



Basingstoke  
and Deane

News release

05 January 2021

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### Council Leader's statement on lockdown

"Yesterday's news that we are going into another [lockdown](#) signals tough weeks ahead for us all, especially after a difficult year. But the truth is that if it saves just one life from being taken by this deadly virus, it has to be worth it.

"Infection rates and hospital admissions are rising and our health service is facing mounting pressure from the new COVID-19 variant that spreads incredibly quickly. We all need to support those on the frontline of the NHS fighting to save lives, by staying home and following the restrictions.

"For example, when out for your daily exercise with your household, [support bubble](#) or one other person socially distanced, please think of others. Keep your distance and avoid making busy areas even busier.

"I have always been overwhelmed by the community spirit I have seen in this borough and I know that will shine through again now in the hardest of times.

"No one has to be alone. It is vital that we continue to stay in touch with each other, on the phone or online, for our mental health and wellbeing.

"If you have no one else to turn to and need help, for example with food or prescriptions, call the Hampshire Coronavirus Support and Helpline on 0333 370 4000 and someone will be able to give advice or refer your request for support to a local community hub.

"Protect yourself, your loved ones and our community. Stay safe."

**Cllr Ken Rhatigan**  
**Leader of Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council**

### ENDS

Any questions via email to [customer.service@basingstoke.gov.uk](mailto:customer.service@basingstoke.gov.uk) or by phone on 01256 844844.

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