**From:** Cllr Yvonne Constance <[Yvonne.Constance@Oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Yvonne.Constance@Oxfordshire.gov.uk)>

**Subject: FW: COVID-19 update issue: 34 update from Yvonne - i make no apologies this is a very full edition**

**Date:** 8 November 2020 at 14:59:25 GMT

**To:** "[ashburyparishcouncilclerk@outlook.com](mailto:ashburyparishcouncilclerk@outlook.com)" <[ashburyparishcouncilclerk@outlook.com](mailto:ashburyparishcouncilclerk@outlook.com)>, CLIFF DAVIES <[chairman@ashbury.org.uk](mailto:chairman@ashbury.org.uk)>, Julia Evans <[uffingtonpc.clerk@gmail.com](mailto:uffingtonpc.clerk@gmail.com)>, Simon Jenkins <[simon.jenkins@uffington.net](mailto:simon.jenkins@uffington.net)>

To all in Ashbury and Uffington,

I am forwarding the latest report from County Council CEO on the Covid situation, and will send a short report from me about local work in the Division.

Apologies, but CountyCouncil has arranged an all-Cllr briefing with City cllrs too, on Monday evening at 6.00p.m.   As its on  a transport matter affecting a very congested part of the city ( Oxpens Road) I must attend that and hope  to get free in time to join the tail-end of your PC meetings.    At least I don’t have to travel between the venues, so I hope to ‘see’ you all.

Yvonne

**From:** Rees, Yvonne - Chief Executive <[Yvonne.Rees@Oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Yvonne.Rees@Oxfordshire.gov.uk)>   
**Sent:** 07 November 2020 08:26  
**To:** All Councillors <[AllCouncillors@Oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:AllCouncillors@Oxfordshire.gov.uk)>  
**Cc:** Rees, Yvonne - Chief Executive <[Yvonne.Rees@Oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Yvonne.Rees@Oxfordshire.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** COVID-19 update issue: 34 update from Yvonne - i make no apologies this is a very full edition

