

## Local context

### Pre-election period of restricted activity

The pre-election period for the County Council, the Police and Crime Commissioner and in some areas, District, Borough, City, Parish or Town elections taking place on 6 May, begins in Hampshire on Monday 22 March. During this ‘pre-election period’, the County Council will continue to publicise business-as-usual activities through the normal channels.

To ensure that the Covid-19 briefing is in line with official guidance and recommended pre-election practise, from Monday 22 March until Friday 7 May, it will only report ongoing Covid-19 council business and factual national information regarding the Covid-19 pandemic.

### Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders

The County Council has [announced](#) that as a precautionary measure, provision will be made to extend the formal legal orders supporting the temporary social distancing measures on some roads and pavements across the county - Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders (TTROs). This is to enable measures to remain in place in line with the Government’s roadmap out of lockdown. Schemes affected by the short extension of TTROs are:

- Farnborough - Lynchford Road/St Albans roundabout - prohibition of motor vehicles;
- Winchester - Hyde Street - Prohibition of motor vehicles, Hyde Church Lane – prohibition of motor vehicles;
- Petersfield - The Square – prohibition of motor vehicles (except buses);
- Fareham - Fishers Hill – prohibition of motor vehicles, Portsdown Road – prohibition of motor vehicles;
- Romsey - The Hundred – prohibition of motor vehicles.

For more information, see the [County Council's website](#).

### Healthwatch Hampshire survey

Healthwatch Hampshire has [launched](#) a health priorities survey to discover what matters most to Hampshire residents regarding health and social care services. The survey asks people about their health priorities beyond the Covid-19 pandemic and seeks to determine what areas Healthwatch Hampshire should focus on, as the independent champions for health and social care locally.

The survey can be shared and completed [online here](#). The survey is open until the end of April and results will be published in May.

## National context

### National Covid-19 cases, deaths and vaccines data

The Covid-19 vaccination daily data shows that up to 16 March, a total of **25,273,226** people have received the 1<sup>st</sup> dose and a total of **1,759,445** people have received the 2<sup>nd</sup> dose.

As of 4pm on 17 March, the total number of people tested positive for Covid-19 was **4,274,579** and daily number of lab-confirmed cases was **4,618**. The total number of Covid-19 associated deaths within 28 days of a positive test was **125,831** with **141** deaths reported on the day. The data is available to [view online](#).

The R number range for the UK is **0.6 – 0.8** and the growth rate range **-7% to -4%** per day as of 12 March.

## Communities

### **Covid-19 reviews**

The Government has [published](#) the terms of reference for the reviews committed to in the Covid-19 Response - Spring 2021'. Reviews are on: Covid status certification, events, global travel, and social distancing.

### **Covid-19 status certification**

The Government is reviewing whether Covid-status certification could play a role in reopening the economy, reducing restrictions on social contact and improving safety. A call for evidence has been [published](#) to ensure that the review considers a broad range of interests and concerns.

### **Parliamentary procedures**

The House of Commons Procedure Committee has [published](#) plans for the future procedures once the restrictions are lifted. Subject to stage four of the lockdown roadmap being reached successfully on 21 June, all proceedings in Parliament should return to the pre-pandemic practices, however Select Committees will continue to be authorised to meet virtually.

## Children and education

### **Nurseries - testing for staff and households**

The Government has [announced](#) that households of children attending nursery settings and the families of staff who work at nursery settings will be able to access regular lateral flow testing, similar to the testing in place for schools.

### **Information and guidance for parents and carers**

The Department for Education has [published](#) a collection of information and guidance for parents and carers of children attending early years settings, schools and colleges during the Covid-19 pandemic.

### **Autumn exams**

Ofqual has [launched](#) a 2-week consultation on how an autumn exam series for GCSEs, AS and A levels should run this year.

### **Nurse and healthcare training**

The Department of Health and Social Care has [announced](#) a £25 million boost for nurse training to support expanded virtual training, and the launch of a new national critical care qualification for qualified nurses.

## Adults' social care and public health

### **Vaccination for over 50s**

NHS England has [announced](#) that new invitations are now going out nationally to people aged 50 to 54 in the latest stage of the programme.

### **Surge testing**

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has [announced](#) that, working in partnership with councils, additional surge testing and genomic sequencing is being deployed to targeted areas in Sandwell (DY4 and B69), the London Borough of Harrow (specific areas within the HA2 and HA3 postcodes), the London Borough of Southwark (specific location within the SE5 postcode) and Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (specific areas within TS19).

## Public Health Grant

The Government has [confirmed](#) the Public Health Grant for 2021/2022. The Grant confirmed a total of £3.324 billion for local authority public health in 2021-22, ring-fenced exclusively for public health activity - which may include public health challenges arising directly or indirectly from Covid-19.

## AstraZeneca vaccine

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has [issued](#) a response to the precautionary suspensions of the Covid-19 AstraZeneca vaccine in some countries. MHRA state that it has not been confirmed that the reports of blood clots were caused by the AstraZeneca vaccine. People should still get their vaccine when asked to do so.

## Environment, transport and travel

### International travel red list

The Department for Transport has [announced](#) that Ethiopia, Oman, Somalia and Qatar will be added to England's red list of countries from 4am on Friday 19 March 2021. On the same date, Portugal (including Madeira and the Azores) and Mauritius will be removed from the red list.

## Additional links

- NHS information on the Covid-19 vaccination programme: [www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccination](http://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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