

## Local context

### Local Covid-19 data

The County Council yesterday (6 April) [published](#) the latest weekly Covid-19 data summary. Hampshire is seeing a slow decline in the number of positive cases but is urging residents to keep following the rules and to remember - hands, face, space, and fresh air.

The total number of cases in Hampshire since March 2020 is now 63,164 and there have been 362 cases confirmed in the last seven days.

The county's current weekly case rate has decreased to 27.3 per 100,000 population and remains below the England case rate at 43.9.

There have been 2,792 Covid-19 associated deaths in Hampshire since March 2020 and 13 deaths reported in the last seven days.

A total of 727,709 people have been vaccinated with at least one dose in Hampshire, and 68,282 people have been vaccinated with at least one dose in the last 7 days.

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

### Asymptomatic testing

Following the Government announcement that free rapid tests will be offered to everyone in England from 9 April, the County Council is [urging](#) residents to start collecting free rapid test kits from Friday for themselves and their families to use twice a week. Kits can be collected from testing sites across the county, for more information and collection locations, please see the [press release](#).

### Hampshire's country parks

As restrictions ease over the coming weeks, Hampshire County Council is [urging](#) people to follow the rules and respect the countryside as sites get busier over the Easter holidays.

Hampshire's county parks are open with normal opening hours and parking charges in place. Sir Harold Hillier Gardens is open for members and non-members with pre-booked tickets. Manor Farm, Staunton Farm and Titchfield Haven National Nature Reserve are currently closed but are now taking pre-bookings for visits from members and non-members starting from 12 April in line with the Government's roadmap. To find out more, visit [Enjoy Hampshire's countryside](#).

## National context

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

The Covid-19 vaccination daily data shows that up to 5 April, a total of **31,622,367** people have received a 1<sup>st</sup> dose and a total of **5,496,716** people have received a 2<sup>nd</sup> dose.

As of 4pm on 6 April, the total number of people tested positive for Covid-19 was **4,364,529** and daily number of lab-confirmed cases was **2,379**. The total number of Covid-19 associated deaths within 28 days of a positive test was **126,882** with **20** 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 **-4% to 0%** per day as of 2 April.

## Communities

### **Further easing of restrictions confirmed for 12 April**

On Monday (5 April), the Prime Minister [confirmed](#) the Government's four tests for easing Covid-19 restrictions have been met and planned easements can go ahead from 12 April. This includes the reopening of outdoor hospitality, gyms, non-essential retail, hairdressers and salons and outdoor attractions.

It was also confirmed that a Covid-status certification system will be developed over the coming months which could allow higher-risk settings to be opened. The system will consider vaccination, a recent negative test, or natural immunity.

### **Organised events guidance**

New guidance setting out advice for local authorities around organised events during the pandemic has been [issued](#). It is designed to assist local authorities in ensuring that events are able to go ahead safely, in accordance with what is permitted at each step of the [Roadmap out of lockdown](#).

### **Pilot events**

The Government has [confirmed](#) that a number of pilot events which will host audiences, including the EFL Cup Final and the FA Cup semi-final, will be part of the Events Research Programme.

## Children and education

### **Face coverings**

Face coverings should continue to be worn in secondary school and college classrooms when students return after the Easter break. The Government has [confirmed](#) that it is expected that face coverings will no longer be required to be worn in classrooms, or by students in other communal areas, at Step 3 of the roadmap, which will be no earlier than 17 May.

## Adults' social care and public health

### **Care home visitors**

The Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) has [confirmed](#) that care home residents in England will be able to receive two visitors indoors from Monday 12 April. Visitors will be asked to provide a negative test result and wear PPE during the visit. Visitors who are parents will also be able to visit with babies and very young children, who will not be counted as one of the visitors.

### **Regular testing**

On Monday (5 April), the Government [announced](#) that everyone in England, including those without symptoms, will be able to take a free, Covid-19 lateral flow test twice a week from 9 April. However, anyone with symptoms of Covid-19 should continue to book a test online or by calling 119.

### **AstraZeneca vaccine**

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has [issued](#) new advice for healthcare professionals following its review into the link between rare blood clots and the AstraZeneca vaccine. The benefits of vaccination continue to outweigh any risks but the MHRA advises careful consideration to be given to people who are at higher risk of specific types of blood clots because of their medical condition.

### **Hospital discharge**

Yesterday (6 April), DHSC issued a letter to council chief executives confirming that designated settings will continue to provide support for people who are Covid-19 positive on discharge and

are therefore unable to move to a non-designated care home, in line with current infection prevention and control guidance.

## Economy, business and finance

### Recovery Loan Scheme launches

A new government-backed loan scheme, Recovery Loan Scheme, [launched](#) yesterday (6 April). The scheme, which was announced at the Budget, will run until 31 December 2021, and will be administered by the British Business Bank, with loans available through a network of accredited commercial lenders.

## Environment, transport and travel

### Red list

On 2 April, the Department for Transport, [announced](#) that the Philippines, Pakistan, Kenya and Bangladesh will all be added to the red list of countries from 4am on 9 April.

### Passport applications

While it is still illegal to holiday overseas and the “Stay in the UK” regulation remains in place, people are being [urged](#) to not to delay in applying for a British passport and to allow more time for it to be processed.

## 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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