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# COVID SUPPORT WEEKLY UPDATE

for Warwickshire Parish and Town Councils

**Monday 8th February 2021**

On behalf of WCC, WALC are distributing a weekly pack to all Clerks in Warwickshire about Covid support for vulnerable residents. You are encouraged to use and share the contents of this newsletter to ensure these important messages can reach or be amplified to as many residents and community groups as possible. Knowing the time and budget constraints local Councils face, WALC has endeavoured to make these resources accessible and simple to adapt to your local network. [Feedback welcomed.](#)

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#### HOW YOU CAN HELP: SIGNPOST TO

- [Community Transport](#)
- [Home Library and Befriending Services](#)
- [Vaccine FAQs](#)
- [Free Virtual Gardening Challenge](#)

#### LATEST NEWS

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#### RESOURCES FOR

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## HOW YOUR COUNCIL CAN HELP

### Access Community Transport

Being vaccinated is an essential reason to travel. Residents can ask a member of their family or support bubble to take them. To stay as safe as possible when sharing a vehicle, it is advised to wear a face covering, sit as far apart as possible, open windows for ventilation and wipe down surfaces.

If a resident has no other means of transport, please advise them to contact

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NHS Volunteer Responders or your local voluntary transport service.

**NHS Volunteer Responders**

To book transport call 0808 196 3646

For queries or to cancel an appointment call 0808 196 3382

**Voluntary transport services in Warwickshire**

**Rugby, Warwick and Stratford areas contact: VASA** 01789 262889 and press option 1, Monday to Friday, 9am to 4pm or email [transport@vasa.org.uk](mailto:transport@vasa.org.uk)

**Nuneaton and Bedworth contact Volunteer Friends (Medicar):** Use 024 7664 0088 – Monday to Friday between 9 30am and 12 30pm. Or email: [info@volunteerfriends.org.uk](mailto:info@volunteerfriends.org.uk)

**North Warwickshire contact Beeline:** 01827 717074 - Monday to Friday 9am to 1pm

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## **Home Library Service Offers More Than Books**

As part of the wider package of support that WCC has offered to vulnerable

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residents, [over 3,500 doorstep book deliveries](#) have been made since April 2020.

In addition to the Home Library Service, a 'befriending calls' service was set up. This involves a friendly member of Warwickshire Libraries' staff phoning residents for a regular chat, to check how they are getting on and direct them to other services that may be able to help them - as well as to discuss the books that they have been reading and suggest other books that they might enjoy.

