

## Local context

### Guidance on Covid-19 apps

Hampshire County Council is circulating guidance to education providers from Public Health Hampshire on Covid-19 apps. The guidance aims to provide additional support around the use of the NHS Covid-19 contact tracing app, and specifically in relation to pausing the app in certain situations.

### White Ribbon Day

During the pandemic, there is evidence that domestic abuse has increased, particularly during periods of lockdown. This [White Ribbon Day](#), Wednesday 25 November, and the 16 days to end violence against women that follow, the County Council will be using social media to reach out to anyone who could be at risk across Hampshire.

The [Hampshire Domestic Abuse Service](#) which supports all those affected - men, women and children is reminding residents that services remain available to support victims. The helpline is on 03300 165 112 and is staffed between 9.30am and 8pm Monday to Friday. Outside of these hours, a voicemail provides alternative numbers to call, there are also instant messenger chats available.

### Local Covid-19 data

The County Council will today (23 November) [publish](#) the latest weekly Covid-19 data summary. The data shows a total number of cases in Hampshire of 16,083 since March 2020 and 1,246 cases confirmed in the last seven days.

The county's current weekly case rate stands at 147.2 per 100,000 population, which is below the England case rate at 251.5.

There have been 1,120 Covid-19 associated deaths in Hampshire since March, and 14 deaths in the last seven days.

The weekly summary now also includes data 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 18,633, with 1,004 admitted in the last week and 1,128 patients are 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](#).

## National context

### Prime Minister's statement – 23 November

In a [statement](#) to the House of Commons, the Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, outlined the Government's Covid Winter Plan. The Prime Minister highlighted that by the spring, new advancements should make the need for strict restrictions redundant, however it was important for the nation to get through the winter. It was confirmed that current national restrictions will end on 2 December and a new regional three-tiered approach will begin. From 2 December:

1. The stay at home requirement will end, with domestic and international travel being permitted again subject to guidance in each tier.
2. Shops, personal care, gyms and the wider leisure sector will reopen.
3. Collective worship, weddings and outdoor sports can resume, subject to social distancing.
4. The rule of 6 will resume subject to guidance in each tier.

The Government will announce later this week which tier local areas are to be placed in, and it was confirmed today that more areas will be in the higher tiers. It was also confirmed that there will be a further announcement on Christmas once agreed with devolved administrations, although “it won’t be normal this year”.

Following the statement, the Government [published](#) the 64-page Covid-19 Winter Plan. Infographic summaries of the new three-tier alert system are available [online here](#).

## Communities

### Christmas

The Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, Michael Gove, held a discussion with devolved administrations on Saturday (21 November) on shared arrangements for the festive period. Work is continuing to finalise the arrangements, including relating to travel.

### Singing

Public Health England has [issued](#) new guidance which outlines the principles of safer singing in order to reduce virus transmission.

## Children and education

### Updated guidance for special schools and other specialist settings

The Department for Education (DfE) has [updated](#) the guidance for special schools and other specialist settings during the Covid-19 outbreak to include the latest advice for clinically extremely vulnerable pupils, advice on the use of face coverings in schools and further information on the NHS test and trace process.

DfE has also provided information on keeping occupied spaces ventilated, the use of heating in special schools and specialist settings and the provision of wraparound care and extra-curricular activities.

### Technology for schools

DfE has [updated](#) its guidance for councils, academy trusts and schools on devices and support available to provide remote education and access to children’s social care. Updates emphasise current offers and encourage reallocation of unused 4G wireless routers.

## Adults' social care and public health

### Pfizer and BioNTech vaccine

The Government today (23 November) [welcomed](#) the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency’s (MHRA) review of data from Pfizer/BioNTech to determine whether its vaccine meets robust standards of quality, safety, and effectiveness. This is the first step in finding out if it is suitable to be authorised. If approved it would be available across the NHS, free at the point of delivery, across the UK, with mass vaccination potentially starting as early as December.

## Economy, business and finance

### Deferred VAT

HMRC has [updated](#) the guidance on with new information on paying VAT deferred due to Covid-19 and the new payment scheme that will be available in 2021.

# National Covid-19 data

As of 4pm on 23 November, the total number of people tested positive for Covid-19 was **1,527,495** and daily number of lab-confirmed cases was **15,450**. The total number of Covid-19 associated deaths within 28 days of a positive test was **55,230**, with **206** deaths reported on the day. The data is available to [view online](#).

The R number range for the UK is **1.0-1.1** and the growth rate range is **0% to +2%** per day as of 20 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>

**Deborah Harkin**  
Assistant Chief Executive