



## **RUTLAND COUNTY COUNCIL WEEKLY ROUNDUP**

**12 February 2021**

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### 1. COVID-19

#### a. Latest situation

As of 8.30am on Friday 12 February, 3,998,655 people have tested positive for coronavirus in the UK.

Of those who have tested positive for coronavirus in the UK, 115,529 people have died across all settings within 28 days of a positive test.

As of 8.30am on 12 February, 13,509,108 have received their first dose vaccination and 524,447 have received their second dose vaccination.

These figures will also be published on the daily dashboard:  
[coronavirus.data.gov.uk](https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk).

Rutland recorded 179 confirmed cases of COVID-19 during the latest week (2 to 8 February) – an increase of 85 cases compared with the previous week. This equates to 448 cases per 100,000 people. The average area in England had 163.

A total of 48 coronavirus-related deaths have been registered in Rutland as of 12 February.

#### b. HMP Stocken update

An ongoing COVID-19 outbreak at HMP Stocken has led to a significant increase in Rutland's infection rate.

There are currently more than 100 confirmed cases at the prison. Understandably, this has placed Rutland at the top of the national COVID rankings as the area with the highest rate of new infections. However, we are not seeing a rise in cases across the County.

Our Public Health Team are continuing to work with the Prison Outbreak Control Team and Public Health England to manage the situation at HMP Stocken

The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) has taken a number of precautionary measures at Stocken, in line with public health guidance. This includes:

- Pausing all transfers in and out of the prison
- Rolling out further testing for prison staff
- Isolating inmates who have tested positive
- Separately isolating anyone with COVID-19 symptoms
- Shielding prisoners who are vulnerable
- Enhanced PPE for staff

A COVID-19 vaccination programme began at HMP Stocken on Wednesday 3 February, in line with the national priority groups (those aged over 70 and the clinically extremely vulnerable).

HMP Stocken is a Category C men's prison with 950 inmates. Prior to this outbreak, Stocken had been free from COVID-19 infection for 11 months.

### **c. Lateral Flow Device (LFD) Testing**

Plans are being finalised for a COVID-19 testing centre in Rutland that will offer regular tests to people who are unable to work from home and have no COVID symptoms.

The Government is rolling out an expanded programme of Lateral Flow Device testing across the country. The aim is to identify more positive cases of COVID-19 and make sure people with the virus then isolate. This programme is crucial as one in three people have coronavirus without showing any symptoms.

Lateral flow antigen tests (known as LFD) require a simple swab from the nostril and throat and are self-administered.

To be eligible for an LFD test at the Rutland testing site, you must meet the following criteria:

- You must live or work in Rutland and cannot work from home during the national lockdown
- You must not have any COVID-19 symptoms - the LFD testing centre is just to identify asymptomatic cases
- You must not be self-isolating – for example because you've had close contact with someone who has tested positive, or have recently returned from abroad
- You must not be part of regular asymptomatic testing programme already

Anyone with COVID-19 symptoms (a high temperature, continuous cough or change to your sense of smell or taste) should not try to book a test at the Rutland Centre. Anyone with symptoms must self-isolate straight away and book a different test through the national GOV.UK website or by calling 119: [www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test](https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test).

Rutland's LFD testing centre will be based at Oakham Enterprise Park and is due to open week commencing 22 February.

Tests must be booked in advance – you cannot arrive at the centre without an appointment. Those eligible for a test will be able to book a maximum of two tests per week.

Anyone who receives a positive result must self-isolate immediately. NHS Test and Trace will also be notified. Those who test negative will not be required to self-isolate but will be asked to continue booking and taking regular tests.

It is now possible to find out more about LFD testing and book an appointment at the OEP testing site by visiting: [www.rutland.gov.uk/lfdtesting/](https://www.rutland.gov.uk/lfdtesting/).

#### **d. Vaccination centre update**

Rutland's COVID-19 vaccination centre has now administered the first vaccination to 8,125 patients. This includes 99.3% of patients aged over 80, along with 95.6% of those aged between 75-79 and 81.6% of those aged 70-74.

Approximately 800 health and social care staff and 118 housebound patients have also received their first vaccination. Health and social care workers continue to be offered vaccinations at NHS staff sites at Leicester hospitals.

Rutland's Primary Care Network (PCN) is now inviting patients from cohort 4 – patients aged over 70 and those who are clinically extremely vulnerable. The PCN is also continuing its housebound vaccination programme, which will take 2-3 weeks to complete, as well as starting to invite people from cohort 5 (aged 65-69) by inviting 69 year olds and some 68 year olds.

Anyone who is aged over 70 or clinically extremely vulnerable who has not had an appointment for their COVID-19 vaccination should contact: [rutlandhealth.cvp@nhs.net](mailto:rutlandhealth.cvp@nhs.net). The PCN will respond within 72 hours.