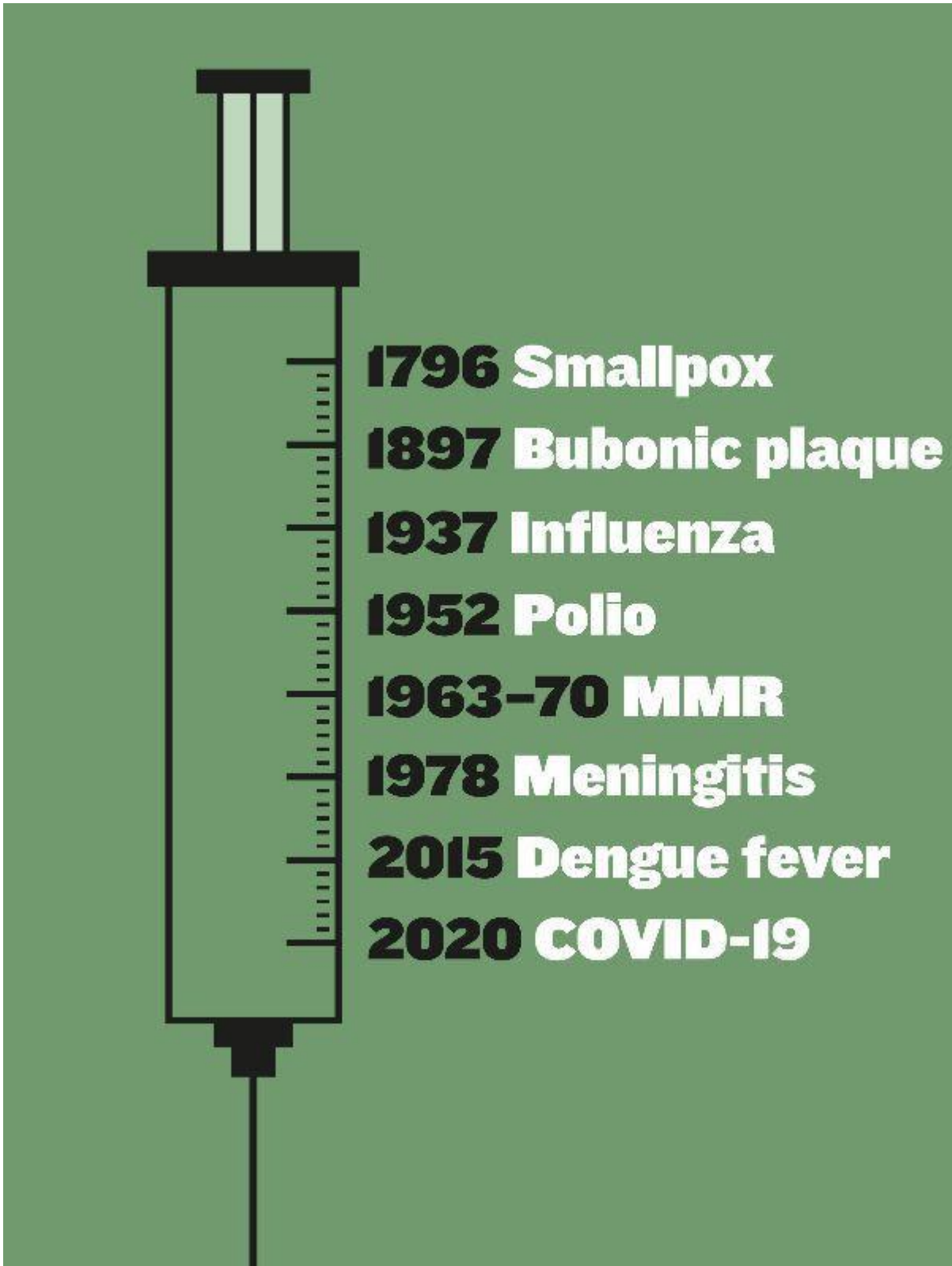
Staff are able to offer the home library service as an option and tell people about how they could download eBooks and eAudiobooks online if they wanted to. Sometimes residents are referred to the library service's ICT and learning officers, so they could receive a telephone call to help them set up their tablets or laptops step-by-step, as part of Warwickshire Libraries' 'digital help' offer to shielding customers.

Staff can select up to 4 books per customer to be collected from over 150 designated locations around Warwickshire. If a resident can't get to the library due to ill health or disability and does not have someone to collect books for them, there is a free mobile library service. Please contact the Mobile Library Team on 01926 851031 or [mobilelibraryservice@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:mobilelibraryservice@warwickshire.gov.uk).

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### **Vaccine FAQs**

Vaccinations have been used many times through the years. WCC have produced a flyer with common questions about the vaccine including:

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- How have the vaccines been produced so quickly?
- The first vaccines licensed use genetic technology, will it interfere with my own DNA?
- How long does immunity from the vaccines last?
- What has changed to make 12 weeks safe for the dose interval when it wasn't last week?
- Is the vaccine safe for people with preexisting conditions?

For the answers to the questions and a number of others, [click here to download and distribute](#). See Vaccine Explainer videos from Public Health England.

