

COMMUNITY UPDATE

COVID-19



16/04/2021



This week has seen the most significant easing of restrictions since the third national lockdown was introduced in January and we know these last few months have been extremely challenging for everyone, regardless of your circumstances.

The move to Step 2 of the government's roadmap out of lockdown will have come as a huge relief to many, with non-essential shops, hairdressers and gyms among those allowed to open their doors once again. It's also seen the reopening of pub, bar and restaurant gardens

Naturally, people will want to enjoy these greater freedoms, taking advantage of the chance to meet with family and friends at venues outside. We want people to enjoy themselves but to do so safely and responsibly. We know from experience of policing the night time economy that things don't always turn out that way. With restrictions having been in place for so long, there is always a bit of a concern that people can overdo it, especially when there's alcohol involved. So please go out, enjoy seeing your friends and family but be sensible and stay safe.

I also think it's important we remember there will be people, particularly those from vulnerable groups, who are nervous and remain cautious about socialising. While the continued roll-out of the vaccination programme is a really positive step, the virus is still with us and a large proportion of the population is yet to be vaccinated. Even then, vaccination does not fully protect you from the virus. This is why it is still important people continue to follow social distancing guidelines.

Recognising that areas will be busier this weekend than they have been for some time, we have additional resources in place and have worked with partners, making sure venues are aware of their licensing obligations and Covid-19 guidelines.

Tomorrow is potentially a big day for Norwich City in their Premier League promotion bid. Whatever the result, please keep your celebrations within the regulations and avoid gathering in groups of more than six people. Remember - larger gatherings are still prohibited under the Health Protection Regulations.

Our journey on the roadmap out of lockdown has been overwhelmingly positive with most people embracing the gradual return of freedoms sensibly. I am sure we can expect nothing less this weekend and thank you as ever for your continued support to drive out this infection. Let's continue to protect ourselves and to protect Norfolk.

Assistant Chief Constable Julie Wwendth



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