

Hampshire County Council COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

Briefing for County Councillors



This briefing focuses on local issues and updates from the County Council on topics including supporting shielding individuals, resident communications and farm parks reopening.

The briefing also provides an update on national guidance and announcements and the latest national data on cases and deaths.

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

[View in browser](#)

Edition No. 77

6 July 2020

Local context

Supporting shielding individuals

Hampshire County Council is entering the next stage of supporting shielding individuals - the initial focus of which will be supporting people who are currently receiving weekly government food parcels to *get going again* as independently as possible.

The County Council is contacting people in receipt of support to assess how many people will require ongoing support from 1 August. This is for those who are at high risk from Covid-19 and have been told by the Government that it is safe to "pause" shielding ([updated shielding guidance](#)). Contact will be made by SMS messages and telephone calls.

Later this month, a new county-wide campaign will be launched. *Get Going Again Safely* will incorporate information and advice for those coming out of shielding and isolation and will provide signposting and strength-based support.

#ThankYouTogether

To mark the [#ThankYouTogether](#) final clap for carers and key workers at 5pm yesterday (5 July), the County Council released a [new animation](#). It was shared across social media platforms in recognition of the key workers who have selflessly continued to look after vulnerable people, and in recognition of the 72nd anniversary of the NHS. Councillor Liz Fairhurst, the Executive Member for Adults Health and Care, said: "My sincere thanks for all you have done – you are truly deserving of our applause."

Farm parks reopening

The County Council's Manor Farm, Staunton Farm and Titchfield Haven National Nature Reserve are starting a phased re-opening. From Tuesday 7 July, for the first two weeks, they will be open to members only, and then they will open to all visitors from Tuesday 21 July. Tickets need to be pre-booked by members and non-members. Booking information and further [details about visiting each of the attractions can be found on the County Council website](#).

Resident communications

The latest edition of the e-newsletter, [Your Hampshire](#), has been circulated to subscribers. The newsletter contains useful updates on service changes as well as information on the Local Outbreak Control Plan. The number of subscribers to *Your Hampshire* has increased rapidly throughout the pandemic, from around 6,000 to around 9,000 subscribers, demonstrating that residents are actively wanting to stay up to date with news from the County Council.

National context

Communities

Coronavirus Regulations

On Friday (4 July), the Government [published](#) new Coronavirus Regulations. These apply to the whole of England, except Leicester, to which separate [regulations apply](#). The regulations make gatherings of 30 people or more in private dwellings and outdoor spaces illegal. This will be reviewed every 28 days.

Funding for cultural, arts and heritage institutions

The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport has [announced](#) a £1.57 billion support package to protect cultural, arts and heritage institutions. The package includes: £1.15 billion support pot for cultural organisations delivered through a mix of grants and loans; £100 million

of targeted support for national cultural institutions; £120 million capital investment to restart construction on cultural infrastructure and for heritage construction projects and; an extra £188 million for the devolved administrations.

Local lockdown

In the [press conference](#) on Friday (3 July), the Prime Minister outlined the Government's approach for controlling future local outbreaks. This is made up of five principle components: monitoring, engagement, testing, targeted restrictions, and local lockdown.

The Department of Health and Social Care has [issued](#) guidance which explains how individuals in Leicester can see people that they do not live with during the local lockdown. Also, the safer travel guidance has been [updated](#) with added information about travelling into, out of and within areas under local lockdown.

Marriages and civil partnerships

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government has [updated](#) the guidance to assist people planning to get married or form a civil partnership.

Funding for domestic abuse support services

The Home Office has [reopened](#) the fund for domestic abuse support services. The deadline for applications is midday on 20 July.

Economy and business

Farmers, landowners and rural businesses

The Rural Payments Agency has [updated](#) the guidance for farmers, landowners and rural businesses during the Covid-19 outbreak to include information about on-site visits to farms and food processing plants resuming.

Children and education

Ofsted inspections

Ofsted has [announced](#) that they will pilot a programme of 'visits', not inspections, from September. The visits will not be graded, however the outcomes of the discussions with school and college leaders will be published in a brief letter. A return to full education inspection is planned for January 2021, but the date will be kept under review.

From the autumn, visits will also be made to regulated nurseries and childminders to monitor progress and regulatory standards. Local authorities and children's social care providers, including children's homes, will also receive visits from Ofsted inspectors.

PE and Sport Premium

The Department for Education has [confirmed](#) that schools will receive £320 million for PE and Sport Premium during the academic year 2020-21. It was also confirmed that any PE and Sport Premium funding from the 2019-20 academic year that schools were unable to use because of the Covid-19 pandemic can be brought forward to use in the next academic year.

Young carers

The Department of Health and Social Care has [issued](#) guidance and information for people under the age of 25 who are providing care for someone during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Adults' social care and public health

Shielding

The Government has [updated](#) the guidance on shielding with changes that apply from today (6 July). In the first stage of easing the shielding guidance (second stage from 1 August), people who are shielding can meet up to five people while maintaining social distancing, if they live alone they can also form a 'bubble' with another household.

The Department of Health and Social Care has also [confirmed](#) that the majority of children currently considered extremely clinical vulnerable to Covid-19 will be removed from the shielded patient list. Only a small group of children with certain medical conditions are likely to be advised to shield if shielding needs to be reintroduced in the future.

Pillar 2 testing data

Testing data which comes under 'Pillar 2' has been made publicly available on the [Government's coronavirus data dashboard](#). This includes data from drive-through centres and home testing kits.

Environment, place and travel

Affordable housing

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) has [announced](#) that housing associations and councils will have a longer deadline to deliver new affordable homes, with the new homes to be started by March 2023, previously March 2022.

Extension of certain planning permissions

The MHCLG has [published](#) draft guidance that provides further detail on the extension of certain planning applications and the Additional Environmental Approval process introduced in the Business and Planning Bill.

National Covid-19 data

The R number range for the UK is 0.7-0.9 and the growth rate range is -6% to -0% as of 3 July 2020. The data is available to [view online](#).

Cases

As of 4pm on 6 July, the total number of lab-confirmed cases was **285,768**. The daily number of lab-confirmed cases was **352**. The total number of Covid-19 associated deaths was **44,236**, with **16** new deaths reported on the day. The data is available to [view online](#).

Please note that the methodology for reporting positive cases changed on 2 July to remove duplicates within and across pillars 1 and 2, to ensure that a person who tests positive is only counted once.

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/>
- FAQ from the Cabinet Office: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do>
- PPE guidance hub: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-personal-protective-equipment-ppe>
- 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>