

MDC COVID-19 Briefing

Issue 04

1st June, 2020

Latest News

Retail reopens

The Prime Minister has set out his timeline for businesses to start re-opening in June, including plans for open air markets and car showrooms to open from today. Other "non-essential" retailers are expected to reopen from 15th June if the Government's five tests are met and provided they follow safety guidelines.

The announcement: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-sets-out-timeline-for-retail-to-reopen-in-june?>

[You'll find more information about this in our 'Mendip on the move' section]

Lockdown easing – meeting up

Groups of up to six people from different households will be able to meet outside in England from today. They can meet in gardens, in addition to parks, as long as households keep two metres apart. The Prime Minister told the Downing Street daily briefing that it was possible because the Government's five tests were being met.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-six-people-can-meet-outside-under-new-measures-to-ease-lockdown>

Pubs could open sooner than July

Pubs, hotels and restaurants may be able to reopen in June, earlier than planned, after Boris Johnson asked scientists to review the two-metre rule.

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/food-and-drink/news/restaurants-uk-pubs-reopen-bars-after-lockdown/>

Dental practices to reopen from 8th June

Dental practices in England have been told they can reopen from Monday 8th June, if they put in place appropriate safety measures. All routine dental care in England has been suspended since 25th March.

Back to school

Schools and early years providers could start to take in more children from today. Across England, children in early years' settings, Year R, Year 1, Year 6 and Year 10 can return over the coming weeks, if conditions are right to do so.

Supporting School Transitions

With transitions from home to school and between schools pending, here is an emotional wellbeing resource and information page to help support school transitions for children, young people and families.

<https://www.cypsomersethealth.org/news&id=360>

Social distancing guide for young people

The Government has published guidance on social distancing especially for young people, to help them understand what is expected right now.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/stay-alert-and-safe-social-distancing-guidance-for-young-people/staying-alert-and-safe-social-distancing-guidance-for-young-people>

Broadband upgrade opportunity for Mendip

CDS (Connecting Devon and Somerset) in cooperation with Mendip District Council are looking for rural communities of 50 to 100 properties in the district with poor internet connectivity to upgrade their broadband using the Government voucher scheme. There will be support from CDS to enable this. For more information contact Cllr Peter Goater.

Email: cllr.Goater@mendip.gov.uk or see <https://gigabitvoucher.culture.gov.uk/>

Your Council is here for you: Mendip's Leader writes to residents

Last week, some 52,000 households received a personal letter from the Leader of Mendip District Council, Cllr Ros Wyke. She reminded residents and businesses that the Council was there for them if they were in need.

Also included was an invitation to complete a survey. As Mendip moves forward, Cllr Wyke is keen to hear from communities as to where they feel their Council should focus its efforts and priorities, as we reopen our district.

Read Cllr Wyke's uplifting appeal to residents to reach out and rebuild here: <https://www.mendip.gov.uk/leadersletter>

In focus: Mendip moves forward

Planning to re-open your retail premises?

Our Environmental Health Officers at Mendip have pulled together a few useful resources:

- The *Growth Hub toolkit* to obtain the relevant template risk assessments to review and action suitable measures. Access to the template risk assessments are via the link as below
<https://www.heartofswgrowthhub.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/BBFA-Covid-19-Toolkit-v1-final.pdf>
- HSE Working Safely during Coronavirus outbreak guidance <https://www.hse.gov.uk/news/working-safely-during-coronavirus-outbreak.htm>
- Guidance to help employers, employees and the self-employed understand how to work safely during the coronavirus pandemic
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19>
- Heart of the SW Growth Hub Covid-19 Support for Business at
<https://www.heartofswgrowthhub.co.uk/covid-19-guidance-for-business/>
- The European Working Group for Legionella Infections (ESGLI) has put together a guidance document on how to best manage Legionella in building water systems during this COVID-19 outbreak
<https://www.mendip.gov.uk/article/8813/COVID-19-Managing-Legionella-in-Building-Water-Systems>.
- Some final food for thought...
<https://www.mendip.gov.uk/article/8776/COVID-19-Guidance-for-Food-Businesses>

£50m reopening high streets safely fund

The High Streets Minister Simon Clarke announced a £50 million Reopening High Streets Safely Fund. The Fund will help councils in England introduce a range of safety measures to kick-start local economies, get people back to work and customers back to the shops.

