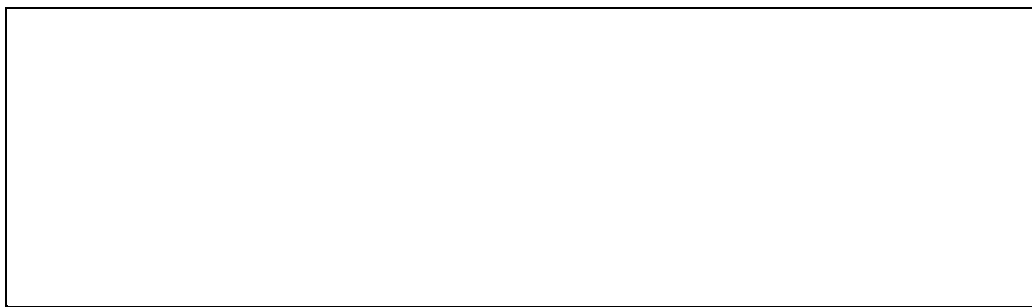




This briefing focuses on the announcements made at today's press conference and includes government updates and information on support for schools and parents, transport, waste collection and apprenticeships.

The briefing also provides an update on local issues including supporting vulnerable residents, digital borrowing and the County Council's communications to Parish Councils and residents.

Members are kindly reminded to direct any coronavirus related queries and comments to the new dedicated inbox - coronavirus.memberqueries@hants.gov.uk

[View in browser](#)

Edition No. 24

7 April 2020

National context

Government's daily press conference

The press conference was chaired by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Dominic Raab.

The Government provided an update on the Prime Minister's health. Over the course of yesterday afternoon (6 April), the condition of the Prime Minister worsened and on the advice of his medical team, he was moved to the Intensive Care Unit at St Thomas' Hospital. It was confirmed that the Prime Minister does not require ventilation and remains in good spirits. The Prime Minister has asked the Foreign Secretary to deputise for him where necessary.

The latest coronavirus figures were reported – 266,694 tests concluded, 55,242 tests returned positive, 18,589 people admitted to hospital and 6,159 deaths.

The slides and datasets to accompany today's coronavirus press conference are available to [view online](#).

Coronavirus information leaflet

The Government has published a [leaflet](#) on what to do to help stop the spread of coronavirus, including information on symptoms and government support. It is also available in different languages and alternative formats.

Support for schools and parents

It was announced that [extra funding](#) will be made available for schools to cover the unique challenges and financial costs of the coronavirus outbreak. The Government has also [confirmed](#) that it will extend financial support to children eligible for free schools meals during the Easter holidays.

A list of [high-quality resources](#) was also published that parents and schools can use to support education at home. In addition, the National Education Union has created a new [website](#) containing advice for parents and carers including advice on exams and assessment, learning outside of school, child well-being and mental health, SEND support and communication with schools.

Initial teacher training (ITT)

The Department for Education has published [Guidance for ITT providers](#) with courses affected by coronavirus.

Social Work Together

The Department for Education, the Department of Health and Social Care, Social Work England and the Local Government Association (LGA) have launched the '[Social Work Together](#)' campaign. In response to the increased demand on social care, the campaign aims to help former social workers temporarily re-register with Social Work England so they can return to practice.

Transport

The Department for Transport and the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency have collated information for people using transport or working in the transport sector during the coronavirus outbreak on one new [webpage](#). Additionally, guidance on [the temporary relaxation of the EU and GB drivers' hours rules](#) for drivers carrying goods by road has been updated following a specific review, confirming the continuation of the current temporary relaxation until 21 April 2020 and including a further minor relaxation of the EU drivers' hours rules.

Waste collections

The Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs has issued non-statutory [guidance](#) for local authorities and other waste collectors on prioritising their waste collection services during the coronavirus pandemic.

Possible council tax deferrals

The County Councils Network (CCN) has issued a [statement](#) in response to [reports](#) in the national media that some councils are offering council tax deferral schemes during the coronavirus outbreak.

Business

The Government has created [YouTube videos](#) for businesses about the support available to help them through the coronavirus pandemic.

Apprenticeships

The [guidance for apprentices, employers and training providers](#) has been updated with new information on continuing training and end point assessment for furloughed apprentices and pausing new funding audits.

Community pharmacies

The Minister for Prevention, Public Health and Primary Care, Jo Churchill, has [written to pharmacy teams](#) to thank them for their response to coronavirus and to outline the support that the Government has offered community pharmacies.

Local context

Support for vulnerable residents

Support is available to help charities cope with additional pressures during the coronavirus pandemic, including the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Foundation Trust's

new *We're All Together Fund*. The £300,000 fund aims to help charities respond to and in time recover from the impact of coronavirus and can be accessed by contacting Vivid Homes (Customer@vividhomes.co.uk). **Those wishing to donate to the fund can do so via** [the Virgin Money Giving page](#).

Digital library users

Hampshire County Council is [reporting](#) a 770% increase in digital library use, as people who live, work and study in Hampshire are turning to the library service for access to e-books during the coronavirus outbreak. To access the free digital resources on offer from Hampshire Libraries, visit [Hampshire Library Service webpage](#).

Respecting council employees

Two Hampshire County Council employees will be interviewed on BBC South this evening (7 April) to discuss some of the essential work that still needs to be carried out by the County Council during the pandemic.

The County Council will, later this week, launch its new 'Be Kind' campaign, reminding residents to respect key council workers who need to be out and about during the pandemic to keep the county safe and moving.

Parish news

Hampshire County Council has today circulated a Parish Council newsletter to provide updates on local and community issues, changes to service provision and the support available to vulnerable residents during the crisis.

Resident news

The County Council has today issued a statutory communication to over half a million Hampshire residents containing important information about how the County Council is responding to coronavirus, the changes that have been temporarily made to some services and an outline of the support available to vulnerable residents during the crisis.

Additional links

- Hampshire County Council webpages on coronavirus (including links to press releases): <https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/coronavirus>
- Latest information on coronavirus: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>
- NHS information on coronavirus: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

- Q&A from Public Health England on coronavirus:
<https://publichealthmatters.blog.gov.uk/2020/01/23/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-what-you-need-to-know/>
- Guidance for local government:
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-local-government>
- County Councils Network (CCN) coronavirus information pages:
<https://www.countycouncilsnetwork.org.uk/coronavirus-information-for-local-authorities/>
- Local Government Association (LGA) councillor guidance:
<https://www.local.gov.uk/covid-19-outbreak-councillor-guidance>