

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 today (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, it will only report ongoing Covid-19 council business and factual national information regarding the Covid-19 pandemic until Friday 7 May.

Local Covid-19 data

The County Council will today (22 March) [publish](#) the latest weekly Covid-19 data summary. Hampshire is seeing a continued steady decrease in the number of positive cases but is urging residents to keep following the rules.

The total number of cases in Hampshire since March 2020 is now 62,366 and there have been 412 cases confirmed in the last seven days.

The county’s current weekly case rate has decreased to 32.3 per 100,000 population and remains below the England case rate at 57.1.

There have been 2,750 Covid-19 associated deaths in Hampshire since March 2020 and 36 deaths reported in the last seven days.

The full data dashboard is available on the [Keep Hampshire Safe webpage](#).

Local rapid testing programme in Bramley

Following the local rapid testing programme in Bramley (north of Basingstoke) between 17-19 February 2021 due to the identification of a single confirmed case of the South African variant in the area, the County Council has been advised by the Department for Health and Social Care that no ‘variant of concern’ cases have been found in the samples analysed so far. The Authority is continuing to work with Public Health England to monitor the situation in Bramley, as well as more widely across the county.

National context

National Covid-19 cases, deaths and vaccines data

The Covid-19 vaccination daily data shows that up to 20 March, a total of **27,630,970** people have received the 1st dose and a total of **2,228,772** people have received the 2nd dose.

As of 4pm on 21 March, the total number of people tested positive for Covid-19 was **4,296,583** and daily number of lab-confirmed cases was **5,312**. The total number of Covid-19 associated deaths within 28 days of a positive test was **126,155** with **33** deaths reported on the day. The data is available to [view online](#).

The R number range for the UK is **0.6 – 0.9** and the growth rate range **-6% to -3%** per day as of 19 March.

Environment, transport and travel

DPTAC position on face coverings

The Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee (DPTAC) has [issued](#) a position statement on face covering exemptions and the impact that public awareness, enforcement and staff training can have on how disabled people feel about travelling during the pandemic.

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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