



NIFC COMMUNITY AWARENESS UPDATE



NIFC COMMUNITY AWARENESS UPDATE 11/24 (17 Oct 24)

(The Community Awareness Update provides general information to enable personnel to keep up-to-date with routine crime prevention and security awareness correspondence; it is not provided for mission-related items and does not replace the Emergency Messaging System.)

WELCOME TO ALL OUR NEW 'FAMILY' MEMBERS; THE COMMUNITY AWARENESS UPDATE IS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE YOU WITH, HOPEFULLY, INFORMATIVE AND USEFUL INFORMATION.

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CELEBRATE HALLOWEEN AND BONFIRE NIGHT SAFELY:

The winter coats have been dusted off and pumpkin spiced things are everywhere to be seen, which means it's almost time for Halloween and Bonfire Night! Some tips and advice on how to celebrate in the safest way possible.

Halloween – Thu 31 Oct:

- If you're planning to head out with the family for some trick or treating, stay safe by ensuring all children are always supervised by an adult.
- Remember that not everyone celebrates Halloween or likes people knocking on their doors at night. If you see a 'no trick or treat' poster or if nobody answers the door, respect other residents by being considerate and leaving. Only knock on a door if there are Halloween decorations visible (for example a pumpkin outside).
- You can let people know whether you want trick or treaters by downloading a Halloween poster to display in your window on 31 October at royalgreenwich.gov.uk/Halloween.

Bonfire Night – Tue 5 Nov:

Fireworks:

- You must be over 18 to buy fireworks.
- For most of the year it is illegal to set off fireworks between 11pm and 7am. This is extended to midnight on 5 November.
- Only buy fireworks with the European safety standards CE mark.
- Fireworks for private use can only be purchased from licensed retailers during selected dates throughout the year. If you suspect the illegal sale of fireworks in the borough, you can report this to your local Trading Standards.

Is it an emergency? Call 999

If it is not life threatening: Call 101 for the Civil Police; Call 111 for the NHS.

If you want to report a concern anonymously, you can report it via the Crimestoppers website or via their hotline on: 0800 555 111.

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- Carefully read instructions on each individual firework and make sure there's plenty of space for the fireworks to be let off, directing away from people, trees and overhead cables. Light the firework at arm's length and stand well back.
- Keep naked flames, including cigarettes, away from fireworks.
- Never go back to a lit firework or try to re-light it, once the fireworks have been used, put them into a tub of water, and dispose of them in a bin the next day.
- Always supervise children around sparklers, making sure they keep them at arm's length and have a bucket of water or sand to drop the sparkler in once it has extinguished itself.
- Let your neighbours know if you are planning to have a bonfire or use fireworks in your garden.
- Never let fireworks off around pets - read tips from the RSPCA on how to keep pets calm around Bonfire Night.

Bonfires:

- Personal bonfires and fireworks can be subject to local authority regulations/restrictions – worth checking.
- Build your bonfire clear of buildings, sheds, fences, hedges and check for any wildlife using a broom or pole.
- Make sure that the fire is out, and surroundings are made safe before leaving.
- Only burn dry grass, weeds, paper, or wood.
- Never use paraffin or petrol on a bonfire.

LESSER-SPOTTED WINDSCREEN:

First frosty mornings already here; how soon before you see a lesser-spotted windscreen?



UK HIGHWAY CODE - Rule 229:

Before you set off

- You **MUST** be able to see, so clear all snow and ice from all your windows
- You **MUST** ensure that lights are clean and number plates are clearly visible and legible
- Make sure the mirrors are clear and the windows are demisted thoroughly
- Remove all snow that might fall off into the path of other road users
- Check your planned route is clear of delays and that no further snowfalls or severe weather are predicted.

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FEELING ROUGH: IS IT JUST A COLD, OR SOMETHING MORE SINISTER?

Autumn's chills/pre-Winter blues are settling in and with so many people feeling ill with cold and flu-like symptoms it's difficult to know what it is they're suffering with. The NHS has warned of an impending 'triple-demic' this year made up of Covid, flu and Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV); so, is it just a cold you have or something else?

A new strain of Covid is on the rise with a 20% surge in reported cases in England in just a week. Called XEC, this new mutation is said to be 'more-flu-like' in its symptoms. And with Covid tests becoming harder to find since the end of the pandemic, it can be difficult to tell what virus you have as the symptoms for the three conditions are very similar.

But there are ways to check which of the viruses you have picked up. Whether you have Covid or flu, the NHS is unmistakable with its advice: *"Try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people if you have a high temperature or you do not feel well enough to do your normal activities."*

If you want to tell which virus you have, there are signs to look for.

Main symptoms of coronavirus (Covid):

- A high temperature or shivering (chills) – a high temperature means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- A new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste
- Shortness of breath
- Feeling tired or exhausted
- An aching body
- A headache
- A sore throat
- A blocked or runny nose
- Loss of appetite
- Diarrhoea
- Feeling sick or being sick
- Most people with coronavirus have at least one of these symptoms.

