

UPDATE / NEWS

Well, autumn seems to be well and truly starting for us. None of us knows exactly what's ahead. I hope the information in this email is useful about the here and now.

Rise in new cases of Covid 19 is flattening

Although the infection rate of Covid 19 remains unpredictable, here at least is a little good news. The infection rate is still rising but not as steeply as before. If this were to continue, that would be encouraging. There are a number of possible factors that may be contributing to his flattening in the rise. For more information [see here](#).

Strict self-isolation rules became a legal requirement from 28 September 2020

These apply not only to those who have tested positive for Coronavirus but also to those who have been identified as having been in contact with someone who has. It also applies to people returning from abroad. Because of previous unacceptable rates of compliance, these rules are now backed by fines starting at £1,000. People can also be fined for not giving accurate information about those they have been in contact with. [Click here](#) for more information.

Support payments for Covid-19 self-isolating workers

The following information comes from Croydon Council.

Croydon residents who are struggling financially because they cannot work after being told to self-isolate can now apply for a new support fund provided by government and run by councils.

In response to a rise in Covid-19 numbers across the country, the government has made it compulsory for people to self-isolate if the NHS has told them to. This applies either because they have tested positive for Covid-19 or because they have been in close contact with someone who has.

To support those who are self-isolating and are struggling financially as a result, the new Test and Trace Support Payment scheme is for people on low incomes who are unable to work from home.

The Test and Trace support payments are a one-off, lump sum of £500 per person if they have been asked to self-isolate, and can prove they cannot work from home and are on a related benefit.

For information on how to apply, visit the council webpage or call 020 8726 7000 option 2.

To be eligible for the Test and Trace Support Payment, you must:

- Have been asked to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace*
- Be employed or self-employed;*
- Be unable to work from home and will lose income as a result; and*
- Be currently receiving Universal Credit, Working Tax Credit, income-based Employment and Support Allowance, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Income Support, Housing Benefit and/or Pension Credit.*
- Provide a notification from NHS Test and Trace and a unique ID number*
- Provide a bank statement; and*
- Proof of employment, or evidence of self-assessment returns and income*
- Proof you cannot work without social contact*

The scheme is set to run until January 2021 and a claim can be made for each period of self-isolation required. Payments can be backdated from 28 September.

The council is also awaiting from government details of a discretionary fund for Croydon residents who do not qualify for the Test and Trace Support Payment but need financial support to self-isolate.

Councillor Alison Butler, Croydon Council's deputy leader and cabinet member for homes and Gateway services, said: "If you are a Croydon resident who has been told to self-isolate but cannot work from home and will struggle financially as a result, apply either online or by phone and we will process your application as soon as possible."

Those testing positive for Covid-19 are legally obliged to self-isolate for a period ending 10 days after first showing symptoms or, for people who did not have symptoms when they were tested, 10 days after the test. Other members of their household are legally obliged to self-isolate for 14 days after the infected person first showed symptoms or after they were tested.

Anyone notified of a positive test result and any of their notified contacts will have a legal duty to self-isolate. The police are in charge of enforcing self-isolation, with failure to comply an offence carrying a fine of at least £1,000 and up to £10,000 for several breaches.

Latest information as at 3.10.20 on Croydon Council's website on the Test and Trace Support Payment is [here](#). While details of the payment are being finalised, people who think they may be eligible can leave their email address to be notified when applications are open.

Royal Mail – some Posties leaving parcels in the porch without knocking

We have received reports from more than one Clyde Road resident that there is a Postie (or Posties) leaving Royal Mail delivered packages in people's porches without even bothering to knock. We raised this with Royal Mail and received the following response. Basically they want individual customers to raise

a complaint with date and time of the incident. Although it may not be possible to give an exact time, it will be possible to say between what times it happened. Presumably Royal Mail want this information so they might work out which Postie(s) is / are doing this.

I am really sorry to hear residents in Canning and Clyde Road are experiencing delivery issues and I can understand your concerns.

As it appears there's multiple residents experiencing issues, may I kindly request they each contact Royal Mail directly so we can log and report their complaints separately. It would also be beneficial if they are able to provide incident dates as this will help identify the post person concerned.

I'm sorry you've had to contact us. If you still need help, please visit our Help and Support Centre on our website at www.royalmail.com/help .

The Royal Mail's Complaints Page is at <https://www.postoffice.co.uk/contact-us-complaint>

Black History Month in Croydon

October is the start of Black History Month 2020 - *Learning from the past to create an equal future*. There is a huge range of activities for residents living in Croydon: history, people who inspire, poetry, short stories, wide variety of music, dance, books, photo exhibition in the Whitgift Centre in celebration of Black British Heroes in Croydon past and present, workshop on systems thinking and structural inequalities, world of work, beauty, family tree making.

For more information, [click here](#).

HINTS AND TIPS

Why are the leaves beginning to change colour?

The Horse Chestnut leaves have now well and truly turned with the presence of the Horse Chestnut leaf miner moth.

Leaves on one or two other trees are just beginning to change colour. As the days shorten and temperatures fall, the leaves on more trees will change colour and drop. Why does this happen? Why do different trees turn different colours in autumn? The Kew Gardens site gives an interesting and very clear [explanation](#).

Hedgehogs and a whole variety of insects benefit from fallen leaves left on the ground.

There are lots of things to pick up off a wood floor in autumn - in moderation of course: colourful leaves, acorns, chestnuts, pine cones. On the web there are many easy to find sites with craft ideas for children. Here's one that's definitely for adults only – how to preserve coloured [leaves for decoration using wax](#).

TO MAKE YOU SMILE

2021 Planner

Please see attached jpeg

My grandmother told the Police Officer ...

Please see attached mpeg. This is worth watching till the end.

Thanks to Pat for sending this in. If you come across any funny pictures or videos that might brighten up someone's day, do please email them in. There are some brilliant ones about at the moment but I regret we avoid party and world politics!

Croydon Council litter sign

Please see attached jpeg. I did a double-take when I first saw this poster in South Norwood Country Park. I think it's great! *Warning – some viewers may find some of the language in this poster offensive!*

RELIABLE SOURCES OF ACCURATE INFORMATION

Croydon Council services

<https://www.croydon.gov.uk/healthsocial/phealth/coronavirus-information/service-updates>

National – furlough, self-employed, small businesses, benefits, housing

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Job Help

<https://jobhelp.campaign.gov.uk/>
[Seven key tips for finding a job](#)

Health

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Money

<https://www.moneyadviceservice.org.uk/en>
<https://www.turn2us.org.uk/>
<https://www.fca.org.uk/>

Citizens Advice

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/health/coronavirus-what-it-means-for-you/>

Shelter

https://england.shelter.org.uk/housing_advice/coronavirus