

## Latest update from Braintree District Council - 09/04/2021

The latest Covid-19 data for Essex (excluding Southend and Thurrock) will be published by Essex County Council online via this link: [www.essex.gov.uk/local-outbreak-control](https://www.essex.gov.uk/local-outbreak-control)

Any questions about the content in this newsletter please email BDC at [marketing@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:marketing@braintree.gov.uk).

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## Step 2 of the government's roadmap out of lockdown - what you need to know



From next week (Monday 12th April), we will see the next step in the easing of lockdown restrictions, meaning from 12th April:

- non-essential retail will be able to reopen
- personal care premises such as hairdressers and nail salons will be able to reopen
- public buildings such as libraries and community centres will be able to reopen

- outdoor hospitality venues will be able to reopen, with table service only
- most outdoor attractions including zoos, theme parks, and drive-in performances (such as cinemas and concerts) will be able to reopen
- some smaller outdoor events such as fetes, literary fairs, and fairgrounds will be able to take place
- indoor leisure and sports facilities will be able to reopen for individual exercise, or exercise with household or support bubble
- all childcare and supervised activities will be allowed indoors (as well as outdoors) for all children. Parent and child groups can take place indoors (as well as outdoors) for up to 15 people (children under 5 will not be counted in this number)
- weddings, civil partnership ceremonies, wakes and other commemorative events will be able to take place for up to 15 people (anyone working is not included in this limit), including in indoor venues that are permitted to open or where an exemption applies. Wedding receptions can also take place for up to 15 people, but must take place outdoors, not including private gardens
- self-contained accommodation will be able to open for overnight stays in England with household or support bubble
- residents should continue to minimise the amount that you travel where possible
- care home residents will be able to nominate two named individuals for regular indoor visits (following a rapid lateral flow test)

The full government guidance can be read here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-coronavirus-restrictions-what-you-can-and-cannot-do#how-the-rules-will-change-on-12-april>

It's important that residents follow the restrictions, the rules on meeting friends and family outside and hands, face and space as we make our way through the different steps on the national roadmap.

**We would appreciate you reiterating these messages on your own channels this weekend.**

## Enquiries

If you have any questions regarding the latest COVID restrictions, you can email our team at [covidenquiries@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:covidenquiries@braintree.gov.uk).

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## Test and Trace

There have been some changes to the test and trace system as part of the most recent Government guidance.

When visiting premises (e.g. visitor attractions and hospitality) previously, the lead member of any group could check in on behalf of the group. The requirement now is that every visitor to each premises aged 16 and over must check in or provide their contact details.

As previously businesses will need to have a system to ensure that they can and do collect information from customers who do not have a smartphone or who do not want to use the NHS COVID-19 App.

- Guidance for businesses: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/maintaining-records-of-staff-customers-and-visitors-to-support-nhs-test-and-trace>
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## #StayLocalStaySafe campaign



As many of you will know, last December we launched Shop Local this Christmas, a district-wide campaign to encourage residents to support Braintree district businesses online in the lead up to the festive season.

As we move along the government's roadmap to reopening, we'll be re-vamping the campaign to #StayLocalStaySafe from 12 April, which includes social media, web and e-newsletters content. The messaging will be focused on encouraging people to support the many local businesses who re-open from next week, but also ensuring they are aware of the safety arrangements in place and how to act responsibly by following national guidance.

We'll be updating our partner toolkit with new assets you can use, so please email [tourism@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:tourism@braintree.gov.uk) if you would like to receive the toolkit and assets. It will also include our campaign video we are using as part of the launch on Monday which you will be able to download, and features local businesses from across the district.

**We would really appreciate your support with the campaign by sharing on your own channels.**

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## Following the countryside code



This week we have been sharing messages across our social media channels about following the countryside code when visiting the countryside for dog walks, to help make them safer and more stress free for both pet dogs and farm animals,

Visit this website for the best practice advice to encourage responsible dog ownership and assets that you can share on your own channels: <https://www.countrysideonline.co.uk/care-for-the-countryside/dog-walking/>

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## Under two weeks to apply for a postal vote



On Thursday 6 May 2021 residents in the Braintree District will go to the polls to have their say on who represents them at Essex County Council and who the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex will be.

### Resident's can:

1. Vote at a polling station.
2. Vote by post (your application form must arrive with us at Causeway House by 5pm Tuesday 20 April 2021.)
3. Appoint someone to vote on your behalf known as a proxy vote (your application form must arrive with us at Causeway House by 5pm Thursday 27 April 2021).

Polling stations will be safe places to vote and voters can expect to see many of the measures we've all become used to over recent months such as hand sanitiser, floor markings and face coverings.

However, there are other ways you can vote including by post. Registering for a postal vote is quick and easy and can be done online. No matter how you choose to cast your vote in May, we are working hard so you can do so safely.

More here: [www.braintree.gov.uk/votingoptions](http://www.braintree.gov.uk/votingoptions)

If resident's have never registered, or have recently moved to a new house, they need to make sure they register to vote - it only takes five minutes: [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote)

**We would appreciate you sharing this message via your channels.**

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## GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN

Over the last year outdoor spaces and places have mattered to us more than ever, so this spring Braintree District Council is joining the charity Keep Britain Tidy and their Great British Spring Clean campaign.

We have worked with Keep Britain Tidy on this initiative since 2017 and are delighted to be part of a campaign that in 2019, saw just under a million bags of litter collected.

From **28th May - 13th June 2021**, we are encouraging everyone to pledge to support this very special campaign and their million mile litter picking mission.

Taking part is not only good for the environment, but for our mental and physical health too. Last year, 79% of people who took the Great British Spring Clean reported improved mood, and 51% said it encouraged them to move more.

If your Parish and members of your local community would like to take part, it's a great excuse to get outside. All you need is a litter picker, some gloves and a bag to collect your litter in. If you are in need of loan equipment, we can offer help on a first come first service basis: email: [csc@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:csc@braintree.gov.uk) using the subject title **KBT Great British Spring Clean**

To help Keep Britain Tidy reach a million mile mission...

1. Visit [keepbritaintidy.org](https://keepbritaintidy.org) to [pledge to support](#). Here, you will find all the advice and information you need to get started.
2. Please share your images/stories about taking part with us by emailing; [marketing@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:marketing@braintree.gov.uk) so we can celebrate what you are doing locally. Or you can send to us via our [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or [Instagram](#)
3. Help inspire others to take part by making some noise about the campaign on your social media. Share your good news stories, videos and pictures using the hashtags #GBSpringClean #MillionMileMission @keepbritaintidy

It is easy to feel overwhelmed by the challenges we have faced this year, but small acts of kindness – to our planet and ourselves – can help us improve our surroundings and our mood.

Thank you for your support.

