

Local context

Tier 4 (Stay at Home) restrictions for the whole of Hampshire

The Government announced the [new Tier restrictions today](#) (30 December). It has been confirmed that from 00.01 on 31 December, the New Forest will join the rest of the Hampshire County Council local authority area in Tier 4 (Stay at Home).

The Government confirmed that the spread of the new strain of Covid-19, which is thought to have started in the South East is increasing in the South West, the Midlands and parts of the North West. Most of the cases now identified in London, the South East and the East of England are of the new variant.

The key restrictions for Tier 4 (Stay at Home) require:

- Residents to stay at home, apart from limited exemptions set out in law
- Non-essential retail, indoor gyms and leisure facilities, and personal care services to close
- People to work from home if they can but they may travel to work if this is not possible, for example in the construction and manufacturing sectors
- People not to enter or leave Tier 4 areas, and Tier 4 residents must not stay overnight away from home. Individuals can only meet one person from another household in an outdoor public space.

Full details of the [Tier 4 restrictions](#) are available on the Government's website. The [full list of local restriction tiers by area](#) is also available online.

Local Covid-19 data

The County Council has published [the latest weekly Covid-19 data summary](#). This week's data shows the number of cases has risen substantially in the last seven days. The County Council is urging everyone to keep following the rules to help slow the spread.

The total number of cases in Hampshire since March 2020 is now 26,860 and there have been 4,876 cases confirmed in the last seven days.

The county's current weekly case rate stands at 286.4 per 100,000 population, which is below the England case rate at 401.9.

There have been 1,272 Covid-19 associated deaths in Hampshire since March, and 36 deaths in the last seven days.

In addition, the summary now contains data relating to local NHS Trusts as it has been made publicly available by them.

The full data dashboard is available on the [Keep Hampshire Safe webpage](#). [Data on Hampshire districts](#) and [data on positive cases in Hampshire schools](#).

Cold weather alert

Hampshire County Council's highways teams continue to respond to the cold weather conditions. Salting lorries treat the highest priority roads first, including main roads and routes to hospitals and Covid-19 testing and vaccination centres. During periods of prolonged severe weather, 'Priority two' routes, which include remaining B roads and single access roads to villages, may also be treated. Thousands of blue salt bins across the county have been filled for community use and these have also been located at Covid-19 test sites.

In a [press release](#), Councillor Judith Grajewski, Hampshire County Council's Executive Member for Public Health, reminds residents who may be particularly at risk of suffering from the ill effects of cold weather to ensure they are aware of the steps they can take to look after themselves. Residents are also asked to look after – in a Covid safe way - neighbours who may be shielding or unable to get out due to the cold weather.

Vaccination programme

The Covid-19 vaccination programme will continue despite Tier escalation across much of the county. Individuals who have been offered and have booked an appointment are asked by the NHS to still attend it and the vaccination clinic they visit will ensure they stay safe through a range of measures including cleaning and disinfecting and social distancing in waiting areas.

The NHS will be working hard to ensure the vaccine gets to those who need it over the festive season, including on weekends and bank holidays – just as other vital services run every day.

Schools

The Secretary of State for Education today (30 December) delivered a statement on [arrangements for the beginning of the spring term](#) (4 January 2021).

It was confirmed that due to rising infection rates, adjustments will be made, these include:

From 4 January 2021

- The majority of early years, infant, junior and primary phases will return to school as normal. A small number of schools in Tier 4 areas will not reopen on that date, with a list to be published on Gov.uk later
- With the exception of vulnerable children, or the children of key workers, all secondary school and sixth form college age children will remain at home and access remote learning from their school or college

From 11 January 2021

- Years 11 and 13 return to face-to-face education
- Other year groups, except for those who are vulnerable or the children of key workers, will remain at home and access remote learning from their school or college

From 18 January 2021

- All pupils in all other year groups return to face-to-face education
- Unless unwell, every child should be back in education in all key stages

The County Council continues to update its [education and learning](#) webpages as new information is received. The Government updates can be found on their website - [Gov.uk](#)

National Covid-19 data

As of 4pm on 30 December, the total number of people tested positive for Covid-19 was 2,432,888 and daily number of lab-confirmed cases was 50,023. The total number of Covid-19 associated deaths within 28 days of a positive test was 72,548, with 981 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.

Where to find the latest information and guidance

- 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