

## Local context

### Hampshire Perspectives

The County Council has started recruiting a diverse group of local people aged 18 and over to participate in its new residents' forum. The forum, called Hampshire Perspectives, will give residents the opportunity to regularly share their views on a wide range of topics including social care, climate change and economic prosperity to help shape the delivery of essential services. The initial focus will be to gather insight to support the county's recovery from Covid-19.

More information about the Forum is available on the County Council's [website](#). Hampshire residents are encouraged to register their interest by completing the short [online questionnaire](#).



### Back to school

Education settings in Hampshire were prepared to welcome all children back at the start of the new academic year (3 September). They have risk assessed and are confident that ample arrangements are in place to help prevent the spread of Covid-19. While arrangements will vary from setting to setting, measures include: placing children in 'bubbles'; one-way systems around the school site; staggered start and finish times; heightened hand hygiene and; additional cleaning of school buildings.

Not all children will have attended on the first day due to some schools having INSET days. Schools that did return yesterday reported very high levels of attendance. Schools have also stated that both teachers and students are very pleased to be back, that behaviour has been impeccable, and children have returned to school eager and ready to learn.

Hampshire County Council produced a [back to school guide](#) for parents and carers containing information and further sources of advice to help them prepare and plan for their child's return to school.

The County Council is [encouraging](#) young people to choose active and sustainable travel options to reduce traffic congestion around school gates. The range of temporary travel infrastructure across the county allows more space for cycling and walking while maintaining a safe social distance.

The Home to School Transport service has robust arrangements in place, including new Covid-19 safe measures and procedures, and has communicated regularly with schools as they plan for the new term. The service has also worked closely with transport operators throughout the county to ensure there is sufficient capacity for students who use public transport. More information on school transport, including a set of Frequently Asked Questions, can be found on the [County Council's website](#).

The process of welcoming children back into schools after a period of closure might be a source of concern and challenge for some children and their parents. Hampshire's Educational Psychology Team has produced [a guide for parents and carers](#) with advice on how to manage concerns and prepare children for a successful return. They are also running a [telephone support line](#) for education staff and parents.



## Construction skills training

A successful Hampshire County Council programme has secured £1 million in European Social Funding for construction skills training for unemployed adults across Hampshire. 1,450 pre-employment training places will be available up to October 2023 in several construction disciplines enabling participants to subsequently enter apprenticeships, work experience or employment.

In the [press release](#), Councillor Roz Chadd, Executive Member for Education and Skills, is quoted: “For those who have lost their job due to the Covid-19 pandemic, or are considering a change of sector, this is a great first step into an industry that needs a workforce boost across Hampshire and the South of England as the economy rebuilds.”

## Hampshire's volunteers

Hampshire County Council's Cabinet Member for Communities, Partnerships and External Affairs, Councillor Andrew Joy, has expressed thanks on behalf of the Authority, for the work of volunteers throughout the county who have been responding to the needs of communities during the Covid-19 outbreak. In the [press release](#), Councillor Joy is quoted: “To all our volunteers across Hampshire, I would like to give our heartfelt thanks. You are the backbone of our communities and we all owe you a huge debt of gratitude for all you have done and continue to do during these challenging times... As we head into the autumn, and with the coronavirus still with us, we anticipate demand for support will start to grow again. Therefore, we need to say:

- To those who continue to volunteer – we thank you. Your support is invaluable, and please do stay with us.
- To those who may have recently stopped volunteering – we would like you to consider coming back, even if it is only for a couple of hours a week.
- To those who have never volunteered – now could be a great time to start.”

To find out more about volunteering opportunities in Hampshire, please visit the [Hampshire CVS Network website](#).

## National context: 31 August - 4 September

### Communities

#### North of England: local restrictions

The Government has [updated](#) the guidance on what you can and cannot do if you live, work or travel in areas in the north of England. The guidance is updated with more detailed information on affected local areas and following the decision that Bolton and Trafford will not have restrictions lifted from 2 September.

#### House moves

The guidance for people moving house, whether as owner-occupiers, private or social renters was [updated](#) to include information on face coverings, shielding and repossessions.

#### Renting

Non-statutory guidance for landlords, tenants and local authorities in the private and social rented sectors in the context of Covid-19 was [updated](#) to reflect amended regulations and wider government public health advice.

#### Sport spectator pilots

The Government has [announced](#) further sporting events that will be used to pilot the safe return of spectators. The events have been selected to test a range of different event styles across the country’s major spectator sports with a view to a full reopening for fans in October.

#### Culture

As part of the Government’s £1.57 billion package of funding for UK culture, the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport has [launched](#) the #HereForCulture campaign to support arts, culture and heritage industries.

### Children and education

#### Return to education

The Government has published or updated several pieces of guidance for schools and FE colleges and providers to support the return to education from 1 September. Two announcements outline the overall context on [contingency planning guidance](#) and [protective measures](#).

