

## **EMBARGOED UNTIL 3 PM ON SUNDAY 26 JULY**

### **Coronavirus: Update on the work continuing to contain coronavirus outbreak at caravan site in Craven Arms**

Shropshire Council and partners continue to work with residents at a caravan site in Craven Arms, and the wider community, to contain a coronavirus outbreak at the site.

As of today (Sunday 26 July 2020), 21 positive cases on the site have been confirmed. Offers of testing to all residents at the site continue, as we expect to see the number of positive cases rise in the coming days, before infection control measures and social distancing start to take effect.

All residents on the caravan site have been asked to self-isolate with members of their households for 14 days following contact with a positive case.

Those residents who had tested positive for coronavirus were asked to self-isolate for a minimum 7 days from the time they started showing symptoms or from when they took their test. If those who have been in self-isolation for the minimum 7 days are now well enough, they can finish self-isolation and leave their home. This means that initial positive cases will finish isolation this coming week.

On Saturday 25 July Rachel Robinson, Shropshire Council's director of public health, provided a video update on the situation: you can view this [here](#).

#### **Local test site set up**

To help prevent further transmission into the wider community, a test site has now been established in Craven Arms for local residents.

The test site at **Craven Arms Business Park** was set up on Saturday 25 July and will be open for the next two weeks every day from 10.30am to 3.30pm. Testing is **by appointment only**, and Craven Arms residents are being asked to book an appointment via NHS Test and Trace [online](#) or by ringing 119.

#### **Who can get a test?**

You can get a test

- for yourself, if you have coronavirus symptoms now (a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste)
- for someone you live with, if they have symptoms
- have been told to have a test before you go into hospital, for example, for surgery.

#### **Health protection**

Shropshire Council and partners continue to provide health protection, advice, support and guidance to the residents on the site and the wider community in Craven Arms. As soon as the council were notified of the first cases, it arranged immediate testing with residents from the site to allow us to

understand transmission and help control the spread of infection. Since the start of the outbreak a comprehensive range of measures have been put place, some of which include:

- Asking all residents to remain in their homes during the period of isolation and stay within household groups, to reduce risk of spread within the site and the wider community.
- Testing of residents on the site, with daily monitoring of symptoms
- Distribution of PPE equipment, hand sanitisers and cleaning products to residents on the site
- Safely providing essential services and supplies.
- Providing residents with information on how to help prevent the spread of coronavirus, what symptoms to look for, and what to do if they are feeling unwell, with signposting to other support.

**And as of today Sunday 26 July 2020:**

- To date 41 people have been tested on the site and all contact tracing is being undertaken.
- Essential items including fuel have been delivered to the site
- We have set up a test site for all residents in Craven Arms
- We have temporarily closed the playground and outdoor gym on Newington Way to help reduce social contact and transmission
- We are responding to community enquiries, and issuing information and advice

### **Community support**

Shropshire Council's Community Reassurance Team (CRT) continue to work with the residents and local businesses to offer support. The team have been arranging food and essential supplies for residents on the site, whilst residents self-isolate. The team have been working with partners including the police, NHS, Public Health England and businesses to engage with the public and provide reassurance and support to the community.

Over the weekend, CRT officers have been out in the community delivering essential supplies and prescriptions to the residents on site and were joined by David Evans, the local Shropshire Councillor for Church Stretton and Craven Arms to offer support to residents and businesses in the town and distribute community posters to the wider community.



*Councillor David Evans and CRT officer Hannah Thomas at the playground and outdoor gym on Newington Way in Craven Arms. The playground has been closed as a precautionary measure to help stop the spread of coronavirus.*

Councillor David Evans said:

“Our priority is to protect the health and wellbeing of our local residents. I’ve been in Craven Arms today to talk to residents and businesses to answer any questions and reassure them that the risk to the general public is low.

“We continue to work closely with Shropshire Council’s partners including the NHS, Public Health England, our local police and other key agencies, to provide up to date advice and support to our local community, to help prevent further spread of coronavirus.

“I would like to thank members of the community for their own ongoing support and co-operation

“We continue to rely on everyone at the site playing their part, and want to encourage the residents to continue to self-isolate and take all the necessary precautions. This is the only way we can help stop the spread of the virus.

“As we now have a test site in the town, if anyone is having symptoms, I would strongly encourage them to book an appointment either online or by calling 119. Anyone concerned can book an appointment.”

Shropshire Council’s public health team would also like to remind everyone to follow social distancing advice to reduce their social interaction with other people. Good hand hygiene remains the best protection against the virus, including washing your hands more regularly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, wearing a face covering when using public transport or going to the shops and supermarkets, and covering your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.

For local advice and support during the pandemic (especially if you are self-isolating), call Shropshire Council’s COVID-19 helpline on **0345 678 9028** (lines open on the weekend on Saturday from 9am-4pm and Sunday 9am-12pm) or visit our website at **[www.shropshire.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/coronavirus)**.

More information about coronavirus, testing, self-isolation, and social distancing is available from the UK Government website at [www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

### **Further information**

We will be providing regular updates on our Newsroom and on social media. If there are no updates posted on Newsroom, this means there is nothing to report on that day.

People who have been tested positive must isolate for a **minimum of 7 days**, or until they are 48 hours without a fever (raised temperature), whichever is the longest.

We can all help control the virus if we all stay alert. This means you must:

- stay at home as much as possible
- work from home if you can
- limit contact with other people
- keep your distance from people not in your household (2 metres apart where possible)
- wash your hands regularly
- Do not leave home if you or anyone in your household has symptoms.

- Wear face coverings on public transport and when going to the shops and supermarkets and in other close settings where possible.

Read more about what you can and cannot do [here](#).