

## Local context

### Support for clinically extremely vulnerable residents

The Hampshire Coronavirus Support and Helpline - 0333 370 4000 – continues to provide advice and support to Hampshire residents during the Covid-19 pandemic. In addition to responding to requests for assistance and information, the County Council is proactively reaching out to offer support to some residents who have been identified as [clinically extremely vulnerable](#) through an automated call service. The automated system, which was introduced during the first wave, has allowed the County Council to reach out quickly to the most vulnerable in society, however we know that some residents may be hesitant to answer the call due to concerns about its authenticity. Residents are kindly asked to please not hang up if they receive a call from the County Council.

#### What to expect from the automated service:

- The call will come from 01962 418111
- A recorded voice message will explain that this is an automated wellbeing call from Hampshire County Council, and will confirm the person's name
- If the named person confirms they are in need of help, the call will automatically be transferred to one of the specially trained advisors

It is important to note, that neither the Hampshire Coronavirus Support and Helpline automated service, or the person-to-person advisor service will ever ask for national insurance numbers, bank account details, or for any other financial information.

### Care homes

Several care homes across the Hampshire County Council area will be taking part in a new national scheme to support family visitors to have regular Covid-19 tests in order to visit loved ones more safely. Hampshire is one of only three areas in England chosen to take part in the pilot ahead of a wider roll-out nationally.

Regular testing will be offered to one family member or friend per resident, which when combined with other infection-control measures such as PPE, will support more meaningful visits. The aim is to enable, where possible, indoor visits without a screen to take place while reducing the risk to care home residents, staff and other visitors. The pilot aims to further develop the evidence base for how testing with fast, reliable Covid-19 tests can be delivered at scale.

### Bus operators

Hampshire County Council will continue to support bus operators within Hampshire during this time of national restrictions. At his decision day yesterday (19 November), the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment, Councillor Rob Humby, approved an extension of the current policy of 100% contract and concessionary fares payments to local bus and community transport operators until 31 March 2021, and 80% contract and concessionary travel payments to Taxishare operators until 31 March 2021.

In the [press release](#), Councillor Humby is quoted, “It’s important we offer some protection to the income of local bus operators to help them at this time so that, when demand increases again, these services will be there to play a part in Hampshire’s green recovery. This is particularly vital in the case of the local bus services used by school and college students to access their place of education.”

# National context

## Communities

### **Sport Winter Survival Package**

The Government has [announced](#) that major spectator sports in England will receive a combined £300 million funding package to protect their immediate futures over the winter period.

### **NHS Test and Trace records**

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has [updated](#) guidance for the designated venues that must have a system in place to request and record contact details of their customers, visitors and staff. They have added cinemas, concert venues and theatres to the list of venues that must have a system in place and also confirmed that indoor sports and leisure centres includes gyms.

### **Covid safe workplaces**

Public Health England, Health and Safety Executive and Faculty of Occupational Medicine have [issued](#) a consensus statement on the best approach to reduce occupational risk for workers including those of ethnic minority groups. The statement adds that actions targeted at the entire workforce, rather than solely at ethnic minority groups may help reduce the risk of stigmatisation and opportunity inequalities at work.

## Children and education

### **Catch-up premium**

The Department for Education has [published](#) guidance on the catch up premium to help children and young people catch up on missed education resulting from school closures. This includes information on which schools are eligible, what the funding is for, when payments will be made and how funding can be used to help pupils.

## Adults' social care and public health

### **PPE portal**

DHSC has [updated](#) the guidance for eligible health and social care providers that order PPE through the portal, updating information about order limits for children's care homes and residential special schools, dentists and orthodontists.

### **Homecare worker testing**

DHSC has [announced](#) that carers working for CQC-registered providers will receive weekly PCR tests to administer at home from Monday (23 November). This should help identify more asymptomatic cases and protect care users who are more vulnerable to the virus.

### **Vivaldi study**

The [Vivaldi 2 study](#) is to more than triple in size to provide a detailed picture of Covid-19 infection in care homes in England. These findings will help improve understanding of these vulnerable groups' immune response to Covid-19 and help inform future treatments.

### **Visa extensions for health professionals**

The Government has [confirmed](#) that over 6,000 frontline health workers and their families will have their visas extended for a year for free. This follows an announcement earlier in the year offering free visa extensions for health professionals whose visas were due to expire between 31 March 2020 and 1 October 2020.

## Flu vaccinations

People aged 50 to 64 will get free flu vaccine from 1 December as part of expanded flu vaccination programme this winter. DHSC has [confirmed](#) that a centrally secured supply of vaccines will be made available to GPs and pharmacies for this newly eligible group.

## Environment, transport and travel

### Transport measures

The Department for Transport (DfT) has [published](#) guidance for lorry drivers and maritime and aviation transport crew moving freight between the UK and places with outbreaks of a variant strain of Covid-19. There are currently additional restrictions on people arriving in the UK from Denmark. This does not include the Faroe Islands or Greenland.

### Winter resilience

DfT has [announced](#) plans to support the transport network's winter resilience to ensure that key transport routes to Covid-19 test centres are kept open and running smoothly this winter.

Baroness Vere has [written to councils](#) urging them to ensure their supplies of salt and grit are topped up so that essential routes, such as those to hospitals and Covid-19 testing stations, are well maintained as the country prepares for the potential challenge of severe weather alongside Covid-19.

### Travel corridors

Israel, Jerusalem, Namibia, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, Uruguay, Bonaire, St Eustatius and Saba, the Northern Mariana Islands and the US Virgin Islands have been [added](#) to list of travel corridors. From 4am on Saturday 21 November 2020, passengers arriving from these destinations will no longer need to self-isolate providing they haven't been in or transited through any other non-exempt countries in the 14 days preceding their arrival.

## National Covid-19 data

As of 4pm on 19 November, the total number of people tested positive for Covid-19 was **1,453,256** and daily number of lab-confirmed cases was **22,915**. The total number of Covid-19 associated deaths within 28 days of a positive test was **53,775**, with **501** deaths reported on the day. The data is available to [view online](#).

The R number range for the UK is **1.0-1.1** and the growth rate range is **0% to +2%** per day as of 20 November.

## 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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