

COLLIERS WOOD AND NE MITCHAM COMMUNITY FORUM  
1 OCTOBER 2020

(7.15 pm - 9.00 pm)

PRESENT Councillors Councillor John Dehaney (in the Chair),

1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS (Agenda Item 1)

The meeting was held via Zoom, and chaired by Councillor John Dehaney. Two residents and four councillors attended on Zoom with 53 additional views on YouTube. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained how the meeting would work.

2 LONDON ASSEMBLY UPDATE (Agenda Item 2)

Leonie Cooper, Assembly Member for Merton and Wandsworth gave an update on her work. Leonie said she is happy to attend local meetings on Zoom and can be contacted by [email](#).

City Hall is usually buzzing and active but most members and staff have been working from home since 19 March. Chairs of committees still need to attend City Hall but most others connect from home. The economy in London has a huge issues, for individuals and businesses, and the Economy Committee investigation into the high street has continued. On Housing Committee members are looking at what happens to homeless who were housed as an emergency measure. The Environment committee also looking at impacts from pandemic.

A resident asked about the cycle lane on CS7. Leonie responded that Department for Transport funding was offered to councils to quickly change spaces to encourage walking and cycling, and make social distancing easier. This included introducing wands on the cycle lane along the A24 from Balham to Morden, and through Colliers Wood, in order to create a safe segregated space for cycling. The changes have been implemented to allow for increased walking and cycling, which people are choosing due to COVID, but to allow this, the changes were required due to a history of accidents on this road. More walking and cycling also helps improve air quality, which is a good thing, as poor air quality has been associated with more serious COVID illness. This is an 18 month trial and Transport for London welcomes [views on the scheme](#) and residents can [email](#) as well. Leonie has received comments supporting the scheme, some would like to see an extension of the segregation, and others feel the changes are awful. Leonie is in contact with Will Norman and Heidi Alexander to raise concerns on behalf. Changes have been made to address serious

injuries and air quality. A lot of parking has been removed, London Fire Brigade and Met Police have said there is no impact on response times. More adjustments to bus stops will be made to make it easier for passengers, especially those with visual impairment.

A resident asked about the Mayor of London's view on changes to parking provision. Leonie said the Mayor has been consulting on changes to the 5% of roads under TfL. The Mayor has been offering schools money to install green walls, and is encouraging boroughs to address air quality. TfL is also addressing polluting buses. Cleaning up London's air has become even more important to help prevent serious illness from COVID. We also need Londoners to improve their cars. The Ultra-Low Emission Zone expansion will expand to South Circular in 2021, and this will help across London as owners change their cars. Also all new taxis need to be electric. There are no plans to expand the ULEZ beyond the South Circular but this will need to be reviewed over time.

Cllr Gretton asked about Uber drivers not being supported by the Mayor of London. Leonie said TfL have engaged Uber and other similar companies but Uber have not behaved as well as others. The main issue was with passenger safety. Leonie also explained that the extension to congestion-charge was a condition of the central government financial support to TfL. That agreement also included ending Zip card for under 18s. London politicians across all parties are working together to keep the concession.

### 3 COUNCIL UPDATE - LEADER OF THE COUNCIL, COUNCILLOR STEPHEN ALAMBRITIS (Agenda Item 3)

Councillor Stephen Alambritis gave the annual report he provides to all of the community forums.

Sadly 205 people in Merton have died from COVID-19, and Stephen offered his condolences. 38 of these died in care homes, and Merton Council is working closely with care homes to support them. Merton is also researching in the issues behind inequality of BAME residents in relation to COVID. In Merton more than 7000 residents were shielded, all of whom were contacted and offered support. The local community also came together to support residents and Stephen highlighted the work of Merton Mutual Aid, Dons Local Action Group, Commonsides Trust, and foodbanks, as well as paying tribute to the many volunteers who contributed. Stephen also thanked the local MPs Siobhan McDonald and Stephen Hammond.

