

Local context

HantsHelp4Vulnerable helpline

From Saturday 1 August, the HantsHelp4vulnerable helpline, a collaboration between the County Council, all districts and borough councils, and local voluntary and community sector partners, will revert to a weekday-only operation. However, it remains possible to increase the service to seven days a week again, if needed in the future.

The helpline has provided information, advice and practical support to thousands of vulnerable Hampshire residents who need assistance with essential food or household supplies, collection of medication, or who are at risk of loneliness.

From 1 August, the helpline can be contacted on **0333 370 4000** during its new hours of 9am to 5pm weekdays, except Fridays, which are 9am to 4.30pm. More information is available in the [press release](#) and further information on the help and support available to residents can be found on the [Connect to Support website](#).

Rural broadband scheme

Hampshire County Council has [announced](#) that it is investing £1 million to ‘top-up’ the Government’s existing Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme, to help people in hard-to-reach locations get a fast, reliable broadband service.

While superfast broadband is available to more than 96% of premises in Hampshire, those living in remote locations have often missed out as they are more difficult and consequently more expensive to reach. The Hampshire Top-Up to the [Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme](#) has been designed to address this issue by offering additional funding towards the cost of installing gigabit-capable broadband. It will enable eligible residents to get vouchers worth up to £3,000 per property - double that of the standard voucher.

In the [press release](#), the County Council’s Executive Member for Commercial Strategy, Human Resources and Performance, Councillor Stephen Reid is quoted: “The Covid-19 pandemic has shown how important it is to have access to reliable, fast broadband, as being digitally connected is key to staying in touch with loved ones, working from home, and helping to stabilise local businesses. This initiative is designed to get high-speed broadband to areas that commercial providers simply won’t go to because of the costs involved.”

The Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme with Hampshire Top-Up will be allocated on a ‘first-come, first served’ basis. For more information visit the [Hampshire Superfast Broadband website](#).

Summer childcare

Hampshire County Council continues to support parents and carers to find childcare over the summer holidays. Information about childcare providers, out of school clubs and holiday play schemes can be found on the County Council’s [Family Information and Services Hub \(FISH\)](#).

[Connect4Summer](#) is a programme delivering inclusive activities to families with working parents who are in receipt of free school meals. It offers free childcare places and free activity programmes at 58 locations within the Hampshire and Isle of Wight area from Wednesday 29 July until Tuesday 25 August, between 10am and 3pm on weekdays - including lunch.

Visit Hampshire

[Visit Hampshire](#), the County Council's tourism promotion service has launched a new campaign – [Unlock Summer](#). The campaign, which is being promoted on the [Visit Hampshire website](#), on social media and via email aims to increase the number of visitors taking day trips and short breaks to Hampshire, as well encouraging residents to “holiday at home”. The campaign should aid recovery for tourism businesses throughout the county. To inspire confidence, and to remind people to follow the Government's Covid-safety guidelines, the campaign supports the national [Know Before You Go](#) and [We're Good to Go](#) consumer confidence and industry standard campaigns.

Visit Hampshire has submitted a bid to Visit England for their Enjoy Summer Safely Campaign, in conjunction with the Cabinet Office. If the bid is successful, Visit Hampshire could receive up to £300,000 to spend on media to amplify the Unlock Summer campaign throughout August. Visit England are expected to announce recipients shortly.



National context

Communities

Pets

The Government is [promoting](#) 'Petfished', a public information campaign run by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and supported by a range of animal welfare charities, veterinary organisations and commercial partners. The public are being reminded to do their research and go to a reputable breeder when looking for a new pet.

This comes amid a rise in demand for pets since lockdown and an anticipated further boom throughout summer.

Renting

The non-statutory guidance for landlords, tenants and councils in the private and social rented sectors in the context of coronavirus has been [updated](#) to reflect changes to wider government and public health advice.

Sports facilities

The [regulations](#) that will allow indoor gyms, swimming pools and sports facilities to reopen from 25 July have been laid in parliament.

