

## **PEMBROKESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL: LEADER'S CORONAVIRUS UPDATE, FRIDAY, 23RD OCTOBER**

Pembrokeshire County Council Leader, Councillor David Simpson, has provided a further coronavirus update for Friday, 23rd October, as follows:

'Yet another week has passed and we continue to be talking and tackling Covid-19.

'The news we see and read every day, whether on TV, social media or newspapers, continues to highlight the major impact Covid-19 is having on our lives.

'Indeed, as I write this message, we are just a few hours away from the Welsh Government's 17-day 'firebreak' lockdown.

'We want everyone to work together to ensure we are all observing with lockdown. I can confirm that officers will be out on the ground to ensure people and business are adhering to the guidance. We will be engaging, explaining and encouraging people to comply and, if we have issues, we will enforce.

'I'm very aware that people in Pembrokeshire keep saying we are safe here and away from the pandemic. However, the number of cases in Pembrokeshire is rising. Covid-19 does not have boundaries or rules – we are all potentially at risk of catching this virus.

'I want to emphasise that this week the Pembrokeshire numbers of positive coronavirus tests have risen to over 50 people per 100,000 – the rate at which local lockdown measures would have been considered by the Welsh Government.

Yesterday (Thursday), for example, 18 new positive cases were recorded in our county.

'It is very simple – we all need to act now and pull together in one direction. We have to stop this virus spreading. It is impacting on lives, key services, economy, health provision and our general way of day-to-day living. Acting now can protect Pembrokeshire.

'As the local authority, we are closing many services from this evening in line with Welsh Government advice. Primary services closing include:

- Waste and Recycling Centres
- Leisure Centres
- Libraries.

'I want to thank all the Council officers who continue to work hard to protect our services. Although in the past few days they have been working on shutting-down services, they will already be planning their re-opening.

'I suppose some people may read my updates and say "well I'll just carry on as normal" or "this doesn't affect me" but it is so wrong to think that way.

'Everyone - yes every individual - has a crucial role to play. Why be selfish? Why go against the advice? Why risk lives? Please I urge you all to take note of the guidance and pull together. Come on Team Pembrokeshire, together we are stronger

'I do find it hard to believe that I have been issuing these updates since March. Since then our lives have become engulfed by the pandemic – the invisible and feared coronavirus that has affected us all.

'Everyone's lives have changed and we all need to keep adopting to the changes.

'I know when I sit at home to reflect on what is happening I feel very grateful for the support I have from colleagues, friends and the huge support that my family give me.

'We all need support, someone to share our worries with. I know without my family, the days would be much harder.

'So, I'm asking again for your support, to support each other. Ensure you keep motivated during this difficult period in our lives and keep the pandemic away from your door.

'This weekend we all get an extra hour in bed on Sunday. Do not forget to turn your clocks back.

'The following coronavirus-related press releases have been issued since my update last Friday:

- Phase Two of Freelancer Fund Opens:  
<https://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/newsroom/second-phase-of-freelancer-fund-opens>
- Council Considering 'Firebreak' Impact:  
<https://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/newsroom/council-considering-firebreak-implications>
- Community Hub Remains Open:  
<https://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/newsroom/community-hub-ready-to-offer-support-and-assistance-during-firebreak-lockdown>
- Follow Lockdown Rules Urge Leaders:  
<https://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/newsroom/follow-lockdown-rules-public-leaders-urge>
- Business Support Details Soon:  
<https://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/newsroom/business-support-details-coming-soon>
- WRCs To Close: Household Collections Continue:  
<https://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/newsroom/waste-and-recycling-centres-to-close-household-collections-to-continue>
- Library Service Changes:  
<https://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/newsroom/firebreak-changes-to-library-service>
- Info For Leisure Centre Users:  
<https://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/newsroom/temporary-closure-and-online-exercise-for-leisure-centre-users>
- Car Parks, Toilets, Play Areas Stay Open:  
<https://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/newsroom/council-car-parks-toilets-and-play-areas-to-remain-open-during-firebreak-lockdown>
- Building Maintenance And Airport Information:  
<https://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/newsroom/building-maintenance-and-airport-firebreak-information>

- Lockdown At Right Time For Pembs:

<https://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/newsroom/firebreak-lockdown-comes-as-pembs-covid-cases-continue-to-rise>

- Helping The Lonely Get Online:

<https://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/newsroom/new-initiative-to-help-lonely-get-online>

‘Thank you for reading my updates, stay safe and take care of each other.’

Public Health Wales (PHW) publishes an interactive [daily dashboard](https://public.tableau.com/profile/public.health.wales.health.protection#!/vizhome/RapidCOVID-19virology-Public/Headlinesummary) of data about coronavirus cases across Wales broken down by health board and local authority area, at: <https://public.tableau.com/profile/public.health.wales.health.protection#!/vizhome/RapidCOVID-19virology-Public/Headlinesummary>

PHW also provides a [daily update](https://covid19-phwstatement.nhs.wales/) focusing on key public health information and updates at: <https://covid19-phwstatement.nhs.wales/>

Information about coronavirus is available [here](https://gov.wales/coronavirus) on the Welsh Government’s website: <https://gov.wales/coronavirus>

Also, please keep an eye on our newsroom at: <https://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/newsroom>

For service updates visit: <https://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/emergency-planning/service-changes>

And to get daily email updates, log onto our website and sign into My Account at:

<https://myaccount.pembrokeshire.gov.uk>

Other useful links:

- [www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/coronavirus)
- [www.sir-benfro.gov.uk/coronafeirws](http://www.sir-benfro.gov.uk/coronafeirws)
- <https://phw.nhs.wales/>
- [Iechyd Cyhoeddus Cymru - Coronafeirws Newydd \(COVID-19\) - Cyngor hunan-ynysu](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-guidance)
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-guidance>