

Local context

Pharmacy test and collect

From Monday 26 April, Hampshire residents without symptoms can access free supervised testing, or collect kits to self-test at home, from participating pharmacies across the county. Over 200 pharmacies are providing the national collect scheme within Hampshire and from 26 April, over 40 of these pharmacies will also be offering on-site supervised lateral flow testing. Alongside the pharmacy scheme, collection of kits will still be available from the symptomatic regional and local testing sites between 2.30pm and 8pm.

The County Council is urging residents to make ‘Test – Record – Repeat’ part of their weekly routine and to get in the habit of regular testing and recording their results. It is also important that people are aware that if their lateral flow device test result is positive, they must [follow self-isolation guidance](#) and [book a follow-up PCR test](#) as soon as possible to confirm the result.

To communicate this to residents, the County Council’s [testing webpage](#) has been updated, the message is being promoted via the County Council’s corporate social media accounts (see examples on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)) and graphics have been shared with district councils to also promote, a [press release](#) has been issued, and a poster has been produced to display in the participating pharmacies. [Keep Hampshire Safe webpage](#)

COVID-19

Test and Trace

Free, rapid testing for people without symptoms

Keep
Hampshire
SAFE



Participating pharmacies

Collect a test kit, book a supervised test, or drop-in



Symptomatic testing sites

Collect a test kit (afternoons only)



Via home delivery

Order online or by phone



Through your employer

Test and/or collect, if you have a workplace scheme

From 30 April, community testing sites for people without symptoms will close

Test

Record

Repeat

For peace of mind and to protect your loved ones



Hampshire
County Council

hants.gov.uk/testandtrace

National context

National Covid-19 cases, deaths and vaccines data

The Covid-19 vaccination daily data shows that up to 21 April, a total of **33,257,651** people have received a 1st dose and a total of **11,192,601** people have received a 2nd dose.

As of 4pm on 22 April, the total number of people tested positive for Covid-19 was **4,398,431** and daily number of lab-confirmed cases was **2,729**. The total number of Covid-19 associated deaths within 28 days of a positive test was **127,345** with **18** deaths reported on the day. The data is available to [view online](#).

The R number range for the UK is **0.8 to 1.0** and the growth rate range is **-5% to -1%** per day as of 23 April.

Communities

Guidance for local government

The Covid-19 collection of guidance for local government has been [updated](#) with new links added on topics including: business and charity support; compliance and enforcement; parks and public spaces; public health; schools and education; social care and travel.

Driving tests

The Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency has [issued](#) guidance for learner drivers on taking rapid lateral flow tests before a driving test. People should take a rapid lateral flow test twice a week (every 3 or 4 days), including before and after taking a driving test.

Children and education

Appeals of GCSE, AS and A level results

The Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual) has [published](#) a consultation on proposed guidance relating to reviews and appeals of GCSE, AS and A level results, and certain vocational and technical qualifications for 2021.

Apprenticeships

The guidance for providing apprenticeships during the Covid-19 outbreak has been [updated](#) and confirms that all apprentices in higher education can return to in-person teaching and learning no earlier than 17 May.

Student finance

The Student Loans Company is [urging](#) all new and returning students to ‘apply now’ for student finance to ensure the high volume of applications can be processed, and finance is in place for the start of the academic year.

Adults’ social care and public health

Surge testing

The Department of Health and Social Care has [announced](#) that, working in partnership with councils, additional surge testing and genomic sequencing is being deployed in areas within Birmingham following the identification of a confirmed case of the variant first identified in South Africa.

Quarantine arrangements for nurses

New guidance has been [issued](#) which outlines what NHS trusts must do to provide managed quarantine accommodation for nurses arriving in England to work for the NHS if they have passed through red-list countries.

Economy, business and finance

Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme

The guidance on the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme has been [updated](#) with additional types of employees added to the eligibility section.

Environment, transport and travel

Natural England

Natural England has [issued](#) an operational update to outline how the organisation is coping with the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic and where the current pressures are within their service delivery.

General aviation roadmap

The general aviation roadmap has been [published](#), which outlines the Government's vision, strategic priorities and forward programme of work to support the sector.

Domestic cruise travel

New guidance has been [issued](#) on domestic cruise travel during the Covid-19 outbreak.

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>

Deborah Harkin

Assistant Chief Executive