

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 school attendance, Children's Services, financial recovery, *EM3 Jobs Fuse* and supporting vulnerable residents.

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](#)

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Local context

School attendance

The number of school aged children attending schools has continued to rise in Hampshire but is now stabilising. On Monday (6 July), over 38,000 students were in attendance.

Hampshire County Council is working closely with headteachers to ensure that all schools open fully for all children from September. The Department for Education issued guidance last week setting out the public health advice schools should adhere to and the Authority is liaising with headteachers to ensure this is closely followed.

Children's Services

The County Council's Director of Children's Services and his leadership team today (8 July) presented a detailed report on the Department's response to the challenges of Covid-19 to the cross-party [Children and Young People Select Committee](#). This highlighted the particular challenges faced and reflected how staff have adapted to changes and have been working differently to ensure a high level of service is maintained for children, young people and their families in the face of lockdown. The [Children's Services Update on Covid Response](#) and the related [presentation slides](#) are available on the Hampshire County Council website.

Financial recovery package

At the [remote meeting of Cabinet](#) and then the [remote meeting of County Council](#), both next week, Members will consider the [Medium Term Financial Strategy Update](#). The report provides an update on the medium-term financial prospects for the County Council to 2022/23, in view of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Short-term steps needed to deal with almost £110 million of unplanned costs and losses this financial year are proposed. Since the start of the crisis, the County Council has been responding to challenges faced by care homes, caring for vulnerable children, supporting the local economy, and repositioning public-facing services. It has also lost significant income in areas such as school meals, country parks and outdoor centres, property services and registration services, and been forced to pause crucial savings programmes – adding to the overall financial pressures.

EM3 Jobs Fuse

EM3 Jobs Fuse is a new a joint service which has been created by [Enterprise M3 LEP](#), [Enterprise M3 Growth Hub](#), [The Education Development Trust](#) (the local delivery partner for the [National Careers Service](#)) and the Department for Work and Pensions. EM3 Jobs Fuse will help match opportunities as new and replacement needs arise as result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

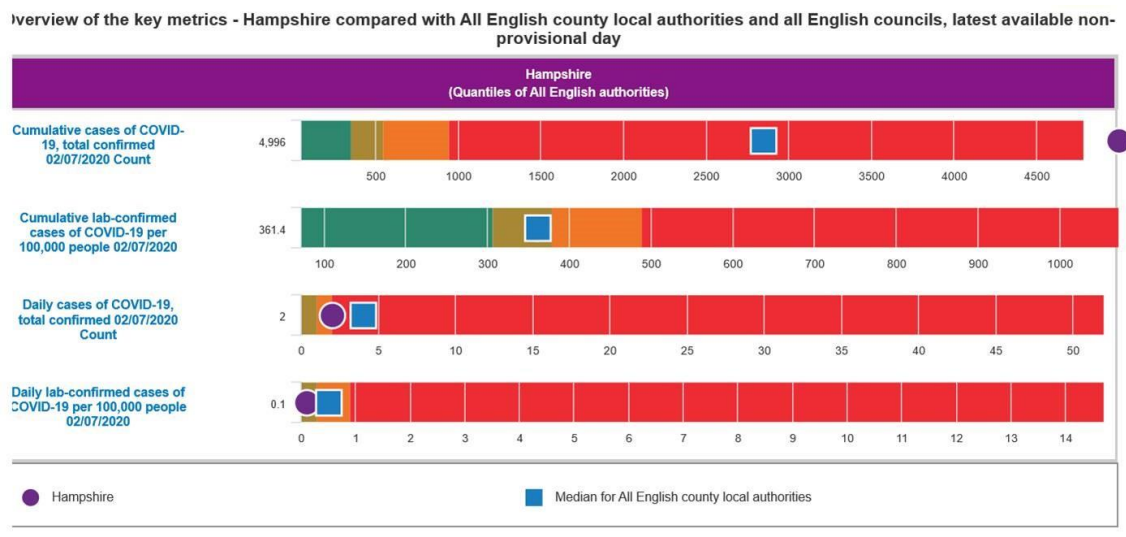
- For further information for employers call 0808 196 3596 or email JobsFuse@educationdevelopmenttrust.com.
- For further information individuals affected call 0800 100 900 or email JobsFuse@educationdevelopmenttrust.com.

Supporting vulnerable residents

The *HantsHelp4Vulnerable* helpline has, as of yesterday (7 July), received a total of 14,477 calls. A total of 6,058 Local Response Centre referrals for voluntary support with food, medicine or other support have been made. The districts with the highest number of referrals from the contact centre were: New Forest (964), Basingstoke (935) and Havant (903). The district with the lowest number of referrals is Rushmoor (279). Help with food shopping, and prescriptions consistently remain the top two reasons for residents seeking support.