Merton is joining Croydon to nominate Patrick Hutchinson for a bravery award following his rescuing of a rival protester in London.

Services are reopening with Garth Road no longer needing booking at weekends, but booking required Monday – Friday. Merton was the 3<sup>rd</sup> quickest in London in getting government grants out to local businesses. Helped 2000+ SME businesses. Merton also waived rents as a landlord.

Merton has an Emergency transport strategy including 26 school streets. We have used and Experimental Management Order as we were asked by government to move quickly. Also 52 rough sleepers were helped into accommodation during lockdown, with 8 refusing the offer of help. We hope the Government will provide support to help find long term solutions.

Sutton and Merton are still on lower end of infection scales, and Stephen paid tribute to Director of Public Health and her staff of their hard work. Merton redeployed staff to help with the crisis, for example the Bailiffs team were tasked with distributing food parcels.

AFC Wimbledon's new stadium is nearly finished, with the first match due to be played behind closed doors on 3 November. This will help regenerate Plough Lane area, including more than 800 new housing units.

We have referred the proposals to downgrade St Helier Hospital to the Secretary of State for Health, and he has asked the independent reconfiguration panel to review the decision taken by the Clinical Commissioning Group.

Cllr Mark Allison, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, was asked by the Chair to provide an update on the Council's finances. He said Merton has used its resources to support the community and worked in partnership with local groups. Merton has distributed more than government has provided to local businesses. Around £27m has been spent on COVID that has not been reimbursed. This equates to 25% of council tax income. Merton will need to dip into reserves and will need to make cuts of around £17m for 2021/2. We hope the government will acknowledge the shortfall and meet these additional needs.

Cllr Gretton asked about the Government commitment to provide 75p in £1 in lost income. Cllr Allison responded that this is welcome but the shortfall will still have a huge impact, and in practice the support is unlikely to be as high as 75%. This will still mean significant cuts to local services.

#### 4 EMISSIONS BASED PARKING CHARGES CONSULTATION (Agenda Item 4)

Cath James, Assistant Director of Public Protection, introduced the item and explained why Merton is consulting on changes to charges and why now. Introducing emissions based charging was always planned, but in the last consultation the

proposed changes did not include emissions as the technology to deliver it was not available.

Covid-19 has meant that public transport not available so during the lockdown we saw a move nationally to encourage much more active travel. In outer London car use now at 150% of previous levels so this is an issue that still needs addressing. We have delayed this consultation due to lock down, as the proposal was originally agreed to go out to consultation in the spring.

The proposed approach builds on the previous consultation. We do not have control over vehicles passing through the borough so we know the proposals do not take into account movement of vehicles. However, it is important to take a proportionate approach to the tools we have

Ben Stephens, Head of Parking Services gave a presentation on the details of the proposals and the presentation is attached to this report. Ben explained that more than half of London boroughs either have or are introducing some form of emissions based charging. The ULEZ scheme will replace the current diesel levy. The consultation will remain open until 23 October 2020.

Cllr Gretton asked about parking scratch cards, saying that residents found them quick and convenient, but have increased from £1.50 to £8.50 at the top end of the scale. Ben Stephens said that in the consultation there is a scale for scratch cards and visitor permits, and these will be cheaper for less polluting, higher for more polluting cars.

A resident asked about cars being parked on streets that were not in Controlled Parking Zones. Cath James said that CPZs are resident led in Merton, areas have selected to have controls and to pay to restrict outside use. Merton Council only has certain powers so has to use the ones we have.

## 5 COVID-19 COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS (Agenda Item 5)

Barry Causer, Head of Strategic Commissioning, Public Health gave a presentation on the current situation with COVID, and the presentation is attached to this report.

The key message is that positive cases are increasing across London and in Merton. There is now additional testing capacity in London but tests should only be requested if you are symptomatic, are taking part in a government pilot project or if asked to by the NHS before having surgery or another procedure.

