



# COVID 19 UPDATE

*PARISH NEWSLETTER*

8<sup>th</sup> July 2020

## Free school meals this summer

The Government announced that free meals for children would continue over the summer holidays - and parents have to register before the end of term to qualify.

Through the free school meals Covid Summer Food Fund, around 1.3million children will qualify for a £90 voucher to cover the six-week break. Any child currently in receipt of free school meals will be eligible for the Covid Summer Food Fund. Universal Credit is one of the main qualifying terms - so if you have a child of school age, it's worth checking if you can claim the support.

Children of all ages living in households on income-related benefits can claim it via their school or [local authority](#).

Once parents or carers have received the voucher, they will be able to redeem it at any major UK supermarket - though Lidl and the Co-op are not on the scheme.

This will be in the form of an electronic gift card - anyone unable to do this will be able to pick up a hard copy from their child's school.

The DFE have said that if you live in an area where your local supermarket is not supporting the scheme, you should get in touch with your school for alternative arrangements.

## Information about affected areas of the lockdown in the district

Following the announcement on the 29<sup>th</sup> June, we can confirm that the following areas of the district come under the Leicester Lockdown:

- Braunstone Town (including Fosse Park)
  - Glenfield
  - Glen Parva
  - Leicester Forest East (The area East of the M1)
  - Thorpe Astley
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- All non-essential shops were closed on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June, which is now enforced by law.
  - Schools were closed on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July and will not reopen until next term. However, they remain open for vulnerable children and children of critical workers.
  - People should avoid all but essential travel to, from, and within Leicester and affected suburbs and should "stay at home as much as you can."
  - The easing of some restrictions in England on Saturday the 4<sup>th</sup> has not gone ahead in Leicester. This means restaurants, pubs, cafes, hairdressers and cinemas remain closed, and shops that were allowed to open on the 15<sup>th</sup> June have had to close again.
  - The relaxation of shielding measures on 6<sup>th</sup> July - which allow the most clinical-vulnerable to spend more time outside – have not gone ahead in the lockdown area.

Resident's in the affected areas can access help via the Community Hub if they need help with shopping, prescriptions, etc.

[Leicestershire County Council](#) has released an approximate boundary of the area and has a "[postcode checker](#)" available for those who are unsure whether they will be affected

## Local Leicester Lockdown Legislation

The legislation has been published on the Leicester Lockdown; you can read it here [http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2020/685/pdfs/ukxi\\_20200685\\_en.pdf](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2020/685/pdfs/ukxi_20200685_en.pdf)

## NHS Volunteer Responders

Support will continue to be available through the NHS Volunteer Responder Scheme beyond the end of July. NHS Volunteer Responders can support you with:

- Collecting shopping, medication (if your friends and family cannot collect them for you) or other essential supplies.
- A regular, friendly phone call which can be provided by different volunteers each time or by someone who is also shielding and will stay in contact for several weeks.
- Transport to medical appointments.

Please call 0808 196 3646 between 8am and 8pm to arrange support, or speak to your health care professional for transport support. More information is available at [www.nhsvolunteerresponders.org.uk](http://www.nhsvolunteerresponders.org.uk).

## Test and Trace

- Those people affected by Test and Trace in the District can access help via the Community Hub if they need help with shopping, prescriptions, etc.

## Shielded People Regulations (These apply to residents outside the Local Leicester Lockdown Area)

Shielded Residents should now have received a letter from the Government informing them of the new guidance.

- People who are shielding will no longer receive government parcels after the **31st July 2020**. They will now receive notes in their food parcels to remind them of this.
- They need to register with a supermarket for priority deliveries. If not already registered as needing food support and would like to have access to a priority supermarket delivery slot, individuals need to register on line or by phone before the 17th July 2020. Web site: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus-extremely-vulnerable> or by calling 0800 028 8327
- If help is required to register with a Supermarket, Blaby DC has guidance to help them with this. Alternatively they can access the Co-op (Whetstone) delivery service through the Blaby District Council Community Hub [www.blaby.gov.uk](http://www.blaby.gov.uk) or by calling 0116 275 0555
- Urgent help can still be sought through the Blaby District Council web site: [www.blaby.gov.uk](http://www.blaby.gov.uk) or by calling 0116 275 0555

## **Central England Co-op (Whetstone)**

The Co-op has teamed up with Blaby District Council to get vital food/essentials to vulnerable members of the local community. Blaby District Council can gather orders and pass them onto the store. Co-op colleagues will then create a package and take payment from the customer over the phone before the Council delivers the goods to the customer. Central England Cooperative will provide an updated order form identifying a ring-fenced selection of goods, and costs on a weekly basis to a Council contact. Refer customer to the Community hub to arrange - [www.blaby.gov.uk](http://www.blaby.gov.uk) or by calling 0116 275 0555