

# COMMUNITY UPDATE

## COVID-19



04.03.21



March 8 sees the first tentative step on the roadmap to unlocking the restrictions we are all still facing.

Among them, schools and colleges will be reopening to all pupils and students and care home residents will also be allowed one regular visitor. With the weather improving and the days starting to stretch out, the temptation to bend the rules is very understandable. However, we must remain resolute and it is incumbent on us all to adhere to the current rules that remain geared at saving lives and protecting the NHS. Remember the basics – only essential journeys, work from home where it is possible to do so, exercise locally, and no travelling outside your local area unless absolutely necessary for work or in emergencies.

We are acutely aware that last weekend in Suffolk, due to the warmer and milder weather, it did seem much busier with people visiting beauty spots, travelling to DIY stores and simply not adhering to social distancing rules. It is such casual observance of the regulations that will cause problems. The creeping trend for the odd meeting up of friends or relatives, the unnecessary and frequent visits to the shops and travelling further than you should all need to stop. You can call them 'stretches', 'bends' or 'flouts' but it all amounts to the same thing – such actions will threaten an increase in the virus circulating. We must all stay at home to protect ourselves and our families and friends, and to reduce the pressure on the NHS.

For us in the police the message remains the same. We will engage with people, explain the rules and encourage people to follow them. I again make no apology for our officers who will be asking questions and will be inquisitive about why individuals may be out of their homes. If you are blatantly ignoring the restrictions you are more likely to be given a fine as your actions are putting others at risk through your behaviour. Between 26 December 2020 to 3 March 2021 we have issued 667 Fixed Penalty Notices and have had 933 incidents of words of advice given so we will not hesitate to take enforcement action if necessary. Our police officers will be out this weekend working with Covid wardens and partners to try to keep the public safe.

All the detail on the government's 'roadmap' and the current regulations as to what is permissible can be found here: [www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

Thank you for your on-going support once again – it is the collective effort that will make the difference as to when lockdown is completely lifted. We are not out of the woods yet but we are moving in the right direction. Let's make sure that continues in the weeks ahead.

T/Supt Simon Mills



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