

Local context

Local Covid-19 data

The County Council will today (19 October) [publish](#) the latest weekly Covid-19 data dashboard. The data shows a total number of cases in Hampshire of **7,788** and **870** cases confirmed in the last seven days, which is an increase of **203**.

The county's current weekly rate stands at **43.47** cases per 100,000 population.

There have been **1,077** Covid-19 associated deaths in Hampshire since March, and **3** deaths in the last seven days.

The full data dashboard is available on the [Keep Hampshire Safe webpage](#). [Data on Hampshire districts](#) and [data on positive cases in Hampshire schools](#) is also available.

Hampshire Country Parks

The County Council has [welcomed](#) news that three of its country parks are officially among the best in the world, with each of them awarded the Green Flag for 2020. The international quality mark is a sign to the public that Lepe, Queen Elizabeth and Royal Victoria country parks uphold the highest possible environmental standards, are beautifully maintained, and have excellent visitor facilities.

In the [press release](#), the Executive Member for Recreation and Heritage, Councillor Seán Woodward, notes the importance of quality green spaces for mental wellbeing during the pandemic, and is quoted: "This year, the Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted just how vital it is for people to spend regular, quality time outdoors – not just for good physical health but also for mental wellbeing."

National context

Communities

Prime Minister's statement – 16 October

The Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, made a statement at the press conference on Friday 16 October. The Government outlined local changes under the local Covid alert levels and set out the financial support that is available to areas on the very high alert level. In addition, the Government provided an update on their future approach to testing and reminded the public to continue to follow the Hands, Face, Space guidance to protect themselves and others. The slides to accompany the press conference are available to [view online](#).

Local Covid alert levels

On Friday (16 October), the Government [confirmed](#) that Lancashire was to move from local Covid alert level high to very high from Saturday 17 October. To support the local authority, the Government will provide a support package worth £12 million. The Government will also establish a dedicated, ministerial-led taskforce with additional funding to work with Lancashire leaders to support local businesses to recover over the coming six months.

Children and education

Free school transport

The Department for Education has [updated](#) the guidance on additional school and college transport capacity funding allocations for home-to-school transport for children from low-income families.

The update provides new information on the funding local authorities will receive to support additional dedicated school and college transport for the Autumn term. This is to reflect current social distancing requirements on public transport during the coronavirus outbreak.

Charity fraud

The Charity Commission is [warning](#) trustees and donors to strengthen defences as it fears the pandemic has created environments that are enabling charity fraud. Charities have reported being victims of fraud or cybercrime 645 times since the start of the pandemic in March, amounting to £3.6 million in total losses.

Economy and business

Launch of the Export Growth Plan to help businesses

The Department for International Trade has [launched](#) the Export Growth Plan which aims to help businesses build back better following the Covid-19 pandemic.

The plan provides additional financial support and expertise, some of which is targeted towards specific regions that are most in need and includes a £38 million Internationalisation Fund for small businesses, which will support SMEs to grow overseas trading and strengthen their business.

Environment, transport and travel

Aviation industry

The Secretary of State for Transport, Grant Shapps, today (19 October) [delivered](#) a speech at the aviation conference, Airlines 2050, in which he addressed the issues, problems and actions taken to counter Covid-19 so far in the sector, plus future plans. He outlined plans for a single test for international arrivals a week after arrival, which would aim to reduce the self-isolation periods for people who test negative.

National Covid-19 data

As of 4pm on 19 October, the total number of lab-confirmed cases was **741,212**. The daily number of lab-confirmed cases was **18,804**. The total number of Covid-19 associated deaths within 28 days of a positive test was **43,726**, with **80** deaths reported on the day. The data is available to [view online](#).

The R number range for the UK is **1.3-1.5** and the growth rate range is **+4% to +7%** per day as of 16 October.

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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