

8 February 2021

Public Health Directorate  
Sand Martin House  
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Peterborough, PE2 8TY

**An important message from Dr Liz Robin, Director of Public Health for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough**

**I am once again reaching out to you as a business leader at this critical time during the lockdown. I know how frustrating and challenging it is for businesses, after the hard work and sacrifices that were made throughout 2020 to start the new year with further restrictions in place. However, we continue to see across our area an extremely high number of cases, hospitalisations and deaths from Covid-19 despite the drop in our neighbouring districts**

This latest surge in infections is largely being fuelled by the new strain of coronavirus, which is around 50 per cent more infectious. It is clear now, more than ever, that we all need to take extra steps to stop the spread of the virus. Both businesses and communities must play their part and contribute to the local and national effort to bring down the number cases so we can move out of lockdown and save lives.

We know that the majority of businesses are working hard to ensure their places of work and working practices are covid safe to protect employees' health and their incomes – we thank you for this, we know it has not been easy. There is now a vaccine but this will take time to roll out. We therefore ask all businesses to go the extra mile to help stop the spread of coronavirus to save lives and our NHS. There are simple things businesses can do to make sure their workplace is covid secure to stop help stop the spread of the virus and protect life. These include:

- Staff who can work at home should do so without question. Please put in place the measures to make this happen. This is the key way you can keep your staff safe from this life threatening virus
- Follow stringently the advice on how to stop the virus spreading amongst your workforce such as social distancing, wearing face coverings and ensuring indoor spaces with good ventilation
- Sharing information with staff regarding getting a test, self-isolating and support available should they test positive
- Ensure complacency in your staff does not set in with regular checks of practices.

I'm sure you will agree, that we all have a responsibility to stop the spread of this life-threatening virus and the evidence suggests the practices outlined above will stop the spread of Covid-19 in your workplace. For further advice on having a Covid-secure workplace, please follow this link: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/coronavirus/working-safely/>

The pandemic has now been affecting us for nearly a year and we need to make sure that we have as few as possible risks. So we will be working closely with the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) to do spot checks and inspections on all types of businesses to make sure they are covid secure. An important element of the visit will be to assess whether the employer has taken all steps reasonable to accommodate staff to work from home. This is part of a national scheme and HSE and local officers will be able to provide advice, information and support including how to carry out risk assessments and implement appropriate controls.

We have also attached some marketing materials that we would encourage you to share with your staff that suggests the types of behaviours, such as Hands, Face and Space that help keep them, their colleagues, family and community safe.

We want to support local employers. If your business has been affected by Covid-19 or you have had to furlough staff, then we want to make you aware of the support that is available locally and nationally to both employers and employees. Advice and information can be found here: <https://www.peterborough.gov.uk/healthcare/public-health/coronavirus/coordination-hub>

Yours Sincerely



**Director of Public Health  
Peterborough City Council and Cambridgeshire County Council**