

# FENLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PRESS RELEASE

17 December 2020

### **Residents urged to ‘think twice’ before forming Christmas bubbles**

Fenland residents are being urged to think twice before mixing with other households this Christmas to help keep themselves and their loved ones safe from coronavirus.

With COVID-19 infection rates increasing again in Fenland and across other parts of the country, the Leader of Fenland District Council and the Director of Public Health for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough are asking people not to let their guard down over the festive period and let the virus spread even further.

Council Leader, Cllr Chris Boden, said: “People in Fenland have done a great job in the fight against coronavirus and have made many, many sacrifices over the past nine months to protect the whole community, but particularly our most vulnerable residents.

“There is light at the end of the tunnel thanks to all the sacrifices and potentially to the COVID-19 vaccine, but we are not quite there yet, and the Government advice is that the risk is still high.

“The Government has said we can form extended bubbles with other households between 23 and 27 December, and I know that the overwhelming majority of local residents will use common sense in deciding what to do, and what not to do, given all the circumstances. I would urge everyone to think twice about their Christmas plans and not mix with others, particularly elderly and vulnerable relatives, unless it’s really necessary. Please stay safe and thank you.”

Dr Liz Robin, Director of Public Health for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, added: “Many of us will be looking forward to Christmas at the end of a long and difficult year. But unfortunately, coronavirus doesn’t pay attention to dates in the calendar and will be just as infectious at Christmas as at any other time.

“This Christmas, the safest way to spend time with family and friends is either online, on the phone or outside. If you do decide to meet inside there is some risk particularly if elderly or vulnerable people are involved.

“Some people with elderly or vulnerable relatives have decided to have their family get-together in the spring. By then the people most vulnerable to COVID should have been vaccinated and it will be much safer. For now, we still need to think carefully about how we can keep ourselves and our loved ones safe.”

Residents are also reminded that anyone experiencing COVID-19 symptoms needs to self-isolate, including during the Christmas period.

The latest coronavirus information and guidance is available at [www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus) and on the Council’s own coronavirus pages at [www.fenland.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.fenland.gov.uk/coronavirus)

**ENDS**

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