

Local context

Local Covid-19 data

Yesterday (4 May) the County Council [published](#) the latest weekly Covid-19 data summary.

The total number of cases in Hampshire since March 2020 is now 63,799 and there have been 216 cases confirmed in the last 7 days.

The county's case rate in the last 7 days remains stable at 15.8 per 100,000 population which is below the England case rate at 23.2.

There have been 2,821 Covid-19 associated deaths in Hampshire since March 2020 and 1 death reported in the last 7 days.

A total of 780,958 people are vaccinated with at least one dose in Hampshire, and 17,216 people have been vaccinated with at least one dose in the last 7 days.

The full data dashboard is available on the [Keep Hampshire Safe webpage](#).

6 May elections

The County Council continues to remind residents how to safely cast their vote tomorrow (6 May) ahead of the combined poll for Hampshire County Councillors, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire, district and borough councillors in some areas, and some parish/town councillors. Residents are urged to check their polling card for where to vote, as there have been some changes due to Covid-19 reasons. It is also possible to check where a local polling station is by using a postcode checking tool on the [Electoral Commission website](#). Residents voting in person are reminded to bring their face covering and their own pen or pencil.

Water supply issues

Residents in properties across some of the Hampshire and Southampton area have been affected by Southern Water's supply issue which began yesterday (4 May). The issue was caused by adverse weather affecting electrics at several sites in the area. Southern Water have largely resolved the issue however, are reminding people that if they are still experiencing low pressure the water is safe to use. Southern Water have delivered bottled water to people on their Priority Services Register who lost supply and ask that vulnerable residents who might need support due to Covid related reasons including self-isolating to call them on 0330 303 0368. Bottled water stations remain open at South Winchester park and ride and Places Leisure Eastleigh, while the station at Costco Overflow car park, Southampton is shortly closing. More information and live updates are available on [Southern Water's website](#).

National context

National Covid-19 cases, deaths and vaccines data

The Covid-19 vaccination daily data shows that up to 4 May, a total of **34,795,074** people have received a 1st dose and a total of **15,887,493** people have received a 2nd dose.

As of 4pm on 5 May, the total number of people tested positive for Covid-19 was **4,425,940** and daily number of lab-confirmed cases was **2,144**. The total number of Covid-19 associated deaths

within 28 days of a positive test was **127,570** with **27** deaths reported on the day. The data is available to [view online](#).

The R number range for the UK is **0.8 to 1.1** and the growth rate range is **-4% to -1%** per day as of 30 April.

Communities

Levelling Up White Paper

The Government has [announced](#) they will publish a Levelling Up White Paper later this year which will aim to focus on challenges including improving living standards, growing the private sector and increasing and spreading opportunity. It accompanies Covid-19 recovery work within public services.

Funerals

On Monday (3 May), it was [announced](#) that the current legal limit of 30 mourners at funerals would be removed at step three of the roadmap, to take place from 17 May at the earliest. Instead, the number of people who can attend a funeral will be determined by how many people the venue can safely accommodate with social distancing, at both indoor and outdoor venues.

Breathing Space debt scheme

Yesterday (4 May), the launch of Breathing Space was [announced](#), a new debt respite scheme which will give those facing financial difficulties 60 days to receive debt advice, or mental health crisis treatment, without pressure from creditors or mounting debts.

Depression

The Office for National Statistics has [published](#) a release which uses the Opinions and Lifestyle survey to explore the proportion of the adult population with depressive symptoms between 27 January to 7 March 2021, including comparisons to 2020 and pre-pandemic estimates. It also explores the characteristics associated with some form of depression in adults.

Children and education

Ofqual confirms autumn assessment arrangements

The Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual) has [confirmed](#) that students who receive a teacher assessed grade this summer will be eligible to take GCSE, AS or A level exams in the same subject in autumn 2021.

Schools Infection Survey

Public Health England has [published](#) findings from the latest round of the Schools Infection Survey which suggest a significant reduction in the percentage of secondary school pupils and staff testing positive for Covid-19 since schools reopened, compared to last November.

Adults' social care and public health

Care home visits

From yesterday (4 May), all care home residents have been able to participate in more [out-of-home visits](#) without having to isolate on their return. Residents are now able to leave their care homes to visit a friend or family member's garden or go on walks in public places without having to self-isolate when they return.

Polling stations are an exception to the rule that residents cannot visit indoor spaces. Residents should be accompanied by a member of care home staff and social distancing maintained during the visit. This guidance sits alongside the wider [guidance on visiting out of care homes](#).

Vaccination booster programme

It has been [confirmed](#) that an extra 60 million doses of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine have been secured to help support the booster Covid-19 vaccination programme beginning from the autumn.

Vaccination BSL resources

New British Sign Language (BSL) videos related to the vaccination programme and blood clotting have been [issued](#).

Daily contact testing study

On 2 May, a new study was [launched](#), led by the UK Health Security Agency, with the aim of understanding of how effective daily contact testing could be for people who are contacts of positive Covid-19 cases instead of self-isolation.

Surge testing

The guidance on surge testing has been [updated](#) to include Redbridge, Tower Hamlets and London Borough of Hounslow in the locations using surge testing.

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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