

Gareth Johnson MP for Dartford

Reporting back from Dartford
and Westminster - now
reaching over 5,000 people in
the local area



10th December 2020



Deportation of foreign criminals

During an urgent question in the House of Commons, I called on the Government to review any law which prevents the deportation of foreign criminals. This followed the legal challenge to the scheduled deportation of Jamaican nationals by charter plane to Jamaica. The Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Chris Philp, said the flight was specifically to remove foreign criminals whose offences included sexual assault against children, murder, rape, drug dealing and violent crime.

To watch my contribution and the Minister's response, please click on the video above.



Pfizer vaccine

I am delighted the Government has accepted the recommendation from the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency to approve the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for distribution across the United Kingdom. The UK is the first country in the world to deliver an approved vaccine. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to the scientists who have worked tirelessly to deliver a vaccine in nine months, something that normally takes a similar number of years. We are finally in a position to begin to protect our most vulnerable people, who are the first in the world to receive an approved vaccine.

Whilst we have reason to be optimistic that we have a vaccine, we must not underestimate the challenges that lie ahead. The Pfizer vaccine presents unique issues in relation to how it needs to be stored and at present, it cannot be broken down into batches smaller than 975 individual doses. This is, however, a rapidly changing situation and there have been reports that a way may have been found to do this.

Priority for who receives this vaccine first is determined by The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI). This committee is made up of academics and medical experts and it is right the Government relies on the advice given by experts. The JCVI has advised that the priority for the first stage of vaccinations includes residents in care homes and their carers, those over 80 years of age and health and social care workers, followed by those at greater risk by reason of age or underlying health conditions. It is estimated that the first stage of vaccinations based

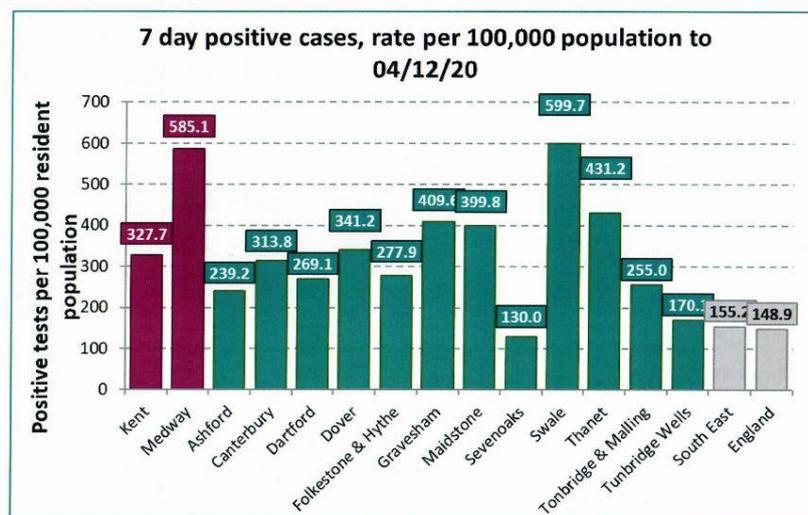
on age and underlying health conditions represents around 99% of preventable mortality from COVID-19.

I recognise there are people in many occupations who are unable to work from home. We owe key workers a huge debt of gratitude for the work they have done throughout the pandemic but it is right that we prioritise those who are most vulnerable to death or serious illness from COVID-19 for the first phase of vaccination. Nine primary care services around Kent will start vaccinating next week and people will be called to receive their vaccination.

I welcome the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care's announcement that vaccination clinics will open 7 days a week, in addition to an extra £150m for GPs to support this work. These measures will help to enable a mass rollout of the vaccination at the earliest possible time.

If you would like to hear more from Dr June Raine, Chief Executive of the MHRA, please click on the photo above to play the video.

Kent Covid-19 overview (up until 4th December)



Want to make a difference to policing in Kent?

Kent PCC Matthew Scott would like to hear your views on what matters to you by completing this year's [Annual Policing Survey](#)

WHY?

1. Your views will help shape the priorities the Police focus on tackling

Are the current priorities correct?

2. Hearing about your experiences is imperative

How safe do you feel in your area?

3. You can tell us which crimes matter to you

Which crimes affect your area the most?

4. You can let us know what the service you received was like

Were you satisfied with the service?

5. Let us know what the extra police should focus on

Kent Police is recruiting more officers thanks to the PCC's budget and the Government's investment in 20,000 more police

6. Get across your views on police funding

Would you be willing to pay a small amount extra in council tax towards the cost of policing?