Community action is vital, in order to prevent outbreaks and reducing the health harms. In particular residents are asked to:

- Prevent transmission through the rule of 6, regular handwashing and using face-coverings.
- Get tested if symptomatic
- Respond and follow the advice of NHS Test and Trace
- Be aware of potential fraud
- NHS is open
- Get COVID fit to reduce the risk of complications e.g. stop smoking
- Manage long-term conditions
- Get support for mental health
- Get your flu jabs

**COVID-19 Community Champions** have been set up in Merton. Anyone who lives or works in Merton and is able to share key messages and information. 50 volunteers so far, with drop in sessions on Wednesdays. You can register [online](#).

A question was asked about the impact of reopening of schools. Barry said that the risk to children of becoming severely ill is low and there are negative impacts of being out of school. Schools have done a huge amount of work to reduce the risk of transmission and have risk assessments in place. When schools have had small outbreaks they have been supported by Public Health and CSF to manage them.

Councillor Dehaney thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

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# Consultation on emission-based parking charges

## A strategic approach to parking charges

Community engagement  
September/October 2020

# This meeting :

- What is being proposed ?
- Why is it being proposed ?
- How the proposals will work ?
- Where to find our more and have your say?



# What is being proposed

An emission based charging policy for all vehicles in the borough.

## Polluter pays principle

- The principle of emission-based charging is that the less polluting your vehicle is, the less you pay, and the more polluting, the more you pay.
- Applies to all Permit charges and paid for parking in and off street.

# Why is this being proposed ?

In a recent Merton survey 57% of respondents agreed lesser polluting cars should be charged less than more polluting cars.

Merton has committed to considering emissions based charging to help tackle the following issues:

## Climate Change

The use of petrol and diesel vehicles in the borough makes up 19% of Merton's carbon emissions

## Air Quality

- Emissions of NOx and PM is associated with a range of adverse health impacts
- More than 9,000 premature deaths attributed to poor air quality in London
- Transport emissions account for approximately 60% of Merton's NOx emissions

## Public Health

- Active travel is one of easiest ways to exercise
- 30 minutes of moderate exercise four to five days a week can halve the risk of a heart attack.
- One third of Merton Children are obese by the end of primary school.

# Why is this being proposed ?

It is hoped that the proposals will support the following outcomes:

- Increased use of sustainable modes of travel
- Improved health outcomes – less diabetes , obesity , heart and lung related disease etc
- Improved air quality
- Reduced carbon emissions
- Increased uptake of ultra-low emission vehicles
- Reduced car journeys and car ownership
- Increase use of Car clubs

# Key elements of emission based charging?

The proposed model for all permits will be based on the following criteria:

Removal of the current diesel levy and a new approach

**1. Location.**

Location-based charging has been in operation since January 2020. Charges are based on the location of the controlled zone and public transport accessibility, also how long each day the zone is operational.

**2. Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions.**

Our proposals will build on the current model and include CO<sub>2</sub> emissions which contribute towards climate change. This is based on Vehicle Excise Duty (VED) 'car tax' bands

**3. ULEZ-based surcharge.**

Our proposals include a surcharge for some vehicles based on their nitrogen oxides (NOx) and particulate matter (PM) emissions. These emissions contribute to local air pollution which can damage health. This is based on the Transport for London Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) model. This will replace the existing diesel levy that has been in operation since 2017.

**4. *ULEZ-based surcharge for Pay and Display parking.* A single one off payment is being proposed for each parking session to vehicles exceed the minimum emission levels.**

# Example of Emission based charging

Permits -

## Example 1. (Audi A1 1L 2017)

1. **Location** - Tier 2. Controlled Zone is only enforced for part of the day,.
2. **CO2 Emissions** The vehicle also emits only 97 (g/km) CO2 Emissions and is in band E of the Governments tax bands and liable for a £90 Permit charge.
3. **(NOx)** The vehicle is manufactured in 2017 with a Euro rating of 6, therefore NOT liable to the £150 ULEZ based charge.

