

Local context

Solent LEP event

The Solent Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), in partnership with Federation of Small Business, is working to deliver an event for business to navigate the way ahead in a post-Covid era. On Friday 26 March they are hosting a free webinar on 'how reopening may impact on you and your people'. The virtual business support session will aim to help business owners to take stock of the last year and look ahead as the economy starts to open again. More information is available [online](#).

Notices of election

On Monday (22 March), the statutory Notices of Election were published, ahead of the Hampshire County Council elections on Thursday 6 May. The published Notices of Election can be viewed on the County Council's [public notices webpage](#).

The County Council is [reminding](#) residents who plan to vote in person on 6 May, that polling stations will be Covid-safe places. The Authority has been working closely with government, members of the electoral community and Public Health Hampshire to ensure the most up to date public health guidance is in place. Covid-safe measures at polling stations will include hand sanitiser at the entrances and floor markings to remind people of the importance of keeping a safe distance. Voters will be asked to wear a face covering and bring their own pen or pencil, and should not attend the polling station if they have symptoms of Covid-19, or have been asked to self-isolate. Those that would rather not attend a polling station on 6 May, are reminded that they can vote by post or proxy.

National context

National Covid-19 cases, deaths and vaccines data

The Covid-19 vaccination daily data shows that up to 22 March, a total of **28,327,873** people have received the 1st dose and a total of **2,363,684** people have received the 2nd dose.

As of 4pm on 23 March, the total number of people tested positive for Covid-19 was **4,307,304** and daily number of lab-confirmed cases was **5,379**. The total number of Covid-19 associated deaths within 28 days of a positive test was **126,284** with **112** 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 -3%** per day as of 19 March.

Communities

New ‘roadmap regulations’

The new Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (Steps) (England) Regulations 2021 has [published](#). The regulations, which effectively put the Government’s roadmap into law, will be voted on by MPs on Thursday and will come into law from Monday 29 March.

Coronavirus Act one-year report: March 2021

The Department of Health and Social Care has [published](#) the statutory one-year report on the Coronavirus Act.

Marriages and civil partnerships

The guidance for people planning to get married or form a civil partnership in England has been [updated](#) to reflect the roadmap out of the current lockdown.

Stay at home guidance

The guidance on what you can and cannot do has been [updated](#) to include a summary of changes to the rules from 29 March and new translations.

Children and education

Testing for foster carers

The Department for Education has [updated](#) the guidance for children’s social care services to reflect the extension of the asymptomatic testing programme to foster carers and staff of open residential children’s homes.

Children’s Commissioner survey

The Children’s Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel de Souza, has started a major review of the future of childhood. The review begins with ‘The Big Ask’: a [survey](#) of children, to gather children’s views on what the Government should prioritise in planning the recovery from the Covid-19 outbreak.

Adults’ social care and public health

Test and Trace support payment

The guidance on claiming financial support via the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme has been [updated](#) to reflect that claims can be made up to 42 days after the first day of the self-isolation period, and that the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme has been extended to parents and guardians who need to take time off work to care for a child who is self-isolating.

Environment, transport and travel

Travel exemptions

Guidance outlining which jobs qualify for exemptions from quarantine, the passenger locator form, or Covid-19 testing requirements has been [updated](#) with new details about exemptions for essential and emergency work.

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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