

## What the Government is saying

The Government has issued further details regarding information on '[Staying at home](#)' and '[Keeping away from other people](#)'. For any individuals with autism or learning difficulties, [ASERT](#) and [Opening Doors](#) have produced guides respectively.

There have also been further details provided for homeowners and landlords regarding [mortgage repayments](#) and for those [renting](#) in relation to their rights at this time.

A scheme to provide [free school meals](#) to those in need has been launched and a range of utility providers including water, gas and electricity companies are putting extra support in place for those who have lost their job or had their income greatly affected due to Coronavirus. You will need to contact your supplier directly for more information.

The information regarding [employment](#), including the [self-employed](#), and benefit claimants is constantly being updated, as is the support available for [businesses](#). And the government has also announced that the contactless card payment limit will be raised to £45 and that this will roll out across many stores over the next few months.

And finally, there have been an increase in Coronavirus related scams involving fake cures, the offering of test kits in exchange for money, emails regarding tax refunds etc. For more details on these and how to avoid them please visit <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/news/2020/03/coronavirus-scams-warning>

### What's happening in Norfolk

As of 24<sup>th</sup> March there are 207 registered cases of the virus in Norfolk. Public Health England has released a [tracker](#) that you can check.

The Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service have issued some [tips](#) to help ensure the safety of residents during the Covid-19 pandemic and the NCC have created a webpage with information, support and toolkits – all of which can be found [here](#).

There is a national initiative to co-ordinate the visiting and outreach of vulnerable people. For Norfolk, this is being led through a multi-agency group – the Community Resilience Cell – and the Norfolk Assistance Scheme.

A coordinated emergency relief response has been developed for people in crisis to provide

- Practical community support for tasks like getting shopping, prescription medication from the pharmacy, dog walking, or check calls (by telephone or on the doorstep).
- Requests for Financial Support - Emergency Cash or Food

The County and District Councils are writing to every household in Norfolk, asking vulnerable people to get in touch if they require support during the coronavirus pandemic. Anyone classed as vulnerable or in need of urgent support, either now or in the coming weeks, can contact Norfolk County Council on 0344 8008020. This line is open Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm.

If you, or anyone you know, is considered a vulnerable person please find more information on what you can do on the North Norfolk Council [website](#).

For full information on all County Council service disruptions and closures please visit - <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/safety/service-disruptions>

## How to protect our community

### Volunteer

If you would like to volunteer more information is available here - [www.voluntarynorfolk.org.uk](http://www.voluntarynorfolk.org.uk)

Businesses should email [covidbusinessresponse@voluntarynorfolk.org.uk](mailto:covidbusinessresponse@voluntarynorfolk.org.uk)

If you would like to volunteer in the NHS please use - <https://www.goodsamapp.org/NHSvolunteerresponders>

There are a number of Community hubs being established to help people who need support during the crisis. Details are here - <https://covidmutualaid.org/local-groups/>

## **Donate**

Norfolk Community Foundation has launched the Covid-19 Community Response Fund to the local charities who are working hard to keep vulnerable people safe and well:

The Fund brings together local donations, and funds raised by the National Emergencies Trust, to ensure the charities can access the funding they need to support the most vulnerable in our communities - £173,000 has been raised to date. Find out more and donate online at

[www.norfolkfoundation.com/giving-philanthropy/covid19communityresponsefund/](http://www.norfolkfoundation.com/giving-philanthropy/covid19communityresponsefund/)

- giving enquiries to [shinebrighter@norfolkfoundation.com](mailto:shinebrighter@norfolkfoundation.com)

## **Apply**

Initial small grants are available now to help charitable groups across Norfolk respond to the needs of our vulnerable people affected by the outbreak. Find out more and apply online at

[www.norfolkfoundation.com/funding-support/grants/groups/covid-19-community-response-fund/](http://www.norfolkfoundation.com/funding-support/grants/groups/covid-19-community-response-fund/)

Applicant enquiries to [grants@norfolkfoundation.com](mailto:grants@norfolkfoundation.com)