

FENLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

PRESS RELEASE

March 30, 2020

Council welcomes compliance with business closure regulations

Fenland District Council has praised businesses across the district for temporarily closing their doors in line with new Government legislation to tackle coronavirus (COVID-19).

The Council's Environmental Health team is actively enforcing the Government's closure of certain businesses as part of further measures to reduce the spread of the virus, protect the NHS and save lives.

The authority said compliance with the new business closure regulations has been very good. A handful of businesses were open when they should have been shut but immediately closed when approached by officers.

The new Health Protection (Coronavirus, Business Closure) (England) Regulations 2020, which came into effect on March 21, allow authorities to prosecute any businesses caught defying the new legislation.

Businesses which fail to comply will be issued with prohibition notices. They could also face unlimited fines and the loss of alcohol licences.

Councillor Samantha Hoy, Fenland District Council's Portfolio Holder for Environmental Health, said: "I'm pleased that businesses in the district have been compliant with the new legislation and acted responsibly, and we thank them for their co-operation. We understand this is an incredibly difficult time for them and we will do everything we can to help and support them.

"However it is absolutely vital that businesses and retailers abide by the new rules, which have been put in place to safeguard everyone's safety. Our officers will continue to monitor compliance, and have the power to prosecute anyone caught breaching them."

The regulations apply to businesses and venues that involve "prolonged social contact" such as restaurants, pubs, cafés, cinemas, nightclubs, theatres, museums, betting shops and hair and beauty salons, to name a few.

Business which are staying open and have people in their offices or onsite (where they cannot work from home) should ensure that employees are able to follow Public Health England guidelines including, maintaining a two-metre distance from others, and regular hand washing.

The latest guidance can be viewed at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/further-businesses-and-premises-to-close

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For more information contact Fenland District Council press office on 01354 622226