

# TT CORONAVIRUS SPECIAL

TRAVELLERS TIMES, CORONAVIRUS SPECIAL  
EDITION FOR GYPSIES, ROMA AND TRAVELLERS

# TRAVELLERS TIMES

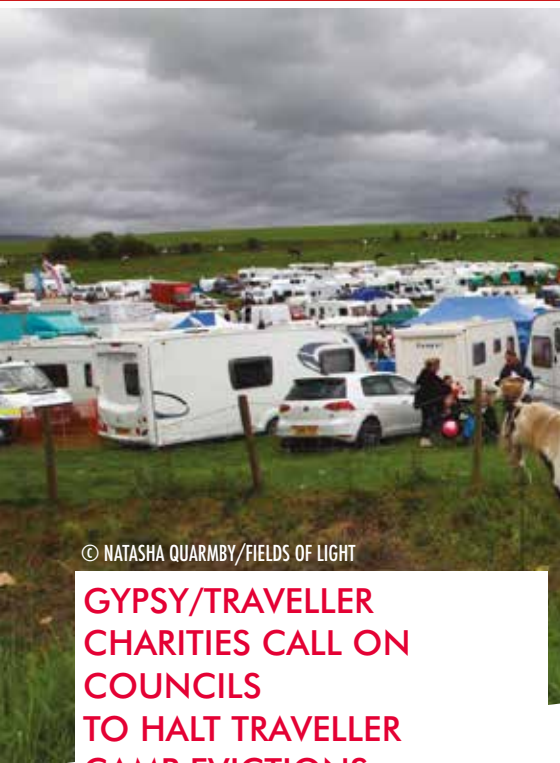


WAGON © ALISON CHAPMAN

Hello from the TT editorial team. We have rushed out this special coronavirus edition of the TT magazine to help inform and support Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people. Inside you will find news, advice and telephone helplines and website addresses – now more than ever it is important to get online – even you haven't done so before – get a family member you live with to help you.

As Shera Rom Billy Welch says inside in one of our stories, everybody needs to pull together now and do their best to beat this virus. Kushti bok and God bless from Mike, Lisa, Damian, Charles and Julie.

**We are still working from home so check out**  
**[travellerstimes.org.uk](http://travellerstimes.org.uk) | Twitter @Travellerstimes**  
**Facebook @travellers.times | Instagram @travellers\_Times**



© NATASHA QUARMBY/FIELDS OF LIGHT

## **GYPSY/TRAVELLER CHARITIES CALL ON COUNCILS TO HALT TRAVELLER CAMP EVICTIONS**

Campaigners and charities have written to the government demanding that it publish specific coronavirus guidance for Gypsies and Travellers and call a halt to all evictions of unauthorised Traveller camps.

The letter, signed by 30 Traveller rights organisations and campaigners, also raises concerns about vulnerable and elderly Gypsies and Travellers and the lack of help for self-employed Gypsies and Travellers no longer able to work during the coronavirus lock-down.

While the government has yet to officially respond at the time of going to press, police chiefs have already advised police services to call an immediate a halt to Traveller camp evictions. The National Council of Police Chiefs advised police services across the UK to stop evicting unauthorised Traveller camps and instead asked councils to provide services to Travellers during the government's coronavirus lock-down.

A forward thinking council in the north of England, working closely with the charity Leeds Gypsy and Traveller Exchange, has already promised to not move any unauthorised Traveller camps, apart from if a better location is needed to provide health and medical services, and to work on providing portaloos, household waste disposal and water.

The charity Friends Families and Travellers, Derbyshire Gypsy Liaison Group and others are lobbying hard to get similar guidance from the government to all councils.

**TT NEWS**



APPLEBY HORSE FAIR IN HAPPIER TIMES. CANCELLED THIS YEAR DUE TO CORONAVIRUS EPIDEMIC. (C) NATASHA QUARMBY/FIELDS OF LIGHT

## 'WE NEED TO ALL PULL TOGETHER IN THE FACE OF THIS VIRUS'

Appleby Horse Fair 2020 will **NOT** take place this year, in line with Government advice about avoiding large gatherings during the coronavirus pandemic.

Billy Welch, Gypsy and Traveller representative for the Appleby Horse Fair Co-ordinating Group said that it would be irresponsible for the Fair to go ahead when everyone must do everything they can to stop the spread of the coronavirus.

"People's health must come first, which is why the Fair cannot take place," said Billy Welch.

"Everybody needs to pull together now and do their best to beat this virus."