Police and Crime Plan



Policing Survey

Matthew Scott, Kent's Police and Crime Commissioner is asking people to complete the Annual Policing Survey (link below). This consultation is really important

because it will help determine the priorities for Kent Police.

The closing date for responses is 5th January 2021.

[Annual Policing Survey](#)

Road Safety Dashboard

The Constituency Road Safety Dashboard was launched recently and shows the location and summary details of all casualties in every constituency. To access it, please click on the link below (need to run in Google Chrome.)

[Constituency Road Safety Dashboard](#)

TIER 3

VERY HIGH ALERT

FROM 2 DEC

MEETING FRIENDS AND FAMILY  <p>No mixing of households indoors, or most outdoor places, apart from support bubbles. Maximum of six in some outdoor public spaces (e.g. parks, public gardens).</p>	BARS, PUBS AND RESTAURANTS  <p>Hospitality is closed, with the exception of sales by takeaway, drive-through or delivery.</p>	RETAIL  <p>Open.</p>	WORK AND BUSINESS  <p>Everyone who can work from home should do so.</p>
EDUCATION  <p>Early years settings, schools, colleges and universities open. Childcare, other supervised activities for children, and childcare bubbles permitted.</p>	INDOOR LEISURE  <p>Open. Group activities and classes should not take place.</p>	ACCOMMODATION  <p>Closed (with limited exceptions)</p>	PERSONAL CARE  <p>Open.</p>
OVERNIGHT STAYS  <p>We advise against overnight stays other than with household or support bubble.</p>	WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS  <p>15 guests for weddings, civil partnerships and wakes; 30 for funerals. Wedding receptions not permitted.</p>	ENTERTAINMENT  <p>Indoor venues closed.</p>	PLACES OF WORSHIP  <p>Open, but cannot interact with anyone outside household or support bubble.</p>
TRAVELLING  <p>Avoid travelling outside your area, other than where necessary such as for work or education. Further exemptions apply. Reduce the number of journeys where possible. Plan ahead and avoid busy times and routes on public transport. Avoid car sharing with those outside of your household or support bubble.</p>	EXERCISE  <p>Classes and organised adult sport can take place outdoors, but people should avoid higher-risk contact activity. Group exercise activities and sports indoors should not take place, unless with your household or bubble. Organised activities for elite athletes, under-18s and disabled people can continue.</p>	RESIDENTIAL CARE  <p>COVID-secure arrangements such as substantial screens, visiting pods, and window visits. Outdoor/airtight visits only (rollout of rapid testing will enable indoor visits including contact).</p>	LARGE EVENTS  <p>Events should not take place. Drive-in events permitted.</p>

Find out what support you can get

For example, if you're out of work, need to get food, or want to take care of your mental health.

[gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

If you have any coronavirus symptoms:

A high temperature • A new, continuous cough
A loss of, or change to, your sense of smell or taste

Get a test and stay at home

For more information and detailed guidance visit: [gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)



Tier 3

I was disappointed that Kent was placed into Tier 3 and will face the highest level of restrictions but based on the information we have I can understand why the difficult decision was made. In Tier 3, retail can now reopen.

The priority now must be to reduce the rates of infection so we can see restrictions lifted as quickly as possible.



Royal Mail

Christmas at Royal Mail in Dartford

Usually at this time of year, I am invited to visit my local delivery office in Dartford and in the past this has given me an opportunity to say thank you to all the local posties for their hard work throughout the year.

Regrettably, this is not possible this year and I would therefore like to take the opportunity in this bulletin to thank all our local Royal Mail staff for their hard work. They have continued working throughout the pandemic and in the period April-August they have delivered 177 million more parcels, an increase of 34%. With the additional pressure of Christmas cards and presents, they are preparing for a very busy time.



Stanhill Farm

Each month I like to feature a local business, large or small and this month's is Stanhill Farm which is located on Birchwood Road in Wilmington.

I have featured Stanhill Farm before, which is made up of 150 acres. It is managed by brothers Toby and Max Williams who took it over in 2004, opening their Farm Shop on site in October 2009. It stocks a wide range of fresh produce, much of which is harvested by hand and then put straight onto the shelves. The farm grows up to 30 different crops a year.