### **Materials available in alternative formats**

COVID-19 vaccination guides for older adults are available in a range of languages. [Click here to view them](#)

An easy read guide to the vaccine produced by Mencap is [available here](#)

A full list of leaflets available about the COVID-19 vaccine is [available here](#)

[Full list of leaflets available about the COVID-19 vaccine](#)

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[Find your NHS number](#) service can help people when booking their vaccine, if they do not know their NHS number. Users just need to enter their name, DOB and postcode to receive a copy of their NHS number, which is then sent by text.

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## **28 Day Virtual Community Garden Challenge**

[Creative Acts of Nature](#) is a free digital book from [Escape Arts](#), a charity working across Warwickshire to improve mental health and wellbeing. 28 days of inspirational challenges involving the natural world are presented using an online format. Readers are encouraged to share their creations in

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a [Facebook Virtual Community Garden](#) where members share and discuss what's growing in their own gardens.

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### Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) Residents

#### COVID-19 SUPPORT HOTLINE - 0800 408 1447

The hotline is open:

- Monday to Thursday - 9am to 5pm
- Friday - 9am to 4.30pm
- Saturday - 9am to 3pm
- Sunday - 10am to 1pm

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## LATEST NEWS

### Become A Covid-19 Community Champion

Help people to stay safe and well during the pandemic by training to be a COVID-19 Community Champion. Delivered online over 3 sessions, the course will help you understand more about the impact of the pandemic and what you can do to help others in your community. You will hear from professionals and community groups on a number of topics such as; the test and trace programme, risk factors and measures to control the spread of the virus, local support services, supporting vulnerable people, ideas about engagement activity and stories from others who are active their communities.

If you live in Warwickshire, are over 18, and want to know more about this free

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course, call Mike Slemensek on 01926 737767 or email [mikeslemensek@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:mikeslemensek@warwickshire.gov.uk)

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## **Covid-19 Recovery and Investment Grant**

WCC is allocating grants of up to £20,000 to businesses in retail, leisure hospitality and tourism sectors to help them survive and grow. This is to cover costs of specialist advice such as HR, accountancy, legal advice or specialist business advice. It can be used to buy some equipment or technology that will help businesses develop, or a combination of both.

[Download the criteria and application form.](#)

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## **Laptops for Vulnerable Children and Young People**

WCC has purchased over 2,000 laptops fully equipped with Windows 10 Home edition, firewall and anti-virus and have full three-year warranties to be passed on to schools who will distribute them to the pupils they identified as requiring this support. A further purchase of MiFis with unlimited data has also been made to support learners whose households do not have internet connectivity.

Young carers and Children Looked After (CLA), Special Schools to support pupils with SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) and Infant Schools have received the first delivery. A second phase of provision of laptops and connectivity devices is currently being arranged.

The need was identified through a demand assessment survey carried out with schools earlier this term and will complement the Government allocation which schools can access for Years 3 to 11 directly from the DfE scheme which prioritises Secondary and Junior age pupils.

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Information for families about available assistance can be found at [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/childrenandfamilies](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/childrenandfamilies).

Anyone struggling with finances at the moment can find out about support at [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/facinghardship](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/facinghardship) or call Warwickshire's Local Welfare Scheme on 0800 407 1447.

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## Newsletters

Click on the images below to download this newsletter as a PDF to print for your noticeboards or as a Word document to cut and paste for your parish magazine or Council website.

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## Noticeboards

Click on the images below to download posters to print for your noticeboards or visit [WALC's website](#).

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## Social Media

**Vaccination explainer videos**

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Public Health England have put together a set of 52 COVID-19 explainer videos, which are now available on PHE Youtube. The videos are short, easy to share and address many of common COVID-19 vaccination programme queries and FAQs: <https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLLDaQ3SAWJh3cUsGKDLkNM9oCNHiiU5EC>

## Warwickshire County Council Public Health

@PublicHealthWarwickshire

Please like and follow using the links below and signpost the support available to your vulnerable residents.

Facebook



Twitter



Website

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