

## UppWatch Update 24.3.2020

The following messages have been received for onward transmission

### 1. UCC

For your information - Uppingham Community College will close completely with effect from tomorrow. Ben Solly has written to staff and to governors to explain the circumstances and the difficult decision taken today (See below). Work will continue to be set for pupils using the "Show My Homework" online system and pupils without on-line facilities at home are being provided with computer systems and mobile internet for the duration.

Geoff Thompson  
Chair of Governors, Uppingham Community College

Dear Team UCC

I hope you and your families are all safe and well.

From the end of today we are fully closing the school given the low numbers of families accessing the childcare provision for key workers. We had 8 students yesterday, 2 today and a similar pattern for the rest of the week. Therefore I have taken the decision to cease this provision after today. Please see the communication that has gone out to individual families who had initially signed for a place:

*Dear (name)*

*We have reached a point where the provision at UCC for key worker children is unviable. We have 2 young people with us today and we need a minimum of 10 adults on site to ensure the school is functional. Therefore, in liaison with our Chair of Governors and Rutland County Council, I have made the decision to fully close down the school until further notice. This decision was a hard one to make as I know the important work that our key workers complete is vital to the sustained collective effort of fighting the virus. However, I cannot ask my staff to continue putting themselves and their families at risk, especially during this lockdown period.*

*If you find yourself in a situation where you are unable to find an alternative arrangement for your child whilst you are completing critical work as part of your job, we can offer to:*

- *allocate your child a 'key worker' from UCC. This will be a member of the senior leadership team who will phone your child, if you choose to leave them at home, throughout your work shift*
- *organise a placement in one of our partner primary schools. We will also offer the primary school a member of our senior leadership team to support them so that a member of UCC staff is present with your child during the day*

*Please get in contact with me if you need to. I hope you and your family are able to stay safe and well.*

I would like to say an enormous 'thank you' to everyone who has contributed to keeping the school running for as long as possible, and to all of those who are diligently working from home. Never before have I been part of such an impressive team effort.

That is all for today; I imagine I will not have to write to you all as frequently as I have been over the past week, but I will stay in touch through an 'all staff' communication at least once a week.

Kind regards  
Ben

## **2. Post Office**

I thought you might be able to help in publicising the fact that the PO will be operating for the foreseeable future with reduced opening hours, as follows:

Monday - Friday                    10:00 to 12:30 and 14:00 to 17:30  
Saturday                            10:00 to 13:00

If the government changes policy these hours will of course be reviewed!

Uppingham Postmaster

## **3. Market Place Dental Practice**

Something I wanted to share with everyone about the Dental Practice. Due to the Coronavirus outbreak we have for the foreseeable future cancelled all routine appointments. We are informing patients by text and email and on the phone.

We have shut our front door - there is a notice in the door window - but will be available to talk with any patient who normally sees us if they have a dental emergency if they CALL us on 01572821040. We will see some patients if we can but this is via a strict triage system.

So please advise anyone who is at all concerned we can be contacted but please don't come to the practice unless we have specifically said we want you to come to see a dentist (following a phone enquiry call).

I think this will be a similar picture at the other Uppingham dental practices but they should be contacted direct to check what they are able to do.

Sally Allen

## **4. Scam Calls**

I have had two calls this pm purporting to come from Barclays (without the s) saying that my a/c had been compromised and I should contact them on a number they gave....

The first one addressed me by all my Christian names which indicates a leak of data somewhere. Is it worth alerting the neighbours?

Best wishes,  
RB

## **5. Volunteer Thank You**

UppWatch is grateful to the 20+ residents who have offered to swell the permanent ranks of the UppWatch volunteer team supporting all who need help at this difficult time. Together with the Surgery, the Community Emergency Plan team, the Hopper Heroes, the churches, national charities and the Food bank, we are advised by RCC that Uppingham is well ahead of the game in its preparations to support its community in this time of need.

## 6. Message from the Chief Constable

For more than 180 years the role of Leicestershire Police has been to protect people across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland from harm. While coronavirus presents us with an unprecedented challenge, I wanted to reassure you that our commitment to protect our communities hasn't changed.

However, this is a challenge we, as a united community, can overcome. I, like you, saw the statement from the Prime Minister and the message is clear – stay at home.

I'd urge you and those that you care about to follow Public Health England and Government guidance. Across recent days we have been really impressed by how much people have complied with the #StayHomeSaveLives campaign. That is crucial if we are to give our colleagues in the NHS a chance to fight back against coronavirus. This really is life and death. Is your journey essential? Do you really need to bulk buy?

We have seen legislation changed rapidly. By 2pm on Saturday we had been given powers to shut down pubs and clubs flouting the call from health experts to shut. To my astonishment a few pubs decided to stay open and had to be advised that was foolish.

We are also working with partners across LLR to deal with the various aspects of the COVID-19 crisis. We have well thought out plans, including one for pandemics, which are now being utilised. With councils, the NHS, the military, volunteer groups and the other blue light services we are working on how to ensure that we support vulnerable people, enforce the law and take pressure off NHS staff.

This partnership approach has seen us deal with all sorts of challenges in the recent past, including large scale public order and tragedies such as the explosion in Hinckley Road and the King Power Stadium helicopter crash. It is tried and tested. Whilst coronavirus is a huge challenge we have a strong partnership to work on it with.

We will be out and about being visible in your communities, although we have already moved away from our normal schedule of beat surgeries for what I am sure you would recognise as understandable reasons. We have plans in place to ensure that we prioritise the new challenges of coronavirus.

You can help us by reporting non-emergency matters to us online via [www.leicspolice.co.uk](http://www.leicspolice.co.uk)

That frees up our call handling teams to deal with urgent 999 calls. Please only call 999 in an emergency.

You will also find it useful to follow us on social media, on Twitter and Facebook, and tell your local family and friends to sign up for Neighbourhood Link.

I am very proud of how the force has responded to this massive test. None of us is immune from the impacts of the illness.

Despite that Team Leicestershire has been going about its business with huge effort, energy, initiative and commitment. I could not be more proud of the whole team. Please don't forget to thank them for what they are doing and please don't forget that your own personal behaviours every day now make a difference, and can save lives.

Together we can come through this but we will only achieve that if we work together as communities across the entire force area.

Simon Cole QPM  
Chief Constable

This update posted at [www.uppinghamonline.co.uk](http://www.uppinghamonline.co.uk) 24.3.2020