The announcement: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/50-million-boost-to-support-the-recovery-of-our-high-streets>

COVID safe retail video: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/13ze7Wy0IGNug8-pBeh0V19a19b7gbiYx/view>

Active travel

Details of a new emergency active travel scheme have been released. The £225 million package allocated to local authorities will be released in two phases. The first tranche of £45 million will be released as soon as possible so that work can begin at pace on closing roads to through traffic, installing segregated cycle lanes and widening pavements.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/2-billion-package-to-create-new-era-for-cycling-and-walking>

Free webinars to help businesses to reopen workplaces safely

The Government is hosting FREE webinars for businesses on how to make their workplace coronavirus (COVID-19) secure. The webinars cover a range of different types of workplace, recognising that many businesses operate in multiple settings, for example, an office and a factory and with a fleet of vehicles.

You can register to join for free:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/department-for-business-energy-and-industrial-strategy-18685150848>

Some webinars have already happened, but can be viewed as recordings on the Government's You Tube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/BusinessisGREAT/playlists>

Changes to parking restrictions

Somerset County Council will resume on-street parking patrols today following the easing of coronavirus restrictions. With more pupils returning to school and some businesses starting to reopen, civil enforcement officers will return to help keep roads clear and traffic moving.

Resuming Mendip Markets

During the lockdown the Markets Team have been putting together plans to resume the markets in line with Government guidance and supporting traders to trade using other business models, virtual markets, home deliveries etc. Markets can be reintroduced and managed once they are able to support social distancing and Government guidelines. Opening dates to be confirmed shortly.

Help for businesses

Local Authority Discretionary Grant

Mendip will be paying out a maximum of £10,000 per application. The funding is aimed at small businesses with ongoing fixed property-related costs. The scheme, will close on Tuesday 9th June at 5pm. Businesses should start to receive payments during week commencing 15th June.

Register for the grant here: www.mendip.gov.uk/businessrates.

For enquiries, email: MendipGrants@mendip.gov.uk

Business Grants

To receive the grant you will need to be registered on our website here: www.mendip.gov.uk/businessrates.

For enquiries relating to the current grants, please email economy@mendip.gov.uk

Bounce Back Loans

Small and medium-sized businesses affected by Coronavirus to access loans from £2,000 to £50,000. The Government guarantees 100% of the loan and there won't be any fees or interest to pay for the first 12 months.

www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-a-coronavirus-bounce-back-loan

10K for village halls and community centres

If you run a village or community hall you can register for the COVID-19 Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant. Check out the eligibility criteria from Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE) here: acre.org.uk/cms/resources/guidance-on-eligibility-for-government-support-for-halls-2.4.20.pdf.

Register to get your grant here: www.mendip.gov.uk/businessrates

Somerset Waste Partnership at-a-glance guide

Garden Waste collections have restarted. 2020-21 subscriptions will be extended to mid-May 2021. Check your garden waste day and dates (many have changed) via the SWP website. For ease you can create a 'My Account' where you can see all information in relation to your property in one place.

Visit Somerset Waste Partnership's website www.somersetwaste.gov.uk to find out the following:

- Your Collection Days
 - This includes Garden, Recycling, and Refuse
- Your nearest Recycling Site
 - And what you can recycle
- Your Waste Services
 - Missed collection
 - Managing your waste containers
 - Clinical collection
 - Assisted collection
 - Request a permit
 - Bulky Waste Collection
 - Pay for Garden Waste Sacks
 - Request a garden sack collection



My Waste Services

Our top tasks which you can do online now

Missed collection



My Collection Day

Find out when your next waste and recycling collection is

Check now



My Recycling Site

Find your nearest recycling site and what you can recycle

POSTCODE

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For the latest news from Somerset Waste Partnership:

Website: <https://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SomersetWaste/>

Twitter: <https://www.facebook.com/SomersetWaste/>

You can also sign up to SWP's e-newsletter [here](#).

