

Government response to Coronavirus (COVID-19)

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO

For practical advice and help around issues such as employment, financial support, business, healthcare workers & carers, travel, how you can help etc please visit:

www.gov.uk/coronavirus



Government Business Support Hotline
0300 456 3565

Universal Credit Hotline
0800 328 5644

The breakdown of all the financial support currently available for individuals and business can be found here: www.gov.uk/government/publications/support-for-those-affected-by-covid-19

Protecting the most at risk

1 Strictly **avoid** contact with anyone with COVID-19 symptoms

2 Do not leave your house

3 Do not attend any gatherings

4 Food or medication deliveries should be left at the door

5 Keep in touch with phone, internet, and social media

6 Use the **phone** or go **online** to contact your **GP** or other essential services

Getting assistance with foods and medicines if you are reducing social contacts

Ask family, friends and neighbours to support you and use online services. If this is not possible, then the public sector, business, charities, and the general public are gearing up to help those advised to stay at home. It is important to speak to others and ask them to help you to make arrangements for the delivery of food, medicines and essential services and supplies, and look after your physical and mental health and wellbeing.

If you receive support from health and social care organisations, for example, if you have care provided for you through the local authority or health care system, this will continue as normal.

Disposal of waste

If you're self-isolating, please ensure you keep used tissues separate from your household waste in sealed bags for 72 hours before fully disposing. This is to contain the spread of the virus both in and out of your home other household waste can be disposed of as normal.

Laundry

To minimise the possibility of dispersing virus through the air, do not shake dirty laundry. Wash items as appropriate in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. If you do not have a washing machine, wait a further 72 hours after your 7-day (for individual isolation) or 14-day isolation period (for households) has ended when you can then take the laundry to a public launderette.

Cleaning

When cleaning you should use your usual household products, like detergents and

bleach, as these will be very effective at getting rid of the virus on surfaces. Clean frequently touched surfaces such as door handles, handrails, remote controls and table tops. This is particularly important if you have an older or vulnerable person in the house.

Shopping and Groceries

All the UK's major supermarket chains are now providing Elderly & Vulnerable Priority Shopping Hours. Please check with your local stores and online for more information. Food shops and pharmacies will remain open and stores have also reassured customers they are doing all they can to ensure their shelves remain full and their supply chains running smoothly.



Fiona Bruce MP

Congleton

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Advice & Support Information



It is right that the government has taken these unprecedented decisions and these extraordinary measures. Unless we get coronavirus under control then the danger is it will overwhelm all of our vital services and cause much greater loss of life.

NEW RULES ON STAYING AT HOME AND AWAY FROM OTHERS

Every citizen must comply with these new measures. The relevant authorities, including the police, will be given the powers to enforce them – including through fines and dispersing gatherings. The Government will look again at these measures, and relax them if the evidence shows this is possible. You should only leave the house for one of four reasons.

1. Shopping for basic necessities; food and medicine as infrequent as possible.
2. One form of exercise a day; a run, walk, or cycle - alone or with members of your household.
3. Any medical need, or to provide care or to help a vulnerable person.
4. Travelling to and from work, but only where this absolutely cannot be done from home.

These four reasons are exceptions - you should be minimising time spent outside of the home and ensuring you are 2 metres apart from anyone outside of your household. These measures must be followed by everyone.

If you work in a critical sector or your child has been identified as vulnerable, you can continue to take your children to school.

Keyworker definitions can be found by searching www.gov.uk for "keyworker definitions".

CLOSING NON-ESSENTIAL SHOPS, BUSINESSES AND PUBLIC SPACES

All non-essential retail stores - such as clothing and electronics stores; hair, beauty and nail salons; and outdoor and indoor markets, excluding food markets, libraries, community centres, youth centres, indoor/outdoor leisure facilities, playgrounds, sports courts and outdoor gyms, places of worship, except for funerals attended by immediate families, hotels, hostels, bed and breakfasts, campsites, caravan parks, and boarding houses for commercial/leisure use.

STOPPING PUBLIC GATHERINGS

The Government is stopping all public gatherings of more than two people. The two exceptions to this rule are:

Where the gathering is of a group of people who live together - this means that a parent can take their children to the shops if there is no option to leave them at home.

Where the gathering is essential for work purposes

Also, the Government is stopping social events, including weddings, baptisms and other religious ceremonies. This will exclude funerals, which can be attended by immediate family.

The above is the current advice - please see my website for constant updates. The Government will review and relax these measures if the evidence shows this is possible.

Stay home, stay safe and save lives. ”

Fiona Bruce

MP serving communities across Alsager, Congleton, Goostrey, Holmes Chapel, Middlewich, Sandbach and surrounding villages

CORONAVIRUS

PROTECT YOURSELF & OTHERS

NHS HEALTH INFORMATION AND ADVICE

For the most up to date guidance please visit:

www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/

Everyone must stay at home to help stop the spread of coronavirus. This includes people of all ages – even if you do not have any symptoms or other health conditions.

What to do if you have coronavirus symptoms

Continue to stay at home if you have either:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- To protect others, do not go to places like a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital. Stay at home.

Use the 111 online coronavirus service to find out what to do: <https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19/>

Only call 111 if you cannot get help online

If you need medical help not related to coronavirus, do not go to places like a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital.

- For health information and advice, use the NHS website or check your GP surgery website.
- For urgent medical help, use the NHS 111 online service. Only call 111 if you're unable to get help online.
- For life-threatening emergencies, call 999 for an ambulance.
- Read more advice about getting medical help at home.

Advice for people at high risk

If you're at high risk of getting seriously ill from coronavirus, there are extra things you should do to avoid catching it. These include:

- not leaving your home – you should not go out to do shopping, visit friends or family, or attend any gatherings
- avoiding close contact with other people in your home as much as possible

Read the full advice on protecting yourself if you're at high risk from coronavirus on www.gov.uk/coronavirus

Who is at high risk?