This will be only the second time the Fair has not taken place in the past 250 years. However, the Fair will be back and it will be better than ever."

In a further development, horse welfare experts and vets have spoken out to quell rumours on Facebook that horses can spread coronavirus.

Covid-19 is a different type of coronavirus to the type horses can get say vets, and humans cannot get infected by it.

"Equine coronavirus is an enteric, or gastrointestinal, disease in the horse," said John Wilson, Traveller and Equine Liaison Officer for Peabody.

"There is no evidence that equine enteric coronavirus poses a threat to humans or other species of animals."

**TT NEWS**

# WHAT IS CORONAVIRUS?

Coronavirus – or Covid-19 to give it its scientific name – is a new type of infectious virus that is sweeping the world. It is now in the UK. Most people will recover after 14 days with no lasting ill effects but it can kill, and elderly people and people with breathing diseases, diabetes, heart disease and other chronic illnesses, are particularly at risk.

## HOW DO I KNOW IF I HAVE CAUGHT CORONAVIRUS?

The symptoms are:

- A very high temperature – ( this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back).
- A new, continuous cough (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual).

To protect others, do not go to places like a doctor's surgery, pharmacy or hospital. Stay at home.

Use the **111 NHS** online coronavirus website to find out what to do. Or telephone the **NHS 111** helpline if you cannot get online.



## HOW DO I HELP TO STOP INFECTION?

- Wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- Use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze and put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards
- **STAY AT HOME.** People with symptoms have to self isolate. What does that mean?

If you are self-isolating, you must:

- Not leave your home for any reason, other than to exercise once a day – but stay at least 2 metres (6ft or 3 steps) away from other people
- Not go out to buy food or collect medicine – order them by phone or online, or ask someone else to drop them off at your home
- Not have visitors, even friends and family, in your home

You can use your garden, if you have one.





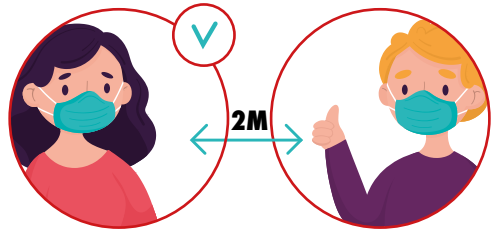
## WHO'S AT HIGH RISK FROM CORONAVIRUS?

Coronavirus can make anyone seriously ill, but there are some people who are at a higher risk.

For example, you may be at high risk from coronavirus if you:

- Have had an organ transplant
- Are having certain types of cancer treatment
- Have blood or bone marrow cancer, such as leukaemia
- Have a severe lung condition, such as cystic fibrosis or severe asthma

If you're at high risk, you should have been contacted by the **NHS** by **Sunday 29 March 2020**. If you have not then visit the **NHS 111** website or telephone the **NHS on 111** if you cannot get online.



## HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF IF YOU'RE AT HIGH RISK

If you're at high risk there are extra things you should do to avoid catching it. These include:

- Not leaving your home for any reason
- Stay at least 2 metres (6ft 3 steps) away from other people in your home as much as possible
- Get online if you can – you can access the best support and advice there

Ask friends, family or neighbours to pick up shopping and medicines for you. They should leave them outside your door.

**If you need help getting deliveries of essential supplies like food, you can register to get support at [www.gov.uk/coronavirus-extremely-vulnerable](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus-extremely-vulnerable) or, if you really cannot get online, telephone the NHS on 111**



# CORONAVIRUS AND CHILDREN

LISA SMITH YTT EDITOR

## **SCHOOLS ACROSS THE UK ARE NOW CLOSED.**

Most schools have set up online learning for pupils or have prepared home learning packs.

Lots of children will no doubt be feeling isolated over the coming months. It's really important to use the technology we have at our fingertips like WhatsApp, Facetime or Skype to stay connected with friends and extended family.

**Parents will be under pressure. Parents Zone will continue to offer a free 24/7 crisis support service across the UK. You can text PARENTZONE on 85258**

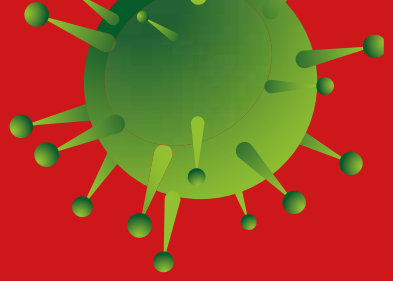
We have compiled a list of online learning websites with everything from maths to reading and comprehension skills to fun educational shows and activities to help keep your children entertained at home. Visit the website at [travellerstimes.org.uk/learning-resources](http://travellerstimes.org.uk/learning-resources) to find out more.

