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update  
YOUR ONLINE ROUND UP FROM BROMLEY COUNCIL

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## Spring 2021 Newsletter



### A message from the Leader of the Council

**Dear Resident,**

Looking back, it is difficult to believe it was virtually a year ago to the day that our Country suffered its first fatality to Covid.

Within days, others would sadly follow, within weeks the first lockdown had begun and a prominent health specialist warned that the UK would do well to keep deaths below 20,000. Some criticised him for scaremongering at the time. If only.

Today, a year on, after months of selfless personal sacrifice by our brave front line public services, we stand on the very cusp of finally putting the misery of 2020 behind us and moving forward, thanks in very large part to the brilliance of British science and the accelerated roll out of the national vaccination programme.

Tomorrow, as the first step of the Government's Covid exit strategy, our schools will reopen as you may know.

A time of great joy for students keen to see their friends I'm absolutely certain, as well as utter relief for mums, dads and guardians to hand back home tuition duties to the experts, both of which are clearly hugely welcome news. The event does, however, also bring with it a renewed threat to the speed of the reduction in new infection rates locally.

Despite the amazing success of the vaccination programme locally details of which can be seen below, it is with that in mind that I write to you today with a respectful reminder and request, as complacency is now our biggest danger.

If you are picking up or dropping off at school, could you please continue to social distance and wear a mask in the presence of others as best you can and avoid direct physical contact at all times.

Also, to those who have been fortunate enough to have had your vaccination already, particularly within the last three weeks, please

do not drop your guard yet under any circumstances. This battle still isn't over yet.

You are very much safer than you were, but you are not immune, so you must still take care and follow the guidelines.

It is as true today as it ever has been that washing hands regularly, wearing masks where requested to do so and strictly observing social distancing at all times will continue to save lives, prevent serious illness and protect the NHS, so please let's all just do it.

We're on the home stretch and the end is in sight, let's not blow it now.

**Councillor Colin P. Smith,  
Leader of the Council  
London Borough of Bromley**



### **Covid-19 Vaccination Centre opened at the Civic Centre**

**Bromley Council Leader, Cllr Colin Smith welcomed members of the Princess Royal University Hospital and the South East London Clinical Commissioning Group to the Civic Centre as the new Bromley Covid Vaccination Centre established on the site prepared to open its doors to the public on 2 March 2021.**

In support of NHS and CCG partners, the council cleared the way for the launch of a Covid-19 vaccination centre in the Great Hall, Civic Centre which opened its doors on 2 March, following a dry run on 1 March and will build to a capacity of more than 1000 vaccinations a day, offering welcome protection against Covid-19 to many more residents. The centre will operate seven days a week.

Bromley is one of two Boroughs leading the field in the number of vaccines delivered in South East London with 92.5 per cent and 92.4 per cent of over 80s and 75- 79 year olds, respectively, having been vaccinated as well as 91 per cent of those aged 70 - 74, and 84.9 per cent of 65-69 year olds. One hundred per cent of care homes have been visited and 75 per cent of those who are clinically extremely vulnerable have been vaccinated.

Additionally, care staff and unpaid carers have also been offered the vaccine with many already taking this up. Anyone in these priority groups or who is over 56 – with people in other ages also due to be invited for vaccination shortly - and has not yet received an invitation or has changed their mind can now book appointments online at [NHS - Coronavirus Vaccination](#).

Appointments are offered at either a hospital site; at general practice sites; a roving service for those unable to travel and now at the new vaccination centre at the Civic Centre.

[Read more...](#)



## Bromley's rapid testing helps to stop the spread of Covid-19

**More than 16,000 people without any symptoms have been tested for Covid-19 since the inception of Bromley's Lateral Flow Rapid Testing programme just over four weeks ago.**

These tests aim to identify those who have the virus but without showing any symptoms and ask them to self-isolate to stop the spread. One in three people who test positive for Covid-19 have no symptoms and so could be spreading the virus without knowing. By regularly testing those who come into contact with people outside their own household or bubble as part of their everyday circumstances, the council can help prevent the inadvertent spread of the virus.