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| |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **COVID-19 update for councillors: 7/11/20** | | | | **Welcome**to the weekly bulletin for councillors providing you with the latest COVID-19 public health data and messages for Oxfordshire. In this week’s edition we summarise how we are**responding to the new national COVID-19 restrictions**, tell you how our **winter weather response** is gearing up and remind you of the imminent **temporary closure** of Redbridge Household Waste Recycling Centre in Oxford to the public.    We also ask for your support with encourage residents in your division to return any unused health and social care equipment as part of our joint **hand it back campaign**,sharenews of how the council will be marking**Remembrance Sunday**and**Armistice Day,**and inform you of an upcoming eventrelating to **the Oxford-Cambridge Arc.**     |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Latest public health data** | | | | In the seven days up to 30 October, there has been a total of **814**confirmed COVID-19 cases in Oxfordshire and this is equivalent to a weekly rate of new cases of 117.7 per 100,000 residents. The total number of confirmed cases is similar in number to the 813 new cases reported in the previous week.  **Cases of COVID-19 by district**   |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Area name** | **Cases in 7 days up to 30/10/2020** | **Weekly rate per 100,000 population** | **Change from previous week** | | Cherwell | 215 | 142.9 |  | | Oxford | 206\*\* | 135.1 |  | | South Oxfordshire | 151 | 106.3 | increase | | Vale of White Horse | 109 | 80.1 |  | | West Oxfordshire | 133 | 120.2 | increase | | **Oxfordshire** | **814** | **117.7** |  |   The figures reported in the table above are based on the nationally reported dataset. Seven day incidence rates fluctuate on a daily basis. To show a consistent picture, the table is based on the nationally available data for the week ending Friday. It is currently updated weekly by Wednesday morning, at which time the data is less subject to change. For the latest data, visit [coronavirus.data.gov.uk](http://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/). You can check the national tier where you live on the [government’s website](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/full-list-of-local-covid-alert-levels-by-area).  The cases reported are those included in Pillar 1 testing (swab testing in Public Health England labs and NHS hospitals for those with a clinical need, and health and care workers) and Pillar 2 (swab – antigen – testing for the wider population). Read more information about the testing strategy pillars [online](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public).  \*\*From work with PHE and the University of Oxford, we are aware of under-reporting due to Oxford University cases not being attributed to a specific geography on the national surveillance system. Taking the University data into account – who reported 212 cases for the week up to 30 October - the Oxford figure is 418 cases, which is equivalent to a weekly rate of 274.2 per 100,000 population. This is similar to the previous week, when the University reported 208 cases. **Please note**: This reporting issue affects the national reporting system only and does not impact the management of these cases or their contacts. The University data has always been shared with PHE and other partners to help inform local decision making. All University staff and students who have tested positive have been notified and told to self-isolate. | | | |  | **New restrictions** |  | |  | A four-week national lockdown has been introduced for England. This move comes in the wake of rapidly rising infection levels across the country and a significant rise in hospital admissions. More information on the national restrictions and what it means can be found on the [government’s website](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/new-national-restrictions-from-5-november?priority-taxon=774cee22-d896-44c1-a611-e3109cce8eae).  Councillor Ian Hudspeth, Leader of Oxfordshire County Council, has joined the five other leaders of Oxfordshire councils, the Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner, and the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership to [urge everyone to play their part](https://news.oxfordshire.gov.uk/oxfordshire-must-play-its-part-to-control-the-virus-and-save-lives/) to help control the spread of the virus and save lives.    **What are the new restrictions?**   * People must stay at home unless they have a specific reason to leave, such as education, childcare, and work which cannot be done from home. * Pubs, restaurants, and non-essential shops and businesses will have to close, although hospitality venues can continue to provide takeaway and delivery services. * Schools, colleges, universities and early years settings can remain open. * People must not meet socially indoors or in a private garden with family or friends who are not part of their household or support bubble. * People should reduce the number of journeys they make and avoid all but essential travel. * People are allowed to exercise outdoors or visit an outdoor public place with members of their household or support bubble. * A maximum of two people from different households – excluding children under school age – are allowed to meet outdoors for the purpose of exercise or to visit an outdoor public place.     Detailed information about the new restrictions is available on the [gov.uk website](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/new-national-restrictions-from-5-november).    **What public services will remain open?**  Under the new national restrictions, a greater number of public services can remain open than under the previous lockdown. This includes schools, colleges, and early years settings; household waste recycling centres; and registrar’s offices. Public outdoor spaces including parks, gardens and playgrounds will remain open. Outdoor markets will also be able to continue, although trade will be limited to food and other essential items.    The overwhelming majority of Oxfordshire County Council’s services will still be delivered without interruption. We will continue to provide care and support to vulnerable residents through home visits and our community support services; and our formally organised support groups that provide mutual aid or therapy will continue, with a maximum of 15 participants.    Our registration services will continue to provide birth registration and notices face to face in COVID-secure offices, while death registration will continue by phone. However, weddings and civil partnerships will be paused, in line with national guidance.    