

DART Newsletter

24th March 2020

Issue 1

Dirleton Area Resilience Team (DART.Coordinators@outlook.com)

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Welcome to the Newsletter

This is the first edition of the DART newsletter. It is our intent to send out editions as frequently as we can, especially when information is changing so fast.

We want to use this to collate and communicate information from official sources as well as asking you to share information and stories, tips and tricks that will help the community.

The key thing is to keep the community safe and make sure that no-one is left alone without support. We need help to do this – but this needs to be coordinated to ensure maximum benefit and least risk to all.

If you feel able to volunteer (there are many ways to do this) please get in touch with the coordination team (details at end of newsletter).

Ideas for coordination and help are always welcome – please email them to the main coordination address (above).

Items for the newsletter can be emailed to DARTNews@mnsdsys.net.

Best Regards

Mike (Newsletter Editor)



First Minister's Address (Mon 23rd March)

Following the Prime Minister's address Nicola Sturgeon laid out how this will be implemented in Scotland.

The key points are :

There are only four permissible reasons to leave your home :

- To shop for basic necessities and that should be limited to once a day
- To take exercise once a day - but alone or only with members of your own household, **not** in groups from different households/residences
- For medical reasons or to care for a vulnerable person
- To travel to essential work if that cannot be done at home. Further guidance to employers is pending.

In addition – as the First Minister set out earlier – all non-essential shops should be closed, as well as public spaces such as libraries, communal parks and playgrounds, and places of worship. The ban extends to ceremonial social events, such as weddings and christenings, with the exception of funerals which will be restricted to immediate family only. The First Minister was clear that these decisions are not taken lightly 'but are essential for the protection of all of us.'

The full text of the FM's speech can be found at <https://www.gov.scot/publications/first-minister-covid-19-update-1/>

Key Official Notices

East Lothian Council (23rd March)

Coronavirus outbreak – temporary closure of coastal car parks and children's play areas

East Lothian's coastal car parks and children's play areas are to close temporarily with immediate effect.

The decision was taken due to the escalating challenges posed by the Coronavirus outbreak, the need to ensure appropriate social distancing between individuals and to reduce the risk of cross-infection from contact surfaces.

Monica Patterson, Chief Executive of East Lothian Council, said:

"From the outset of the Coronavirus outbreak, we have been clear about the need to follow national health and government advice.

"Although we appreciate that the coastal car parks are popular with those who enjoy our fantastic local beaches – particularly during good weather – there are concerns about this presenting difficulty for people following social distancing advice at busy times. It's essential that people avoid gatherings at this time and keep two metres away from other people. Advice against non-essential travel is also in place."

"Due to the risk of cross-infection from contact surfaces, we have also reluctantly made the decision to temporarily close the council's children's play areas. This relates specifically to areas with play equipment rather than larger parks/open spaces which have play areas within them."

"While we appreciate people will be disappointed, we believe these decisions are in the best interests of everyone's health and wellbeing as we respond to the unprecedented challenges presented by this outbreak."

The closure will also apply to the toilet and showering facilities at the car parks.

The council is also urging people not to travel to access open space and/or coastal areas outwith the town or village they reside in as this could speed up the spread of the virus area to area.

Social distancing is key. Everyone should avoid congregating in large groups and stay at least two metres apart from others at all times. We would urge young people and their parents/carers to be conscious of this.

We would also remind residents that enjoy leisure facilities throughout East Lothian are currently closed – from today this will include all 3G pitches that are fenced off.



General Advice

Need to fill up at the Petrol/Diesel/Electric pumps ???

The virus can live on surfaces for a limited time. It is a very good idea to use either gloves or tissues when handling the pump – and then dispose of the glove/tissue straight away. Keep contact down and keep yourselves safe.

Repeat Prescriptions

With increased demand there is a strain being put on the doctor's surgery and the pharmacies – so order your repeat prescriptions well in advance – instead of the current 48 hour turnaround consider giving them at least 10 days time to process your requests.

As ever, though, please don't over order – let's make sure there are enough supplies to go around everyone.

Community Shopping Help

If you need help with shopping – please contact the DART team as soon as you can. This will help with logistics and planning.



Dirleton Facilities

Dirleton Primary School

The school will become the central point for storage and activities connected with the Resilience Plan for the Coronavirus Crisis in Dirleton/Archerfield. DART is working on this. There will not be any schooling activities taking place there for the children of key workers - this will take place in a North Berwick School. Jane Hogg, who lives in Archerfield and is a support teacher at the school is to take part in this.

