

VACCINATION IN LINCOLNSHIRE

The Covid-19 vaccination programme is continuing to focus on protecting the most vulnerable. Already it's almost completed first dose appointment invitations to all over 80 year olds in the county, which is very welcome news. Anyone aged 80 years or older - who has NOT yet been called to arrange their first dose vaccination appointment - is asked to contact their GP practice to ensure their contact details are correct and they are invited in.

Anyone under 80 years does not need to call. They will be contacted in due course as efforts continue to work through the national priority group order.

If anyone doesn't know their NHS number, which is needed to organise a vaccination appointment when it is their turn, they can find it using this service:

<https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/online-services/find-nhs-number>

Latest Covid statistics for you as of 8/2/21

Although rates in England increased faster in December and January than those in Lincolnshire, this gap is now starting to shrink with case rises falling more slowly in Lincolnshire than elsewhere. In the past week the case rate in the county fell by 11% as compared with 30% in England overall.

There remains variability within the county with East Lindsey showing a week on week increase, while others remain fairly flat. South Holland and South Kesteven are both now slightly above the median for England. North Kesteven had shown a reasonable fall in the week ending 21st January with 195.9 per 100,000, however that has faltered with a fall of just 0.9% to 194.2 cases per 100,000 in the week ending 28th January.

Based on case dates not yet fully reported (up to 31st January) there is what appears to be a slight increase. The 225 cases reported so far for that period is already higher than the 208 cases reported per seven days up to 24th January.

£40,000 COMMUNITY FUND FOR COVID RESPONSE GROUPS

NKDC are working together with Lincolnshire Community Foundation to ensure financial support reaches those vital groups, charities and organisations which deliver services and combat hardship including economic, social and health impacts caused by the pandemic.

Grants will also be available to support financial resilience so organisations can tackle the longer term impact of Covid-19. Eligible groups can apply for up to £5000 to support ongoing and future needs for vulnerable people. Successful projects might include those that address: loneliness and isolation, mental health support, financial hardship (employment or benefit advice), Digital exclusion, telephone befriending etc.

Applicants are able to include requests for contributions towards equipment, digital resources, volunteer training and expenses, counselling support, staff and salaries and more.

Priority will be given to groups who support one or more of the following groups of people: older people, families with young children, people with physical or learning disabilities, people with mental health needs and people on low incomes.

Those which are eligible include:

Voluntary and community organisations who have been vetted by the Lincolnshire Community and Voluntary Services as part of the Lincolnshire Resilience Forum co-ordinated response.

Registered charities, constituted groups and community interest companies that have a governing document, accounts, bank accounts and relevant policies and procedures.

Those operating within the positivity impacting upon residents and communities in North Kesteven.

FG Foundation staff are on hand to give advice at every stage of the application process. THE CLOSING DATE FOR RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS IS 12TH FEBRUARY 2021 and decisions will be notified within four weeks. To obtain an Application Form or to chat about your project, please contact Sue Fortune on 01529 305825 or download details from: The LCF grants page. Email address to use is:

Resiliencelincs@lincoln.fire-uk.org

LANTERNS AND BALLOONS GUIDELINES

The Environment Protection team have issued new guidance via the Council website on the release of Chinese-style lanterns and helium balloons. Both items are often used in celebrations and commemorations, but can cause significant harm to animals and property. The guidance offers suggestions for alternative ways of marking events.

AN UPDATE ON REFUSE AND SAFETY MEASURES

NKDC wanted to explain why their hardworking and highly valued waste crews do not wear face protection and continue to travel with three in a cab.

This is not a disregard of Government guidance but a fully considered part of strict control measures to safeguard our crews, in line with national guidance and industry standards relating to the formation of crew-based work bubbles.

Typically one vehicle with a crew of three will empty up to 1,200 bins daily, with each collector handling 500 plus bins. Their gloves are the most essential form of PPE to protect them from potential hand /surface/hand transmission on the bins. Along with consistent hand washing (with facilities on board), wearing gloves manages the risk.

“National guidance is clear that wearing face protection whilst undertaking collection activities has the potential to bring more risk; with the need to readjust face coverings whilst undertaking manual work increasing the potential of hand to face contamination.

SIGN UP FOR GARDEN WASTE COLLECTION FROM FEBRUARY 1ST

From Monday 1st February, you can sign up for the council's excellent Garden Waste Collection Service. It costs the equivalent of less than £3 a month and prices have been frozen so they remain the same as last year. Whether you are joining the service for the first time or are re-subscribing, you can sign up online only from Monday 1st February at: www.n-kesteven.gov.uk/gardenwaste

You can apply by phone from Monday 1st March on 01529 414155, but to avoid any lengthy delays on the phone you are advised to go online if you can, which can be done quickly and easily, at your convenience 24/7.

Having a kerbside garden waste collection has many benefits, saving you the time, mess and hassle of taking your grass, weeds and trimmings to a Household Waste Recycling Centre, paying a licensed contractor to take it away or home composting.

This is especially handy at a time when you have to book a slot for Household Waste Recycling Centres and we are advised to avoid non-essential journeys.

We empty your brown bin/s every other week, except during December and January when we empty them monthly, (or when other factors stop us such as very bad weather).

Fortnightly collection of your brown bin costs £35 for the whole year. If you don't yet have a brown bin, the cost of buying your first bin is reduced to just £17. If you would like an additional bin the cost for collection is just £17 per extra bin per year. Purchase additional brown bins for £35 each. You can have up to four bins. The New Year's subscription is from March 29th.

Best Wishes

Cllr Lucille Hagues