The music service will continue to offer face-to-face tuition in schools. All lessons outside of school settings will move to online delivery, including all our ensembles. The Oxfordshire Comet bus service is with immediate effect only providing transport for essential journeys for shopping once a week or for medical appointments for individuals that have pre-booked. All group bookings and timetabled services are suspended.    **What will temporarily close?**  The government has confirmed that entertainment venues, including museums and galleries, must temporarily close. This means that the Oxfordshire Museum and the Oxfordshire History Centre have closed until 2 December.  Libraries have also closed, although the home library service will continue to operate, as will the online library service. A potential new click-and-collect service is being investigated for the libraries, together with limited access to public network PCs across a small number of branches.  **Working arrangements for staff and access to buildings for councillors**  All staff have been asked to work from home if at all possible and it is only in exceptional circumstances that they should go into the office. Staff working in frontline services will continue to do so in line with the COVID-compliance measures. Those staff who are unable to work in their current role due to service areas being closed will continue to be paid, however, they may be asked to support other services which require a greater level of resource during lockdown.  **For councillors**: virtual committee meetings will continue and we ask that Members do not go into the office unless in exceptional circumstances.  **Support for extremely vulnerable people and self-isolating residents**  The over 60s and the clinically vulnerable people have been recommended by the government to minimise their contacts with others during the lockdown period. Those who are clinically extremely vulnerable are encouraged to stay at home as much as possible, including working from home.  If anyone in your division has a received a letter from the government about receiving additional support, they have been identified as being extremely vulnerable. In order to benefit from this support, they need to register themselves on the [national system](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus-shielding-support) if they have not already done so. If they require additional support their [district council](https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/council/about-your-council/government-oxfordshire/district-councils) will be informed and will make contact with them to identify their needs in more detail. If they need urgent support then they can contact [their district council directly](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus-local-help).  If residents do not have the means to register and have no one who is able to assist, they can call us on the number below.   * Call 01865 897820 * Email [shield@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:shield@oxfordshire.gov.uk). * The service is open 8.30am - 5pm Monday – Thursday, and 8.30am - 4pm on Fridays. Closed Saturday - Sunday and Bank Holidays   This guidance will not affect any social care or support they are receiving.  People should continue to [contact our social and health care team](https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/contactus/contact-social-and-health-care) if they have any ongoing social care needs.Comprehensive information is on [our website](https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/council/coronavirus-covid-19/support-residents), including how to access community support, food and essential supplies and income and employment support. [Wider information about the support available for residents](https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/council/coronavirus-covid-19) during the pandemic is also on our website.  **New local testing site at Woodgreen Leisure Centre**  Cherwell District Council’s plans for a new local testing site (LTS) at Woodgreen Leisure Centre in Banbury continue to progress. The build is still planned to take place on 16 November, with the facility due to go live on Tuesday 17 November. The LTS will provide testing seven days a week and will run until March 2021, making testing accessible to all of the community and not just those with access to a vehicle.    **#StopTheSpread**  We continue to work closely with our partners in health, the district councils, police and the universities to issue extended #StopTheSpread communications, including urging people to follow the new restrictions, communicating the symptoms and ensuring understanding and reminding children and young people they must wear face coverings on school transport.     * Please continue to share our #StopTheSpread messages and latest news stories through your social media accounts. * An updated version of the [#StopTheSpread social media kit for councillors](https://intranet.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/useful-documents) has been published and includes a wide range of new assets and content for you to use.     Thank you. We are very grateful for your ongoing support at this critical time. |  | |  | **Restart, recover, renew** |  | |  | **Pandemic won't stop Oxfordshire's roads from being gritted**  As temperatures start to dip, the county council’s winter weather response springs into action, becoming one of our key frontline services that keeps almost half of the roads across Oxfordshire free as possible from winter hazards. The pandemic will not stop our efforts - we are ready to go. This year we have trained 15 extra drivers, will have 25 gritter lorries on the road at any one time, and will use approximately 220 tonnes of salt per treatment. For more information about our winter service, please read our [news story](https://news.oxfordshire.gov.uk/pandemic-wont-stop-oxfordshires-roads-from-being-gritted/).    **Oxfordshire’s COVID secure team helps stop the spread**  The county’s COVID secure team is a joint initiative by all Oxfordshire councils and backed by government funding. Its aim is to ensure businesses are complying with infection control rules and guidance, promoting high standards to reduce the risk of COVID transmission across Oxfordshire.    The team is now working across the county, alongside the existing city and district environmental health and licensing teams. Where data shows an emerging risk in a locality or business sector, the team will prioritise that area, increasing the impact of local intervention measures. The team is a key part of the Oxfordshire system working to keep infection rates as low as possible.    **Hand it back campaign**  As part of our joint ‘hand it back campaign’ with Oxford Health, Oxford University Hospitals and supplier NRS Healthcare, please encourage residents in your division to return any unused health and social care equipment loaned to them so others can take advantage of it.    