

# Coronavirus: Weekly update

## From Camden Council

To keep you up to date with changes to council services and support available through the Council and its partners, you'll find weekly updates here in the Camden New Journal.

Visit [camden.gov.uk/coronavirus](https://camden.gov.uk/coronavirus) for the latest on all council services and information on essential support, including how to access emergency food and financial support. The webpage contains information in different languages and formats.

You can also check the rolling news feed at [camden.gov.uk/coronavirusnews](https://camden.gov.uk/coronavirusnews), Twitter @CamdenCouncil or speak to someone at the Council directly on 020 7974 4444 (option 9).



This month is Pride month and whilst many in-person events have been postponed, we can still all be visible and vocal in our support for our LGBTQ+ communities and organisations. We are really lucky in Camden to have an amazing range of LGBTQ+ groups based here including forum+, Opening Doors, and Mosaic. We must remember the legacy of Stonewall is that change comes because people are brave to raise their voices and call out injustice, and this Pride month I want to celebrate Camden's legacy of fighting for equality, and defending the hard won rights of all LGBTQ+ people.

As we move into the summer period I know many people will be wanting to spend more time outside and see family and friends. It is important that we continue to all work together to keep each other safe and stop the spread of the virus. The Government has announced changes to the guidance for social distancing from 4 July, and more spaces will soon be able to open – we'll be including more detailed information about this here next week. We continue to work with our communities, businesses and you our residents to keep Camden safe, strong and open for everyone.

Councillor Georgia Gould, Leader of Camden Council



**SIGN UP to the Council's coronavirus e-newsletter for regular service updates, news and support, at [camden.gov.uk/coronavirus-updates](https://camden.gov.uk/coronavirus-updates)**

### Panel meets to discuss impact of COVID-19

On Monday 29 June at 7pm, Camden's COVID-19 Cross-party Oversight Panel will meet for the third time. Discussions will include: health, inequalities and the disproportionate impact of COVID-19; and schools, education and children's services. You can watch live or as a recording at [camden.gov.uk/councilmeetings](https://camden.gov.uk/councilmeetings). This week's other meetings are Licensing Panel E, today (25 June) at 10am, Housing Scrutiny Committee on Tuesday 30 June at 6.30pm, and Cabinet on Wednesday 1 July at 7pm.

If you'd like to get in touch with your local councillor, visit [camden.gov.uk/councillors](https://camden.gov.uk/councillors) or call 020 7974 2792.

### Updates in BSL and other languages

Visit [camden.gov.uk/coronavirustranslations](https://camden.gov.uk/coronavirustranslations) for British Sign Language coronavirus updates for Camden residents, along with national guidance translated into BSL and other languages. If you are Deaf, you can contact the Camden RAD Deaf Advice Service for support at [nicole.campbell@royaldeaf.org.uk](mailto:nicole.campbell@royaldeaf.org.uk) or on 07749 965 742.

### How to make a DIY face covering

With many non-essential shops reopening and face coverings now required on public transport, here is a simple way to make your own at home if you don't yet have one.

You will need:

- two 25cm x 25cm squares of cotton fabric – this could be from some old clothing you've found during lockdown
- two 20cm pieces of elastic – or string or cloth strips
- needle and thread
- scissors

#### Step 1:

Stack the two squares of fabric on top of each other.

#### Step 2:

Fold over each side of the fabric by just less than a centimetre and stitch together. Fold over the remaining two sides and stitch them about 1.5cm. This will leave you with channels to run the string through.

#### Step 3:

Run the elastic (or string or cloth strip) through the wider hem on each side. These will be the ear loops. Tie the ends tightly.

#### Step 4:

Gently pull on the elastic so the knots are tucked inside the hem. Gather the sides of the covering on the elastic and adjust so the covering fits your face. Then securely stitch the elastic in place to keep it from slipping.



For the latest guidance, visit [gov.uk/coronavirus](https://gov.uk/coronavirus) For NHS advice, visit [nhs.uk/coronavirus](https://nhs.uk/coronavirus)

### Last chance to have your say – making travel safer

Since May, the Council has received over 1,200 suggestions from residents and local organisations on where it should be responding to new road safety challenges caused by coronavirus. Suggestions include streets where measures could make it easier for people to physically distance, locations for new or improved cycling facilities, and where 'rat-running' and speeding could be targeted. The Council has already started to make changes based on these suggestions.

