

Local context

County Council's 'choose to use' services

The County Council has [issued](#) a press release highlighting how it is working to the national lockdown guidance for its most popular 'choose to use' services, including country parks, Hillier Gardens and libraries. The Executive Member for Recreation, Heritage, Countryside and Rural Affairs, Councillor Edward Heron, is quoted, "We know how important it is for people to be able to access local outdoor spaces for both their physical and mental wellbeing, particularly at these times of national restrictions."

For detailed information on service availability, see the [press release](#) or visit the [coronavirus webpages](#).

Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs)

The County Council has [confirmed](#) that all Hampshire household waste recycling centres (HWRCs) will remain open for those who need to use them. In the press release, Councillor Rob Humby, Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment is quoted: "The booking system at the HWRCs is working well, and social distancing measures are in place. The sites will continue to accept as many of the usual household waste materials as they can while the onward market accepts them. However, I would ask that people consider if they really do need to make a trip to the tip at this time and, if they can, to either use their kerbside waste collections or store their waste safely at home until restrictions are lifted."

Residents wishing to visit an HWRC will need to make a booking in advance and are asked to check the website ahead of their visit in case a site needs to close at short notice due to staffing levels being affected by Covid-19.

For more information, please see the [press release](#) or the [waste and recycling webpages](#).

Support for businesses

Business Hampshire continues to provide Covid-19 support and advice to Hampshire businesses – this can be accessed via the [Business Hampshire webpages](#) or by calling the dedicated Business Hampshire team on 0370 779 4785 or 07738 120566.

Yesterday (5 January), the Government [announced](#) additional financial support for businesses impacted by the new national lockdown. Business in the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors are to receive a one-off grant to support them through the new lockdown. The one-off grants will be given to closed businesses as follows:

- £4,000 for businesses with a rateable value of £15,000 or under
- £6,000 for businesses with a rateable value between £15,000 and £51,000
- £9,000 for businesses with a rateable value of over £51,000

A further £594 million is also being made available to support other businesses not eligible for the grants, that might be affected by the restrictions. The new one-off grants are in addition to the existing business support, including grants worth up to £3,000 for closed businesses, and up to £2,100 per month for impacted businesses once they reopen.

All grants will be administered by the District/Borough councils in Hampshire; the table below provides contact details for the local authorities in Hampshire.

Local authority	Telephone	Email	Local Restrictions Support Grants and Additional Restrictions Grant	Dedicated Covid-19 web page
Basingstoke and Deane	01256 844844	business@basingstoke.gov.uk	basingstoke.gov.uk	basingstoke.gov.uk
East Hampshire	01730 266551	business@easthants.gov.uk	easthants.gov.uk	easthants.gov.uk
Eastleigh		economicdevelopment@eastleigh.gov.uk	eastleigh.gov.uk	eastleigh.gov.uk
Fareham	01329 236100		fareham.gov.uk	fareham.gov.uk
Gosport	Please email	business@gosport.gov.uk	gosport.gov.uk	gosport.gov.uk
Hart	01252 622122	economic.development@hart.gov.uk	hart.gov.uk	hart.gov.uk
Havant	023 9244 6019	economic_development@havant.gov.uk	havant.gov.uk	havant.gov.uk
Isle of Wight	Please visit website for guidance		iow.gov.uk	iow.gov.uk
New Forest	02380 285000	businesssupport@nfdc.gov.uk	newforest.gov.uk	newforest.gov.uk
Portsmouth	023 9284 1641		portsmouth.gov.uk	portsmouth.gov.uk
Rushmoor	01252 398331	businessrates@rushmoor.gov.uk	rushmoor.gov.uk	rushmoor.gov.uk
Southampton	023 8083 4300	business.rates@southampton.gov.uk	southampton.gov.uk	southampton.gov.uk
Test Valley	Business rates: 01264 368000 General business: 01264 368309	businessrates@testvalley.gov.uk econdev@testvalley.gov.uk	testvalley.gov.uk	testvalley.gov.uk
Winchester	01962 848288	businessrates@winchester.gov.uk	winchester.gov.uk	winchester.gov.uk

Hampshire Coronavirus Support and Helpline

The Hampshire Coronavirus Support and Helpline remains operational to provide support and advice to any Hampshire resident who has been impacted by Covid-19, including those who are self-isolating or shielding.

The Hampshire Coronavirus Support and Helpline can be contacted on 0333 370 4000 (calls charged at local rate). People can also request a call-back from the helpline by completing the [call-back request form](#).