Stanhill Farm Shop has gone from strength-to-strength and has adapted to the pandemic by introducing a click and collect service on the website. This service offers a larger range of products than you would normally find in the Farm Shop, including bread from a local bakery in Swanley and cakes supplied by Ruby's Bakery in Sussex, along with cheese from Cheeseworks and a delicatessen range from a family run wholesaler, Curd & Cure. Dry Cure Bacon can also be ordered for click and collect and is supplied by Glover's Quality Meats in Hartley. There is a large range of pantry items also including, biscuits, crisps, flour, pasta and cereals.

There is no contact with staff as on arrival customers give their order number and surname and the order is placed straight into their car boot.

For customers who prefer to visit the Farm Shop, Covid-safe measures are in place including social distancing, sanitiser, face coverings and a limit on the number of

customers in the shop at a time. Shopping baskets are sanitised after each use and card payments are preferred.

If you would like to check out the click and collect service or find out about Stanhill Farm, please click on the link below.

[Stanhill Farm](#)



Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust

Change of number: Single Point of Access - 0800 783 9111

Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust has asked me to share its new Single Point of Access telephone number which has been in place from 1st December 2020. This new Freephone number is for anyone who needs urgent mental health support, advice and guidance.

This Freephone number replaces the 0300 telephone number which can still be used but callers may be charged if calling from a mobile telephone number.

The crisis and community contact details remain the same and can be found on the website.

Telephone calls will be recorded when using the Single Point of Access service. Please view the Privacy notice on KMPT's website for more information.

<https://www.kmpt.nhs.uk/pdf-documents/about-us-documents/confidentiality-and-gdpr/privacynotices/privacy-notice-call-recording-within-single-point-of-access-service/introduction/>

Keeping our staff and passengers safe

Under our Safer Travel Pledge, Southeastern is working with the rest of the rail industry to implement a raft of measures:

- 1 More trains and extra carriages – to make extra room and help with social distancing
- 2 New social distancing signs – so people know where to go, stay 2 metres apart where possible and avoid pinch points
- 3 Powerful fog cleaning on trains – with trains and stations cleaned more frequently through the day
- 4 Soap restocked more often in stations and on trains – so it's easier to wash hands and keep them virus-free
- 5 Vending machines for face coverings and hand sanitiser – at more than 150 stations making it easier for passengers to buy what they need
- 6 Hand sanitiser points in more than 300 stations – helping protect people themselves from the virus
- 7 New service on Messenger app alerting people to busy trains – look up National Rail on Messenger to get started
- 8 Up to 2,500 extra staff available at key locations – to help passengers on their way.

Our safer travel pledge

We are taking extra steps to make your journey safer

We are



Maximising space

Running more trains and carriages to make extra room



Boosting cleaning

Cleaning trains and stations more regularly



Helping with hygiene

Making it easier for you to keep your hands clean



Improving information

With people and technology to help you at every stage

Our response in numbers

2 million

facemasks handed out



40,000

anti-bacterial, anti-viral wipe packs



18,000

litres of hand sanitiser

300

marshals deployed to help direct passengers



12,000

visors distributed

32,000

calls handled by the customer service team

30

extra cleaning staff

£400K

investment in enhanced cleaning

2 On Track.

se

Southeastern

In response to the current phase of the pandemic, Southeastern introduced a new timetable on 16th November, which has around 80% of services operating. This reflects reduced passenger demand and the need for some of their frontline staff to

follow personal NHS advice and self-isolate.

As part of Southeastern's Safer Travel Pledge they have invested some £400,000 in extra cleaning to ensure a safe and hygienic environment for passengers and staff. The enhanced cleaning regime includes sanitising every train carriage each night when anti-viral treatments are applied to high touch areas such as toilets, handles and buttons, as well as in the driving cabs.

To check the effectiveness of these measures, Southeastern undertook trial coronavirus swab testing in August. Swabs were carried out at high touch points at five key commuter stations and all the results came back from the lab having tested negative for Covid-19.



Happy Christmas!

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and let's look forward to a new year in which we can hopefully all get back to normal.

Dartford has responded magnificently to the enormous challenges it has faced as a community this year. We have seen the very best of human nature at this time with so many people doing their utmost to help those who were shielding, unwell or vulnerable. In different ways we have all been affected by this virus. It has prevented people meeting up with loved ones, it has hit many people financially and sadly, many Dartfordians have died as a consequence of catching Covid-19, There is now genuine hope on the horizon in the form of the vaccines that are now rolling out across the county so there is good reason to feel far more optimistic for the future.

Click on the photo above if you would like to view the video of the No 10 Christmas tree being decorated.



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