

# Lockdown – your questions answered

The following information helps clarify current Welsh Government regulations and guidance over what arrangements are in place within Bridgend County Borough during the Covid-19 coronavirus pandemic.

Please note that while some different guidance and regulations have been issued by UK Government for England and reported on by national media, this does not apply within Wales where Welsh Government make the regulations.

## **General position**

Lockdown procedures in Wales remain in place - stay at home, avoid all unnecessary contact, exercise locally, help protect the NHS, and help save lives.

## **Social distancing**

Wherever possible, minimise time spent with others in shared spaces and keep two metres apart. Do not have visitors to your home. Arrange for any deliveries to be left at the door. Keep in touch with friends and family on the phone, the internet and social media.

## **Exercise**

You can exercise more than once a day, but stay local - do not drive to another location for this purpose. All exercise should start and end at home, and should not involve travelling any significant distance away from home.

## **Recycling centres**

These remain closed until further notice. Councils across Wales are jointly making arrangements for a safe reopening, and the authority is liaising with its waste partner Kier on what new temporary procedures will be necessary to ensure ongoing health and safety for staff and residents alike – look out for more details soon.

## **Recycling and waste collections**

These are continuing to take place as normal despite staffing pressures. Household limits remain the same, although anyone awaiting a delivery of new bags can use an alternative e.g. a black bag if necessary.

## **Businesses**

Wherever possible, people should continue to work from home. While non-essential businesses remain closed, Welsh Government has advised that some businesses, such as garden centres, can start to reopen as long as they can demonstrate that appropriate and suitable procedures are in place for social distancing. A range of funding has also been made available to support businesses during the pandemic, and business rates have been frozen for the current financial year.

## **Public transport**

In order to ensure that key workers can get to and from work, a number of bus services are running in Bridgend County Borough. These are intended to be used by key workers only, and restrictions on unnecessary travel remain in place until further notice.

## **Libraries**

These remain closed until further notice. The council, Awen Cultural Trust and Halo are looking at options that could enable a safe restoration of the service. Digital access to e-books, music and more remains available.

### **Leisure centres and swimming pools**

These remain closed until further notice. The council and Halo Leisure will announce further details as soon as it is safe to reopen.

### **Parks and green spaces**

Most parks and green spaces in Bridgend County Borough, including Maesteg Welfare Park, are open for daily exercise, although Bryngarw Country Park and Griffin Park in Porthcawl are currently closed. Social distancing must be maintained at all times.

### **Play areas and playing fields**

To minimise exposure to the virus, all children's play areas remain closed, and no sports are taking place on local pitches and playing fields.

### **Beaches**

Do not drive to local beaches and avoid all unnecessary travel. Annual restrictions preventing dogs from being exercised on Rest Bay, Town Beach, Coney Beach and Trecco Bay remain in place until 30 September 2020. They are allowed at Sker Beach and Newton Beach, but lockdown procedures still apply and these should not be accessed by anyone who is not a local resident.

### **Schools**

Apart from premises which are being used to provide emergency childcare for key workers, schools across Wales will remain closed until further notice. Online teaching resources have been made available and should continue to be used.

### **Free school meals**

The council is providing all children who are eligible for free school meals with a weekly food parcel containing enough food to ensure they can receive breakfast and lunch for five days.

### **Emergency childcare for key workers**

This continues to be available throughout the pandemic and must be applied for on a weekly basis depending on the changing needs of key workers. The council's advice remains the same, and that children should remain at home wherever possible.

### **Shielding**

Support for people who are shielding and cannot access help from friends, family or the community remains in place. This includes priority delivery slots with major food retailers, having medicine delivered by a community pharmacy and more.

### **Social care**

The council is continuing to provide a full range of social care services to residents of Bridgend County Borough, and is available to provide help, advice and support for new referrals.

### **Safeguarding**

The council is continuing to support vulnerable adults and children during the pandemic. Signs that someone may be experiencing any type of harm can be reported by calling 01656 642477 for adults, and 01656 642320 for children between 8.30am-5pm Monday to Thursday, and 8.30am-4.30pm on Fridays. To contact social care services outside these hours or at weekends and over bank holidays, call the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Emergency Duty Team on 01443 743665.