

Local context

Local Covid Tracing Service launched in Hampshire

The Local Tracing Service for Hampshire launched yesterday (3 December) in Rushmoor.

Local authorities have been working with NHS Test & Trace, to organise Local Tracing Partnerships which combine national scale and data with local knowledge. In practice, this means that where the NHS Test & Trace service is unable to reach people who have tested positive within their usual timeframes, local call handlers will take over and attempt to make contact with those people, to gather details of their close contacts. The local team will also be able to signpost to local support and respond to any welfare and wellbeing concerns.

All other Hampshire Districts and Boroughs will continue to be serviced by NHS Test & Trace, until the local service rolls-out in their area, which will take place over the coming weeks. The staggered launch will ensure careful and effective implementation of the new service.

Providing residents with access to prompt and convenient testing, and ensuring their close contacts are traced, is key to preventing further spread of Covid-19 by breaking the chain of infection. The Local Tracing Service will therefore play a crucial role in protecting our communities, and the County Council will work with Public Health England to ensure our key partners and stakeholders are appropriately informed as the programme expands.

Events guidance

Public Health Hampshire has issued renewed events guidance following Hampshire being placed in Tier 2 (High) of the new local Covid tier system.

The guidance includes information on events in the lead-up to Christmas and contains detailed advice on indoor and outdoor performances, Santa grottos, nativity plays and carol singing.

The key points within the guidance are:

- Large gatherings are strongly discouraged.
- Government guidance must be followed on social distancing, reducing mixing between households and following rules on hands-face-space.
- Individuals must not socialise with anyone they do not live with or who is not in their support or Christmas bubble in any indoor setting, whether at home or in a public place.
- Individuals must not socialise in a group of more than 6 people outside, including in a garden or a public space.

The guidance is being shared with District Chief Executives, Environmental Health Officers and communications partners. A webpage is also being developed for the [County Council's website](#), which will be a helpful tool for signposting people to events guidance and resources.

For more information, please see the [Government guidance](#) for the Christmas period and [information on the tier restrictions](#).

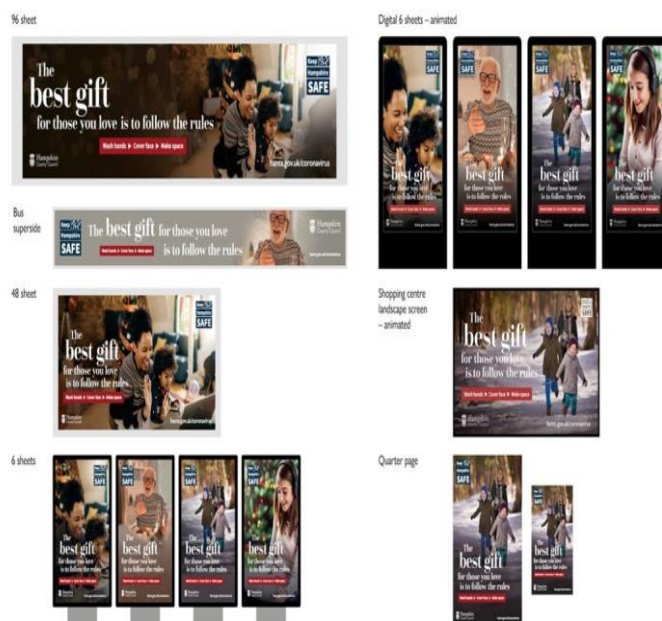
Keep Hampshire Safe campaigns

The Keep Hampshire Safe Christmas campaign titled, '*The best gift*', will run countywide between 5 - 31 December. To ensure the greatest reach, the Authority will adopt a range of digital and offline tactics including:

Outdoor posters - billboard and digital screen sites

- Bus sides
- Local press adverts
- Radio adverts (Wave, Heart and Capital South Coast)
- Social media (including Facebook, Instagram and Twitter), as well as YouTube and Google adverts

Using a diverse range of positive and seasonal images, residents will receive a very clear and important message - to follow the government guidance – and will be signposted to the County Council’s website for the latest advice and local information.



National context

Children and education

Ofsted inspections

Ofsted has [confirmed](#) plans for its phased return to inspection in schools and further education providers next year – as well as plans for inspections and regulatory work in early years and social care.

Spring term

The Department for Education (DfE) has [published](#) guidance on higher education student movements in December 2020, the return of students from January 2021 and NHS Test and Trace channels.

Summer 2021 exams

DfE has [published](#) guidance on what schools, colleges and students need to know about taking GCSEs, AS and A levels and other qualifications in summer 2021. The guidance sets out measures agreed between DfE and Ofqual for the exam series to ensure they are safe and fair for all students.

In addition, the Education Secretary, [issued](#) a statement outlining the package of exceptional measures to make next year’s exams as fair as possible and manage the disruption caused by Covid-19.

Adults' social care and public health

Lateral flow tests

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has [updated](#) the list of councils that will receive lateral flow tests via their directors of public health.

Lateral flow tests are rapid turnaround tests that can process samples on site without the need for laboratory equipment, with most generating results in under half an hour.

Vaccine Damage Payments Scheme

DHSC has [announced](#) that in advance of a rollout of an authorised Covid-19 vaccine and in line with other immunisation programmes, they are taking the precautionary step to ensure that, in the very rare possibility where someone is severely disabled as a result of taking a Covid-19 vaccine, they can access financial assistance through the Vaccine Damage Payments Scheme.

NHS Test and Trace

DHSC has [published](#) the latest NHS Test and Trace statistics which show that the proportion of contact successfully reached continues to improve as do turn-around times.

Economy, business and finance

Financial impact monitoring

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

Environment, transport and travel

Christmas travel

The Transport Secretary yesterday (3 December) [announced](#) a series of measures to minimise disruption and help people travel safely over the Christmas period. The plan for the Christmas travel window between 23-27 December includes lifting roadworks, enhancing rail services, postponing and accelerating rail engineering works and cutting ticket charges. The Government is also urging passengers to plan their journeys carefully, consider quieter routes and, where possible, to book ahead.

Travel corridors

The Department for Transport [confirmed](#) yesterday (3 December) that there will be no additions to or removals from the travel corridor list this week following data received from the Joint Biosecurity Centre and Public Health England.

National Covid-19 data

As of 4pm on 3 December, the total number of people tested positive for Covid-19 was **1,674,134** and daily number of lab-confirmed cases was **14,879**. The total number of Covid-19 associated deaths within 28 days of a positive test was **60,113**, with **414** deaths reported on the day. The data is available to [view online](#).

The R number range for the UK is **0.8-1.0** and the growth rate range is **-3% to -1%** per day as of 4 December.

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: a <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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