



Dear resident

As we enter August, more restrictions imposed in response to the coronavirus pandemic continue to ease.

This month's e-newsletter provides you with the latest government guidance, including updates on the reopening of a variety of our services and facilities.

From 24 July it became mandatory to wear face coverings in additional places, including shops and takeaways, enclosed shopping centres, banks, building societies and post offices. Please adhere to the [face covering guidelines](#) and ensure you wear something that covers your nose and mouth. However, please also be mindful that there are some circumstances where people are less able to wear them or are exempt, and that the reasons may not be visible to others.

From Saturday 1 August, shielding was paused. Those that have been shielding and most at risk from becoming ill from the virus are able to adopt strict social distancing, rather than full shielding measures, as a result of falling infection rates.

Other guidance effective from 1 August included employers making decisions about how staff can work safely, which could see more employees returning to the workplace.

I would like to reassure you that overall infection rates in Hillingdon remain low and you can now view [weekly infection rates provided by Public Health England at a local level on our website](#). We have also developed plans so that we can respond quickly if any local outbreaks occur.

However, despite restrictions continuing to ease, we must not get complacent and I urge Hillingdon residents to continue to stay alert and act responsibly by following government guidance.

It is crucial that you continue to keep a safe distance from others, wash your hands regularly for at least 20 seconds with soap and water or sanitiser, wear face coverings when required and [book a test if you think you have symptoms](#).

By following these guidelines you are reducing the risk of transmission and helping to protect yourself, your friends, family and local community. Our ability to return to a more normal life relies on everyone playing their part.

You can keep up to date with the latest government coronavirus advice and council service updates on our [website](#) and our [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) pages.





Business directory launched

We have developed a business directory to support the borough's high streets and local businesses.

Businesses can sign up for free to advertise their services and residents can use the directory to find out which businesses are open locally, their hours and any coronavirus-related restrictions.

[Find out more](#)

Customer safety

Now that a range of businesses have reopened, we have created a new section on our website featuring information for customers of pubs, bars and restaurants and other close contact services, such as hairdressers and barbers, nail bars, tattoo studios, spas and tailors about what you can expect in terms of restrictions at these premises.

[Read more](#)

August Bank Holiday waste and recycling collection dates

Normal collection day	Revised collection day
Monday 31 August	Tuesday 1 September
Tuesday 1 September	Wednesday 2 September
Wednesday 2 September	Thursday 3 September
Thursday 3 September	Friday 4 September
Friday 4 September	Saturday 5 September

Please leave your rubbish out for collection by 6am, near your front gate, but not on the pavement. Separate arrangements are in place for flats and business premises.

Take part in Playday 2020

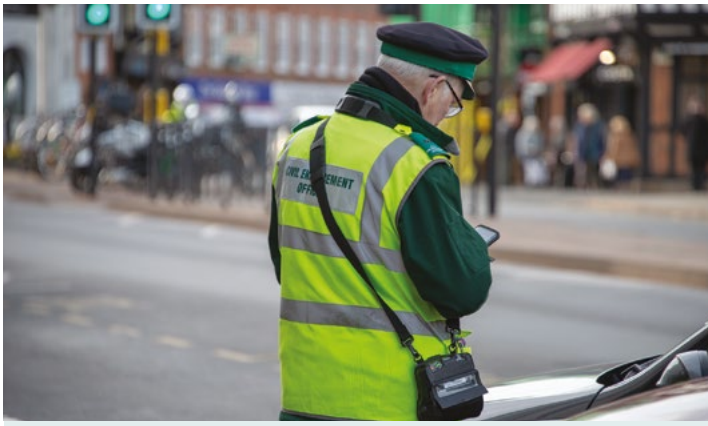
Families can celebrate this year's Playday online on Wednesday 5 August with lots of fun activities.

Playday is a national day of play for children. Playing helps with children's physical, mental and emotional health and also contributes to their learning and development.

Activities include superhero fitness sessions, storytime, tennis coaching, games, messy play and arts and crafts.



[Join in](#)



Parking arrangements

We will be continuing to allow NHS staff with permits due to expire on 31 July to make use of those permits until further notice. Those employed directly by the NHS, health and social care workers and the NHS COVID-19 volunteers (recruited specifically to respond to the emergency) can continue to park free of charge in the borough while displaying their respective permit.

Other concessions, for blue badge holders whose permits have expired, will be honoured until Wednesday 30 September.

The issuing of free emergency residential permits to accommodate the higher than normal number of residents' vehicles being parked on residential streets has now closed and those permits in circulation will no longer be honoured.

[Read more](#)



Leisure facilities reopen

Our playgrounds, outdoor gyms, ball courts, skateparks and tennis courts across the borough have now reopened.

Signage is in place at each site to instruct users how to keep themselves and others safe.

Gyms, fitness classes and pools have reopened at Hillingdon Sports and Leisure Complex; Highgrove Pool and Fitness Centre; Botwell Green Leisure Centre and Queensmead Sports Centre. The outdoor lido at Hillingdon Sports and Leisure Complex has also reopened.

Anyone wishing to use our leisure centre facilities will need to pre-book a one hour time slot via the Better app or website.

[Book now](#)



Last chance to apply

Time's running out to apply to enter this year's Autumn Show competition.

Closing date: Friday 4 September 2020

[Find out more](#)

Library services extended

A reserve and collect service is currently being offered at Manor Farm, Oak Farm, Hayes End, Northwood Hills, West Drayton, Uxbridge, Ickenham and via our mobile library.

This has proved popular in its first four weeks, with 5,500 visits taking place.

Books can be reserved by library members online or by phoning us. These can then be collected at the libraries, where the collector will be requested to follow social distancing guidelines. Items can also be picked up by neighbours and relatives on behalf of those who had reserved items.

For those unsure about what book they'd like to reserve, we are also offering a lucky dip request service, where the libraries team will choose an item on behalf of a library member based on their age and interests.

Computer use is now also being offered at seven of the borough's libraries (Botwell Green, Charville, Eastcote, Harefield, Northwood Hills, Ruislip Manor and Yiewsley) for residents aged over 18.

The service is available 10am to 2pm, Monday to Saturday, with computers available for 45 minute sessions. These need to be pre-booked in advance of your visit by calling the library.

We are continuing to offer a range of online library resources for library members, including e-books and e-audio books, magazines and newspapers, language courses and interactive stories for children.

Looking for ways to entertain children during the holidays? This year's Summer Reading Challenge has also gone digital, offering young people the opportunity to take part in reading challenges and activities to receive online prizes.



[Find out more](#)