The helpline is now open the extended hours of 9am - 5pm Monday to Friday and 10am - 3pm on Saturday and Sunday.

In addition, The Connect to Support Hampshire website has a [Coronavirus resource page](#) with information on a range of topics.

Hampshire Constabulary

Hampshire Constabulary's Assistant Chief Constable, Maggie Blyth, has [issued](#) a message to Hampshire residents following the re-introduction of national restrictions. The message emphasises that police officers will continue to follow the approach of engaging, explaining and encouraging people to comply with the restrictions. However, robust enforcement action will be taken as required, where blatant breaches in public places or private premises are reported. Residents are reminded to stay at home. Anyone facing abuse or harm should call 999, if they are not able to speak, press 55. The police are still there for residents and remind people to call them in an emergency.

Covid-19 vaccine

The Covid-19 vaccine programme will continue to be delivered by the NHS throughout lockdown. NHS teams are working to deliver Covid-19 vaccines in hundreds of hospital hubs, local GP-led services and care homes.

Over the coming weeks, the NHS will continue to build capacity across the system to offer more vaccinations with additional local vaccination services, hospital hubs (covering all NHS Trusts including Community, Mental Health and Ambulance Trusts) and vaccination centres coming on-line. However, the exact weekly roll-out of new sites and vaccinators will be largely shaped by the vaccine supply schedule from the two manufacturers.

Due to new advice from the UK Chief Medical Officers, second vaccination appointments are being rescheduled. The new medical advice is that the second dose of the vaccine remains effective when given up to 12 weeks after the first dose and should be given towards the end of this 12-week period. The new guidance will also help ensure that as many people as possible benefit from the first dose of the vaccine as soon as possible.

The key messages remain:

- please don't contact the NHS to seek a vaccine, they will contact you;
- when they do contact you, please attend all booked appointments;
- and please continue to follow all the guidance to control the virus and save lives.

National context

Communities

Covid-19 regulations

The Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, [delivered](#) a statement to the House of Commons on the Public Health Covid-19 Regulations. The Prime Minister outlined the action that the Government will take and their reasoning behind this. In addition, it was confirmed that the legislation runs until 31 March with the aim of allowing a “steady, controlled and evidence-led move down through the tiers on a regional basis”. It was confirmed that the restrictions will be reviewed every two weeks.

MPs will debate the new regulations which came into law at 00.01 today (6 January) and the retrospective vote is expected to take place later this evening.

Multi-purpose community facilities

The Government has [updated](#) the guidance for those managing community centres, village halls and other community facilities on safely re-opening multi-purpose buildings during the national lockdown.

Jobcentre guidance

The Department for Work and Pensions has [updated](#) the guidance on jobcentres to confirm that they will remain open to provide essential services and support.

Children and education

Education Secretary's statement

The Education Secretary today (6 January) [delivered](#) a statement to Parliament regarding schools in national lockdown. The package of measures set out by the Education Secretary includes:

- Strengthened minimum standards of remote learning: schools will be expected to offer pupils online lessons and a set number of hours of remote education for pupils – increased from the government's previous minimum expectations. Ofsted will play an important role in holding schools to account for the quality of remote education.
- Next steps on exam alternatives arrangements: students will not be asked to sit GCSE, AS and A level exams this summer. The Education Secretary expects Ofqual to consider a teacher assessed system as a replacement for GCSEs, AS and A levels. A consultation will be launched next week and conclude swiftly.
- Free school meals: extra funding will be provided to support schools to provide food parcels or meals to eligible students. The national voucher scheme will also re-open so that in the event schools cannot offer food parcels or provide an alternative local solution, every child can access free school meals while they are learning at home.

Youth Services

The National Youth Agency is [updating](#) their youth services guidance to provide greater clarity on how services can remain open throughout lockdown. It has been developed in consultation with Public Health England and the Health and Safety Executive.

Adults' social care and public health

Funding for scientists

The Government [announced](#) £213 million funding to help UK scientists respond to global challenges such as Covid-19 and climate change.

National Covid-19 data

As of 4pm on 6 January, the total number of people tested positive for Covid-19 was **2,836,801** and daily number of lab-confirmed cases was **62,322**. The total number of Covid-19 associated deaths within 28 days of a positive test was **77,346**, with **1,041** deaths reported on the day. The data is available to [view online](#).

The R number range for the UK is **1.1-1.3** and the growth rate range **+1% to +6%** per day as of 23 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: a <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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