

Hampshire County Council Divisional Report for:

Hambledon Parish Council

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

We are now in day 6 of Hampshire's Tier 2 regime. The excitement of effective vaccines continues as preparations are being made for vaccination centres being set-up across the county. To see the up-to-date data for the pandemic in Hampshire please visit www.hants.gov.uk/coronavirus where you will also see the array of links as shown below:

Advice and support for Hampshire residents and businesses during the coronavirus

Current tier in Hampshire: Tier 2 (High)

Hampshire County Council continues to work closely with partners in Public Health England, local government, the NHS and others to ensure we are well prepared to respond to further outbreaks of coronavirus to protect the public's health.



Advice for residents

General advice for Hampshire residents including tier guidance from 2 December
Test and Trace guidance
Understanding support bubbles
Staying well at home – advice for older people
Welfare support

Hampshire's response to the coronavirus

Hampshire COVID-19 data
Planning for a local outbreak
Directions issued by Hampshire County Council under Health Protection Regulations
Message from the Leader of Hampshire County Council

Advice for businesses and other settings

Care homes and other care settings
Keep Hampshire Safe - information for businesses
Schools and early years settings

Additionally you may like to go to: <https://documents.hants.gov.uk/public-health/jsna-covid19/Winchester-C19-District-Report.pdf> which documents the situation in the Winchester District.

There is a special helpline for Hampshire's most vulnerable residents, set up as part of a collaboration between local councils across the county and the voluntary and community sector. Anyone in need of help can call 0333 370 4000 seven days a week, from 9am-5pm.

Getting home safely for the holidays - travel guidance as students return home from university

Hampshire County Council has issued advice for students, parents and commuters as the student travel window opens from **3rd to 9th December**

As students journey home over the coming week, residents are being encouraged to limit travel on public transport at busy times – particularly on the main transport routes - and continue following the current Tier 2 guidelines for Hampshire, to make sure everyone gets home safely for the holidays.

Councillor Keith Mans, Leader of Hampshire County Council and Chair of the Local Outbreak Engagement Board said: “Throughout early December, thousands of young people will be making their way back for the holidays. Trains and buses will be much busier during this time which increases the risk of spreading coronavirus. Therefore, I urge all passengers to follow the rules carefully, as doing so will help us control the spread of the virus and keep each other safe.”

If students are travelling home, they should follow the safer travel guidance for passengers.

Students - and all public transport users - must not travel if:

- They have symptoms
- They have tested positive
- They have been told to self-isolate.

Students are also being advised to book ahead wherever possible.

As well as following specific advice from universities and transport companies, travellers should also remember to:

- wash or sanitise hands frequently
- wear a face covering unless exempt
- make space by keeping a two metre distance from other passengers where feasible
- wherever possible, avoid busiest routes as well as busy times like rush hour
- download the [NHS COVID-19 app](#) before you travel, if possible, and check in where you see the official NHS COVID-19 QR code posters

Councillor Mans added: “It has been a challenging time for university students, so an eagerness to reunite with families is quite understandable. But before they head off, students and their parents should make themselves aware of the safety guidance if they’re planning to use public transport. By being extra safe and working together, we can help protect our loved ones this winter.”

Parents are encouraged to read the guidance on **Student movement and plans for the end of term**, which is available by searching for ‘[Higher education](#)’ on [the gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus) webpages.

Hampshire’s helping hand for vulnerable children and young people this Christmas

Hampshire County Council will implement a food voucher scheme to support vulnerable children, young people and their families during the school Christmas holiday and February 2021 half term week.

The initiative, which will be delivered in partnership with the county's education providers, aims to help those facing hardship because of the COVID-19 pandemic and is being funded from the £2.89 million Winter Grant Scheme, awarded to the Authority by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), as part of a planned programme of supportive measures over winter.

Councillor Patricia Stallard, the County Council's Executive Lead Member for Children's Services and Young People said: "By introducing a food voucher scheme, we aim to ensure that no Hampshire child goes hungry over the Christmas and New Year holidays. The vouchers will be available to:

- * All families whose children are eligible for free school meals
- * Children being supported by a social worker
- * Children receiving early help services from the County Council's Family Support Service
- * 2-4 year olds accessing childcare and eligible for Early Years Pupil Premium, or
- * 16-18 year olds who were previously eligible for free school meals.

"I am also pleased that we have sufficient funding to provide vouchers to our care leavers and young carers."

Nurseries, pre-schools, childminders, schools and colleges will be the distributors of the vouchers. Each household will receive a voucher per child worth £15 per week which can be used at a range of supermarkets. The scheme will help feed over 34,000 children in Hampshire. Additionally, the County Council is providing schools and colleges with a discretionary grant fund. These grants will help support families who may not be immediately eligible for the voucher scheme but find themselves struggling financially; for example, where a parent has lost their job due to COVID-19. Schools can use these grants to help families with food and other essential

items, such as energy cards/tokens to pay fuel bills.

Councillor Patricia Stallard added: “I would like to thank all our education providers for helping us to reach those in need of this support. They know their children, young people and families best so are far better placed to distribute the vouchers. With their assistance, we can help to ensure that vulnerable children don’t go without necessities like food and heating over the winter.”

Families who may be facing financial difficulties this Christmas are encouraged to speak to their early years or childcare provider, school or college in the strictest of confidence.

Cllr Roger Huxstep
Member for Meon Valley Division
Hampshire County Council

7th December 2020