

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 the national restrictions and service updates, support for vulnerable residents, meals on wheels, Remembrance Day, Hampshire Fayre's #stayloyalstaylocal campaign and an evaluation of Visit Hampshire's Unlock Summer campaign.

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

Please note that the briefing will not be issued on Friday 13 and Monday 16 November. It will return on Wednesday 18 November and the usual pattern will resume.

[View in browser](#)

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Local context

Local Covid-19 data

The County Council will today (9 November) [publish](#) the latest weekly Covid-19 data dashboard. The data shows a total number of cases in Hampshire of 12,426 since March 2020 and 1,714 cases confirmed in the last seven days, which is an increase of 132.

The county's current weekly case rate stands at 123.7 per 100,000 population, which is below the England case rate at 243.2.

There have been 1,091 Covid-19 associated deaths in Hampshire since March, and 8 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](#).

School attendance

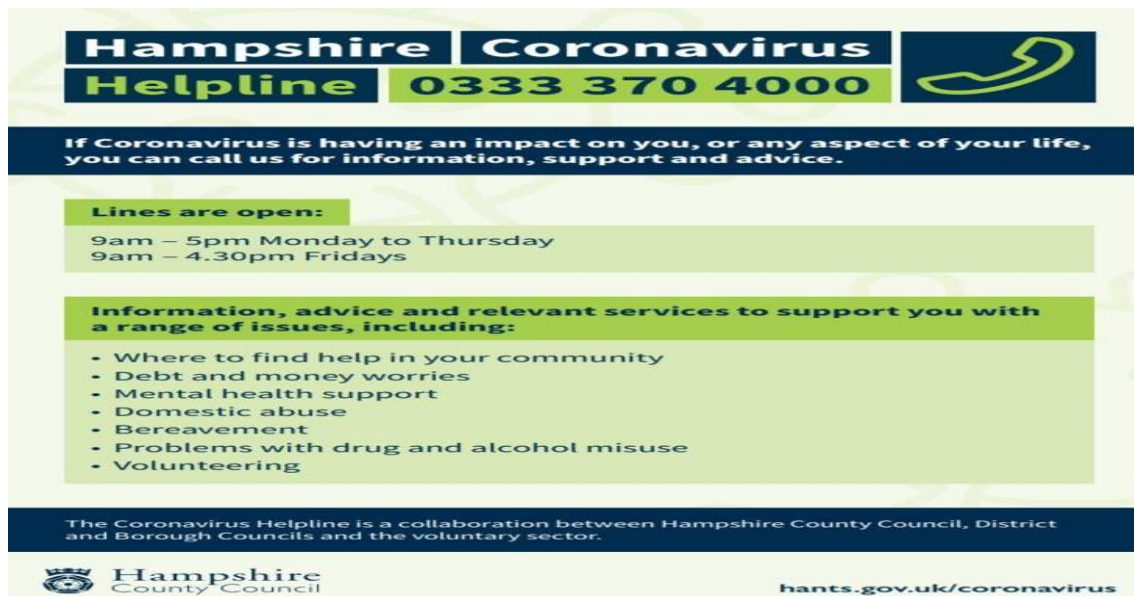
High attendance levels at primary and secondary schools in Hampshire have continued into the second half of the autumn term, despite the number of cases of Covid-19 rising across the county. Early years settings are similarly reporting that the number of children in attendance has been steadily increasing since the beginning of the autumn term.

In the [press release](#), the Executive Member for Education and Skills, Councillor Roz Chadd, is quoted: "To maintain this stability, and to #KeepHampshireSafe, it is vitally important that we all continue to follow the new national guidance to continue social distancing, minimise social contact and avoid mixing with other households, as well as regular handwashing."

National restrictions

The County Council continues to help build Hampshire residents' awareness of the national restrictions which began on 5 November. A new short and informative [animation](#) has been produced to clarify the guidance around national restrictions. It has been promoted widely on the County Council's social media channels and has been well received.

The County Council is also promoting a [poster](#) which can be displayed within local communities to further advertise the support that is available to any resident in need during this time.



Hampshire Coronavirus Helpline 0333 370 4000

If Coronavirus is having an impact on you, or any aspect of your life, you can call us for information, support and advice.

