

Local context

Schools

September opening

The Department for Education has confirmed that limits on attendance will be lifted from September, and schools will be expected to deliver their full curriculum. Routine Ofsted visits however will not resume until 2021. Yesterday (2 July), the Government published the [latest guidance](#) for schools in preparing for the autumn term and the County Council's Education and Inclusion specialists are working with schools to understand the implications of the new guidance for Hampshire schools and help them to prepare for the start of the next academic year following the school summer holiday break.

Laptops for children who are home learning

The County Council has distributed over 2,800 laptops, provided by the Government, to vulnerable and disadvantaged children and young people. Laptops for Hampshire's Year 10 pupils are being delivered directly to schools.

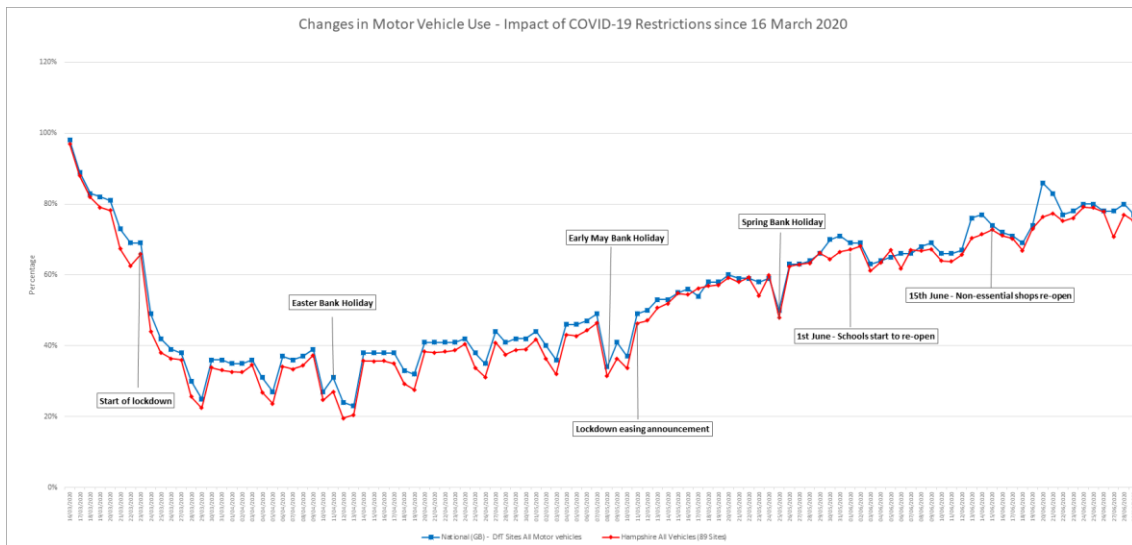
Summer holiday

News that schools are not required to remain open during the summer holidays for vulnerable children, pupils in priority year groups and the children of key workers has been welcomed by Hampshire schools.

Government announcements confirming that eligible children will continue to receive a free school meal throughout the summer holiday, and a commitment of funding to keep the Breakfast Club programme running throughout July and August, are also welcomed.

Traffic flow

The Covid-19 restrictions had a major impact on average daily traffic, with weekday traffic volumes in Hampshire falling to around one third of usual traffic flows at the end of March. With the easing of restrictions, traffic volumes have been increasing steadily and although there have been daily fluctuations, the latest data (29 June) shows that traffic volumes in Hampshire are now at approximately 75% of pre Covid-19 baseline levels, which is in line with national levels at 77%.



Supporting vulnerable residents

The *HantsHelp4Vulnerable* helpline has, as of 1 July, received a total of 14,322 calls. A total of 6,030 Local Response Centre referrals for voluntary support with food, medicine or other support have been made. The districts with the highest number of referrals from the contact centre were: New Forest (961), Basingstoke (926) and Havant (899). The district with the lowest number of referrals is Rushmoor (278). Help with food shopping, and prescriptions consistently remain the top two reasons for residents seeking support.

Social distancing scheme in Petersfield

Hampshire County Council has [announced](#) that measures will be implemented in Petersfield to support safe social distancing. The Covid-safety proposals for Petersfield - including Lavant Street, Chapel, The Square and High Street are:

- Reallocation of parking to give more space to pedestrians coupled with information signing;
- New cycle stands in Market Square;
- A closure of Swan Street between High Street and Chapel Street to allow access for buses and cycles.

For more information about similar schemes visit the [Hampshire Covid travel webpage](#) and also see the [Hampshire Covid Travel FAQs](#).

LEP investment

The Enterprise M3 Local Enterprise Partnership (EM3 LEP) has [announced](#) that it has received a £13.3m share of the Government's £900m "Getting Building Fund" to help 'shovel ready' projects stimulate economic recovery and growth. The next stage of this project will see funding decisions for individual projects made in collaboration with partners and the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government.

The Solent Local Enterprise Partnership has [announced](#) that it has been allocated £15.9m share of the fund. Solent LEP have stated that investment from this Fund will build on their

existing capital investment programme; including the £9.2m investment announced in June to bring forward the Centre for Creative and Immersive eXtended Reality in Portsmouth and enhancements to the A326 to catalyse growth on the Fawley peninsula in the New Forest.

