

COMMUNITY UPDATE

COVID-19



07/01/21



It maybe a new year but the current Covid19 pandemic and its associated challenges remains and continues to face us all.

The government announcement of a third national lockdown is a bitter pill to swallow but it is an necessary one. The message is simple – please stay at home to protect the NHS and save lives. It's especially important as we are also combatting a new and more infectious strain of the virus. We have seen a rapid rise in positive cases across the country and in Suffolk so let's do everything we can to stop the spread of this virus.

From a Suffolk police perspective our approach to policing the pandemic has not changed. We will engage with people, explain the rules and encourage people to follow them. We are months into this pandemic and we all know the basic rules.

I make no apology for our officers who will be asking questions and will be inquisitive about why individuals may be out of their homes. The justified reasons are outlined below, however, I cannot be clearer - those who are blatantly ignoring the restrictions will be given a fine as their actions are putting others at risk through their behaviour. Enforcement will be carried out when required and will be proportionate, but officers will not waste time endlessly encouraging those who commit the most serious breaches.

You must not leave or be outside of your home except where necessary. You may leave the home to:

- shop for things you need, for you or a vulnerable person
- go to work, or provide voluntary or charitable services, if you cannot reasonably do so from home
- exercise with your household (or support bubble) or one other person.
- meet your support bubble or childcare bubble where necessary
- seek medical assistance or avoid injury, illness or risk of harm (including domestic abuse)
- attend education or childcare - for those eligible

Of course, we as a police force are not immune to the virus and we regularly remind all our officers and staff to adhere to the appropriate hygiene measures, wear the correct personal protective equipment and where they can, operationally, are socially distancing to ensure safe working. You can rest assured that responding to emergencies is our daily business and we have detailed plans in place to deal with any staff shortages, to make sure we can continue to deliver our core services and respond to urgent calls and protecting people from harm. That will always be our priority.

Take care of yourselves, each other and thank you for your on-going support.

Ch/Supt Kim Warner



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BREACH AT [SUFFOLK.POLICE.UK](https://www.suffolk.police.uk)



YOU CAN TALK TO
YOUR LOCAL SNT