

COMMUNITY UPDATE

COVID-19



30.04.21



As we reach the May Bank Holiday it seems an opportune time to remind everyone of the need to stay disciplined with regards to the current rules regarding the covid pandemic.

The light at the end of the tunnel is getting brighter and more and more of us are having the vaccine, but we need to remain on our guard as we aren't out of the woods yet.

Since April some of the changes have included the opening of non-essential retail, as well as personal care premises such as hairdressers and nail salons and public buildings, including libraries and community centres. Hopefully, you will have been able to take advantage of these relaxations whilst also wearing masks where required and appropriate and maintaining the all-important two metres social distance.

Thoughts will now begin to turn to May 17 when hopefully, although not definitely agreed as of yet, we will see most legal restrictions on meeting others outdoors lifted - although gatherings of over 30 people will remain illegal. Whilst indoors, the Rule of 6 or 2 households will apply.

Elsewhere, up to 30 people will be able to attend weddings, receptions and wakes, as well as funerals. Until that is confirmed, we still need to stay disciplined and make sure our progress continues in a forwards motion, rather than backwards.

Earlier this month (20 April), Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) published their national 'Policing the pandemic' report, which looked at the national police response to the coronavirus pandemic during 2020.

It was pleasing to see that the report credited police for "immediate and decisive action to keep people safe" during the pandemic. HMICFRS also commended officers, staff and volunteers for their "exceptional dedication and commitment", so on a local level I pass on my thanks to you all for what you have contributed over the past 12 months or so – we as a local force in Suffolk are extremely grateful for all your efforts. The full report from HMICFRS can be [found here](#).

As was the case over Easter, our officers will be visible on patrol this Bank Holiday weekend to ensure that guidelines for businesses, and the public are adhered to and the 4 E model of engaging, explaining, encouraging and only using enforcement where necessary will continue - it is vital we all follow the rules for all our safety.

As always, all the detail on the government's 'roadmap' and the current regulations as to what is permissible can be found at www.gov.uk/coronavirus

T/Supt Simon Mills



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