Total Charge £90. This is £20 cheaper than the current Permit price

## Example 2. On street Parking and Car Parks -

A proposed one off charge of £1.50 for each parking event if the vehicle does not meet minimum ULEZ **(NOx)** based standard.

# Other boroughs who charge based on Emissions

- **At least half of all London boroughs use a form of emission based charging.**

(Examples right)

- **Transport for London have the Ultra Low Emission Zone.**

- There was a 65% reduction in the number of older, more polluting, noncompliant vehicles detected in the zone in the first 6 months

- **Government Vehicle Tax bandings are based on emissions.**

Barking and Dagenham

Barnet

Brent

Camden

Croydon

Ealing

Enfield

Haringey

Hounslow

Hackney

Islington

Kensington and Chelsea

Lambeth

Sutton

Waltham forest

Westminster

# Covid 19 issues

- Limits on public transport at present but this will not be permanent and we will expect to get back to full capacity
- Traffic is now at or above pre-covid levels [ 110% of previous in Outer London ]

# How can I support or make representation on this proposal?

We welcome your comments

Any person wishing to make representation or object on the proposals should visit: [www.merton.gov.uk/parkingconsultation2020](http://www.merton.gov.uk/parkingconsultation2020)

We have an online survey and opportunity to submit representations

or

In writing to Parking Services, the London Borough of Merton, Merton Civic Centre, London Road, Morden, Surrey, SM4 5DX quoting reference **Parking Consultation 2020** or by email to [parkingconsultation2020@merton.gov.uk](mailto:parkingconsultation2020@merton.gov.uk), no later than **23<sup>rd</sup> October 2020**.



# COVID-19 update

## Colliers Wood and North East Mitcham Community Forum

Barry Causer – Head of Strategic Commissioning (Public Health)

1<sup>st</sup> October 2020

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Minute Item 5



# AIMS AND PURPOSE

- Brief overview of the key COVID-19 messages related to Merton
- Brief overview of outbreak control
- Important messages for community involvement/action
- Introduce our Merton Community Champions – a key part of outbreak prevention
- Q&A

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# KEY MESSAGES

- ✓ Positive **cases are increasing in Merton**, from a low baseline. The increase is affecting a broader range of ages, it is no longer just young people out socialising.
- ✓ London has been identified as an '**area of concern**' by the Government. This recognises the challenge that London faces in containing the virus and brings with it additional support e.g. additional testing capacity.
- ✓ **Testing** is available if you are symptomatic, have been told to take a test before you go into hospital, have been asked to by your Local Authority or taking part in a Gov Pilot project.
- ✓ **The COVID-19 App** has been downloaded 14 million times so far. The more who download it, the better it works.
- ✓ Schools have worked very hard to be able to open up safely, as **returning to school is critical** to children and young people.
- ✓ The most effective way of helping to stop the spread remains adhering to guidelines around **social distancing, the rule of six, wearing face coverings and washing hands.**

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# MERTON LOCAL OUTBREAK CONTROL PLAN

Accessible at

[https://www.merton.gov.uk/assets/Documents/Outbreak%20Control%20LBM%20Outbreak%20Control%20Plan%20for%20publication%20with%20forward%20290620%20\(003\)%20\(002\).pdf](https://www.merton.gov.uk/assets/Documents/Outbreak%20Control%20LBM%20Outbreak%20Control%20Plan%20for%20publication%20with%20forward%20290620%20(003)%20(002).pdf)

## Purpose

Complement NHS test and trace to minimise virus spread. Identify high risk settings and vulnerable communities; describes how LBM works with Public Health England and local partners e.g. NHS and Voluntary Sector

## Scope

Response readiness for managing C19 positive cases/outbreaks; not included: prevention/mitigation of wider C19 harm and recovery

## Themes (DHSC)

1- Care homes and schools; 2- Other high risk settings; 3- Local testing capacity (in addition to routine NHS Test & Trace); 4-Local contact tracing / case finding (for community clusters); 5 Data integration; 6 Vulnerable people; 7 Governance