The two Rapid Test Centres in Bromley, at the **Civic Centre** and the **Kentwood Centre in Penge**, offer lateral flow tests for those over 18, without symptoms. Book a Rapid Covid Test at [bromley.gov.uk/rapidtesting](http://bromley.gov.uk/rapidtesting).

**Rapid testing is for those without symptoms only.** Residents with any of the Covid-19 symptoms – high temperature, continuous cough or a change in taste or smell - should book a PCR test immediately at [www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test](http://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test) or by phoning 119, if no internet access, and self-isolate for 10 days, not going out at all.

[Read more...](#)

**Covid-19 what you need to know: [visit our Covid-19 page](#).**



## Self-isolating protects your friends, family and community

### Why is self-isolating so important?

COVID-19 spreads from person to person through small droplets and through direct contact. Surfaces and belongings can also be contaminated with COVID-19 when people with the infection cough or sneeze or touch them. The risk of spread is greatest when people are close to each other, especially in poorly ventilated indoor spaces and when people spend a lot of time together in the same room.

### What does self-isolating mean?

Self-isolation means staying at home and avoiding contact with other people. This means that if you have symptoms, a positive test or you are told to self-isolate because you have had close contact with someone who has tested positive, you must:

- **stay at home**
- **not go to work, school or to public areas**
- **not use public transport like buses, trains, tubes or taxis**
- **avoid visitors to your home**
- **ask friends, local family members or delivery services to carry out errands for you - such as getting groceries, medications or other shopping.**

By self-isolating, you protect your community and help those who may become very sick if they become infected, as well as key workers who have worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic. It's an incredibly important and effective way of slowing the spread of a disease like COVID-19.

We now know that people can pass the virus on even when they don't have symptoms. If you leave home while you could be infectious, even if you feel fine, you could pass the virus on to other people, including people who are vulnerable to very serious illness. That's why it's especially important to self-isolate if you are told you are a close contact of someone who has COVID-19, whether you feel unwell yourself or not.

**Follow the [stay at home guidance](#) if you have symptoms or are told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace or Bromley Council's local contact tracers.**

### Getting help and support when self-isolating

**Advice and support is available on the Bromley Council website whether you are clinically vulnerable or not. Any resident self-isolating because they have been told to by NHS Test and Trace or are doing so by choice, can be signposted to a range of support options through our local voluntary and community organisations.**

**Visit our website for more information at [COVID-19 - support for residents](#)**



### NHS Test and Trace - Support Payment:

If you are a worker on low income and need to self-isolate but can't work from home you can apply for a test and trace support payment.

You must be over 16 and will need to provide evidence that you have been asked to isolate and will lose income as a result. [Find out more...](#)



### Know someone who is lonely?

**Bromley Council has a number of ideas that can help - visit our website at [www.bromley.gov.uk/befriending](http://www.bromley.gov.uk/befriending)**

Commenting on Bromley's befriending scheme for Intergenerational Week Cllr Aisha Cuthbert, lead member for tackling loneliness said: "Fostering relationships in our communities has never been more important than during a time when many people of all different ages are feeling isolated and lonely. I'm so proud that Bromley Council is supporting the week to highlight our befriending programme.

"We can learn so much from each other and bridge the generational divide by coming together. If you're interested in befriending, please do get in touch!"

### Covid Testing Sites in Bromley

**Rapid Testing** - This testing programme aims to identify **adults (over 18) with Covid-19** but who are **showing no symptoms**, and asks them to self-isolate to protect others and prevent further spread.

#### Rapid Testing Sites -

- **Civic Centre**, Stockwell Close, BR1 3UH
- **Kentwood Adult Education Centre**, Penge High Street, SE20 7PR

**Click here to book a rapid test** and visit [bromley.gov.uk/rapidtesting](http://bromley.gov.uk/rapidtesting) for more information. Call the **Rapid Testing Helpline on 020 8461 7799** if you have any queries about rapid testing or for support if you or someone you know has no internet access.

**The rapid testing is not for those who are showing Covid-19 symptoms.** If you do start to feel unwell with any of the Covid-19 symptoms, high temperature, a new, continuous cough, or a change in taste or

smell, you should book a test through the usual channels at [gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test](https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test) or by calling **119**.