A big thank you to everyone who has commented. You can still have your say until this Sunday 28 June. Suggest where you think changes are needed on the map at [camdensafetravel.commonplace.is](https://camdensafetravel.commonplace.is), email [safetravel@camden.gov.uk](mailto:safetravel@camden.gov.uk) or phone 020 7974 4444.

### Hot weather: keeping safe

With temperatures soaring this week, it's important to keep yourself and others safe. During hot weather NHS services can see added pressure, so please take precautions.



**Check in:** Look out for those who may struggle to keep themselves cool and hydrated. Particularly at risk are older people and those with underlying health conditions, including those who are currently shielding or self-isolating alone.



**Social distance:** Keep your distance in line with social distancing guidelines and use spaces considerately. Try to stay local to stop popular areas from becoming overcrowded, or use your garden if you have one. If you cannot safely distance, for example in shops or enclosed spaces, use a face covering. These are now mandatory on public transport.



**Keep hydrated:** Drink plenty of fluids and avoid excess alcohol. If you need to travel, take water with you.



**Wash your hands:** Remember to wash your hands regularly for 20 seconds when you can, and carry hand sanitiser when you go out.



**Keep your home cool:** Close windows or blinds in the daytime to stop sun exposure, and open a window to let in cooler air in the evening.

Camden's frontline presence officers are out across the borough, helping people keep safe. Please help them to do their jobs by following their instructions if you see them. During this pandemic we've seen some of the best of community spirit in Camden, with people looking out for and helping one another – let's continue to be considerate of each other.

### Thank you to caretakers!

Camden's estate caretakers have always been important to the Council and residents, but since lockdown these key workers have been absolutely crucial on the frontline of the COVID-19 crisis. Caretakers have been keeping residents safe and essential services running while most of us have been at home.

**"A huge thank you for your service, for risking time spent outside just to keep our community safe and clean. We appreciate your hard work. Stay safe and well."**

George Mews residents

#### Job opportunities

The Council is looking for more talented people to join the caretaking team, and is especially keen to receive applications from Camden residents with good local knowledge. There are also window cleaning, quality assurance administration and safer housing roles available.

Find out more at [camden.gov.uk/estatejobs](https://camden.gov.uk/estatejobs)



This year we'll be celebrating Pride with online events.

Visit [lovecamden.org/pride](https://lovecamden.org/pride) for activities including exhibitions, playlists and workshops.



### LGBTQ+ in Camden

LGBTQ+ organisations in Camden are continuing to provide support and community to residents:

- forum+ supports victims of homophobic, biphobic and transphobic hate crime across Camden and Islington. If you are a victim of harassment or hate crime, call forum+ on 020 7388 5720 (10am to 5.30pm) or email [info@forumplus.org.uk](mailto:info@forumplus.org.uk). forum+ is also holding monthly public meetings, poetry events and social clubs online – visit [forumplus.org.uk](https://forumplus.org.uk) for more information.

- Opening Doors London provides information, support services and activities for LGBTQ+ people over 50. Since lockdown, they have been working remotely to provide services like telephone befriending, online groups and volunteer services. For more information and to become a member of Opening Doors London, visit [openingdoorslondon.org.uk](https://openingdoorslondon.org.uk)

- Mosaic LGBT+ Young Persons' Trust provides a range of activities and services for people under 18, including a youth club and mentoring. Due to COVID-19, Mosaic's services have gone online. If you are a young person who would like to join Mosaic, or you'd like to donate to help Mosaic continue its work, visit [mosaicyouth.org.uk](https://mosaicyouth.org.uk)

### Camden's support for business tenants

As businesses across Camden take steps to reopen, Camden Council is supporting its own commercial tenants who are struggling to pay their rent by continuing to offer rent deferrals for the June quarter. In keeping with recent Government guidance, tenants will need to provide supporting financial information about their business.

If you are a Camden Council commercial tenant and would like to discuss your June rent payment, please get in touch with the Credit Control team (commercial rents) on 020 7974 6959 or email [commercialrents@camden.gov.uk](mailto:commercialrents@camden.gov.uk)

### Please attend health appointments

If you are invited to a routine appointment, like an antenatal appointment during pregnancy, vaccinations or treatment for a condition not related to coronavirus, please attend. Measures are in place to keep you safe. It's a good idea to call to check your appointment is going ahead and if there's anything you need to do differently.