Lines are open:

- 9am – 5pm Monday to Thursday
- 9am – 4.30pm Fridays

Information, advice and relevant services to support you with a range of issues, including:

- Where to find help in your community
- Debt and money worries
- Mental health support
- Domestic abuse
- Bereavement
- Problems with drug and alcohol misuse
- Volunteering

The Coronavirus Helpline is a collaboration between Hampshire County Council, District and Borough Councils and the voluntary sector.

 Hampshire County Council

hants.gov.uk/coronavirus

Armistice Day

The County Council is [promoting](#) its special remembrance video for 2020. On Wednesday 11 November, residents will be able to go online and join the County Council in paying their respects to those who have fallen. The video will be available to view on the County Council's social media channels ([Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#)) and on the [County Council's website](#).



Cllr Melville Kendal
Chairman of Hampshire
County Council

“Although this year, we cannot gather together physically, we can still unite online to remember the service and sacrifice of our Armed Forces community. Through this new commemorative film, we aim to honour all those who have served and continue to do so, to defend our democratic freedoms.”



National context

Communities

Jobcentre guidance

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has [issued](#) new jobcentre guidance. They have confirmed that jobcentres will remain open in line with the latest government and Public Health England guidance, however customers will also be supported by Work Coaches online and over the phone. Face-to-face assessments for disability benefits remain suspended.

Court and tribunal response and recovery

HM Courts and Tribunals Service has [published](#) an update outlining the work undertaken in their response to and planned recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic.

Children and education

Winter support package for vulnerable children and families

The Government has [announced](#) additional support for vulnerable children and families over the winter, which includes:

- £170m Covid Winter Grant Scheme - ring-fenced funding will be distributed to councils at the start of December, with at least 80% earmarked to support with food and bills. It will cover the period to the end of March 2021
- Holiday Activities and Food programme to be expanded, covering Easter, Summer and Christmas in 2021
- Healthy Start payments set to rise from £3.10 to £4.25 a week from April 2021
- Pledged additional funding of £16m to food distribution charities

Childcare bubbles

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has [published](#) guidance on informal childcare bubbles. This allows friends or family from one other household to provide informal childcare for children aged 13 or under.

NHS COVID-19 app in education and childcare settings

The Government has [updated](#) the guidance on the use of the NHS Covid-19 app in education and childcare settings.

Adults' social care and public health

Vaccine

A Covid-19 vaccine developed by U.S. pharmaceuticals company Pfizer and Germany's BioNTech is more than 90 percent effective, according to the first look at data from a late-stage trial involving nearly 44,000 participants. An analysis of 94 trial participants who contracted Covid-19 showed that the vaccine was 94 percent effective, Pfizer and BioNTech said in a [press release](#) today.

Reducing vaccine disinformation

The Government has [announced](#) that they have agreed with social media platforms new measures to limit the spread of vaccine misinformation and disinformation. Facebook, Twitter and Google have committed to the principle that no company should profit from or promote Covid-19 anti-vaccine disinformation, to respond to flagged content more swiftly, and to work with authorities to promote scientifically accurate messages.

Economy, business and finance

Bounce Back Loan Scheme (BBLs)

The guidance on BBLS has been [updated](#) with information on the new options available to top up existing loans, extend the loan period, make interest-only repayments, or pause repayments.

Environment, transport and travel

Freight from Denmark

The Department for Transport has [announced](#) that they have extended measures to prevent the potential spread of a variant strain of Covid-19 (resulting from minks). The freight exemption has been removed so UK haulage drivers arriving from Denmark are now required to self-isolate on entry to England. In addition, the exemption for non-UK resident freight drivers is removed so those who have travelled from or through Denmark in the last 14 days can no longer enter UK and passenger planes and ships travelling directly from Denmark, and accompanied freight, will no longer be able to land or dock at English ports.

National Covid-19 data

As of 4pm on 9 November, the total number of people tested positive for Covid-19 was **1,192,013** and daily number of lab-confirmed cases was **20,572**. The total number of Covid-19 associated deaths within 28 days of a positive test was **49,044**, with **156** 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 6 November.

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>