



Dear resident

As the national restrictions end on Wednesday 2 December, the government has announced that Hillingdon, along with all London boroughs, will return to Tier 2 – the High alert level for coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions.

Infection rates remain high and stronger measures have been added to each tier to help to control the spread of infection. For Tier 2 this means that pubs and bars must close unless operating as restaurants or serving substantial meals. Last orders are at 10pm and venues must close at 11pm.

Shops, personal care, gyms and the wider leisure sector will reopen, while collective worship (without interacting with people outside of your household) and weddings (no more than 15 guests) will resume. Grassroots sports for all age groups will also restart, providing the guidelines issued by the relevant affiliated body for that sport e.g. the Football Association are followed.

High alert restrictions announced in October will continue, including not meeting socially with friends and family indoors in any setting unless you live with them or have formed a [support bubble](#) with them. Remember to reduce the number of journeys you make and work from home if possible. The rule of six comes back into effect and you can continue to meet outdoors with up to six people from different households but you must keep a safe distance from those you do not live with.

I encourage residents to remain vigilant as the virus is still present. Please carry on following the existing safety precautions to keep each other safe and prevent the spread of infection, including washing your hands regularly using soap and water, keeping two metres apart from those from outside of your household, wearing a face covering when in enclosed indoor settings where social distancing may be difficult, and increase ventilation in enclosed spaces where possible.

If you have symptoms of COVID-19, you must book a test immediately and self-isolate, and if you are contacted by the NHS Test and Trace service please follow their instructions.

By following these actions you're helping to save lives and it could help the region to return to the lowest alert level.

Recognising how difficult this year has been, the government has announced that for a short period during Christmas (Wednesday 23 to Sunday 27 December) some increased social contact will be allowed so that families can be reunited (read more below). However, please enjoy Christmas safely. Follow the guidance to minimise risk to protect loved ones, particularly the most vulnerable.

LOCAL COVID ALERT LEVEL

HIGH

Find out what you can
and cannot do if you live,
work, study or travel
in Hillingdon

COVID Christmas rules

Coronavirus rules will be relaxed across the UK during the festive period between Wednesday 23 and Sunday 27 December to allow people to celebrate in three-household 'Christmas bubbles.'

Your Christmas bubble will be able to meet in a private home, a place of worship, garden or public outdoor spaces.

People will be able to travel between tiers and across the UK within the five-day period.

You can only be in one Christmas bubble, and you are encouraged to keep your Christmas bubble as small as possible.

Once a bubble is formed it is fixed and must not be changed or extended further.

Children under 18 whose parents do not live together can be part of both parents' bubbles if the parents form separate bubbles, and students are considered part of the household they have returned to for Christmas. Existing support bubbles count as one household.

You are allowed to form a different Christmas bubble from the people you live with normally.

You must not form a Christmas bubble if you have coronavirus symptoms and are self-isolating.

You cannot meet someone in a private dwelling who is not part of your household or Christmas bubble.

You can continue to meet people who are not in your Christmas bubble outside of your home according to the rules in the tier where you are staying.

Forming a bubble if you are vulnerable or clinically extremely vulnerable carries additional risks.

[Find out more](#)



Christmas in Hillingdon

Christmas will be a little different this year but the council will continue to provide festive cheer.

There will be lighting displays across the borough and Christmas trees on display in Uxbridge, Sipson, Hayes, Harmondsworth, Harlington, Harefield and Eastcote. However, due to the ongoing pandemic there won't be any switch-on events.

To support the borough's high streets, and to make your shopping experience easier and more enjoyable, car parking will once again be free on weekends in the lead up to the festive period for Hillingdon *First* card holders. On Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day it will be free to park at the council's car parks and on-street parking bays for all residents.

Despite our theatres remaining closed, DK ProDuKtions has filmed its *Jack and the Beanstalk* panto which will be made available to Hillingdon schools for young people to watch.

Real Christmas trees are also now available for you to purchase at our Rural Activities Garden Centre (Yiewsley) – please call 01895 443445 to book your visit.

[Read more](#)



CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR REFUSE AND RECYCLING

To minimise disruption to waste and recycling collections over Christmas and New Year, we will be working on Bank Holiday Monday 28 December, Saturday 2 January and Saturday 9 January.

CHRISTMAS EVE TO NEW YEAR'S DAY

Normal collection day	Revised collection day
Thursday 24 December	No change to collections
Friday 25 December	Monday 28 December
Monday 28 December	Tuesday 29 December
Tuesday 29 December	Wednesday 30 December
Wednesday 30 December	Thursday 31 December
Thursday 31 December	Saturday 2 January
Friday 1 January	Monday 4 January

FIRST WEEK OF JANUARY 2021

Normal collection day	Revised collection day
Monday 4 January	Tuesday 5 January
Tuesday 5 January	Wednesday 6 January
Wednesday 6 January	Thursday 7 January
Thursday 7 January	Friday 8 January
Friday 8 January	Saturday 9 January

Please leave your rubbish out for collection by 6am.

Leave your rubbish near your front gate, but not on the pavement.

Separate arrangements are in place for flats and business premises.

If you have any queries, or would like to report a missed collection, visit www.hillingdon.gov.uk/recycling or call 01895 556000.

RECYCLING CENTRE OPENING TIMES

Harefield Civic Amenity Site will be closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day. Open as usual (8am to 4pm) on all other days.

