

## Hampshire County Council COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

### Briefing for County Councillors



This briefing focuses on local issues and updates from the County Council and partners including local Covid-19 data, County Council service updates and changes at University Hospital Southampton.

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](mailto:coronavirus.memberqueries@hants.gov.uk)**

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## Local context

### Local Covid-19 data

The County Council will today (2 November) [publish](#) the latest weekly Covid-19 data dashboard. The data shows a total number of cases in Hampshire of 10,712 and 1,582 cases confirmed in the last seven days, which is an increase of 240.

The county's current weekly case rate stands at 110.4 per 100,000 population.

There have been 1,083 Covid-19 associated deaths in Hampshire since March, and four deaths in the last seven days.

The full data dashboard is available on the [Keep Hampshire Safe webpage](#). [Data on Hampshire districts](#) and [data on positive cases in Hampshire schools](#).

### County Council service updates

Following the Prime Minister's announcement on Saturday evening (31 October), the County Council immediately reviewed what the new lockdown restrictions would mean for County Council services. All changes will be carefully communicated to residents and partners with clear advice and guidance. There are some areas for which the County Council still awaits further information from the Government, however the position of some key services from Thursday 5 November is as follows:

- **Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs)** will stay open. The booking service will remain, and residents are reminded of how to safely visit HWRCs in a [press release](#)
- **Hampshire Highways** improvement works will continue, Covid-safe working standards were implemented earlier this year and all highways maintenance work on Hampshire's roads is carried out in line with the Construction Leadership Council's Site Operation Procedures, which is based on Public Health England guidance
- **Country parks and Sir Harold Hillier Gardens** will remain open
- **Registration Services** will be limited due to Government restrictions from 5 November. Weddings and Civil Partnership ceremonies will not be permitted to take place, other than in exceptional circumstances. The service is proactively contacting customers who have ceremonies booked and where it has been possible, some ceremonies have been brought forward. All customers who have ceremonies booked during the lockdown will be contacted. Birth registrations can be completed over the telephone or online.
- The **Hampshire Coronavirus Helpline** - 0333 370 4000 – remains open to support vulnerable residents. In addition, the Connect to Support Hampshire website has a [Coronavirus resource page](#) with information

The County Council continues to respond to new national guidance and will update its [webpages](#) with information on any further changes to services. Press releases will also be issued on key topics when updates are available, these are published on the [news pages](#).

## University Hospital Southampton (UHS)

UHS has today (2 November) [issued](#) a press release to announce that the chief executive of UHS, Paula Head, is leaving. Paula, who joined the Trust in 2018, will immediately move to a role supporting the NHSI/E national testing director on the deployment of rapid testing, point of care testing and near patient testing programmes. David French will assume the role of interim chief executive of the Trust.

NHS England medical director, Professor Stephen Powis, met with staff at UHS on Friday (30 October) to hear about the Trust's response to Covid-19 and their pioneering research, including the development of a non-invasive home saliva test piloted in the city, which is being evaluated as a possible method for mass testing. For more information, please see the [UHS press release](#).

## National context

### Press conference – 31 October

The Prime Minister [announced](#) that from Thursday 5 November, new national restrictions will apply in England, initially for 28 days up to 2 December. Until 5 November, people should continue to follow the local restrictions for their area (Hampshire – “medium”).

Key points:

- People will be asked to '**stay home**', except for specific purposes including exercise, medical appointments, visiting support bubble, childcare, education and work purposes (where it is not possible to work from home).
- Social distancing applies, **2m rule**.

- **Certain businesses and venues to close**, with only food shops, supermarkets, garden centres and other specified retailers providing essential goods and services remaining open.
- In contrast to the previous lockdown, **early years, schools, colleges and universities are to remain open**.
- **Shielding arrangements will not be reintroduced** for those clinically extremely vulnerable. There will be no national food boxes.
- **Weddings and civil partnership** ceremonies will not be permitted to take place except in exceptional circumstances. However, **funerals** can be attended by a maximum of 30 people.
- The **Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme** (furlough scheme) will remain open until December, with employees receiving 80% of their current salary for hours not worked, up to a maximum of £2,500.
- People will be asked to **avoid all non-essential journeys and travel**.
- **Overnight stays** and holidays away from primary residences will not be allowed.

General information on the new national restrictions has been [published](#) and it is understood that more guidance will be published in the coming days.

Read the full text of the statement [here](#) and view the accompanying data presentation [here](#).

## Communities

### Covid support force

The Ministry of Defence has [published](#) information on how military personnel are supporting public services across with the response to Covid-19. As of 30 October 2020, there were 547 military personnel committed to assist with 35 open Military Aid to Civilian Authority requests.

### Social impacts

The Office for National Statistics has [published](#) the latest indicators from the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey covering the period 21 to 25 October to understand the impact of the pandemic on people, households and communities.

## Adults' social care and public health

### Flu vaccinations

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has [announced](#) restrictions on the export of flu vaccines to protect UK supplies, following a global spike in demand.

### Prescriptions

DHSC has [announced](#) that the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care has approved a temporary measure to suspend the need for patients to sign prescription, dental and ophthalmic forms for a period of 5 months to 31 March 2021. This is to avoid cross contamination and help minimise the handling of paperwork when collecting medicines or receiving dental or eye care.

### Abortion

DHSC has [updated](#) the statistics on abortions recorded in England and Wales during the Covid-19 pandemic. For every month between January to April of 2020, there were more abortions performed compared with the corresponding month of 2019.

### Care homes and domiciliary care use of gloves

Public Health England has updated the working safely guidance for [care homes](#) and [domiciliary care](#) with updated guidance on the use of gloves.

## Environment, transport and travel

### Transport for London

The Department for Transport has [announced](#) that the Government and the Mayor of London have agreed a second extraordinary funding and financing package for Transport for London (TfL) for the period to 31 March 2021. It replaces the agreement signed in May. The Government will make up the revenue which TfL has lost due to the Covid-19 pandemic over the period.

## National Covid-19 data

As of 4pm on 1 November, the total number of lab-confirmed cases was **1,034,914**. The daily number of lab-confirmed cases was **23,254**. The total number of Covid-19 associated deaths within 28 days of a positive test was **46,717**, with **162** deaths reported on the day. The data is available to [view online](#).

The R number range for the UK is **1.1-1.3** and the growth rate range is **+2% to +4%** per day as of 30 October.

## 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>

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For any queries, please contact [coronavirus.memberqueries@hants.gov.uk](mailto:coronavirus.memberqueries@hants.gov.uk)

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