

National context

Government's daily press conference

The press conference was chaired by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Matt Hancock.

The Government reported the latest coronavirus figures – 313,769 people have been tested, 98,476 of whom have tested positive. 19,529 people in the UK have been admitted to hospital with the virus, and there have been 12,868 deaths.

Details of the new adult social care action plan were outlined. It was confirmed that the Government will continue priority drops of personal protective equipment (PPE) to Local Resilience Forums while the new online system for PPE is developed and rolled out.

A single brand for social care is to be introduced to symbolise the entire care profession – the symbol will be a badge of honour to identify social care staff. It is anticipated that businesses will start to offer the same benefits to social care staff as they already do to NHS staff.

The Government are strengthening the national recruitment campaign for social care, aiming to recruit tens of thousands of new care staff.

It was announced that the Government want to give people the right to say goodbye. The Government has worked with PHE, the care sector and others to develop new procedures which will give dying people's relatives the opportunity to say goodbye. So-called "do not resuscitate" orders are to be prevented from being applied in a "blanket fashion".

The Government thanked care staff for their courage and commitment and for providing dignity and comfort to people in need. People were reminded to: Stay at the home to protect the NHS, and social care, and save lives.

The slides and datasets to accompany today's coronavirus press conference will be available to [view online](#).

Adult social care action plan

The Government has [published](#) its adult social care action plan which sets out its plan for: controlling the spread of infection in care settings; supporting the workforce; supporting independence, supporting people at the end of their lives, and responding to individual needs; and supporting local authorities and the providers of care.

Testing

The Department of Health and Social Care has [announced](#) that testing is to be expanded to care home residents and social care staff with coronavirus symptoms. All symptomatic care home residents will be tested for coronavirus as testing capacity continues to increase. Additionally, all patients discharged from hospital will be tested before going into care homes as a matter of course. All social care staff who need a test will now have access to one with the Care Quality Commission to contact all 30,000 care providers in the coming days to offer tests.

Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme

The Government has [published](#) new guidance confirming that the eligibility date for the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme has been extended to 19 March 2020 – the day before the scheme was announced. The scheme is expected to be fully operational next week.

The Chancellor has made a [Treasury Direction](#) under Sections 71 and 76 of the Coronavirus Act 2020. It sets out that HMRC are responsible for the payment and management of amounts to be paid under the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, as set out in the Schedule to the Direction.

Assisting people who are dependent on drugs or alcohol

The Government has [published](#) new guidance for commissioners and service providers involved in assisting people who are dependent on drugs or alcohol or both.

Visa applications

The advice for UK visa applicants and temporary UK residents has been [updated](#) - it now includes information for those who have applied for tier 2, 3 or 5 visas and are waiting for a decision on their application.

Keeping children safe online

The Home Office has [published](#) advice and guidance to help parents and carers to keep children safe online during the coronavirus outbreak.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) hub

A [new hub](#) containing guidance on personal protective equipment (PPE), and infection prevention and control (IPC) is now available, containing information for both health and social care settings and other workers and sectors.

The hub also links to the Cross-government UK-wide PPE plan to ensure that critical PPE is delivered to those on the frontline. This includes a new 'Make' strategy of encouraging UK manufacturers to produce PPE.

Waste sector

The Environment Minister, Rebecca Pow, has [written](#) to the waste sector to thank them for their efforts during the coronavirus pandemic.

Local context

Supporting vulnerable residents

The HantsHelp4Vulnerable helpline has as of yesterday (14 April) received a total of 3,675 calls and has made a total of 2,216 Local Response Centre referrals. 176 vulnerable people are already receiving support through Adults' Health and Care and 27 individuals across the county have been referred to the Adults' Health and Care brokerage team, which sources care (domiciliary, residential and nursing) for eligible clients. There are currently 578 people who require ongoing support.

Grayson site

The County Council has [issued a statement](#) on behalf of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Local Resilience Forum about the plans in place for the operation of a temporary mortuary at Southampton Airport to serve Hampshire, Portsmouth and Southampton.

Schools

Schools, early years educators and nurseries in Hampshire remain open over the Easter holidays to look after children of key workers and vulnerable children. The number of children in education settings fluctuates daily, however around 2% of all school aged children attended schools in the week prior to the Easter holiday. This reduced to 1.2% during the first week of the Easter holidays, as more parents made the choice to keep their children at home. The County Council anticipates that the figure will rise again next week when the summer term commences. In Hampshire, even if

there has only been one critical worker wanting a place for their child, schools have played their part in making sure a place is available.

'We're All Together' Fund

Hampshire County Council has donated £250,000 towards the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Community Foundation's new 'We're All Together' Fund. The fund aims to help charities respond to and in time recover from the impact of coronavirus. Grants are available online at www.hiwcf.com/grants. Those wishing to also donate to the fund can do so via [the Virgin Money Giving page](#).

Sky lanterns

The County Council is reminding residents that it is [not permitted](#) to fly sky lanterns (also known as Chinese lanterns) on County Council owned land. The County Council asks any resident who is planning on taking part in the [Night Sky Lantern launch](#) on Sunday night to consider an alternative and safer way to show their support for the NHS, such as displaying a rainbow in their window. Sky lanterns are not safe for animals or the environment and pose a serious fire threat which would put additional pressure on the emergency services.

Executive Member communication

A [series of cards on Twitter from the Executive Members](#) will promote the breadth of work that is being undertaken across the County Council. The first card, which includes a quote from the Leader of the County Council, Councillor Keith Mans, has been posted today and highlights Members' devolved grants which are now open to local organisations.

Campaigns

The County Council's coronavirus related campaigns are reaching a wide audience across Hampshire and are successfully spreading key safety messages.

Current campaigns include:

- **Waste**; aims to encourage residents to reduce, reuse, or store waste for disposal or recycling while the HWRCs are closed. The Facebook campaign has reached 207,955 people, with 422 clicks.
- **Teenage social distancing**; aims to reduce the number of Hampshire teenagers going out during the lockdown. The campaign has been promoted through Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat and has reached over 61,000 people.
- **Hampshire Helpline**; aims to promote the helpline. The campaign has been promoted through Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn and has had 108,000 views.
- **Stay at Home Hero**; to encourage residents to stay at home over the Easter weekend. The animation was promoted through Facebook, Twitter and Instagram and had 16,196 impressions.
- **Statutory communication to residents**; the Leader's email to Hampshire residents aimed to raise awareness about actions taken by the County Council and changes to services. The email was delivered to 515,286 people with an estimated 365,000 opens.
- **Request for PPE donations**; to aid Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service partners an email was circulated to county suppliers requesting donations of PPE. 16,733 suppliers were emailed with an estimated 4,800 opens.

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/>

- Q&A from Public Health England on coronavirus: <https://publichealthmatters.blog.gov.uk/2020/01/23/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-what-you-need-to-know/>
- 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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