and toys for children. They incorporated the work of Restore Hope Latimer, a local charity working with schools and families and were helped by lots of other local organisations including Buckinghamshire Council, churches and community groups.

Local councillors Ashley Waite and Paul Irwin (pictured above) got involved in making deliveries to schools in and around Aylesbury too.

Getting through this crisis is particularly hard for households that already faced stresses and strains and I'm so glad that they have been able to have this boost over Easter.

It's just one of many wonderful examples of the tremendous community spirit we are seeing across the county. I am truly #ProudofBucks – please use the #ProudofBucks hashtag on our social media channels (@BucksCouncil on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#)) to tell us more about what you're doing, stories you know about, and to see more of these heart-warming examples.

Grants for local businesses

I also wanted to give you an important reminder that we have grants available for small local businesses in the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors.

You can check your eligibility and apply at www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/businessgrant.

If you have applied and are waiting for a response please bear with us, we are processing these as quickly as possible and businesses should be starting to see this arrive in bank accounts now and in the coming days.

Take part in our COVID diary...

This is a fascinating project that our archivists are leading and I wanted to share the details with you. This is undoubtedly an extremely challenging time for us all and is an unusual situation that will go down in history. So there are already local and national efforts underway to document peoples' experiences of lockdown and the coronavirus crisis.

Our archivists are inviting people in Buckinghamshire to keep a diary of their life during this time, to be kept by us for future researchers to use. If you would like to take part, please start recording your experiences, digitally, on paper, whatever works for you. You can describe how your life is now, include thoughts, feelings, facts, whatever you think is important and you can include photos. It's not too late to start now!

At such a point that 'normal life' resumes you can contact us to arrange to hand over or send your diary. **Any questions about this project, please just drop us a line at archive@buckinghamshire.gov.uk.**

Try our e-library service

Our library buildings might be temporarily closed during this emergency, but we have a fantastic library service online. I know arts and culture are a great solace during these challenging times and reading is a great way to relax and escape into a different world. But it's not just e-books on offer – you can also read magazines and newspapers through our online library service.

You can also see our Head of Libraries & Culture, David Jones, talk about this large range of e-books, e-magazines, audio books, historic archives and even family history research tools, all available for free, on today's video blog – [here's the link again](#).

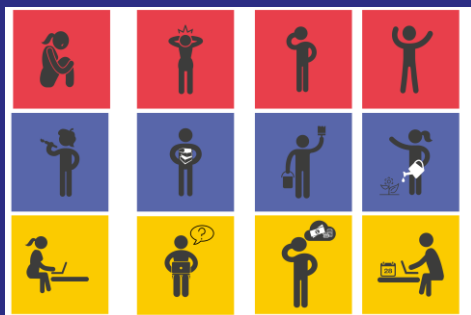
And do have a browse of the e-library collection [here](#).

CARRY ON DOING THE THINGS YOU ENJOY...

...if they can be done at home, or pick up a new hobby you can do from home.

For example, it's a great time to be planting seeds and tidying the garden – or maybe you could [try planting a window box](#). Plus being in the fresh air and sunshine is proven to help you maintain

good mental health.



And finally

Thank you all again for everything you continue to do by staying at home, saving lives and protecting the NHS. Keep up the good work – we should all be proud of the fact we are all doing our bit.

Stay safe and stay well,

Martin Tett

Leader of Buckinghamshire Council



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