### **Covid Testing Sites (if you are showing symptoms) -**

- **Cotmandene Crescent Car Park**, St Paul's Cray, BR5 2RG
- **Crystal Palace Park (Car Park)**, Thicket Road, SE19 2GA (reached through Canada Gate)
- **Norman Park (Hayes Lane Car Park)**, Hayes Lane, BR2 9EF (temporary mobile testing site)
- **Hayes Station Approach Car Park**, Bromley, BR2 7EN

**For further information on testing and self-isolation support visit our [Test and Trace](#) page.**



### **Enabling more SE Londoners over the age of 56 to get their first COVID vaccination**

**Bromley residents over the age of 56 can now book their COVID vaccinations online.**

Any Bromley resident over the age of 56 who has not yet had their first COVID vaccination can now book online - [www.nhs.uk/book-a-coronavirus-vaccination/enter-your-name](https://www.nhs.uk/book-a-coronavirus-vaccination/enter-your-name) - or call **119**. An invitation letter is no longer required.

- Having a vaccine is the best way to protect you from coronavirus and will save thousands of lives.
- If you are over 56 and haven't yet been invited for your first COVID vaccine, you can now book by visiting [www.nhs.uk/book-a-coronavirus-vaccination/enter-your-name](https://www.nhs.uk/book-a-coronavirus-vaccination/enter-your-name) or by calling 119.
- The national service allows you to book an appointment at a vaccination centre or community pharmacy but not at a GP practice.
- the most at risk are being vaccinated first.



### **Download the NHS COVID-19 app**

The app gives you easy access to the latest information, the risk level in your area, as well as alerting you if you are near another app user who has tested positive for coronavirus.

**Download the NHS Covid-19 app now** and help keep Bromley safe.

# Break Covid



## – not the rules

Stop the spread. Don't drop your guard!



**HANDS**  
Wash  
regularly



**FACE**  
Wear a face  
covering



**SPACE**  
Social  
distance

[www.bromley.gov.uk/covid-19](http://www.bromley.gov.uk/covid-19)

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### Preferred school places outcomes confirm Bromley top performance

**Figures just released show that, once again, the vast majority of school children in Bromley will be going to the secondary school of their choice.**

Bromley remains one of the top performers in London with statistics showing that pupils 1<sup>st</sup> preference success rate is above all neighbouring boroughs and the London average.

Ninety per cent of Bromley's school children will be attending one of their top four choices of school, with 69 per cent offered their first preference. This compares with the London average of 63 per cent meaning Bromley remains one of the six top performing boroughs in London.

[Read more ...](#)

### Playground fit for royalty!

**The new playground at Kings Meadow Recreation Ground is barely recognisable from its former self and is now open for the community to enjoy.**

The new play and recreation area, with £80,000 of grant and community funding, plus Council investment, is significantly larger than the old playground. Most of the old equipment has been removed and in its place stands exciting new pieces, including swings, a pod swing, a multi-play unit, a zip wire, and a large climbing frame to name a few, and features to encourage imaginative play, such as a moat, a mound and a playhouse for younger children.

[Read more...](#)





## Completing census will help Council services

**Residents are being encouraged to look out for details about the forthcoming, once in a decade, census which will be distributed to all households.**

This March, all households will need to complete the survey questionnaire which is distributed and organised by the Office of National Statistics (ONS). Whilst individual's details are kept confidential, the overall results are used by the government and other bodies, including local councils.

**Census Day is Sunday 21 March** and before this date, households will either receive an access code with instructions for completing the census online, or a paper questionnaire. Office of National Statistics (ONS) will provide support services to help with completing the census and paper questionnaires can be sent if needed.

