

## Local context

### Older Persons Concessionary Bus Passes

Hampshire County Council has [confirmed](#) that the concessionary travel times for older people to travel free on Hampshire's buses will revert to the normal 9:30am start from Monday 8 March, as bus services prepare for young people to return to school and college.

The 9:30am start time for older people's bus passes was temporarily removed in January this year to help older people travel to early morning Covid-19 vaccination appointments and travel at quieter times for essential journeys such as those for food shopping. Further information is available on the [County Council's website](#).

### Vaccination programme

NHS partners have confirmed that over 547,000 Covid-19 vaccines have been delivered as the successful roll-out of the vaccination programme continues across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

The latest NHS England and Improvement figures (24 February) show that 96% of people aged 80 years and over across the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Integrated Care System (ICS) and Frimley Health and Care ICS have received their first dose. Last week, people aged 64 years started to receive invitations to have the vaccine, and people aged between 60 and 63 years are now being invited to book their vaccination.

The NHS is working with partners to ensure that everyone on the Learning Disabilities Register receives an invitation to be vaccinated as soon as possible. Health and social care learning disability staff are on-site at the four vaccination centres across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight during clinics for people with learning disabilities to support service users to understand consent, communication and any other support that might be required. Longer appointment slots are being provided for people with learning disabilities, along with opportunities for carers to be vaccinated at the same time.

Video tours of the four large-scale vaccination centres across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight have been created to support people with learning disabilities or anxiety. The tours are a series of snap shots that show the main points through a patient's journey through the vaccination hub. The tour of Oakley Road vaccination centre in Millbrook, Southampton, is available [online here](#), and tours of the other sites will be available soon.

## National context

### National Covid-19 cases, deaths and vaccines data

The Covid-19 vaccination daily data shows that up to 1 March, a total of **20,478,619** people have received the 1<sup>st</sup> dose and a total of **844,098** people have received the 2<sup>nd</sup> dose.

As of 4pm on 2 March, the total number of people tested positive for Covid-19 was **4,188,400** and daily number of lab-confirmed cases was **6,391**. The total number of Covid-19 associated deaths within 28 days of a positive test was **123,296** with **343** deaths reported on the day. The data is available to [view online](#).

The R number range for the UK is **0.6 – 0.9** and the growth rate range **-6% to -2%** per day as of 26 February.

# Children and education

## **#BacktoSchool campaign**

The Government has [launched](#) its #BacktoSchool campaign to highlight the benefits of children returning to face-to-face lessons when schools open to all pupils from 8 March. Radio and social media adverts will run until 14 March highlighting extra protective measures in place.

## **Webinar for schools and colleges**

The Department of Education (DfE) is [hosting a webinar](#) on 5 March to update secondary schools and colleges on the rapid testing programme and the move to testing at home. Students and pupils will still need to do three tests on-site, with each test three to five days apart, before moving to home-testing.

## **Remote and blended learning**

DfE has [published](#) examples of good practice of where further education providers have delivered remote and blended learning during the Covid-19 outbreak.

# Adults' social care and public health

## **Restricting workforce movement**

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has [published](#) guidance for care home providers on limiting staff movement between settings in all but exceptional circumstances to help reduce the spread of infection.

## **Surge testing**

DHSC has [announced](#) that, working in partnership with councils, additional surge testing and genomic sequencing is being deployed to targeted areas within Merton (Wimbledon Park) and Barnet (East Finchley).

## **Living with Covid-19**

The Association of Directors of Public Health has [published](#) guidance on how to live safely with Covid-19. The paper also explores early thinking on recovery and how this might be maximised to address the wider health and economic impacts of Covid-19.

## **Workplace testing**

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, George Eustice, has [written](#) to the food, drink and environmental services industries to encourage them to test their staff for Covid-19 by registering for free testing kits.

# Economy, business and finance

## **Budget 2021**

Today (3 March), the Chancellor, Rishi Sunak, delivered the Budget, and outlined a £65 billion three-point plan which aims to provide support for jobs and businesses as the country emerges from the pandemic.

Key announcements include:

£1.65 billion to support Covid-19 vaccination programme roll-out

- Extending £500 Test and Trace support payments in England until the summer
- Extending the Coronavirus Job Support Scheme to September
- Extending the Self Employment Income Support scheme to September
  
- £20 uplift in Universal Credit extended and Working Tax Credit claimants will get £500 one-off payment
  
- The National Living Wage will be increased to £8.91 from April

- Eight new Freeports will be based in East Midlands Airport, Felixstowe & Harwich, Humber, Liverpool City Region, Plymouth, **Solent**, Thames and Teesside
- Over £1 billion funding for a further 45 towns through the Towns Fund
- Publication of the prospectus for the £4.8 billion Levelling Up Fund
- £150 million Community Ownership Fund which will aim to allow communities to invest and protect the assets that matter most
- £5 billion for new Restart Grants
- New UK-wide Recovery Loan Scheme to make available loans between £25,001 and £10 million
- Extension to the VAT cut to 5% for hospitality, accommodation and attractions across the UK until the end of September, followed by a 12.5% rate for a further six months until 31 March 2022
- Maintaining the income tax Personal Allowance and higher rate threshold from April 2022 until April 2026
- Fuel and alcohol duties frozen

Budget 2021: documents - [online here](#)

Budget speech - [online here](#)

### Coronavirus financial management data

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government has [published](#) a summary of data (round nine) collected from councils on the financial impact of the Covid-19 outbreak.

## Additional links

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