## Timeline

Now – end of March 2021 (at least; covering high risk autumn/winter)

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# COMMUNITY ACTION FOR OUTBREAK PREVENTION

- Simple but effective methods to prevent transmission of the virus
  - The rule of 6, regular hand washing, social-distancing, self-isolation and face coverings
- Symptoms to look for - high temperature, new continuous cough, loss or change of smell/taste
- Testing – if symptomatic get a test via 119 or [www.nhs.uk/coronavirus](http://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus)
- NHS Test & Trace
  - if +ve case you will be contacted by e-mail, text or phone and asked for the contact details of any close contacts
  - if contacted by NHSTT, having been in close contact of someone who had +ve test, you will be asked to self-isolate for 14 days
  - Download the NHS COVID-19 app
- Be aware of potential NHSTT fraud e.g. someone asking for payment for a COVID19 test; testing is free. Text messages will come from NHStracing and calls will come from 0300 0135000

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# COMMUNITY ACTION FOR REDUCING HEALTH IMPACT

- The NHS is open. If you are worried, phone your GP or use NHS 111
- Get 'covid-fit' to reduce risk of complications
  - Eat healthily or lose weight
  - Stop Smoking
  - Increase your physical activity levels
- Manage any Long Term Conditions e.g. diabetes
- Access support for your Mental health and wellbeing
- Get your flu jab, many groups get this free but they are also available from some employers and from Community Pharmacy

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# COVID-19 COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS

- ✓ COVID-19 Community Champions are a key part of our approach to preventing and managing outbreaks in Merton
- ✓ In response to Community Engagement workshop (11<sup>th</sup> Aug), where we heard that community want to support local efforts and have an on-going dialogue with LBM and NHS
- ✓ Anyone who lives or works in Merton who wants to help stop the spread of COVID-19
- ✓ Anyone that will share clear and consistent messages from the NHS and Public Health and feedback on challenges in Merton
- ✓ We have over 50 champions who are residents, Councillors, service providers, LBM Officers, CCG Officers, VCS reps, Clinicians and more!

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# The role of the Champions

1. Receive the latest updates on how to stay safe and healthy during COVID-19 through the weekly drop-in meetings and Friday messages

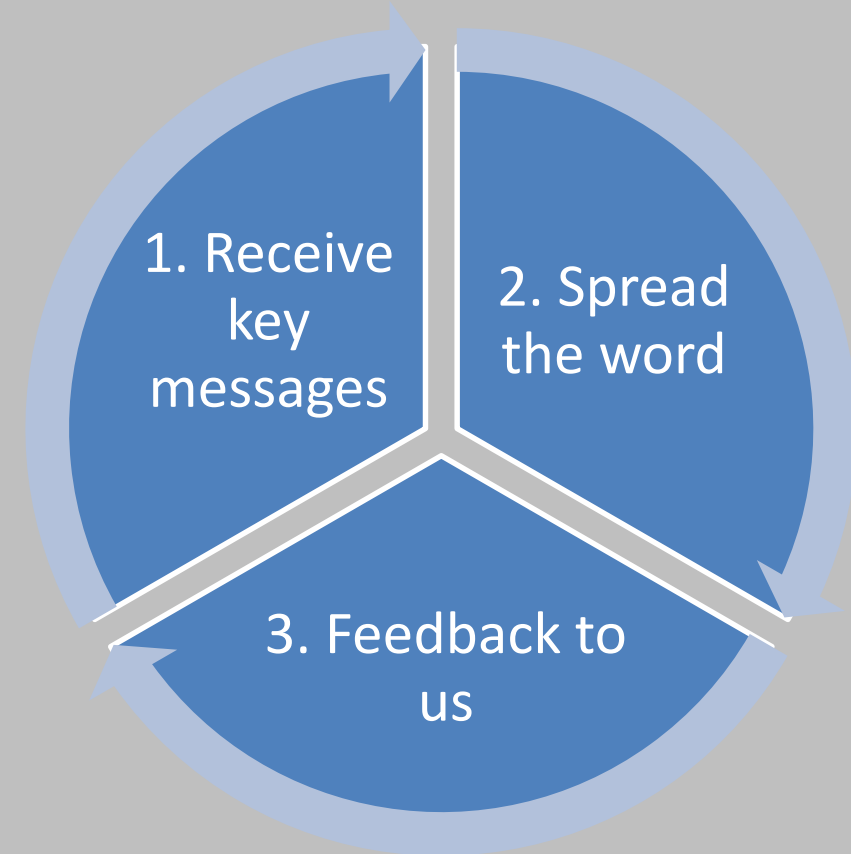
Key messages can be delivered to targeted audiences via a combination of digital and hard copies. Multiple languages and easy read versions via: video, jpegs, visuals, text message

