

15 March 2021

Local context

Local Covid-19 data

The County Council will today (15 March) [publish](#) the latest weekly Covid-19 data summary. Hampshire is seeing a continued steady decrease in the number of positive cases but is urging residents to keep following the rules.

The total number of cases in Hampshire since March 2020 is now 61,954 and there have been 489 cases confirmed in the last seven days.

The county's current weekly case rate has decreased to 35.6 per 100,000 population and remains below the England case rate at 58.7.

There have been 2,703 Covid-19 associated deaths in Hampshire since March 2020 and 52 deaths reported in the last seven days.

The full data dashboard is available on the [Keep Hampshire Safe webpage](#).

Events guidance

Public Health Hampshire has [issued](#) updated events guidance to explain the various stages of the Government's roadmap out of lockdown and how this impacts on small and large events. Key points:

- From April, the Government will undertake research into events which will include a series of pilots using enhanced testing approaches and other measures.
- The aim of the research is for there to be a consistent approach to lifting restrictions on events.
- Depending on findings of the research, the Government has stated that it hopes to be able to lift restrictions on events no earlier than 21 June 2021.

Further Covid-19 events guidance is also available [on the County Council's website](#).

Keep 
Hampshire
SAFE

COVID-19

events guidance

**March 2021 position statement
on the Government roadmap
for easing out of lockdown**

 Hampshire
County Council

hants.gov.uk/coronavirus

May 2021 elections

The County Council is reminding residents who may wish to vote by post or by proxy to ensure that they apply to their local district or borough council ahead of the deadlines (5pm on 20 April for a postal vote, and 5pm on 27 April for a proxy vote). Detailed information and guidance about the 2021 elections, including links to register to vote and forms for applying to vote by post or proxy, as well as information on voting safely in person, is available on [the County Council's elections webpage](#).



National context

National Covid-19 cases, deaths and vaccines data

The Covid-19 vaccination daily data shows that up to 13 March, a total of **24,196,211** people have received the 1st dose and a total of **1,584,909** people have received the 2nd dose.

As of 4pm on 14 March, the total number of people tested positive for Covid-19 was **4,258,438** and daily number of lab-confirmed cases was **4,618**. The total number of Covid-19 associated deaths within 28 days of a positive test was **125,516** with **52** deaths reported on the day. The data is available to [view online](#).

The R number range for the UK is **0.6 – 0.8** and the growth rate range **-7% to -4%** per day as of 12 March.

Communities

Covid Winter Grant Scheme extension

The Government has [announced](#) an extra £59 million will be allocated to the Covid Winter Grant Scheme, which will cover the two-week Easter period. This extra funding aims to enable councils to continue to provide support to low-income households at risk of poverty and financial hardship. (Hampshire County Council has been allocated £1,007,725).

Community Ownership Fund

The Government has [launched](#) the new £150 million UK Community Ownership Fund which aims to help ensure that communities can continue to benefit from local facilities and amenities, such as pubs, sports clubs, theatres and post office buildings among others.

Children and education

Transport to school

The Department for Education has [updated](#) the guidance on transport to school and other places of education, to include information on identifying close contacts if someone who travelled on a dedicated school transport service has tested positive for Covid-19.

Adults' social care and public health

Vaccination – cohort 6

A partnership of UK charities has [written](#) an open letter encouraging people living with an underlying health condition who are in cohort 6 to take up their Covid-19 vaccine.

Economy, business and finance

Levelling Up Fund and Community Renewal Fund

The Government has [published](#) a *Levelling Up Fund: Prioritisation of places* methodology note. This provides detail on the index used to prioritise places for investment and future capacity support, and identifies three composite measurements: need for economic recovery and growth, need for improved transport connectivity, and need for regeneration.

Environment, transport and travel

National bus strategy

The Department for Transport has [published](#) *Bus Back Better: a national bus strategy for England*, which outlines reform of how bus services are planned and delivered.

Beach Check app launch

The National Coastal Tourism Academy is supporting the expansion of a [Beach Check app](#), developed by Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Tourism, so it can cover any beach or stretch of coastline in the UK. The app has a traffic light system which can help visitors and residents avoid busy hotspots. It will launch nationwide by the end of May, but will only show live capacity for beaches that are signed up to the app.

Additional links

- NHS information on the Covid-19 vaccination programme: www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccination
- 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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