While formal learning is important, so are family activities, such as having fun and getting out of the house or trailer where it's safe and permitted to do so.

On the plus it's the perfect time for us to teach our children independence and valuable life skills – so why not get them involved in daily tasks like baking, cleaning or looking after pets?

Or why not teach them a traditional trade from home, or tell them stories? Make the most of the time you have together as a family before life eventually returns back to normal.

**LISA SMITH YTT EDITOR**



# CORONAVIRUS ADVICE FOR GYPSIES, TRAVELLERS AND BOATERS/BARGEES'

- To minimise risk, unauthorised encampments should not be evicted
- If an individual living on an unauthorised encampment becomes unwell, the local authority will need to support the household to self-isolate safely by stopping evictions, ensuring the household has a place to stop and access to basic water, sanitation and rubbish disposal
- If an individual living on a Traveller site becomes unwell, the site manager will need to support the household to self-isolate by ensuring all communal bathrooms are accessible and clean, the household is able to top up their electricity and consider whether there is a need for other site residents are aware
- If an individual living on a canal boat becomes unwell, or if you are elderly or vulnerable, the Canal and River Trust has promised to help support you.

The Trust has also suspended the normal 14 day movement rules for the duration of the government lock down

- If a nomadic household becomes unwell and is stopping on a holiday camp site, they should be allowed to stay or the local authority should identify a safe space for the household to stop
- If a member of staff becomes unwell on site with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, they should be sent home
- Staff, residents and visitors should be reminded to wash their hands for 20 seconds, more frequently and catch coughs and sneezes in tissues
- Local authority public health, housing and social care teams are encouraged to work closely together to identify appropriate local solutions for people who don't have anywhere to self-isolate

**FRIENDS, FAMILIES  
AND TRAVELLERS**

# CORONAVIRUS

## HELPLINES AND USEFUL WEBSITES

(PLEASE TRY AND GET ONLINE IF YOU CAN)



Be aware that some of the helplines may be experiencing a lot of calls during the coronavirus crisis. If you can't get through at first, keep trying or visit their website.

### GENERAL:

For the National Health Service go to [www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-Covid-19](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-Covid-19), or if you cannot get online then telephone them at 111.

**SAMARITANS:** 116 123 or visit [www.samaritans.org](http://www.samaritans.org)

**CHILD LINE:** 0800 1111 or visit [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)

**NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HELPLINE:** 0808 2000 247

**WOMEN'S AID (DOMESTIC ABUSE):** visit [www.womensaid.org](http://www.womensaid.org)

**MIND:** 0300 123 3393 or visit [www.mind.org.uk](http://www.mind.org.uk)

**CITIZENS ADVICE:** visit [www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk)

**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS:** 0808 2000 247

### SERVICES AND INFORMATION FOR GYPSIES, ROMA AND TRAVELLERS:

**Travellers Advice Team** (legal advice and support for Gypsies and Travellers facing eviction)  
0121 685 8677

**FRIENDS FAMILIES AND TRAVELLERS:** visit [www.gypsy-traveller.org](http://www.gypsy-traveller.org)

**TRAVELLER MOVEMENT:** visit [www.travellermovement.org.uk](http://www.travellermovement.org.uk)

### LEEDS GYPSY AND TRAVELLER EXCHANGE CORONAVIRUS ADVICE:

visit [www.leedsgate.co.uk/coronavirus-news-and-information](http://www.leedsgate.co.uk/coronavirus-news-and-information)

**REPORT RACISM GRT:** (Support for Gypsies, Roma and Travellers who have been the victim of a hate crime or incident) 07534 790 984 or visit [www.reportracismgrt.com](http://www.reportracismgrt.com)

## TRAVELLERS TIMES

The TT team will be following government advice and working from home during the Coronavirus pandemic and will continue updating our website.

Check us out at [travellerstimes.org.uk](http://travellerstimes.org.uk) or search for the Travellers' Times Facebook page.

You can also follow us on Twitter @Travellerstimes and Instagram @travellers\_times

Our Youth Editor Lisa Smith has also been busy filming short help and advice videos throughout the Coronavirus pandemic. You can see the videos on our website at [travellertimes.org.uk](http://travellertimes.org.uk) or, again, check out our Facebook page and Instagram.

In Wales: Travelling Ahead 0808 802 0025 or [travellingahead@tgpcymru.org.uk](mailto:travellingahead@tgpcymru.org.uk)