

COMMUNITY UPDATE

COVID-19



26/02/21



Hello to you,

You will have no doubt seen the announcement this week from the government about our planned 'roadmap' out of lockdown. This is no doubt very encouraging and, in conjunction with the vaccine roll out, testing easily available and the number of cases decreasing, is another piece of very welcome good news. The light at the end of the tunnel is gradually getting brighter and brighter each day.

However, the current rules do remain in place so it is imperative that we all continue to adhere to the regulations that are geared at saving lives and protecting the NHS. Remember, the four stage roadmap dates are not set in stone and are subject to change. They depend on a number of factors - the progress of the vaccine programme, evidence that vaccines are sufficiently reducing the number of people dying or needing hospital treatment, the infection rates do not risk a surge in hospital admissions and any new variants that may emerge do not fundamentally change the risk of lifting restrictions.

As a community we have come so far as we continue to face the challenges that lockdown presents to us all. With that in mind it is incumbent upon us all to continue to stick to the rules. It would be a terrible waste of all our efforts if we started to drop our guard now. I appreciate it is tempting to bend the rules now the milder, sunnier weather is arriving and the days are drawing out with spring very close now, but please don't. We must all remain vigilant and continue to protect the NHS, so a safe exit from lockdown can hopefully begin in March.

We appreciate you as law-abiding people are making sacrifices to protect yourselves, your families and the NHS. The constabulary is committed to playing its part and will continue, as has been the case in recent months, to use the four Es approach – to engage, explain and encourage but we will not hesitate to take enforcement action where necessary, where there is a blatant disregard for the law. Our officers will continue to be inquisitive and where people are breaching the regulations and they are away from home without a reasonable excuse, they may be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice ticket.

All the detail on the government's 'roadmap' and the current regulations as to what is permissible can be found here: www.gov.uk/coronavirus

Once again thank you for your on-going support in continuing to stick to the rules over the coming weeks.

T/Supt Simon Mills



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