

2 June 2020

Government press conference - 1 June

The [press conference](#) was chaired by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Matt Hancock.

The Government encouraged people with symptoms to get tested and highlighted the additional testing capacity that is available. The daily fatality figure was the lowest for more than two months, with 111 deaths confirmed across the UK, taking the total to 39,045. The Government thanked key workers for their contributions.

The press conference slides and datasets are available to [view online](#).

As of 5pm on 1 June, the total number of lab-confirmed cases was **276,332**. The daily number of lab-confirmed cases was **1,570**. The total number of Covid-19 associated deaths was **39,045**, with **111** new deaths reported on the day. The data is available to [view online](#).

National context

Early years and childcare providers

The Department for Education (DfE) has [updated](#) the guidance for early years and childcare providers. This includes a restructure of the document in line with wider opening of settings, updated content on funding in relation to the Competition and Markets Authority and insurance, and updated content on infection prevention and control. There is a new section on attendance, new information on the use of community centres and before and after school clubs, a new section on safeguarding and welfare including provisions for children with SEND and a clarification on paediatric first aid certificates.

Schools

The DfE has [updated](#) the guidance for parents and carers about the wider opening of education and childcare settings to include details about opening secondary schools to years 10 and 12 from 15 June and links to guidance on safer travel.

Attendance in education and early years settings

The DfE's summary of attendance in education settings has been [updated](#) to include returns up to 29 May.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in educational settings

Guidance has been [issued](#) on the process schools and education settings should follow to obtain supplies of PPE. The guidance states that schools and other education or childcare settings should not require staff, children or learners to wear face coverings. Changing habits, cleaning and hygiene are effective measures in controlling the spread of the virus. PPE is only needed in a very small number of cases, which are outlined in the guidance.

Apprentices

Ofsted has [announced](#) that in collaboration with the DfE, the Association of Colleges, the Association of Employer and Learning Providers and HOLEX it will review further education learners' experiences of online learning during the Covid-19 lockdown.

Universities

The DfE has [published](#) guidance on the measures [announced on 4 May](#) to protect students and universities during the Covid-19 pandemic, including temporary student number controls and additional places.

Inequalities

Public Health England has [published](#) a descriptive review of data on disparities in the risk and outcomes from Covid-19. This review confirms that the impact of Covid-19 has replicated existing health inequalities and, in some cases, has increased them. The largest disparity found was by age, people who were 80 or older were seventy times more likely to die than those under 40. Risk of dying was also higher in males than females; higher in those living in the more deprived areas than those living in the least deprived; and higher in those in Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) groups than in White ethnic groups.

The NHS Confederation and NHS England have [confirmed](#) the creation of a new expert research centre on health inequalities. The NHS Race and Health Observatory will identify and tackle the specific health challenges facing people from BAME backgrounds.

Environment Agency

The Environment Agency has [published](#) an update on their services with new information for boating customers.

Business loan scheme statistics

The Treasury has [updated](#) the business loan scheme statistics with new figures for Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme, Coronavirus Large Business Interruption Loan Scheme, Bounce Back Loan Scheme and Future Fund.

European Structural and Investment Funds

The Government has [updated](#) the series of documents regarding the 2014 to 2020 European Structural and Investment Funds Programme and the response to Covid-19.

Heatwave plan

The Heatwave Plan for England remains unchanged for summer 2020, however additional actions may be needed due to Covid-19 and specific resources have been [published](#) by the Government.

Local context

2020 Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

Coinciding with Volunteers' Week (1-7 June), the Government has [announced](#) the 230 organisations from across the UK which have been awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service this year. The full list is available to [view online](#). Winners in Hampshire include:

- **Accessible Boating Association, Odiham** - Providing adapted narrowboats for people with physical or mental limitations to enjoy the canal.

- **Basingstoke NeighbourCare** - Providing accompanied driving and befriending services for elderly people to reduce isolation.
- **Bishop's Waltham Community First Responders** - Providing emergency medical support for the community before the arrival of an ambulance.
- **Milford-on-Sea Conservation Volunteers** - Undertaking practical conservation work and finding a new generation of conservationists.
- **Youth and Families Matter, Totton** - Working to improve the wellbeing of children, young people and families in our local community

Children's Services

Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, Children's Services has continued to respond to all contacts and referrals about vulnerable or at-risk children, through our 'front door' (the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub and the Out of Hours service). In March, there was a slight drop in referrals. However, the number of referrals has gradually increased and are now at the same levels as prior to lockdown.

Sources of referrals have changed, which reflect the lockdown restrictions – more children are being referred to the service by neighbours, family members and other community sources. While prior to the pandemic, more referrals were being made by schools. Understandably, many members of the public are cautious about revealing their identities and some prefer to remain anonymous.

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/>
- 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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