

## Local context

### Local Covid-19 data

The County Council will today (14 December) [publish](#) the latest weekly Covid-19 data summary. This week's data shows a rise in cases over the last 7 days.

It is vital that everyone keeps following [the Tier 2 \(High\) rules](#) to break chains of infection and stop the spread.

The total number of cases in Hampshire since March 2020 is now 19,593 and there have been 1,341 cases confirmed in the last seven days.

The county's current weekly case rate stands at 86.4 per 100,000 population, which is below the England case rate at 166.3.

There have been 1,208 Covid-19 associated deaths in Hampshire since March, and 22 deaths in the last seven days.

On hospital admissions for the NHS South East region (which includes Hampshire and the Isle of Wight), the total number of patients admitted to hospital across the region is 21,999, with 1,021 people admitted in the last week and 1,945 patients currently in hospital.

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

### The best gift - winter campaign

The County Council has [launched](#) its county-wide winter campaign to urge residents to stay Covid-safe over the festive season. Residents are being reminded that the best gift to give friends and family is to keep following the guidance for the [current Tier for Hampshire](#), and to abide by the 'Yule rules'.

In addition to offline tactics, including outdoor posters, bus sides, press and radio adverts, the campaign will be promoted across social media platforms. Members are encouraged to share/retweet the campaign with their social media followers, as well as any other relevant messages that we are posting on our corporate social media feeds – via @hantsconnect on both [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#), as well as on [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#).



## Staying well over Christmas

Connect to Support Hampshire has [issued](#) advice to residents to help them stay well over the festive period and to offer support to those who may be in need. Advice and suggestions on shopping, medicines, staying warm and supporting others is available, as well as links and contact numbers for local services and specialist support.

## National context

### Communities

#### 2021 elections

The Electoral Commission has [published](#) guidance about polling station considerations for the May 2021 elections.

#### Coronavirus regulations

Last week, the Government [updated](#) guidance on council powers under coronavirus regulations. The update includes detail on the new powers that enable all councils to act against specific offences where premises are not operating in a Covid-secure manner, through issuing formal requests for rapid improvement.

#### Test and Trace Support Payment scheme

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has [updated](#) the guidance on who can claim the Test and Trace Support Payment and how to apply. This includes information on how contacts identified through the coronavirus app can now apply for the payment.

#### Nightingale courts

The Government has [announced](#) that a further nine Nightingale courts will open in the new year to provide additional capacity and reduce delays.

#### Family justice system

The Family Justice Board has [issued](#) a statement that summarises the priority actions it intends to pursue in response both to immediate pressures within the family justice system caused by Covid-19, and to bring about longer-term reform.

### **Rough sleepers**

The Minister for Rough Sleeping and Housing, Kelly Tolhurst, has [announced](#) additional funding to support rough sleepers to recover from drug and alcohol misuse.

### **Lost sales, fees and charges compensation scheme**

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government has extended the deadline for councils to submit their claims for the second round of the compensation scheme for lost sales, fees and charges until 23 December.

### **Fire and Rescue Services**

The National Joint Council for Local Authority Fire and Rescue Services has [reached](#) an agreement relating to Covid-19 support work. This supersedes the previous tripartite agreement. Two additional activities have been added to the agreement, taking the total number of additional activities firefighters can undertake to 16.

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

### **Covid-19 immunisation programme**

NHS England has today (14 December) [announced](#) that local vaccination services will start to open in GP surgeries this week. Nurses, paramedics, pharmacists, and other NHS staff will work alongside GPs to vaccinate those aged 80 and over, as well as care home workers and residents, identified as priority groups.

In addition, care home residents will also receive their first vaccine later this week after distributors finalise new, stringent processes to ensure safe delivery of the PfizerBioNTech vaccine.

The NHS will continue contact people in the priority groups when it is their turn to receive the vaccine and people are being reminded not to contact their GP practise about vaccination.

### **Services for people who use drugs or alcohol**

The Government has [updated](#) the guidance for commissioners and service providers for those dependent on drugs or alcohol. The update includes recommendations for best practice for drug and alcohol services in the current stage of the Covid-19 outbreak.

### **Community testing**

DHSC has [confirmed](#) the first 67 local authorities which have been given approval to begin enhanced testing support programmes to drive down transmission rates in their areas.

## **Environment, transport and travel**

### **Travel corridors**

Botswana and Saudi Arabia were [added](#) to the travel corridor list from 12 December. In addition, the Canary Islands were removed, people arriving in England from the Canary Islands from 12 December will need to self-isolate.

From today (14 December) the self-isolation period on arrival in England changed from 14 days to 10 days.

### **Christmas travel**

The Department for Transport has [announced](#) that up to £3 million funding will be made available to provide up to 80,000 more seats on coach services over the Christmas travel window (23 to 27 December).

## **National Covid-19 data**

At time of issue, the latest national Covid-19 figures were not published on Gov.uk. These should be available to view later at <https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/>

The R number range for the UK is **0.9-1.0** and the growth rate range is **-2% to -0%** per day as of 11 December.

## 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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