Local Covid-19 data

The Local Government Association's *LG Inform* produced the below Covid-19 tracker using Public Health England data. The [LG Inform reports](#) show both the current data for authorities, as well as data over time. The information has also been combined with population data, to create a rate per 100,000 people and demonstrate relative rates of infection between authorities.



The figures relate to confirmed cases of Covid-19 following a positive test and do not cover all cases of Covid-19 which may exist – for more information on the methodology see [LGA](#) and [Gov UK](#). For more detail and to view other charts with Hampshire specific data see [LGA LG Inform](#).

National context

Communities

Elite sport

The Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) has [updated](#) the guidance on elite sport to include information on returning to cross border competition.

Economy and business

Summer Economic Update

The Chancellor, Rishi Sunak, delivered a [Plan for Jobs 2020 speech](#) today (8 July) in the House of Commons. In the Summer Economic Update, the Government [announced a package of measures](#) to support jobs across the country. The plan for jobs is the second part of a three-

phase plan to secure the UK's economic recovery from Covid-19. Phase one was protecting the economy and phase three will focus on rebuilding.

The new plan for jobs incorporates supporting people to find jobs, creating jobs and protecting jobs. The Government announcements included: the Jobs Retention Bonus, the Kickstart Scheme, £2bn Green Homes Grant, £1bn funding to improve the energy efficiency of public sector buildings, a temporary holiday on stamp duty on the first £500,000 of a property's value up to 31 March, VAT cut from 20% to 5% on food, accommodation and attractions until 12 January 2021, and the new Eat Out to Help Out 50% discount on midweek meals at participating businesses in August.

The Government has [published](#) the policy paper for the Plan for Jobs 2020.

Business loan scheme statistics

The Treasury has [published](#) updated statistics on the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CBILS), Coronavirus Large Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CLBILS), Bounce Back Loan Scheme (BBLIS) and Future Fund Scheme. The figures show that over one million Bounce Back Loans have been approved. They also reveal that 53,536 loans worth over £11.4 billion have been approved through the CBLIS, a total of £2.58 billion has been loaned via the CLBILS, and over £379 million has been invested in 376 companies through the Future Fund.

Violence and abuse against shopworkers

The Home Office has [published](#) its response to a call for evidence on abuse and violence against shopworkers. The response sets out a programme of work designed to address the drivers of violence and assaults against shopworkers and provide effective support to victims in reporting such crimes.

Homeworking

The Office for National Statistics has [released](#) the results from the online Labour Market Survey for homeworking in April 2020. In April, nearly half (46.6%) of people in employment did some of their work from home, with the vast majority (86.0%) of these homeworkers stating that this was because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Seasonal agricultural work

The Government has [updated](#) the advice for seasonal agricultural workers with information for travellers coming from countries that are exempt from quarantine rules.

Working household incomes

The Treasury has [published](#) an analysis of the impact of Covid-19 and the Government's support schemes on working household incomes, as of the end of May 2020, comparing them to what they were in February 2020.

Children and education

Results in summer 2020

Ofqual has [issued](#) requirements and guidance to exam boards in relation to the calculation of results to be issued for general qualifications in summer 2020.

Adults' social care and public health

Death of an adult social care worker

The Department of Health and Social Care has [updated](#) the guidance for local authorities and social care providers following a Covid-19 related death of an employee or volunteer in adult social care. A new section has been added on informing the coroner.

Weekly death figures

The Office for National Statistics has [released](#) the latest figures of deaths related to Covid-19, which show that the number of deaths has decreased to 3.4% below the five-year average in the week to the 26 June. This is the second consecutive week that deaths have been below the five-year average. The percentage of all deaths in care homes involving Covid-19 also decreased to 10.5% in the week to 26 June, compared with 12.9% in the previous week.

Environment, place and travel

Net Zero Transport Board

Transport Secretary, Grant Shapps, today (8 July) [launched](#) the first meeting of the Net Zero Transport Board, which aims to help guide the decarbonisation of UK transport. Alongside the meeting today, the Government has also [opened](#) a consultation on creating a plan to decarbonise transport.

Border rules

The Government has [updated](#) the border rules guidance with new travel details and new guidance for travellers exempt from border rules in England.

In addition, the travel corridors guidance has been [updated](#) to outline that people are not required to self-isolate on arrival in England if their journey involves a stop in certain countries.

National Covid-19 data

Latest R number range

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 8 July, the total number of lab-confirmed cases was **286,979**. The daily number of lab-confirmed cases was **630**. The total number of Covid-19 associated deaths was **44,517**, with **126** new deaths reported on the day. The data is available to [view online](#).

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>