Health Matters

Somerset pharmacies offer safe place for victims of domestic abuse

People experiencing domestic abuse are now able to access local support through Somerset pharmacies. Consulting rooms are to be available as a safe place, where anybody concerned about domestic abuse can go to get information about local domestic abuse support services. If you are concerned about abuse help is available at the Somerset Survivors website or by telephoning 0800 69 49 999.

In an emergency, or if you are being threatened, you should always dial 999. If the situation that you are in means you are unable to speak, dial 999 then 55 to get help when the operator answers. You can also find other support about domestic abuse at <http://www.somersetsurvivors.org.uk>.

Public Health England's Active at Home advice

Public Health England has developed a booklet to support older people and those who are shielded to be active and healthy at home by helping them find ways to build activity into their day. If you know someone who would benefit from reading this information you could [download and print off the booklet.](#)

Social isolation leading to more attempted suicides in older people

Suicide attempts by older people have increased six-fold during the Coronavirus crisis because of depression and anxiety caused by social isolation, according to the Royal College of Psychiatrists.

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/05/25/attempted-suicides-elderly-may-increasing-six-fold-says-royal/>

Mental health weekly

[Mindline.](#) The charity has teamed up with BBC Somerset and Spark to broadcast a weekly slot with Charlie Taylor on Wednesday evenings 7-8pm. They are available on 01823 276 892.

LBGT services

Helpline and counselling service. <https://www.intercomtrust.org.uk/item/214-we-are-here-for-you>

Campaigns and events

National Volunteering Week – 1st-7th June

This provides an opportunity to highlight the phenomenal work councils have been undertaking over the past few months to work with the voluntary sector, and coordinate volunteers, in order to provide the best possible support to those in need.

Please do engage with Mendip's social media campaign. You can contact the Marketing and Media team via email: media@mendip.gov.uk

World Food Safety Day (WFSD) will be on Sunday 7th June

The aim is to draw attention and inspire action to help prevent, detect and manage foodborne risks. The theme is 'Food safety, everyone's business'.

<https://www.who.int/news-room/campaigns/world-food-safety-day/2020>

They'll be offering consumers some safety tips to help make the most of their food at home. This advice will be hosted on www.food.gov.uk/home-food-facts which will go live on 5th June.

WEBINAR #QuitforCovid in the South West

Thursday 11th June 10am-11am

There's an invitation to attend a webinar exploring the Quit for Covid Campaign. To register for the webinar please [sign up here](#).

Bike Week 6th-14th June

Mendip Members and Officers will be taking part in this year's event. The Marketing and Media Team will be raising awareness and running a social media campaign.

www.cyclinguk.org/bikeweek

Coronavirus links

Mendip District Council: www.mendip.gov.uk/coronavirus

Government information on coronavirus: www.gov.uk/coronavirus

NHS information: www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/

The latest travel advice can be found here:

www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-advice-novel-coronavirus

Q&A from Public Health England on coronavirus:

publichealthmatters.blog.gov.uk/2020/01/23/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-what-you-need-to-know/

The LGA have issued some general guidance specific to elected councillors that you may find useful: www.local.gov.uk/covid-19-outbreak-councillor-guidance

Keep connected

These briefings are produced by Mendip's Marketing and Media Team. We're doing everything we can to make sure we're directing you to the most up-to-date information and advice regarding COVID-19.

Mendip District Council has a corporate Facebook page. Please follow us for the latest news, commentary and campaigns.

<https://www.facebook.com/mendipcouncil>

We are also on Twitter twitter.com/MendipCouncil and LinkedIn

www.linkedin.com/company/mendip-district-council

Finally, here's our official website: www.mendip.gov.uk
