

Local context

Keep Hampshire Safe

The County Council will next week launch a new county-wide campaign under the Keep Hampshire Safe brand to remind people of the importance of regular Covid-19 testing. The outdoor media campaign will display a series of three images (shown below) throughout May on digital screens at supermarkets and shopping centres as well as on buses.

Regular, twice weekly testing is encouraged for everyone without symptoms in Hampshire. Supervised lateral flow tests and test kits for use at home are available from participating pharmacies across the county – more information on testing is available on the [County Council's website](https://www.hants.gov.uk/testandtrace).



Vaccination Champions

The County Council and the NHS are promoting a new Covid-19 Vaccination Champions programme and are looking for volunteers from all backgrounds and communities, in particular those from populations most affected by the pandemic. Covid-19 Vaccination Champions will help reach and protect everyone in our communities, by sharing why it is important to get vaccinated. The Champions will act as volunteers from home and will be supported in their role through a welcome session with the Public Health team, weekly updates on the vaccination to share with their communities, and optional catch-up sessions for further support. More information is available on the [Vaccine Champion webpages](https://www.hants.gov.uk/vaccine-champion).

COVID-19 Hampshire Vaccination Champions



Information you can trust

Hampshire County Council elections

The County Council is [reminding](#) residents that polling stations will be safe places to vote on Thursday 6 May. In the press release, John Coughlan, the County Returning Officer and County Council Chief Executive, is quoted: "Polling stations will be safe places, and we have been

working closely with government, members of the electoral community and our Public Health teams which will ensure the latest official guidance is followed and Covid-safe measures will be in place... Voters casting their ballot in person can also keep themselves and others safe by wearing a face covering, bringing their own pen or pencil, cleaning their hands when entering and leaving the polling station and keeping a safe distance.” For information on voting and the elections visit the County Council’s [elections webpages](#).

Bank holiday weekend

The County Council is urging residents to enjoy the bank holiday weekend safely. Residents are [reminded](#) to keep following the government guidance to stay safe, including:

- Meet outdoors in groups of up to 6 people or 2 households
- Only meet indoors with members of your own household
- Check in at hospitality venues with NHS QR code
- Hands, face, space and fresh air



National context

National Covid-19 cases, deaths and vaccines data

The Covid-19 vaccination daily data shows that up to 28 April, a total of **34,094,048** people have received a 1st dose and a total of **14,043,961** people have received a 2nd dose.

As of 4pm on 29 April, the total number of people tested positive for Covid-19 was **4,414,242** and daily number of lab-confirmed cases was **2,445**. The total number of Covid-19 associated deaths within 28 days of a positive test was **127,502** with **22** deaths reported on the day. The data is available to [view online](#).

The R number range for the UK is **0.8 to 1.1** and the growth rate range is **-4% to -1%** per day as of 30 April.

Communities

High Court judgment – council meetings

The Minister of State for Regional Growth and Local Government, Luke Hall, has [written](#) to council leaders about the [High Court judgment](#) confirming that the Local Government Act 1972 does not permit councils to hold meetings remotely.

To support the return of face-to-face meetings after 6 May, the guidance on the safe use of council buildings has been [updated](#) to reflect the judgment and outlines out how councils can use existing powers to reduce the number of face-to-face meetings.

Domestic Abuse Bill

Yesterday (29 April), the Domestic Abuse Bill [received](#) Royal Assent.

Under the new Act, councils across England will have a legal duty to provide support such as therapy, advocacy and counselling in safe accommodation, including refuges.

Children and education

Future school policy on education recovery

On behalf of the Department for Education, Ipsos MORI, Sheffield Hallam University and the Centre for Education and Youth are [conducting research](#) on how schools are supporting pupils' learning during the Covid-19 outbreak and are inviting school leaders to participate.

Adults' social care and public health

Vaccination for people aged 40

The NHS confirmed today (30 April) that people aged 40 and over can now [book](#) their Covid-19 vaccination.

Care homes visits

The guidance on visiting arrangements in care homes has been [updated](#) to clarify that named visitors should be tested using rapid Lateral Flow Tests on the day of every visit.

Testing for hospices

New guidance has been [issued](#) which outlines how hospices can access Covid-19 testing for staff and patients on-site, for staff visiting patients in their own homes, and for visitors to hospices.

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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