Flu symptoms can include:

- A sudden high temperature
- An aching body
- Feeling tired or exhausted
- A dry cough
- A sore throat
- A headache
- Difficulty sleeping
- Loss of appetite

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- Diarrhoea or tummy pain
- Feeling sick and being sick

Cold symptoms come on gradually and can include:

- A blocked or runny nose
- Sneezing
- A sore throat
- A hoarse voice
- A cough
- Feeling tired and unwell
- You may also have:
 - A high temperature
 - Aching muscles
 - A loss of taste and smell
 - A feeling of pressure in your ears and face

RSV symptoms can include:

- A runny or blocked nose
- A cough
- Sneezing
- Tiredness
- A high temperature – signs include your back or chest feeling hotter than usual, sweatiness and shivering (chills)

EU BORDERS ENTRY EXIT SYSTEM (EES) DELAYED AGAIN:

- The EU borders Entry Exit System (EES) has been delayed again; the EES will apply to road borders, airports, ports, train stations - including Eurostar services - and at all other external EU borders, and means that non-EU citizens, including people from the UK, need to register biometric data at any EU border to get in rather than stamping passports. The aim is to make a digital record linking passports to biometric data. Passengers will be given hand held devices, so they can register their details in their cars.
- It was due to be rolled out on 10 Nov 24, but has been pushed back yet again; a new timetable for its implementation has yet to be confirmed.

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LATEST SCAM ALERTS FROM WHICH?

Nationwide scam text:

NATIONWIDE: £724.76 SELFRIDGES
DECLINED. 14:26:11 GB LONDON. Call
us now on [020 3290 5665](tel:02032905665)

NATIONWIDE: £724.76 SELFRIDGES
DECLINED. 14:26:11 GB LONDON. Call
us now on [020 3290 5665](tel:02032905665)

- A text message impersonating Nationwide tells you that an attempted transaction has been declined.
- It provides a number to call, in the hope you'll dial it after not recognising the transaction.
- The number has been linked to other scams including one which impersonates Barclays.
- Scam texts can be reported by forwarding them to 7726.

'Heating subsidy' scam text:

Office Warm Reminder:

Due to the cancellation of heating subsidies this winter, the government decided to provide subsidies in the form of living expenses.

Application qualifications are now reopened, applications will be closed as of October 12, 2024, we will issue them before the 30th of this month.

You can apply through the link in the information, if you give up the application, please ignore it.

<https://bit.ly/3Y9R8Lw?LNB=9qoE3DwuouU>

Thank you for your support to the UK Government.

- A scam text claiming to offer a 'heating subsidy'; text claims that 'the government decided to provide subsidies in the form of living expenses' due to 'the cancellation of heating subsidies this winter.'

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- It then provides a malicious link which will lead to a website attempting to steal your personal and financial information to 'apply.'
- Scam texts can be reported by forwarding them to 7726.
- Phishing websites can be reported to the National Cyber Security Centre

Lloyds Bank scam email:



Dear Customer,

We want you to know that we're changing the way we look.

Over the next few months, you'll notice some of our emails look new and some that are still the same. Don't worry – they're both from us.

You'll also notice that we might use your first name when we email you, and sometimes send you links that go straight to our app.

We also require you to reauthenticate to continue using your account throughout this smooth transition

Click [here](#) to proceed

- A scam email impersonating Lloyds Bank tells you that the bank is 'changing the way it looks' and needs you to 'reauthenticate to continue using your account'. It then asks you to click on a link to proceed.
- On Lloyds Bank's official website, it says that genuine emails will always greet you by name, include part of your main account number and never link directly to the internet banking login page.
- You can report scam emails to report@phishing.gov.uk

CRIME PREVENTION:

You can review a wide range of Crime Prevention tips via:

<https://www.cambs.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/>

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STAY ALERT, STAY ALIVE:

As we approach another 'festive' period, millions of people across the UK and Europe will be enjoying themselves at major events such as Xmas Markets, pantomimes (*"Oh no they won't; oh yes they will."*), skiing holidays, etc.

Unfortunately, whilst trying to keep it in perspective, the terror threat hasn't gone away. The threat to the UK from terrorism is SUBSTANTIAL, meaning an attack is likely. We know that the large audience participation events and venues could be attractive targets for terrorist activity. That's why UK Counter Terrorism Policing collaborates with event organisers and businesses across the UK to help keep the public safe.

You can play your part by using the toolkit on [ProtectUK](#)

Policing and security authorities encourage the public to trust their instincts and report anything that doesn't feel right to security or the police.

- You can help by sharing campaign messages for any events you are organising or supporting.
- You can increase your awareness by taking the free online ACT Awareness e-learning training.

Promoting the awareness and vigilance is also a powerful way of using communications as an extra layer of protective security. By supporting the campaign and using security-minded communications, you could help to deter hostile activity at major events.

We all have a role to play in keeping each other safe.

Wherever you are, whatever the situation....



**If you see something, say something.
Stay Alert, Stay Alive!**

...and don't forget basic crime prevention:



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