

Local context

Keep Hampshire Safe campaigns

A new county-wide campaign has launched this week to encourage residents to 'do the right thing' and continue to follow the rules to help reduce the risk of spreading Covid-19. It aims to remind residents that social distancing, getting tested, wearing a face covering and handwashing are still the best actions everyone can take to help stay safe. For more information, please see the [press release](#).

Local Tracing Service

The County Council has established a Local Tracing Service to support NHS Test and Trace and help stop the spread of Covid-19. Local authorities across the UK have been working with NHS Test and Trace to organise Local Tracing Partnerships, which combine national scale and data with local knowledge.

In the [press release](#), Councillor Keith Mans, Leader of Hampshire County Council, is quoted: "Providing residents with access to prompt and convenient testing, and ensuring their close contacts are traced and supported to isolate, is crucial for breaking the chain of infection and preventing further spread of the virus. Since December, we have been rolling out our Local Tracing operation and now have coverage across the entire county, with the percentage of calls being answered successfully above the recommended national target, and information and advice being given on self-isolation and the support available. The Local Tracing Service is therefore playing a vital role in protecting our communities."

Dental services update

Dental services remain open for face-to-face care during lockdown, however the priority remains focussed on:

- patients who require access to urgent care
- patients at higher risk of oral disease
- patients with outstanding treatment needs that cannot be delayed.

NHS England and NHS Improvement South-East have received reports that NHS dentistry is currently difficult to access. This is partly due to the belief that patients register with a practice to access treatment – however, all practices should deal with any patient who calls them within their NHS capacity, regardless of whether they have seen that patient in the past.

Urgent Dental Care Hubs remain in place locally to see patients referred to them where practices cannot provide certain dental procedures. However, referrals to these hubs have fallen by 98% since resumption of services in June when general dental practices started to reopen.

What can your NHS dentist do for you?

The NHS provides essential treatments needed to keep your mouth, teeth and gums healthy and free of pain. Any treatment that is clinically necessary should be available. Here is some advice and details of the treatments and costs, giving you the knowledge to smile with confidence.

Finding a dentist
www.nhs.uk/dentists



Visiting your dentist during the COVID-19 pandemic

- Please only visit your practice if you have an appointment and book an appointment only if essential – dentists are currently prioritising the vulnerable or those with the most urgent need.
- Appointments for some routine treatments, such as dental check-ups, may have to be rescheduled for a later date.
- Your practice will look a little different than usual as they will be operating in a way that observes COVID-19 social distancing and hygiene rules to ensure everyone's safety.

Your first routine visit

- The dental practice will take your medical and dental history (if available) and carry out a check up; examining your mouth, teeth and gums.
- Following your check up if your dentist recommends dental treatment, you'll be given a plan. This outlines all the treatments you are having and how much they will cost. If you are not given a treatment plan, ask for one.
- Your dentist will recommend a date for your next visit. People with good oral health may need to attend once every 12 to 24 months, but those with more problems may need to visit more often.



Emergency dental care

- Anyone who needs emergency dental care should first call their dental practice.
- If you cannot contact your dentist or do not have one, patients are advised to use the NHS 111 online service: www.111.nhs.uk

Captain Sir Tom Moore

As a mark of respect to Captain Sir Tom Moore, who died in hospital yesterday (2 February), the County Council is flying the flags at half-mast today. The County Council remembers all those who have been lost to Covid-19.

National context

National Covid-19 cases, deaths and vaccines data

The NHS Covid-19 vaccination daily data shows that within the reporting period 8 December 2020 – 3 February 2021, a total of **8,663,041** people have received the 1st dose and a total of **463,889** people have received the 2nd dose. The data, including the weekly statistical release, is available to [view online](#).

As of 4pm on 3 February, the total number of people tested positive for Covid-19 was **3,852,623** and daily number of lab-confirmed cases was **16,840**. The total number of Covid-19 associated deaths within 28 days of a positive test was **108,013** with **1,449** deaths reported on the day. The data is available to [view online](#).

The R number range for the UK is **0.7 – 1.1** and the growth rate range **-5% to -0%** per day as of 29 January.

Communities

Driving tests for mobile emergency workers

Due to the current restrictions, practical driving and theory tests have been suspended. However, the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency has [confirmed](#) they are still able to provide a practical test service for frontline NHS health and social care workers and other frontline roles responding to 'threat to life' and who need to drive as part of their job.

Children and education

Funding for testing in schools and colleges

The Government has [published](#) guidance which includes conditions of grant funding for the national roll-out of rapid, mass testing in schools and colleges.

National Tutoring Programme webinar

The National Tutoring Programme (NTP) is [hosting](#) an information webinar for state-maintained schools on 10 February at 4pm, where schools can hear directly from Tuition Partner organisations and learn more about the tutoring available.

Impact of lost learning

The Institute for Fiscal Studies has [published](#) a report detailing the impact of lost learning on children and young people. The report suggests the loss of schooling is contributing to lower educational progress and skills, particularly for disadvantaged pupils.

University support fund

The Department for Education (DfE) has [announced](#) £50 million new funding to go to universities to help students facing financial difficulties arising from the impact of Covid-19.

Apprenticeships

DfE has [updated](#) the guidance on apprenticeships with information on face-to-face training and when to consider a break in an apprenticeship.

Ofsted inspections

Ofsted has [confirmed](#) that all planned inspection activity will be carried out remotely until March 8 at the earliest.

Adults' social care and public health

South African variant

It was [confirmed](#) by the Secretary of State yesterday that mutations of concern have been found in Bristol and Liverpool. Clusters have been found in both cities of homegrown cases involving the E484K mutation, which is thought to reduce the effectiveness of vaccines.

Alcohol deaths

Figures [published](#) by the Office for National Statistics show that deaths caused by alcohol in England and Wales reached a new high during the first nine months of 2020. Between January and September, 5,460 deaths were registered, an increase of 16% on the same months in 2019.

Test and Trace in the workplace

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has [updated](#) the guidance on what to do if you or someone you employ is contacted by NHS Test and Trace, including self-isolation and financial support with a new section on when to contact your local health protection team.

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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