Further information about the national census is available at [www.census.gov.uk](http://www.census.gov.uk) with local information available on the council's website [www.bromley.gov.uk/census](http://www.bromley.gov.uk/census)

[Read more...](#)

## London Mayoral Election - 6 May 2021

**The 2021 Mayoral Election will be held on 6 May 2021 to elect the Mayor of London. It will be held simultaneously with elections for the London Assembly. These elections were originally due to be held in 2020, but were postponed until this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic.**

### Apply for a Postal Vote

Polling stations will be open as usual with many of the Covid-19 safety measures we have become used to in place. An alternative is to have your ballot paper sent to you by applying for a postal vote. You need to do this well in advance of an upcoming election in order to be able to vote this way. [Find out how to apply for a postal vote...](#)



## Your Guide to Independent Living, Support and Care Services 2020/21

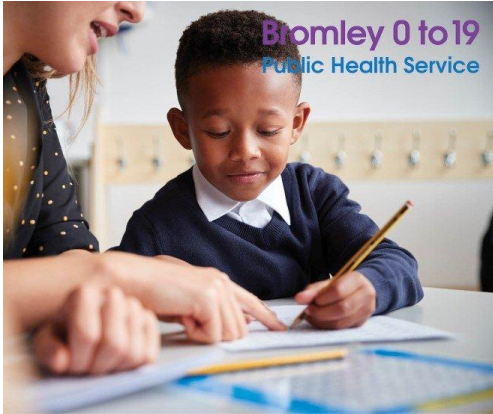
**The Guide provides information for residents to stay as healthy, independent and safe as possible in their own homes.**

It also includes information to help residents remain in control of their lives, especially when their health and support needs increase, so that they can make informed decisions about receiving the right care in the right place at the right time.

**It can be accessed electronically at** [bromley.gov.uk/independentlivingguide](http://bromley.gov.uk/independentlivingguide)

**Hard copies can be ordered through** [health.partnership@bromley.gov.uk](mailto:health.partnership@bromley.gov.uk) or by calling 020 8464 3333.





## Bromley 0 to 19 Public Health Service provides support for families

**The Bromley 0 to 19 Public Health Service offers tailored guidance to families to help them understand and promote the development of their children for a healthy journey to adulthood.**

Bromley 0 to 19 brings together Health Visiting, the Family Nurse Partnership, health support to schools, and the primary school screening programme. Delivered for Bromley Council by Bromley Healthcare, the service supports behaviour change, promotes preventative measures, as well as keeps children safe.

Tailored support and advice is broken up into age-range categories:

**0-4 years** - supports parents and carers of babies and children, and provides support from birth until just before they start school, including health checks and advice on your baby's emotional and physical development.

**5-10 years** - supports parents and carers of children and young people on child development and growth, healthy eating, physical and emotional wellbeing, and immunisations.

**11-19 years** - support for parents and carers that can also be accessed directly by young people themselves if they are seeking advice. Bromley 0 to 19's Health Visitors and School Nurses can also be contacted directly through a confidential live chat on the Bromley 0 to 19 website, or the '**ask a question**' **contact form**.

Visit **Bromley 0 to 19** to learn more or contact the team on **0300 330 5777** & **[bromh.bromley0to19@nhs.net](mailto:bromh.bromley0to19@nhs.net)**.



## Bromley Well is there for you

**We might be in the middle of a pandemic but Bromley Well continues to help and support you - online, by phone and where guidance permits, one to one.**

Check the **Bromley Well Events Calendar** regularly to see what is on offer and what might suit your own personal needs. There is plenty of advice for carers, for example, as well as informal online tea and chat sessions for a welcome break.

Looking after your own health and wellbeing has never been more important and the [Bromley Well Self-Care Information Hub](#) gives you tips to look after your health, information and useful sources of help for taking care of yourself, your friends, families and your community.

## **COVID-19 cases are rising, help stop the spread** **WASH HANDS - KEEP YOUR DISTANCE - WEAR A FACE COVERING**

We have been overwhelmed by the generosity of spirit of our communities during the pandemic. So many of you have set aside time to help others in recent months.

**All this just confirms that we live in a great Borough with fantastic residents committed to keeping it that way.**

### **GO PAPERLESS**

If you already have a MyBromley Account to view your Council Tax, simply login to your account and choose **Paperless Billing**. If you don't have a MyBromley Account, why not register for one today at [MyBromley Account](#)

It's quick, easy and secure.

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