Kirk Hall

The Kirk Hall is now closed for all activities. There are still considerable road works in the area, but more significantly the Law Department of the Church of Scotland has also ruled in relation to use of church halls during the current situation. It identifies only two situations in which church halls should remain open:

- to assist in the education of key workers;
- to serve as food banks, where they are used already as such, and where the local authority has identified them as a 'critical local resource'



From the Pharmacies

Please ask patients not to keep phoning us unless it is absolutely necessary, it is very disruptive where the phone rings constantly and we are continuously asked the same things.

The common replies we have to make are.....

- No we do not have hand cleanser.
- No, your prescription is not ready yet, if you phone us and we say that it will be ready in three or four days that is the truth, don't keep ringing or calling in the next day 'just in case we have made it up' as this seriously disrupts our workflow.
- Yes we have paracetamol, but we are restricting supply at the moment while we get new supplies and/or break down larger units into packs of 30's, please be patient with us.

More importantly, there is no urgency to get your supplies if you don't actually need them, we can maintain supplies normally if people behave normally.

Order prescriptions the normal way about 10 days before you need replenishing your supply, we will have it ready about 5 days later.

Even more importantly, the pharmacy network will not be closing down, we are working very hard to help everyone but we need everyone to help us by listening to us and doing as we ask you to do. There are good reasons for this, one is to help us manage the workload, the other is to help protect me and my staff as we are very exposed to the virus, and by extension to help us protect you.

If patients have genuinely run out of medicine we can help them, but if they have enough to last some days, or weeks, or months, please ask them to hold back until we can overcome the backlogs.



Shops and Supplies Information

The WeeLocals

The North Berwick businesses have coordinated their information on a website – the WeeLocals.

Click on this link and then use the arrow beside each business to see details.

<https://www.weelocals.com/>

Individual Shop Updates

Wilsons Greengrocers are not taking any more customers for home delivery they have reached capacity. DART team will monitor.

George Anderson Direct are offering deliveries and collection for orders.



Dirleton Gardens 2020

Scotland's Gardens Scheme has closed its gardens for the foreseeable future. This means Dirleton gardens will not be opening this June and we have no future date for opening thus far.

Thank you to all garden openers for their support. I will be in touch if there are any further developments.

Carol Drysdale
Garden Coordinator for Dirleton



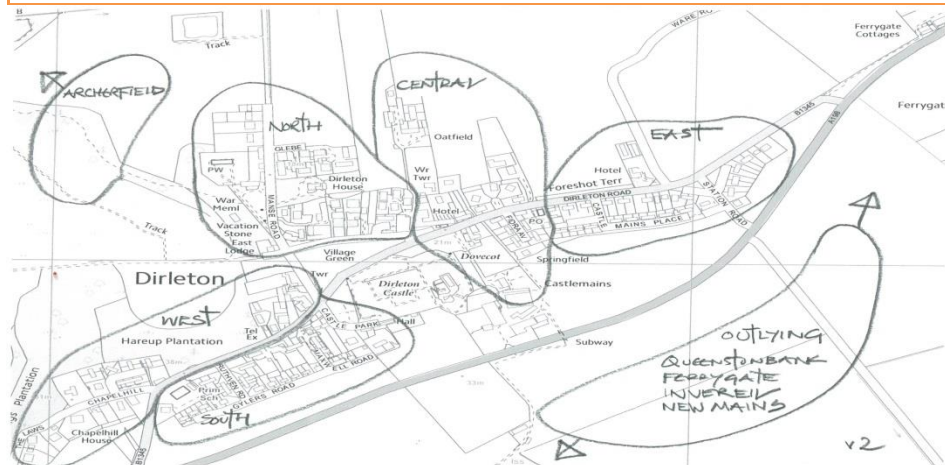
Contact Details

Community Coordinators

Area	Name	Phone	eMail
Archerfield	Rob Aberdein	07968-628978	
Dirleton & Surrounding Area	Janice MacLeod	01620-850509	
Dirleton & Surrounding Area	Anne Orr	01620-850813	

Community Area Coordinators

Area	Name	Phone	eMail
Archerfield	Rob Aberdein	07968-628978	
Dirleton North	Janice Macleod	07528-856147 01620-850509	
Dirleton South	David Tait	01620-850641 07387-185309	
Dirleton East	Keith Cornwell	07763-589680	
Dirleton West	Anne Orr	01620-850813 07717-472307	
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Newsletter

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