West Drayton Waste Weekends will be closed on Saturday 26 December. Open as usual 9am to 4pm Saturdays and Sundays.

Need support?

If you are self-isolating or clinically extremely vulnerable our Community Hub can signpost residents to a range of help, including financial advice and support, emotional wellbeing and befriending services, priority online shopping slots, and local food bank referrals for those who meet eligibility criteria.

The hub is open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm. To contact the hub, email Covid19Hub@hillington.gov.uk or call 020 3949 5786.

The NHS Responders can also help with shopping and the collection and delivery of prescriptions. Call them on 0808 1963 646 (8am to 8pm) to discuss this service.

Those on lower incomes who cannot work from home and have lost income as a result of self-isolating may be eligible for a Test and Trace Support Payment of £500. For more information visit www.hillingdon.gov.uk/individual-financial-support.

If you are struggling with food or fuel costs, you could be entitled to help under the council's winter support scheme. The council will be contacting low-income families before Christmas to offer assistance. Further details, including who to call if you think you're eligible but you haven't been contacted, will be on the council's website once available.

Support your local high street

The easing of restrictions means that many of our non-essential businesses can re-open.

High streets are the lifeblood of local economies and they need your help now more than ever. Support them throughout this festive period by shopping locally for gifts, food and essentials.

Take a look at our business directory to see what businesses are open locally, their hours and any COVID-19 restrictions in place. Our Hillingdon *First* card also offers discounts at a range of local businesses, which can help reduce the cost of your Christmas shopping.

When you're visiting a local shop or venue, remember to keep yourself and others protected by washing your hands, wearing a face covering and keeping your distance from other people.

We will continue to support businesses across the borough to get back up and running by providing a range of targeted support and guidance. Eligible businesses that pay business rates and were mandated to close by law during the national restrictions between 5 November and 2 December have been able to apply for support through the Local Restrictions Support Grant.

[Read more](#)



Marshals introduced to keep Hillingdon safe

Last month we introduced COVID-19 marshals to remind residents and businesses what actions need to be taken to keep everyone safe.

The marshals have been visiting areas across the borough to raise awareness of restrictions, social distancing, face coverings and hand washing.

Marshals have also been directing pedestrians through one-way systems, ensuring properly spaced queues, and handing out pocket-sized hand sanitisers, face coverings and printed handouts containing more information.

The marshals have also been ensuring local businesses are operating safely and have been reporting issues back to the council's food health and safety team for further investigation.

Since June, council environmental health and licensing officers have carried out more than 2,500 visits to businesses across the borough to ensure they are COVID compliant, and 179 warnings have been issued for breaches of regulations.

The council has also issued fines totalling £10,000 to six hospitality businesses that were repeatedly caught flouting regulations.

If you have any concerns about a Hillingdon business not complying with COVID-19 secure regulations, email Covid19Hub@hillingdon.gov.uk or call 020 3949 5786.

[Read more](#)



Council launches COVID-19 contact tracing

We also introduced a COVID-19 contact tracing service last month to support the NHS.

NHS Test and Trace will pass details to the council of residents who have tested positive but who they have not been able to contact. Once in receipt of these records, the council will try to make contact either by text, phone or email to capture information about the resident's activities in the days prior to their positive result.

During this process we will be able to ensure residents are following the self-isolation guidance and provide them with information about the support on offer from the council and other agencies.

If the council is unable to speak with the resident, officers will make a socially-distanced face-to-face visit to the address provided.

If you are contacted by one of our tracers or the NHS Test and Trace service, please respond and remember to always adhere to government guidance.

[Read more](#)



Don't forget your flu vaccination

This winter, it's more important than ever to have your flu vaccination. It's to help protect you and those around you from serious illness.

Many people can get a free flu vaccination on the NHS from their GP or a local pharmacy.

To find out if you are eligible, check the NHS website. From 1 December, the NHS flu vaccine is available for everyone aged 50 and over.

If you're not eligible for the NHS flu vaccine but you still want to protect yourself against flu, many pharmacies provide a bookable flu vaccine service.

Contact your local pharmacy to find out more.

The flu virus and COVID-19 have some of the same symptoms, like a high temperature or persistent cough, so it's important you have the flu vaccine and follow the guidance to test and self-isolate if you have any symptoms of COVID-19.

[Find out more](#)



Vaccination survey

Healthwatch Hillingdon is asking local people for their views on receiving a COVID-19 vaccine, including whether they would consider being vaccinated and what further information they would like to know about the vaccine. Fill in the quick online survey today and help the NHS understand what matters most to you about this important subject.

[Complete the survey](#)

Speak up, stay safe

Nobody should suffer from domestic abuse, and there is never an excuse for it no matter what the circumstances are.

There is help and support available if you or someone you know is a victim – including the police, online support, helplines and refuges.

[Find out more information and about other services available](#)

If you or someone you know is a victim and in immediate danger, call 999 and ask for the police.

[Other organisations that can help](#)

Free trees for Hillingdon residents

To celebrate National Tree Week, the council is giving away 1,000 saplings at the Rural Activities Garden Centre, Yiewsley.

Choose from:

Whitebeam



Hawthorn



Rowan



Crab Apple



Hazel



Cherry



Downy Birch



Collect up to a maximum of five per person, while stocks last.

Book your visit by calling 01895 443445

[Find out more](#)