

Local context

School attendance

In Hampshire schools on Friday 16 October, 95% of primary aged pupils and 91% of secondary aged pupils were in attendance. This is above the national average for both phases, which was 90% and 83% respectively. Of the 180,000 school age children in Hampshire, there were 4,136 children absent for a Covid-related reason (including self-isolating but with no symptoms).

Please note that these figures are taken from the Department for Education's daily return from schools and only include attendance at schools that submitted their return.

School communications and support

The County Council has directly supported over 50 schools in their Covid-19 communications and in handling media enquiries. Additional support for all Hampshire schools includes:

- New online information hub for schools - a one-stop shop hosted on an internal website – so schools can easily access both Covid-19 related information and guidance from Public Health England, Department for Education and Hampshire County Council.
- Publicly available data on positive cases in Hampshire schools on the [County Council's website](#) – the list is updated as required, and schools are removed from the list after 14 days if no further cases have been reported in that time.
- Posters and flowcharts for schools and parents/carers as part of the Authority's Keep Hampshire Safe campaign: to advise on pupil illness and when and when not to send a child to school; and to encourage continued vigilance regarding social distancing and hand hygiene. These have also been shared on the County Council's corporate social media channels.



Covid-19 Information Hub for Schools

About this Hub

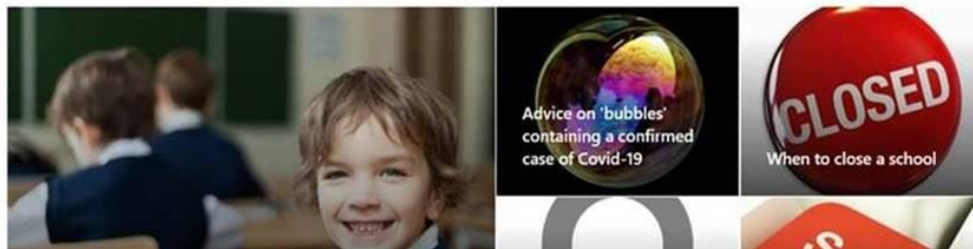
Hampshire County Council Children's Services have developed this Hub for schools to access easily, and at any time, information and guidance that they may need to refer to as the COVID-19 pandemic continues. This area aims to reduce, also, the number of COVID-19 related school communications with attachments.

The section, below, comprises links to **Public Health England guidance on the action schools need to take** if a case of Covid-19 is suspected or confirmed in either a pupil or member of staff and includes a **flowchart** and **checklist** of information schools need to have to hand when reporting cases to the Department for Education. Alongside this are further related links that schools should find helpful. This is followed by a **link to the Government guidance for schools** for full opening in September 2020.

Next are two flowcharts: one for **schools to help answer parent/carer queries about illness** and absence; and the second for **parents/carers When to send my child to school**

The section which follows is 'Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)' - providing additional guidance which is specific to schools in Hampshire. This is in line with, and complements, the Government guidance. In the final section at the end are some useful 'quick links'.

As schools are aware, the Government is regularly updating its [guidance](#). Children's Services and Public Health officers at the County Council will always review the content provided below and amend it to reflect the implications of national updates, locally, in order to keep the content as current and up-to-date as possible. However, please allow a short time for officers to take on board any national changes and the updates to be made to the local FAQs and guidance. They will be completed as quickly as possible.



Extra Care and Supported Living Centres

The HOIW LRF area has submitted details of the Extra Care and Supported Living Centres for one round of testing to the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC). The criteria for submission was:

A closed community with substantial facilities shared between multiple people, such as shared living spaces, kitchens, lounges etc. even where these have been closed during national and local lockdowns, and where most residents receive the kind of personal care that is CQC regulated (rather than help with cooking, cleaning and shopping).

It is understood that DHSC are on track to start allocating testing to priority locations. Individual locations will be able to order test kits by the end of October. DHSC will analyse results from this round of testing in November and will use the evidence to inform future policy decisions.

National context

Communities

Prime Minister's statement – 20 October

The Prime Minister [delivered](#) a statement yesterday (20 October) to provide an update on the new three-tiered system of local Covid alert levels in England. He also updated on additional

restrictions for Greater Manchester, which will enter the ‘very high’ alert level at 00:01 on Friday 23 October

Spending Review

The Chancellor has [announced](#) that he will only conduct a one-year Spending Review in order to prioritise the response to Covid-19, and the Government’s focus on supporting jobs. Multi-year NHS and schools’ resource settlements will be fully funded, as will priority infrastructure projects. The precise date for the Review in late November will be confirmed shortly.

Local Covid alert levels

The Government has [announced](#) that South Yorkshire will move from local Covid alert level high to very high from 00.01 on Saturday 24 October. The level will cover Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and the city of Sheffield.

Energy Price Cap

The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy has [announced](#) that they have extended the cap on energy bills until the end of next year.

The Energy Price Cap shields those least likely to shop around for the best deals – including the elderly and most vulnerable – from being charged excessive prices.

Nightingale Courts

The Government has [announced](#) that two new ‘Nightingale Courts’ in Bristol and Chester will begin hearing cases this week. This brings the total number of Nightingale Courts, set up nationwide to alleviate pressure on courts and tribunals resulting from the pandemic, to 14.

Children and education

Attendance returns to the Department for Education (DfE)

DfE has [updated](#) the guidance on how to complete the educational setting status [form](#). Educational settings should complete the form every day by 2pm.

Adults' social care and public health

Vaccine

The Government has [announced](#) that experts from the NHS, academia and the private sector are joining forces with the Government to explore and establish human challenge trials in the UK to speed up the development of a Covid-19 vaccine.

The £33.6 million investment will back the studies in partnership with Imperial College London, hVIVO and the Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust. A further £19.7 million will also scale up capacity to process blood samples from clinical trials.

PPE Portal

DHSC has [updated](#) the guidance for eligible health and social care providers that order PPE through the portal, updating information about order limits for gowns for dentists and orthodontists to meet the increased need.

Long term effects of Covid-19

The Health Secretary is [urging](#) the public, especially young people, to follow the rules and protect themselves and others from Covid-19, as new data and a new [film](#) released today reveal the possible long-term impacts of the virus.

Test and trace

Following reports relating to police accessing Test and Trace data, DHSC has clarified data and privacy issues regarding the NHS COVID-19 app. App users are anonymous and the app cannot force them to self-isolate or identify them if they are not self-isolating. The app cannot be used to track a person's location, for law enforcement, or to monitor self-isolation and social distancing.

Economy and business

Housing market

The Treasury has [confirmed](#) that residential property transactions rose 21.3% in September following introduction of the stamp duty holiday. This came after a 15.6% rise in August.

HM Land Registry has also [published](#) the House Price Index for August 2020. Reports were suspended from May 2020, but publications have now resumed, and the planned schedule will be followed. The August data shows that on average, house prices have risen 0.7% since July 2020 and there has been an annual price rise of 2.5%, which values the average property in the UK at £239,196

National Covid-19 data

As of 4pm on 19 October, the total number of lab-confirmed cases was **789,229**. The daily number of lab-confirmed cases was **26,688**. The total number of Covid-19 associated deaths within 28 days of a positive test was **44,158**, with **191** deaths reported on the day. The data is available to [view online](#).

The R number range for the UK is **1.3-1.5** and the growth rate range is **+4% to +7%** per day as of 16 October.

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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