- have had an organ transplant
- are having certain types of cancer treatment
- have blood or bone marrow cancer, such as leukaemia
- have a severe lung condition, such as cystic fibrosis or severe asthma
- have a condition that makes you much more likely to get infections
- are taking medicine that weakens your immune system
- are pregnant and have a serious heart condition

If you're at high risk, you will be contacted by the NHS. Do not contact your GP or healthcare team at this stage – wait to be contacted.

Local Advice & Support

LOCAL AUTHORITY LATEST INFORMATION

Cheshire East Council

- www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/covid19

On the Council website you can find details for financial support from the Council. For urgent concerns regarding vulnerable adults or children, you contact Cheshire East as below:

- For vulnerable adults: 0300 123 5010
- For children's safeguarding: 0300 123 5012 (option 3)



CHECK YOUR LOCAL AUTHORITY WEBSITE TO FIND YOUR COUNCILLOR



FOOD BANKS AND SUPPORT ORGANISATIONS IN THE LOCAL AREA

Food banks and local support organisations rely on your goodwill and support. If you need help or can help others, below are the details of foodbanks and support organisations across the constituency:

- Alsager Community Support Centre - 01270 876605/873549 - www.alsagercommunitysupport.org.uk
- Congleton - The Storehouse - www.nlchurch.org.uk/community/the-storehouse - 01260 297961
- Sandbach - www.sandbachmethodist.org.uk/jandp3r.html - sandbachfoodbank@gmail.com
- Middlewich - middlewichdistrict.foodbank.org.uk - 07712 279949
- Middlewich Good Neighbours - mwgoodneighbours@aol.com - 07942 883229

The following social media accounts are posting the latest factual advice and information related to COVID-19

- Public Health England: @PHE_UK
- Department of Health and Social Care Facebook & Twitter: @DHSCgovuk
- NHS Facebook: @NHSwebsite
- NHS Twitter: @NHSuk
- Fiona Bruce Facebook: [fb.com/Fiona4congleton](https://www.facebook.com/Fiona4congleton)

BEWARE OF CORONAVIRUS SCAMS - TRADING STANDARDS ADVICE

- Always follow government advice.
- Use local council websites, local council services and trusted charities like Age UK.
- Contact your local councillors or MP if urgent.
- Be careful on social media, especially with coronavirus response groups springing up.
- Be as careful as you would normally be... don't be side-tracked or rush into decisions.
- Don't purchase items from your doorstep or respond to surveys.
- Don't draw attention to the passer-by that you are self-isolating (signs in windows).
- Don't give bank details, cash, credit or debit card information to strangers to do shopping etc.
- Don't buy cures and medicines online.
- Don't buy soaps and sanitizers from unknown sources.
- Buy all products from known sources.
- Trust and seek help from family and friends.



Please pass these messages to your friends & family - by phone, internet or social media - and ask them in turn to make sure that anyone they know who might need supporting knows where to turn.

STAY CALM



[fb.com/Fiona4congleton](https://www.facebook.com/Fiona4congleton)

VOLUNTEERING ***Only volunteer for registered organisations***

There are a number of ways you can volunteer, locally and nationally:

NHS Volunteer Responders
www.goodsamapp.org/NHS

Cheshire East Volunteering
www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/council_and_democracy/council_information/coronavirus/cheshire-east-people-helping-people.aspx or call 0300 123 5034

Alsager Community Support Centre
info@alsagercommunitysupport.org.uk or 01270 876605/873549

Holmes Chapel Volunteering
www.hcpartnership.org.uk/coronavirus-response

As advice & guidance is being updated daily please visit
www.fionabruce.org.uk/coronavirus-advice

IF YOU ARE ELDERLY, YOU CAN CONTACT AGE UK ON THE FOLLOWING NUMBERS.

Age UK Helpline - 0800 055 6112

Age UK Advice Line - 0800 169 6565

My office continues to support and assist constituents with all enquiries and casework. However, following Government advice on tackling coronavirus our ways of working are changing. I am for example continuing to hold surgeries but these are by telephone rather than at my office or local libraries.

Enquiries will be responded to as soon as possible and we ask for your patience as it may take longer than usual to reply.

We will be prioritising casework and enquiries to help those most in need and vulnerable as well as doing what we can to support national and local efforts to tackle the coronavirus outbreak.

Constituents can contact me by email, please send to: fiona.bruce.mp@parliament.uk or write to me, **Fiona Bruce MP House of Commons London SW1A 0AA (all mail will be forwarded directly to me)** or call **01260 274044**.

USEFUL NUMBERS

Plus Dane Housing - 0800 169 2988

Debt Advice (Stepchange) - 0800 138 1111

Cheshire East Information Line - 0300 123 5500

Law Society (Find a solicitor service) - 020 7320 5650

Crime Stoppers - 0800 555 111

If you require legal advice, please call the CLA to establish if you are entitled to Legal Aid - 0345 345 4345

UK Visas & Immigration - 0300 123 2253

Citizen Advice Bureau - 0300 330 1175

HMRC - 0800 015 9559

Shelter - 0808 800 4444

School Closures - 0800 046 8687

Police Emergency - 999 Non-Emergency - 101

If you are extremely vulnerable, and cannot get the help you need from family or friends, visit gov.uk/coronavirus-extremely-vulnerable to register for help with food, shopping deliveries and additional care.

Thank you to everyone working to combat this virus and care for us – in the NHS, schools, voluntary organisations and elsewhere – you are greatly appreciated.

Information correct at time of printing but could change – check www.gov.uk/coronavirus

www.fionabruce.org.uk