Patients designated as clinically extremely vulnerable will have received a letter from the government in March – July offering extra support. There is another group of vulnerable patients (cohort 6 – people who have long term conditions) who will be contacted shortly but not this week.

Patients aged over 68 and those who are clinically extremely vulnerable will receive invitations to book appointments over the next two weeks. They will receive an invitation by text message if they have a mobile and by telephone if not.

The PCN has other systems in place for those who cannot use the phone, to ensure no one is missed.

#### **Housebound patients**

Rutland's programme for vaccinating housebound patients aged over 70 is underway.

All patients recorded as housebound will have received a letter explaining this process. On the day of their vaccination, they will receive a call from their practice telling them who the vaccinator will be. All vaccinators will carry ID from the practice and the PCN. Residents are advised not to let anyone into their home who does not provide ID.

If you know someone who is aged over 70 or clinically extremely vulnerable and is normally housebound but who could be brought to the COVID vaccination centre in Oakham please email: [rutlandhealth.cvp@nhs.net](mailto:rutlandhealth.cvp@nhs.net) so that an appointment can be arranged. Wheelchairs are available at the Rutland Vaccination Centre.

#### **e. PPE supplies for informal carers**

Informal carers across Rutland can now access free stocks of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Informal carers provide care on an unpaid basis, often to family members. Some will provide a few hours of care each week, perhaps doing the shopping for someone who finds it difficult to get out of the house; others will provide round the clock care and companionship.

Rutland County Council has received additional stocks of PPE through the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and Local Resilience Forum (LRF). Stocks include hand sanitiser, gloves, aprons and face masks, and are specifically intended for informal carers.

The Council has set up a distribution hub at its Brightways Centre in Oakham and is encouraging local carers to get in touch to place an order. Informal carers can place their PPE order and book a collection slot by contacting the administrative team at the Brightways Centre. This can be emailing: [adixon@rutland.gov.uk](mailto:adixon@rutland.gov.uk) or [tthurley@rutland.gov.uk](mailto:tthurley@rutland.gov.uk).

Supplies of PPE will continue to be made available for informal carers in Rutland, who will be able to repeat orders and collections going forward.

#### **f. Winter Grants Scheme**

There is still time for people in Rutland to apply for the county's Winter Grants Scheme, which offers financial support to individuals and families affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The scheme was first launched in December 2020 and provides access to financial support for utility bills, food and other related essentials. This includes Winter Food Payment vouchers for eligible households with children aged 0-19.

Anyone who did not apply for a Winter Grant at Christmas but are a Rutland resident who meets the criteria, you can still apply for the February payment. Residents are eligible to apply for a payment if they already receive one of the following benefits:

- a. Income Support
- b. Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- c. Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- d. Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- e. The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- f. Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- g. Working Tax Credit run-on
- h. Universal Credit

Households can find more information and apply for a Winter Grant until March 2021. Applications can be made online at: [www.rutland.gov.uk/wintergrants](http://www.rutland.gov.uk/wintergrants).

Anyone who is unable to complete the online application form can contact our Customer Services Team by calling 01572 722 577.

## 2. WIDER COUNCIL OPERATIONS

### a. Waste Services Update

Winter weather has disrupted bin collections this week. Our crews are managing to reach towns and villages but struggling to complete collections in full because of icy conditions on some narrow side streets. This is making it difficult for crews to catch up in some areas.

The latest situation is as follows:

- Collections due to take place today (Friday 12th February) have gone ahead as usual, unless there are any streets or side roads that are too dangerous to access
- Any collections left over from Thursday 11th (Oakham rounds) have been reattempted today.
- Any collections left over from the beginning of this week (Monday 8th and Tuesday 9th) will take place on Saturday 13th.
- Any work left over from Wednesday 10th will be attempted on Monday 15th, when we will have an additional vehicle and crew assisting

Any collections listed above that cannot be completed due to unsafe conditions will be followed up throughout the rest of next week, when forecasts are predicting warmer weather.

### b. Support for Carers

There have been a number of changes to the way our social care services are operating at the moment, because of COVID-19.

These changes include assessments being completed virtually and socially distanced face-to-face meetings. Some services are only available over the phone or email.

The Carers page on the website has been updated to reflect the latest position and new information and useful links have been added. For full details please see:

[www.rutland.gov.uk/carers](http://www.rutland.gov.uk/carers)

### c. Social Work England National Advisory Forum

The Social Work England (SWE) National Advisory forum brings together Social Work England staff, professionals and people with lived experience to provide expert advice, support and challenge to our work.

