



### **Easing of lockdown restrictions**

In case you missed it, here's a quick summary of what you can now do. Although things have started to ease, we'd ask you still stay at home as much as possible to help reduce the spread of Covid-19. It's really important we all still social distance and play our part to keep the rate of infection down.

- You can now meet up to six people, from different households, outdoors or in a private garden, all following social distancing
- Those on the shielded list can go outdoors with members of their household, or to meet one person from another household ensuring they both social distance
- You're encouraged to not meet lots of different groups of people and to still limit contact if possible
- Continue to work from home where possible
- You can travel for exercise, but bear in mind popular parks could be busy so please ensure you can social distance at all times

## **Test and trace**

Last week the government announced the introduction of a national test and trace system.

If you develop Covid-19 symptoms you must now contact 119 or order a test online immediately at [www.nhs.uk/coronavirus](http://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus)

If you test positive you must isolate for 7 days and members of their household isolate for 14 days. The NHS test and trace service will then text, email or call you and ask you to share details of people you have had close, recent contact with. They will then be identified and advised to isolate for 14 days, even if they do not have symptoms.

## **Recognising carers**

The selfless contributions made by the thousands of carers in the borough will be highlighted as part of Carers Week (8<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> June).

This year's theme is 'making carers visible' and we want to shine a light on the far-reaching role that many play in our communities and help carers realise the support that is available to them.

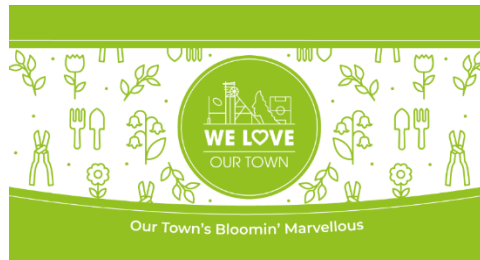
If anyone has a story to share about caring or knows someone who doesn't get the praise they deserve then please don't hesitate to get in touch so we can celebrate them during the campaign. Contact [pr@wigan.gov.uk](mailto:pr@wigan.gov.uk) with your stories.

## **Summer safety**

As lockdown restrictions start to ease over the summer months, please be careful when visiting our canals, lakes, rivers and reservoirs and keep a safe distance from the edge.

Open water may look safe and inviting on a warm day, but there are hidden dangers below the surface. Please wait until swimming pools reopen with lifeguards there to ensure you're safe. There's more info about keeping children safe this summer [here](#).

## Our Town's Bloomin' Marvellous



Thank you to all those who submitted photos of their lovely gardens for our virtual in bloom competition. The panel is shortlisting entries this week and we'll be putting the best entries to a public vote on our [facebook page](#) this weekend – make sure you cast your vote.

## Schools update

We have advised our schools that they should be aiming for 15<sup>th</sup> June to begin to introduce more children into primary schools. This date will allow us to support each school on its risk assessment to ensure the safety of pupils and staff. Although this is our current advice, it is up to each individual school if they feel they are ready to open sooner.

## Face coverings must be worn on public transport

From Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June it will be compulsory to wear a face mask or face covering while using public transport. The government has said where possible people should still continue to avoid public transport and walk, cycle or drive. There is a greater risk of the spread of the virus if people are in enclosed spaces for longer periods of time, and social distancing is likely to be difficult.

In this morning's headlines, the British Medical Association has responded to the news by saying the guidance should be wider, with face coverings mandatory.

You can read the full announcement from the government [here](#).



### **Covid-19 impact survey**

A survey will launch next week with residents urged to help shape the council's future direction.

The Covid-19 Impact Survey – which will run through June and July – will help us to produce a refreshed Deal 2030 strategy.

We'll be encouraging as many people as possible to take part and tell us how their everyday lives have been affected during lockdown and what aspects of our service delivery remains important.

We'll be asking specific groups to share their thoughts including the business community, young people and the voluntary sector.

When the survey is published live on our website next week we will share the link with you.

As well as filling it in online, we'll also be including a paper version of the survey in summer's Borough Life magazine and printed copies to SDFs for those without internet access. Residents will also have the opportunity to complete the survey over the phone.



## Grass cutting

Despite some easing of lockdown measures, hundreds of our staff are still redeployed to support our critical services at this time, which means we are not able to return to 'business as usual' just yet.

We've had lots of enquiries asking why grassed areas are not being cut across the borough. Many of our streetscene staff are amongst those redeployed to support our Covid-19 response, which means many of our services are operating at a reduced rate. Please bear with us at this time as we still must prioritise our response to Covid-19.

Last month we set out our plans to reduce our grass cutting schedule in some parts of the borough to enable wildlife to flourish, read more [here](#).

## Black Lives Matter

We'll be joining authorities across Greater Manchester to light up our civic buildings this evening from 10pm in support of the Black Lives Matter movement.

Hindley Town Hall, Leigh Turnpike, the Wigan Face, Leigh Sports Village and Wigan Youth Zone will all be lit up in support.

**Wigan Council**

**Wigan Borough stands in solidarity with all those across the world who face racism or other forms of prejudice.**

We believe in a kinder, fairer world,  
A world where kindness, love and acceptance flourishes,  
And where prejudice and hate become notions of the past.

It's up to us to build this world,  
To learn from the past and stand up for what's right.  
To remove discrimination and create a place where our  
differences are accepted and celebrated.

So...Let's learn to love, Celebrate our differences, Teach tolerance,  
And most of all, **Be Kind**. Always.

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**Coun David Molyneux**  
Leader of Wigan Council

**Alison McKenzie-Folan**  
Chief Executive, Wigan Council

## Wigan Pride 2020

Last night the Wigan Pride committee announced this year's outdoor event will be cancelled and instead a digital Pride will be streamed online via Youtube and Facebook on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June for people to watch from their homes.

A graphic with a white rounded rectangle on a background of a rainbow flag and a building. The text inside the rectangle is as follows:

**WIGAN PRIDE 2020  
UPDATE**

Since the initial outbreak of Covid-19 we at Wigan Pride have been monitoring the situation and due to the current circumstances have made the difficult decision to cancel this year's live Wigan Pride celebration.

Public safety is of utmost importance to us and due to this currently we do not believe it would be safe or feasible to hold our regular celebration in the town centre. However, this does not mean that there will be no Wigan Pride this year! Instead, we have decided to host a digital event streaming directly to you at home on Friday the 26th June 2020 so you can celebrate pride and equality safely during pride month and in the comforts of your own home! More information on this to come.

This was not an easy decision to make, and we are very disappointed that we will not be able to see you all at our regular celebration of acceptance and equality in August. We hope that you will be able to share the love and enjoy our digital offering at home, staying safe and staying proud. We will continue to work hard behind the scenes to ensure that we deliver the best digital pride we can later this month as well as start planning Wigan Pride 2021!

**- THE WIGAN PRIDE COMMITTEE** 🏳️‍🌈