2. Share this information with family, friends, work colleagues, and the wider community

Champions can spread the message via appropriate communication channels. We will support you in what ever way we can

3. Feedback to us what is working well, what isn't and what are the needs of the community

Everyone sharing – we want to hear from the champions too: what info do you need? what are the issues in the community?





# JOIN OUR NETWORK OF COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS

- Register to become a champion at <https://consult.merton.gov.uk/survey/795> or for more information contact [public.health@merton.gov.uk](mailto:public.health@merton.gov.uk) or [una.obrien@merton.gov.uk](mailto:una.obrien@merton.gov.uk)
- Drop-in sessions take place every Wednesday (12pm-1pm and 7pm-8pm)
- Tell your friends, family colleagues, networks and communities – we are always looking for new champions.

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## ANY QUESTIONS?

Barry Causer

[Barry.Causer@merton.gov.uk](mailto:Barry.Causer@merton.gov.uk)

020 8545 4833

# FURTHER INFORMATION

**THE RULE OF 6  
SOCIAL DISTANCING  
WEARING A FACE COVERING  
SOCIAL ISOLATION**

# THE RULE OF 6

To help prevent the spread of COVID-19, you should not socialise in groups bigger than 6 people.

When seeing friends and family you do not live with you should:

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- ✓ meet in groups of 6 or less
- ✓ follow social distancing rules when you meet up
- ✓ limit how many different people you see socially over a short period of time
- ✓ meet people outdoors where practical: meeting people outdoors is safer than meeting people indoors because fresh air provides better ventilation

(based on guidance at 30th September 2020)

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## Can I visit people indoors?

Yes. When meeting with people you don't live with you can socialise in groups of up to 6. This is a legal limit. If your household (and/or support bubble) is larger than 6 people, you can gather together. You should continue to maintain social distancing with anyone you do not live with.

## Can I use public transport if I'm seeing friends in a park or going to my parents' garden?

You can help control coronavirus and travel safely by walking and cycling, if you can. However where this is not possible, you can use public transport or drive. If you do use public transport, you must wear a face covering .

## Are children counted in the group of 6?

Yes.

## Can I stay overnight in someone else's home?

Yes, you can stay overnight in someone else's home, but only if you do not form a gathering of more than 6 people. You may only form a gathering of more than 6 people for an overnight stay if it is with your support bubble. People in the same support bubble can stay overnight with each other in larger groups as they count as one household.

## Can I look after my grandchildren?

Yes. People in groups of up to 6 can meet indoors or outdoors, which enables you to spend time with your grandchildren (although whole families may not be able to meet up at once).

(based on guidance at 30th September 2020)

## How many people am I allowed to meet with outdoors?

When meeting with people you don't live with (or who you have not formed a support bubble with) you can socialise in groups of up to 6. If your household (and/or support bubble) is larger than 6 people, this is your largest permitted group and you cannot meet as a group with any additional people. You should continue to maintain social distancing with anyone you do not live with.

## Can more than six people can be in a pub, restaurant or place of worship at once?

Venues following COVID-19 Secure guidelines can host more than 6 people in total, but no one should visit in a group of greater than 6 (unless you are all from the same household or support bubble).