Yaz supports RCC as an expert by experience, sharing her views as a person with a physical disability. She is going to be involved in the opening event for Social Work Week on 8th March, with a variety of online events also scheduled to take place:

[www.socialworkengland.org.uk/social-work-week/social-work-week-calendar/list-of-events](http://www.socialworkengland.org.uk/social-work-week/social-work-week-calendar/list-of-events)





#### The SWE National Advisory Forum:

- Acts as a critical friend, providing feedback and guidance on development and engagement
- Advises on how SWE should engage with people who have an interest in social work
- Works together to develop projects and sub-groups, for example with other Social Work England advisory groups
- Makes recommendations to SWE senior and executive leadership teams about their impact on the social work sector
- Champions SWE work and supports them in promoting SWE role and benefit to the sector

Yaz works with children and young people, using her personal experiences of social work to inform others of the needs of children transitioning from children to adult social work services. For example, thinking about the impact on a child or young person when they move from school to college or from the family home to supported or independent living.

Yaz also has considerable experience within the voluntary sector. She has worked with children and young people with or without disabilities in schools, youth clubs, play groups and charity organisations.

Yaz has co-hosted events with our Social work England representative Jess McEwen and will continue to be involved with ensuring our practice and understanding is informed by people with lived experience of our services

#### **d. Monthly FOI and complaints data**

Our latest monthly FOI and EIR data for January can be viewed below, together with last month's Compliments and Complaints statistics.

##### FOIs & EIRs

FOIs & EIRs requests received	141
FOIs & EIRs responses sent	104
Average No of days taken to provide a response to an FOI / EIR Request*	19/40*
Average time (minutes) spent on FOI Request	86.5

## Compliments & Complaints

Compliments received	31
Complaints received	2
Complaints responses sent	8
Average No of days taken to provide a response to a Complaint**	30/30*

\*Due to new COVID-19 restrictions, the Council will be focusing its resources on priority services, dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic and supporting our residents and businesses. In light of this, we are extending the time taken to provide a response to your Freedom of Information Request (FOI), Subject Access Request (SAR) and Complaints by 20 working days respectively. For SAR's and FOI's we will respond within 40 days and for complaints it's 30 working days.

[www.rutland.gov.uk/my-council/have-your-say/comments-compliments-and-complaints/](http://www.rutland.gov.uk/my-council/have-your-say/comments-compliments-and-complaints/)

### **e. Safer Internet Day**

Online events taking place as part of Safer Internet Day 2021 were held on Tuesday 9th and Thursday 11th February, offering free cyber safety advice and guidance.

Topics covered as part of these events included:

- Keeping children and young people safe online, including advice about home schooling
- Device safety and protection
- Password guidance and account security
- Protecting your personal information
- Using social media safely
- Risks of free or public Wi-Fi
- Social engineering and phishing emails/texts
- Telephone and letterbox scams
- Where to report scams
- Online shopping and online banking safely

For anyone who missed these events, a wealth of useful information and free resources can be found online at: [www.saferinternetday.org](http://www.saferinternetday.org)



### 3. GOVERNANCE AND DECISION MAKING

#### a. Parish Council Forum

Our latest Parish Council Forum was held on Monday 8 February at 7.00 pm.

Full details are available [on our Meetings page](#).

#### b. Planning and Licensing Committee

Our latest Planning and Licensing Committee took place on Tuesday 8 February at 7.00pm.

The full agenda and report for this meeting [can be viewed online](#).

#### c. Schools' Forum

Our latest School's Forum was held on Thursday 11 February at 4.00pm.

The full agenda and report for this meeting [can be viewed online](#).

#### d. Look ahead

The following meetings are due to take place next week (w/c Monday 15 February):

- [Cabinet, Tuesday 16 February at 10:00am](#)
- [Employment and Appeals Committee, Tuesday 16 February at 7:00pm](#)
- [Growth, Infrastructure and Resources Scrutiny Committee, Thursday 18 February at 7:00pm](#)

The latest version of the RCC Forward Plan [can be viewed online, here](#).

### 4. STAFF NEWS

#### a. Starters

The following news starters have joined RCC:

- Monica Hurst – Casual Ceremonies Officer
- Dharmendra Rajput – Highways Engineer

### 5. RCC IN THE NEWS

#### a. Press releases issued this week

- [Plans being finalised for rapid testing centre in Rutland](#)
- [Rutland County Council raise Rainbow Flag in support of LGBT+ History Month](#)

**b. Other media coverage**

- [Spike in prison cases behind coronavirus surge in Rutland](#)
- [Rutland's high Covid-19 case rate attributed to coronavirus outbreak at Stocken Prison in Stretton by MP Alicia Kearns](#)
- [Covid: HMP Stocken outbreak 'behind Rutland's surge'](#)

**ENDS**