#### Covid-19 testing in schools

The Medical Director of Public Health England, Yvonne Doyle, and Chief Medical Adviser of NHS Test and Trace, Susan Hopkins, have [written](#) to school and college leaders with further advice regarding Covid-19 testing and shielding.

### **Covid-19 surveillance in schools**

Public Health England has [published](#) a report on the preliminary results of the Covid-19 testing and antibody prevalence surveillance in schools programme, (sKIDs). The report concludes that Covid-19 infection and transmission rates were low in preschool and primary schools under surveillance during the summer.

### **Children's social care services**

The Government has [updated](#) the advice about Covid-19 for councils and their partners to help support and protect vulnerable children. The updates include new provisional guidance on the Adoption and Children (Coronavirus) (Amendment) (No 2) Regulations 2020, which come into force on 25 September 2020.

### **Ofsted inspections**

Ofsted has [confirmed](#) that Her Majesty's Inspectors (HMI) will visit around 1,200 schools across England this autumn term. It has also [published](#) operational notes about visits to state schools, further education and skills providers and independent schools.

### **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

The Government has [updated](#) the guidance on how healthcare providers can order additional PPE through the portal to top up their existing supplies. Children's care homes, secure homes and residential special schools have been added to the categories of provider that can order from the portal.

## **Adults' social care and public health**

### **Quick result test trials**

The Government has [announced](#) a £500 million funding package to invest in testing technology and increased testing capacity. Existing trials in **Southampton and Hampshire**, using a saliva test and a rapid 20-minute test, will be expanded. In addition, a new community-wide trial in Salford will launch to assess the benefits of repeat population testing. The funding will also be used to further extend capacity for existing PCR testing across the country.

### **Infection survey pilot**

The Office for National Statistics has [published](#) the latest infection survey pilot results (4 September). An estimated 27,100 people within the community population in England had Covid-19 during the most recent week, from 19 to 25 August, equating to around 1 in 2,000 individuals.

### **Supporting people outside of their home**

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has [issued](#) new guidance which outlines how the Covid-19 transmission risk can be minimised when support is provided so that people can visit shops, socialise or exercise safely.

### **Care homes**

The Government has [updated](#) the guidance on how to protect care home residents and staff during the Covid-19 outbreak with a new section on how care homes can support the NHS Test and Trace service.

### **Care Act 2014**

The Government has [updated](#) its guidance on changes to the Care Act 2014 to include reference to advocates, introduce the Care Act easements notification form and reflect changes to other published guidance.

### **Lighthouse Lab – Loughborough**

The DHSC has [announced](#) a new Lighthouse Lab will open near Loughborough by the end of September. The new lab is part of plans to scale up testing capacity to 500,000 swab tests per day by the end of October.

## Dementia

A report [published](#) by the London School of Economics and University College London showed that in England and Wales people with dementia accounted for a quarter of all Covid-19 related deaths.

# Economy and business

## Kickstart Scheme

The Government has [launched](#) its new £2 billion Kickstart Scheme which will aim to create hundreds of thousands of new, fully subsidised jobs for young people. The six-month placements across a range of different sectors are open to those aged 16-24 who are claiming Universal Credit and at risk of long-term unemployment. The first placements are likely to be available from November.

The Government has also [published](#) guidance for employers looking to create jobs placements as part of the scheme.

## Eat Out to Help Out scheme

The Treasury has [announced](#) that over 100 million meals have been claimed for under the government's Eat Out to Help Out scheme. Data has also been [published](#) on claims by country, region and parliamentary constituency.

## Statutory Sick Pay

The Department for Work and Pensions has [issued](#) updated guidance on when employees must stay at home and may be able to claim Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) because of Covid-19.

## Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

The Office for Product Safety and Standards has [updated](#) the guidance for businesses on the PPE Regulations, the guidance for new high-volume manufacturers of PPE and the guidance for businesses and individuals on the small-scale manufacture of PPE.

# Environment, transport and travel

## Travel corridor list

The Department for Transport has [confirmed](#) that there will be no countries removed or added to the list of travel corridors for England (3 September). All travellers are reminded to check the latest advice from the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office before travelling and will be required to fill in a [passenger locator form](#) before returning home.

## Driving licences

The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency has [announced](#) that photocard licences or entitlements to drive that expire between 1 February and 31 December 2020 have automatically been extended for 11 months from the date of expiry.

# National Covid-19 data

As of 4pm on 4 September, the total number of lab-confirmed cases was **342,351**. The daily number of lab-confirmed cases was **1,940**. The total number of Covid-19 associated deaths within 28 days of positive test was **41,537**, with **10** deaths reported on the day. The data is available to [view online](#).

The R number range for the UK is **0.9-1.1** and the growth rate range is **-1% to +2%** per day as of 4 September.

## 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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