Children and education

Selective school admissions

The Department for Education has [issued](#) guidance on entry testing for admission to state-funded selective schools during the Covid-19 outbreak.

Adults' social care and public health

Face coverings

Under the new regulations laid today (24 July), members of the public will need to wear face coverings – for example, a fabric covering, scarf or bandana – that covers the nose and mouth in additional enclosed public spaces – including shops, supermarkets, shopping centres and transport hubs.

The Government has [published](#) a [list of face covering exemptions](#) which includes anyone under the age of 11, or those with disabilities, or hidden health conditions such as breathing difficulties, mental health conditions or autism. The public are asked to be mindful of people who are exempt from wearing a face covering. For those who would find them helpful, [exemption cards are available to print or display on mobile phones from gov.uk](#).

Draft options for regional or local interventions

The Department of Health and Social Care has [published](#) draft legislation options to show how government could respond to a local or regional Covid-19 outbreak without returning to a national lockdown.

Flu vaccination programme

The Government has [confirmed](#) that the flu vaccination programme will be expanded to ensure more people are protected and to support the NHS. The vaccine will be offered for free to people aged 50 to 64 later in the year, as well as households of those on the shielded patient list. The school vaccination programme will be expanded to all year groups up to year 7.

Infection prevention and control

The guidance on infection prevention and control for Covid-19 has been [updated](#) to include the recommendations for the use of face masks in primary care.

Blackburn with Darwen and Luton

The Health and Social Care Secretary, Matt Hancock, has [responded](#) to the pausing of lockdown easements in Blackburn with Darwen, and Luton. New regulations will be signed

by the Health Secretary to make those local authority regions exempt from the national changes taking place on 25 July until at least the review date.

Epidemiology surveillance

Public Health England has [published](#) the latest epidemiology surveillance summary. The report includes data from a variety of different sources: community, primary care, secondary care, virology, mortality surveillance and sero-prevalence surveillance data. Combined, these sources show a wider community picture which will help plan the national response to the pandemic and assist regional stakeholders in local planning.

Vaccine

The Government has [announced](#) an additional £100 million to ensure that any successful Covid-19 vaccine can be produced at scale in the UK. The investment will fund a Cell and Gene Therapy Catapult Manufacturing Innovation Centre to accelerate the mass production, located in Essex.

NHS Test and Trace

The Department of Health and Social Care has [published](#) the latest NHS Test and Trace figures, covering the seventh week of operation (9-15 July).

Care home data

The Government has [published](#) the latest data on outbreaks in care homes (13-19 July). It shows that there have been 38 new suspected or confirmed Covid-19 outbreaks reported in care homes in England, with one being in the South East.

NHS Volunteer Responder programme webinars

Fortnightly [webinars](#) are being held to provide regular updates on the NHS Volunteer Responder programme. The webinars are for those working across health and care, and are open to a range of organisations, including councils.

Environment, place and transport

Travel corridors

The Department for Transport has [announced](#) that from 28 July, passengers will not need to self-isolate when arriving in England from Estonia, Latvia, Slovakia, Slovenia and St Vincent and the Grenadines.

Countryside Stewardship capital agreements

The guidance for farmers, landowners and rural businesses during the Covid-19 outbreak has been [updated](#). The Rural Payments Agency are offering an extension of one year to all customers with capital agreements that started after 1 April 2018 or in 2019 for some plans and grants.

National Covid-19 data

Latest R number range

The R number range for the UK is 0.7-0.9 and the growth rate range is -4% to -1% per day as of 24 July 2020. The data is available to [view online](#).

Cases

As of 4pm on 23 July, the total number of lab-confirmed cases was **297,146**. The daily number of lab-confirmed cases was **769**. The total number of Covid-19 associated deaths was **45,554**, with **53** new deaths reported on the day. The data is available to [view online](#).

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/>
- 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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