



Sandwell News



HM Government

NHS

**TESTING NOW
AVAILABLE TO
EVERYONE**

**IF YOU HAVE
SYMPTOMS
YOU CAN NOW
GET A TEST**



STAY ALERT ▶ CONTROL THE VIRUS ▶ SAVE LIVES

CORONAVIRUS SYMPTOMS

From today, all individuals should self-isolate if they develop a **new continuous cough or fever or anosmia**.

Anosmia is the **loss or a change in your normal sense of smell**. It can also affect your sense of taste as the two are closely linked.

We have been closely monitoring the emerging data and evidence on COVID-19 and after thorough consideration, we are now confident enough to recommend this new measure.

UK Chief Medical Officers



Bulky waste collections are back

[You can now book a collection online.](#)

But remember - due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, headboards, mattresses and beds will not be collected as part of this service.

You can either take them to the tip or store them at home until full bulky waste collections resume.

Demand is expected to be high for the bulky collection service, so please bear with us.

[For all the latest reminders and information](#)



Some tips to help keep your families safe at home.

- 🔒 Ensure windows are not left open where children can reach or climb up to them.
- 🔑 Keep cleaning products, garden chemicals and medicines locked away or well out of reach.
- 👁️ Supervise children at all times near water, including paddling pools and garden ponds, and particularly if you live close to a canal.
- 🏠 If your child is unwell or injured, please make sure you seek advice from NHS 111.

Need something to read?

Sandwell libraries may be shut, but you can still borrow a good book from us and lots of you have.

You can borrow a book online via any smartphone, tablet or computer. To sign up, [please visit the libraries webpage](#) and start borrowing books today.

During April 2020, library members downloaded a total of 2,539 eBooks and eAudiobooks, almost double the number of downloads than in February 2020. Active membership of BorrowBox (readers who renewed, issued, or reserved a title) increased by 58% from pre-lockdown figures.

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HOW TO MAKE YOUR OWN FACE COVERING IN A MINUTE

YOU WILL NEED:

- 50cm x 50cm piece of cloth - a bandana will do
- Elastic bands or hair ties

1. Fold cloth in half



2. Fold top and bottom thirds into the centre



3. Place elastic bands or hair ties about 15cm apart



4. Fold sides into the middle and tuck



5. To wear face covering, stretch bands over ears and secure over your nose and mouth



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CORONAVIRUS
STAY ALERT TO STAY SAFE
Go to [gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)



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Sandwell
Metropolitan Borough Council

