



Shop Local, Stay Safe campaign in focus



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Shop Local, Stay Safe is our message as more people are expected to hit the high streets with the return of indoor hospitality from today.

Staff and customers are being praised for adhering to Covid-19 safety guidelines as non-essential shops, hairdressers, beauty salons, leisure centres, hotels for household-only overnight stays and outdoor seating areas in cafes and pubs have re-opened in the borough, following the lifting of restrictions last month. From today (Monday 17 May), indoor hospitality including restaurants, pubs and cafes are allowed to re-open, as well as indoor sport for adults not in the same household, and indoor entertainment and attractions. In addition, social contact rules will change from today - up to 30 people can meet outdoors, while the rule of six applies indoors.

Business owners and managers across the borough and across different sectors feature in our new Shop Local, Stay Safe social media campaign, which aims to welcome people back to the high streets, while asking them to follow the mantra of hands, face, space and fresh air.

Councillor Meenal Sachdev, Portfolio Holder for Community and Economic Development, said: "It's been wonderful to see businesses reopening again and I can't thank residents enough for supporting their high streets and doing so, safely.

"I know this latest set of restrictions lifting will be a relief for so many businesses and residents, but we can't be complacent. The pandemic isn't over yet.

"Please continue to do all you can to keep yourselves and your community safe. Wear a face covering; wash your hands or use hand sanitiser regularly; maintain social distancing and get tested twice-a-week.

"By taking these simple steps, we can, hopefully, continue to make our way out of lockdown and look forward to a more of a normal summer, doing the things we all love, like meeting friends and family and being together."

One in three people with coronavirus show no symptoms and potentially are spreading the infection without knowing it. Twice weekly rapid testing enables local teams to find cases and prevent the spread of infection.

A rapid test is available in the following ways:

- At a local rapid testing site, where residents can take a supervised test. There are testing sites across the county, visit www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/rapidtest to book
- Pick up test kits from selected sites – visit the national website for details
- Pick up tests from a number of pharmacies in the county, for an up to date list go to the national website
- School children will continue to be given kits through their schools during term-time and the holidays
- Your workplace may offer on-site testing or have kits for you to take home
- If you can't get a test through any of these routes, you can order them online or by calling 119, and they will be delivered to your home.

A positive test with the rapid lateral flow test means the person will need to self-isolate for 10 days. Eligible individuals who test positive will be entitled to the £500 Test and Trace Support Payment in the same way as a regular swab test through NHS Test and Trace. Please note the government has laid down eligibility criteria. If you need help to do this, contact [HertsHelp](#).

Posted on Monday 17th May 2021

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