

## Local context

### Emergency funding to support Hampshire's most vulnerable children

The Leader of Hampshire County Council, Councillor Keith Mans, has today announced that the Authority will be supporting a funding package to be distributed to food banks, charities and other organisations, to help vulnerable families.

In the [press release](#), Councillor Mans is quoted: “The County Council is already facing huge unplanned financial pressures as a result of the coronavirus outbreak, and not helped by the latest tranche of funding from Government which was significantly lower than we expected. Nonetheless, supporting vulnerable families during the school holidays must be a priority... This will be partly funded by additional finances identified in the spring for Hampshire County Councillors’ grants to help support crises in local areas during the Covid-19 pandemic. In addition, we are exploring other sources of potential funding within the County Council to contribute where possible... I will be writing to the Secretary of State and Hampshire’s MPs to press for Government to implement a long-term strategy to cover the Christmas and Easter school holidays - and help those families who have been specifically and significantly affected by the pandemic.”

### Local Covid alert levels governance and process

The Chief Executive of Hampshire County Council, John Coughlan, has today written to all Hampshire District and Borough Chief Executives with information regarding the local Covid alert levels escalation process. The letter outlines the processes involved, should Hampshire need to move from its current position of ‘medium’ to ‘high’ (level one to two). The key points within the letter include:

- Should there be a need for a change in Hampshire’s local Covid alert level status, the County Councils’ position is that it would be preferable for it to be implemented at a county-wide level, rather than by individual districts. This would support more effective management of the virus through collective enforcement and enable clear and consistent public messaging regarding restrictions and advice.
- In terms of the decision-making process, the Director of Public Health, in conjunction with the Hampshire Health Protection Board, would make a recommendation to the Local Outbreak Engagement Board. The County Council would then enter a dialogue with our regional DHSC “Convenor” about next steps.

Any recommendation would be based on a range of public health indicators and considerations, including the number of cases/outbreaks, the pattern of infection, the number of people being admitted into acute hospital settings and how settings are coping.

### Kickstart scheme

Hampshire County Council has committed to actively support the national Kickstart scheme with plans to offer a minimum of 30 job placements across the organisation for young people aged 16 to 24 years. To reach the individuals who would benefit most from these placements, the County Council’s Skills and Participation Team will be working closely with Department for Work and Pension Work Coaches.

In the [press release](#), the Executive Member of Education and Skills, Councillor Roz Chadd, is quoted: “We recognise the impact that Covid-19 has had on the local economy and local businesses, causing job losses. It is why we have established an Employment and Skills Strategy, to boost employment and

apprenticeships in the county – a strategy, which is designed to build on, and complement national initiatives like Kickstart. In addition to offering placements here, at the County Council, we will be supporting, with advice and guidance, other employers who wish to participate in the Kickstart scheme, particularly other public sector employers, third sector groups and employers in the health and care sector.”

## Local Covid-19 data

The County Council will today (26 October) [publish](#) the latest weekly Covid-19 data dashboard. The data shows a total number of cases in Hampshire of **9,130** and **1,342** cases confirmed in the last seven days, which is an increase of **472**.

The county’s current weekly case rate stands at **77.7** per 100,000 population.

There have been **1,079** Covid-19 associated deaths in Hampshire since March, and **1** death 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](#).

## National context

### Communities

#### Funerals

The Government has [updated](#) the guidance for local partners on managing a funeral during the Covid-19 pandemic to include the limit of 30 people attending a funeral at all local Covid alert levels.

#### Halloween

The Government has [produced](#) a range of communications materials which are aimed at promoting safe and alternative ways to spend Halloween this year. They include materials specific to each alert level, alternative ways to celebrate, and Halloween-themed ‘Hands, face and space’ images.

#### Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks

The DBS has [published](#) an additional guidance document in relation to the free-of-charge enhanced DBS checks and emergency checks of the Barred Lists, which were introduced as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

#### Local Covid alert levels

The Government has [announced](#) that Warrington will move from local Covid alert level ‘high’ to ‘very high’ from 00.01 on Tuesday 27 October.

### Children and education

#### Childcare support

The Department for Education has [announced](#) that from Sunday 1 November, eligible working parents who receive support through the Government’s new Job Support Scheme and extended Self-Employed Income Support Scheme will continue to receive their childcare entitlements, including the 30 hours offer and Tax-Free Childcare, even if their income levels fall below the threshold temporarily whilst on these schemes.

### Economy and business

#### Travel exceptions

The Government has [updated](#) the guidance that lists the jobs that qualify for exemptions from the self-isolation or passenger locator form requirements. Offshore oil and gas workers have been added to the exempt jobs list.

# Environment, transport and travel

## Travel corridors

On 22 October, the Government [announced](#) that the Canary Islands, Denmark, Maldives and Mykonos will be added to the Government's travel corridor list at 4am on 25 October. The Government also announced that people arriving in England from Liechtenstein from 4am on 25 October will need to self-isolate for two weeks.

The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office has also [updated](#) its global advisory against 'all but essential' travel exempting destinations that no longer pose an unacceptably high risk for British travellers.

## Rail travel

The Department for Transport has [confirmed](#) that passengers who have bought an advance ticket which they can subsequently no longer use as a result of Covid restrictions changing will not have to pay the administration cost of rearranging travel for a ticket purchased prior to any announcement.

## National Covid-19 data

As of 5.30pm on 26 October, the total number of lab-confirmed cases was **894,690**. The daily number of lab-confirmed cases was **20,890**. The total number of Covid-19 associated deaths within 28 days of a positive test was **44,998**, with **102** deaths reported on the day. The data is available to [view online](#).

The R number range for the UK is **1.2-1.4** and the growth rate range is **+3% to +6%** per day as of 23 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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