# EXCEPTIONS

**There are exceptions where groups can be larger than 6 people. These include:**

- for work, or the provision of voluntary or charitable services
  - registered childcare, education or training
  - supervised activities provided for children, including wraparound care, youth groups and activities, and children's playgroups
  - providing support to a vulnerable person
  - providing emergency assistance, and to avoid injury or illness or to escape risk of harm
  - for arrangements where children do not live in the same household as both their parents
  - fulfilling a legal obligation, such as attending court or jury service
  - elite sporting competition and training
  - wedding and civil partnership ceremonies and receptions – up to 15 people
  - funerals – up to 30 people. This does not include wakes, other than for religious ceremonial purposes
  - exercise classes, organised outdoor sport or licensed outdoor physical activity, and supervised sporting activity (indoors or outdoors) for under-18s
  - indoor organised team sports for disabled people
  - support groups of up to 15 participants – formally organised groups to provide mutual aid, therapy or any other form of support. This includes support to victims of crime, recovering addicts, new parents, people with long-term illnesses, those facing issues relating to their sexuality or gender, and those who have suffered bereavement.
  - protests – if organised in compliance with COVID-19 Secure guidance. All individuals must be socially distanced
- (based on guidance at 30th September 2020)

# Social Distancing (space)

To reduce the risk of catching or spreading coronavirus, try to keep at least 2 metres away from people you do not live with. Social distancing helps stop the spread of the virus, as it is more likely to spread when people are close together. An infected person can pass on the virus even if they do not have any symptoms, through talking, breathing, coughing or sneezing.

Where you cannot stay 2 metres apart you should stay more than 1 metre apart, as well as taking extra steps to stay safe. For example:

- ✓ Wear a face covering: on public transport and in many indoor spaces, you must wear a face covering by law, unless you are exempt
- ✓ move outdoors, where it is safer and there is more space
- ✓ if indoors, make sure rooms are well ventilated by keeping windows and doors open

You do not need to socially distance from anyone in your household, meaning the people you live with. You also do not need to socially distance from someone you're in an established relationship with, or anyone in your legally-permitted support bubble if you are in one.

# Wearing a face covering

COVID-19 usually spreads by droplets from

- ✓ coughs
- ✓ sneezes
- ✓ speaking

These droplets can also be picked up from surfaces and spread if you touch a surface and then your face without washing your hands first.

This is why social distancing, regular hand hygiene, and covering coughs and sneezes is so important in controlling the spread of the virus.

The best available evidence is that, when used correctly, wearing a face covering may reduce the spread of coronavirus droplets in certain circumstances, helping to protect others.





# WHEN TO SELF-ISOLATE

Self-isolation is when you do not leave your home because you have or might have coronavirus (COVID-19). This helps stop the virus spreading to other people.

Self-isolate immediately if:

- ✓ you have any symptoms of COVID-19 (a high temperature, a new, continuous cough or a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste) - request a test ASAP via 119 or <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>
- ✓ you've tested positive for COVID-19 – this means you have COVID-19
- ✓ you live with someone who has symptoms or tested positive
- ✓ someone in your support bubble has symptoms or tested positive
- ✓ you're told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace or the NHS COVID-19 app
- ✓ you arrive in the UK from a country with a high coronavirus risk – see [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk)

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# HOW TO SELF-ISOLATE

## How to self-isolate

You must not leave your home if you're self-isolating.

## Don't

- ✓ do not go to work, school or public places – work from home if you can
- ✓ do not go on public transport or use taxis
- ✓ do not go out to get food and medicine – order it online or by phone, or ask someone to bring it to your home
- ✓ do not have visitors in your home, including friends and family – except for people providing essential care
- ✓ do not go out to exercise – exercise at home or in your garden, if you have one

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## Support

- ✓ Merton Community Response Hub – 020 8685 2272 or [help@mvsc.co.uk](mailto:help@mvsc.co.uk)