Worldwide manufacturing of items including bed rails, pendent alarm equipment/sensors (telecare) and mattresses has slowed because of the pandemic, meaning new ones may be harder to come by. The pieces of unused equipment being sought are:   * chairs, beds, bed rails and mattresses * wheeled commodes * any electrical items * walking and toilet frames * pendent alarm equipment/sensors (Telecare) * slings.   Anybody wanting to give back equipment can arrange a collection by calling NRS Healthcare on 01869 225420 or by sending their details to [enquiries@oxfordshire.nrs-uk.net](mailto:enquiries@oxfordshire.nrs-uk.net).  All items for return must have a barcoded NRS or Millbrook sticker on them. Because of the pandemic, all items can be collected by NRS Healthcare or taken to the Bicester depot. People must not take any items back to health or social care buildings.  More information is in our [news story](https://news.oxfordshire.gov.uk/newcovid-19-lockdown-prompts-fresh-call-to-hand-back-unwanted-social-and-healthcare-equipment/). |  | |  | **Service and community matters** |  | |  | **Temporary closure of Redbridge Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) to public**  A reminder that Redbridge HWRC in Oxford will temporarily close to the general public from Monday 9 November for **three weeks** to enable essential structural work to take place. Trade customers are not affected by this closure (due to the location of the works) and can continue to use the site as usual.    **Marking Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day**  This Sunday is **Remembrance Sunday**, when we remember those who gave their lives for our freedom. But with restrictions in place due to the pandemic, we must do this safely to help prevent the spread of the virus. Watch [this video](https://vimeo.com/472933078) of Lord-Lieutenant of Oxfordshire, Tim Stevenson OBE, as he shares advice about how we can mark this important day in a COVID-safe manner.    On **Wednesday 11 November** – **Armistice Day**we will be broadcasting on Teams the laying of the wreath ceremony, followed by a two-minute silence at 11am. An email will be sent to all councillors early next week providing further information, including the Teams linkto the ceremony.    **Oxford-Cambridge Arc event, 17 November – date for your diary**  The Leaders Group of the Oxford-Cambridge Arc will be hosting an online event on Tuesday 17 November at 12 noon. Councillor Barry Wood, Leader of Cherwell District Council and Chair of the Arc Leaders Group, will introduce the 90-minute event, which willoutline the economic vision for the Arc, set out the big themes for innovation-led growth in the area and enable a public conversation about the recently launched economic prospectus. An invitation will be sent to members early next week.    The Arc is home to nearly four million people and two million jobs, which together generate over £111bn of economic output each year. Through new financial backing, forecasts show that increased productivity resulting from intensifying the Arc’s global strengths in science, technology and high value manufacturing, could double the area’s economic output to over £200 billion by 2050. You can find out more in the [economic prospectus](https://news.oxfordshire.gov.uk/download/935113/oxford-cambridgearcprospectus-approved.pdf). |  | |  | **Local economy and business** |  | |  | **Sources of advice for business**  The government’s [business support](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus/business-support) webpages set out the COVID-19 support available tobusinesses such as loan schemes designed to support UK businesses that are losing revenue and seeing their cashflow disrupted as a result of the pandemic.    Information about the additional financial support announced by the Chancellor on**Thursday 5 November** to help support businesses and workers during the challenging times ahead is available at [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-extends-furlough-to-march-and-increases-self-employed-support).    The county council’s COVID-19 [support for businesses webpages](https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/council/coronavirus-covid-19/support-business) are also useful source of information. |  | |  | **Council meetings** |  | |  | Links to view all virtual public meetings can be found on the [meeting details](https://mycouncil.oxfordshire.gov.uk/mgCalendarMonthView.aspx?GL=1&bcr=1) page on the county council website – simply click on each meeting in the calendar to view the link. For those councillors requesting to speak, committee officers will make the necessary arrangements for you to attend the meeting. Recordings can be viewed after each meeting.    **There are three virtual public meetings this week:**   * Wednesday 11 November, 10am [Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Education & Cultural Services](https://mycouncil.oxfordshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1068&MId=6028) * Wednesday 11 November, 1pm [Audit & Governance Committee](https://mycouncil.oxfordshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=796&MId=6059) * Thursday 12 November, 10am [Performance Scrutiny Committee](https://mycouncil.oxfordshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=895&MId=6047)     The top tips for councillors and the [councillor protocol for virtual public meetings](https://mycouncil.oxfordshire.gov.uk/documents/s50436/CC_MAY0420R03%20-%20Constitution%20Changes.pdf" \t "_blank) will continue to be useful in maximising the democratic potential of our digital meetings.    Get in touch with democratic services at [cllrs-covid19@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:cllrs-covid19@oxfordshire.gov.uk) if you have any feedback that will help us to improve your experience of future virtual meetings. |  | |  | **And finally…** |  | |  | **Staying up-to-date**  For the latest information about the council’s response to COVID-19, regularly check your emails, visit the council’s website [oxfordshire.gov.uk](https://news.oxfordshire.gov.uk/coronavirus-information-from-the-government/) and follow our social media accounts.    **COVID-19 email address for councillors**  Please continue to use [cllrs-covid19@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:cllrs-covid19@oxfordshire.gov.uk) for any COVID-19 related questions you have about our services, how these might affect your constituents or to request information about our response.  If you have missed any of the **weekly councillor email updates**, they are available on our [**intranet site**](https://intranet.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/general-coronavirus-advice-govuk-and-nhs). Please scroll to the bottom of the page.  All the best – please stay safe and stay well.  **Yvonne Rees**  Chief Executive   |  | | --- | | This is an Oxfordshire County Council all members briefing | |  | | |