Enjoy summer safely

With tomorrow, 4 July, signalling a major step by government to further ease lockdown rules, organisations across Hampshire, Portsmouth, Southampton and the Isle of Wight are urging residents and visitors to be mindful of the guidance and to remain safe. In the [press release](#), Simon Bryant, Director for Public Health at Hampshire County Council and spokesperson for the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Local Resilience Forum, is quoted:

“The virus is still with us, and unless we follow the advice, we risk a damaging second wave and a potential return to the type of restrictions none of us want to see ... Let’s also not forget that potentially a significant proportion of people with coronavirus have no symptoms, but can transmit the virus to others – so think, before you mingle. If you don’t do it for yourself, please consider the many thousands of local people across our area who are vulnerable - for them, the virus could still be fatal. Let’s work together to keep Hampshire safe this summer.”



National context

Local government

Funding announcement

The Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, Robert Jenrick, announced a new funding package for local government in his [speech](#) at the LGA conference yesterday (2 July). He [announced](#) a further £500m in ringfenced funding and a new scheme which will reimburse councils for lost income and allow council and business rates tax deficits to be repaid over three years instead of one.

Communities

Kick-starting Tourism Package

The Minister for Regional Growth and Local Government, Simon Clarke, has announced a new £10 million Kick-starting Tourism Package, during his [speech at the LGA conference](#). The package will give small businesses in tourist destinations grants of up to £5,000 to help them adapt following the Covid-19 pandemic.

Records for NHS Test and Trace

The Department of Health and Social Care has [issued](#) guidance for businesses and organisations outlining how they should keep a secure, short-term record of staff and visitors as they reopen this weekend. This is to help the NHS Test and Trace service in the national effort to contain and prevent the spread of Covid-19.

Children and education

Schools and colleges to reopen in full in September

The Department for Education (DfE) has [published](#) plans for all children and young people to return to full-time education from September. Current restrictions on group sizes will be lifted, while Covid-19 secure measures such as ‘bubbles’ will remain in place to reduce the risk of transmission. Guidance for [schools](#), [special educational settings](#) and [higher education](#) has been issued.

Early years

The DfE has [updated](#) the early years guidance to confirm that while settings will not be required to arrange children and staff in small, consistent groups from 20 July, they should still consider how to minimise mixing within settings, for example using different rooms for different age groups.

Breakfast Clubs

The DfE has [confirmed](#) that children from over 1,800 schools, who are currently part of the Breakfast Clubs programme, will be offered healthy breakfasts over the summer holiday. Charity coordinators, *Family Action* and *Magic Breakfast* will liaise with schools on the programme. This follows the DfE’s recent announcement of the Covid Summer Food Fund that will provide free school meals to eligible pupils nationally over the holidays.

Adults' social care and public health

Extended tax cut to PPE costs

The Treasury has [announced](#) that the temporary lifting of VAT on PPE has been extended until the end of October.

Testing in care homes

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has [confirmed](#) that care home staff are to be given Covid-19 tests every week and residents monthly from Monday (6 July). Repeat testing will be initially prioritised for care homes primarily looking after over 65s or those with dementia, before being rolled out to all adult care homes.

Temperature screening products

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency has [warned](#) that thermal cameras and other “temperature screening” products, are not a reliable way to detect if people have Covid-19.

Deaths of health service and adult social care staff

The DHSC has [published](#) directions to NHS trusts and NHS foundation trusts to ensure the scrutiny of deaths of health service and adult social care staff from Covid-19.

Infection survey

The Office for National Statistics has [issued](#) data from the *Covid-19 Infection Survey* which is being delivered in partnership with IQVIA, Oxford University and UK Biocentre. They estimate that an average of 1 in 2,200 individuals within the community population in England had Covid-19 at any given time between 14- 27 June.

NHS test and trace statistics

The DHSC has [released](#) statistics for week four (18-24 June) of the NHS test and trace contact tracing service. The statistics show that between 18- 24 June, 297,427 people were tested for Covid-19 under Pillars 1 and 2. Of these, 6,183 people tested positive and had their cases transferred to the tracing service, a decrease of 740 on the previous week. Of which, 4,639 people (75%) provided information about their recent contacts, which meant that 23,028 people were identified as close contacts. In total, NHS test and trace has identified 132,525 close, recent contacts of those who tested positive for the virus, equating to 86.4% of those reported.

Environment, place and travel

Foreign travel

The Government has [confirmed](#) that passengers returning or visiting the UK from certain destinations which pose a reduced risk to the public health of UK citizens, will no longer need to self-isolate for 14-days when arriving in England from 10 July. Guidance on [travel corridors](#) has been published, which includes a list of countries and territories for which passengers will be exempt from self-isolating.

National Covid-19 data

Latest R number range

The R number range for the UK is 0.7-0.9 and the growth rate range is -6% to -0% as of 3 July 2020. The data is available to [view online](#).

Cases

As of 9pm on 2 July, the total number of lab-confirmed cases was **283,757**. The daily number of lab-confirmed cases was **576**. The total number of Covid-19 associated deaths was **43,995**, with **89** new deaths reported on the day. The data is available to [view online](#).

Please note that the methodology for reporting positive cases changed on 2 July to remove duplicates within and across pillars 1 and 2, to ensure that a person who tests positive is only counted once. Due to this change, and a revision of historical data in pillar 1, the cumulative total for positive cases is 30,302 lower than if you added the daily figure to yesterday's total.

Where to find the latest information and guidance

- 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>

Deborah Harkin
Assistant Chief Executive