

eNews from Willie Rennie MSP and Wendy Chamberlain MP

[View this email in your browser](#)

Thank you for taking the time to read our latest Covid 19 email which is designed to provide practical local advice.

SCHOOLS CLOSING

The Scottish Government has announced the following measures.

At the end of Friday 20th March, schools and nurseries should, ordinarily, close for children and young people.

Exams will not go ahead this year. A credible certification model will be put in place that can command confidence including of employers and further and higher education. Coursework, teacher assessments of estimated grades and prior attainment supplied by the deadlines will be used as the basis of certification. Pupils with coursework will be informed by their schools how to complete this.

Teaching, learning and support will continue. For the majority, this will be through distance and online learning for example through setting weekly learning tasks and emailing these to families where possible or using Glow and other online learning platforms.

Vulnerable children and young people will continue to benefit from the learning, care and support that schools and nurseries provide for them. Free school meals will continue. These may be delivered using vouchers or direct payments or by collection from schools.

Children with complex additional support needs who are learning and living in residential special schools will continue to receive the care and support.

There will be arrangements to ensure key workers have childcare to enable them to continue to work. The government is encouraging councils to use private and third sector providers of childcare, including childminders for this. Alternatively, council buildings or community facilities open with reduced staffing.

Key workers are those who work in posts which ensure that essential services can be delivered, or those who cover tasks within the local community which support the vulnerable and aid community resilience. The precise list of key workers will be determined depending on the needs of different communities.

HEALTH ADVICE

We have been asked to provide more precise detail on how people should behave. The best source of advice is on [NHS INFORM](#) which includes frequently asked questions.

CORONAVIRUS COVID-19

Social Distancing

AVOID

- Group gatherings
- Visits to bars/restaurants
- Sleep overs
- Playdates
- Visiting the elderly with children
- Crowded retail stores
- Gyms
- Visitors to the home
- Non essential workers in the home

USE CAUTION

- Visits to supermarkets
- Visit to pharmacy
- Visit to GP
- Traveling
- Check on friends and family safely
- Public transport

SAFE TO DO

- Go for a walk
- Jogging
- Working in the home
- DIY in and around the home
- Reading
- Going for a drive
- Video calls
- Phone calls

Just some of those who are vulnerable that these measures could help:

Patients who are elderly, history of lung illness, cancer patients, immune suppressed patients, immune compromised and those with varying underlying conditions.

We found this helpful to guide my behaviour to protect our health

IN PARLIAMENT

Wendy Chamberlain has been in the House of Commons all of this week.

On Tuesday, she questioned the Chancellor on support for the self-employed and asked for more details of the mortgage payment holidays that people can now request.

On Wednesday, she participated in the Opposition Day Debate on Statutory Sick Pay and Protection for Workers, highlighting the case of a constituent who is not being afforded the opportunity to work from home, despite Government advice.

Today, she asked the House of Commons Commission about what steps they are taking to enable video conferencing, and how new staff will be able to access training and development in order to best support constituents.

She is now scrutinising the Covid 19 emergency legislation that will be brought before Parliament on Monday. It details a wide range of powers that the Government want to utilise in the coming weeks. It's important to ensure that the measures are proportionate and the right ones in the changing circumstances. [Coronavirus Emergency Bill](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/WendyChamberlainMP/>

In Holyrood, Willie Rennie asked the First Minister about the case of a constituent who was concerned his life saving treatment would be postponed because of the Covid 19 emergency arrangements. The First Minister was able to confirm that such treatments would still proceed. You can watch the exchange here: [Questions to the First Minister](#)

Willie also met with the Rural Economy Secretary to discuss tourism and the food and drink sector issues and with the Finance and Economy Secretaries to discuss support for business.

SMALL BUSINESS SUPPORT

The Federation of Small Businesses has created a dedicated business support hub, containing a wide range of useful, constantly updated information. This is open to all businesses, non-members included <https://www.fsb.org.uk/campaign/covid19.html>

WEBINAR – Friday 20th March at 11am, the FSB will be live streaming advice, guidance and answers to businesses' questions delivered by a panel of experts: representatives from our Insurance team; Funding Platform; Legal team and, very importantly, the UK's Interim Small Business Commissioner. The webinar is open to all businesses, non-members included, and everyone must register in advance. <https://www.workcast.com/register?cpak=8193242525717563>

CONSULAR ASSISTANCE OVERSEAS

If you are overseas you can access consular assistance. For that we recommend you contact the local British Embassy, High Commission or Consulate General on their urgent support number. You can find this number by googling 'UK in [country]' If you are able to, we would encourage a friend or family member also contacting the Foreign and Commonwealth Office via 02070081500 to raise the matter. We will ensure that your details are passed to the FCO.

COMMUNITY MUTUAL AID

Even more community mutual aid groups are being established. These are the links to their Facebook groups and websites. Please sign up and offer your support.

[St. Andrews Mutual Aid](#)

[Cupar Mutual Aid](#)

[Balmullo Mutual Aid](#)

[Wormit Parish Church](#)

[Freuchie Community Council](#)

[Boarhills and Dunino](#)

[Leuchars](#)

[Ladybank](#)

[Tayport Community Council](#)

[Newburgh](#)

[Auchtermuchty](#)

[Tayport Mutual Aid Group](#)

[East Neuk Community Emergency Planning Team](#)

[Springfield](#)

Please do let me know whether you are running a group in your community.

SUPPORT AND ADVICE

This is an anxious and uncertain time but we wanted you to know that Wendy Chamberlain MP, Willie Rennie MSP our local councillors are ready to help in whatever way that we can.

You can email us at:

Wendy.chamberlain.mp@parliament.uk

Willie.rennie.msp@parliament.scot

Or phone on 01334 656361

We hope you found this practical advice and information helpful.

For more regular updates on Willie's work, please like or follow his Facebook page www.facebook.com/WillieRennieFife

On Instagram it is <https://www.instagram.com/willie.rennie/>

Or on twitter https://twitter.com/willie_rennie

Wendy is at: <https://www.facebook.com/WendyChamberlainMP/>

or <https://twitter.com/wendychambld>

Wendy Chamberlain
Member of Parliament

Willie Rennie
Member of the Scottish Parliament

North East Fife