

28 May 2020

## Government press conference - 27 May

The [press conference](#) was chaired by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Matt Hancock.

The Government confirmed that the [NHS Test and Trace service](#) has been officially launched. The service will allow the Government to begin to replace the national lockdown with individual isolation for those who have been in contact with the virus, and local action where it is necessary to respond to a flare up. Eligibility for testing is to be expanded to include the under-5s, so every person who has symptoms will now receive a test. The public are instructed to isolate immediately if they develop symptoms and to request a test, and to isolate if contacted by NHS Test and Trace. Isolation will be voluntary at first but will be made mandatory if required. The Government confirmed that the next step is to roll out the NHS Contact Tracing App that is being piloted in the Isle of Wight.

The press conference slides and datasets are available to [view online](#).

As of 4pm on 27 May, the total number of lab-confirmed cases was **267,240**. The daily number of lab-confirmed cases was **2,013**. The total number of Covid-19 associated deaths was **37,460**, with **412** new deaths reported on the day. The data is available to [view online](#).

## National context

### Test and trace

The Department of Health and Social Care has [published](#) guidance on the NHS test and trace service, outlining how it works and what happens when an individual tests positive or has had close contact with someone else who has tested positive.

[Updated](#) guidance on testing has also been published.

Public Health England has [issued](#) guidance for people who have been notified by NHS Test and Trace that they have been in contact with a person who has had a positive test result for Covid-19.

The Department of Health and Social Care has [issued](#) guidance on the NHS test and trace service for employers, businesses and workers.

Public Health England has [updated](#) the guidance for households with possible or confirmed Covid-19.

### Isolation in residential settings

The Government has [updated](#) the guidance with new information on supporting the management of children and young people in residential educational settings, including boarding schools, residential special schools and children's social care.

## Exporting Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

HMRC has [updated](#) the guidance on exporting PPE, as goods exported from the European Union after midnight on Monday 25 May will no longer require export authorisation.

## Statutory sick pay

HMRC has [updated](#) the guidance on claiming back Statutory Sick Pay that has been paid to employees due to Covid-19. Employers are now able to claim for employees who are self-isolating because they have been notified by the NHS or public health bodies that they have come into contact with someone with Covid-19.

## Business

HMRC has added a [YouTube](#) video about how to make a claim through the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme to the [help and support](#) guidance for business.

## Compulsory purchases

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government has [updated](#) the guidance for acquiring authorities on compulsory purchase matters to include a section on 'Making documents available for inspection'.

## French border restrictions

The Government has [published](#) a summary of the border restrictions in place for travelling between the UK and France. Additionally, a translation of the French government's press release on border restrictions has been [released](#).

## Recreational boating

The Maritime and Coastguard Agency has [updated](#) the information page for commercial seafarers to also include new links about recreational boat use guidance and use of outdoor spaces.

## Epidemiology surveillance summary

Public Health England has [published](#) the weekly Covid-19 epidemiology surveillance summary. The report includes data from a variety of different sources: community, primary care, secondary care, virology and mortality surveillance data. Combined, these sources show a wider community picture including a breakdown by age, gender, and geography which will help plan the national response to the pandemic and assist regional stakeholders in local planning.

## NHS volunteer responders

The NHS Volunteer Responders scheme has recently completed 210,000 tasks. NHS, social care, and council professionals in England can continue to refer vulnerable people who are self-isolating for help with tasks such as collecting shopping and prescribed medicines or driving people to medical appointments or for a friendly 'check-in and chat' call. Referrals can be made through the [NHS Volunteer Responders referrers' portal](#) or by calling 0808 196 3382.

A [factsheet](#) has been published for volunteers who are helping homeless people and NHS England and NHS Improvement is currently exploring how volunteers could help with this over the longer term, for example by signposting NHS Volunteer Responders to more specific homelessness volunteering opportunities.

## Outbreaks in care homes

Public Health England (PHE) has [published](#) the latest weekly number and percentage of care homes reporting a suspected or confirmed outbreak of Covid-19 to PHE by local authorities, regions and PHE centres.

## Immigration

The Home Office has [published](#) a statistical report showing the impact of Covid-19 on the immigration system, up to April 2020.

## Schools

The Minister of State for School Standards, Nick Gibb, gave evidence to the Education Committee yesterday (27 May), as part of the current [inquiry](#) on the impact of Covid-19 on education and children's services.

## National survey of care homes

Public Health England has commissioned Ipsos Mori to undertake a national survey of care homes for residents aged 65 and over to understand the overall impact of the pandemic on care homes and to in turn, inform the public health response. Ipsos Mori may contact some care homes directly to request an interview.

## Local context

### Annual General Meeting

Hampshire County Council will hold its Annual General Meeting virtually tomorrow (Friday 29 May) at 2pm. The [agenda reports pack](#) can be viewed online and is accessed through the [calendar of meetings](#). This will be the second County Council meeting held virtually since the outbreak of Covid-19, as Cabinet was live-streamed on 15 May and remains available to view on [YouTube](#). A link to watch the meeting live tomorrow will be available [here](#).

### School attendance

Figures for children attending schools continued to rise in the week before half term, with a peak of over 4% of the child age population being in attendance. That equated to almost 7,500 children attending Hampshire schools. Headteachers, social workers and members of the School Improvement Team have continued to work collaboratively to increase the proportion of pupils in schools where they have a social worker - about a third of that cohort attended school in the week before half term. The attendance of students in Hampshire schools has been considerably higher than the national average. During half term, numbers attending school dropped significantly and there are around 1,750 students attending this week.

### Supporting vulnerable residents

The *HantsHelp4Vulnerable* helpline has, as of today (28 May), received a total of 13,905 calls and has made a total of 5,541 Local Response Centre referrals. The districts with the highest number of referrals from the contact centre were: New Forest (893), Basingstoke (859) and Havant (842). The district with the lowest number of referrals is Test Valley (256). 749 vulnerable people were already receiving support through Adults' Health and Care and 66 individuals were referred to the Adults' Health and Care brokerage team, which sources care (domiciliary, residential and nursing) for eligible clients. Help with food shopping, and prescriptions consistently remain the top two reasons for residents seeking support.

Letters of thanks have been received from residents receiving support, the below was sent to the Leader of Hampshire County Council, Cllr Keith Mans, recently:

*As a person who is extremely clinically vulnerable, I wish to thank you and all your staff at the Hampshire County Council for the excellent work you are all doing to help people like me!*

## Clap for key workers

The nation will come together for the last time at 8pm this evening as the *Clap for Our Carers* campaign ends after ten weeks. The campaign was started to recognise the efforts of frontline workers fighting the coronavirus pandemic. After ten weeks of clapping, it has been suggested that it could become an annual event. This evening, the County Council will share a [video](#) featuring some of our own key workers receiving thank you posters from local children.

## Family Information and Services Hub

Hampshire County Council continues to update the [Family Information Services Hub](#) throughout the pandemic. The Hub allows parents and carers of vulnerable or key worker children to search for Ofsted or Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) registered or approved childcare and early years education services for children and young people aged 0 – 16 years, including those who have additional needs. Parents or carers who are having difficulties in finding appropriate care can complete this [online form](#) to request help.

## 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/>
- 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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