

## Local context

### Campaigns and communications

The County Council has this week launched a new [animation](#) which is being promoted across social media platforms to remind Hampshire residents of the new lockdown rules. The short and informative animation summarises the reasons for which it is acceptable to leave home, and what you can and cannot do during this period of heightened restrictions.

Members are encouraged to share/retweet relevant messages that we are posting on our corporate social media feeds – via [@hantsconnect](#) on both Twitter and Facebook. The County Council also has corporate accounts on LinkedIn and Instagram.

The County Council has also issued a special lockdown issue of [Your Hampshire](#). The e-newsletter includes information on the national lockdown, a message from the Leader, Councillor Keith Mans, key service updates and more.

### Unpaid carer grants

With a new period of national restrictions, the County Council is reminding people who provide unpaid care for their loved ones that there is practical help available.

There are three carers organisations in Hampshire able to offer information, advice and practical support, which includes a fund to provide small grants for unpaid carers during the pandemic. A campaign to promote the grant scheme is currently in development – more details to follow.

Unpaid carers who have been impacted because of additional pressures due to Covid-19, whether emotionally, physically or mentally, should be encouraged to contact one of the following organisations to speak to a trained advisor:

- Andover MIND - 01264 332297 (select option 3). Monday to Friday: 9am – 5pm. [enquiries@andovermind.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@andovermind.org.uk)
- The Princess Royal Trust for Carers in Hampshire - 01264 835246. Monday to Thursday: 9am - 5pm / Friday: 9am - 4.30pm. [info@carercentre.com](mailto:info@carercentre.com)
- Carers Together - 01794 519495. Monday to Friday: 9.30am-1.30pm (answer machine outside these hours). [admin@carerstogether.org.uk](mailto:admin@carerstogether.org.uk)

## National context

### Communities

#### Support for rough sleepers

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) has [announced](#) extra support to help protect rough sleepers from the effects of Covid-19. An additional £10m funding will be provided to councils to support rough sleepers into accommodation and to ensure they are registered with a GP.

#### Evictions ban extended

MHCLG has [confirmed](#) that the ban on bailiff enforced evictions has been extended for at least 6 weeks – until at least 21 February – with measures kept under review. In addition, court rules and procedures introduced in September to support both tenants and landlords will remain in place and will be regularly reviewed.

## **Outdoor spaces**

MHCLG has [updated](#) the guidance for managing safer urban centres, green spaces, beaches, the countryside and coastal areas during the national lockdown. In addition, they [updated](#) the guidance for owners and operators of playgrounds and outdoor gyms to enable their use during the national lockdown.

# Children and education

## **Lateral flow test kits**

The Department for Education (DfE) has said that all schools with secondary-age pupils, including independent schools, special schools, alternative provision, sixth forms and further education colleges, will receive an initial delivery of lateral flow device test kits to support asymptomatic testing from the start of the spring term. DfE has circulated a [form](#) for schools to complete if they have not received their initial delivery or have missing or damaged items.

## **Pausing of the educational settings status form**

DfE has announced that schools and colleges do not need to complete the educational setting status form. DfE is updating the form to reflect the new national lockdown and will provide a further update shortly on when schools and colleges should resume completing it.

## **Devices and data**

DfE has [confirmed](#) that schools, trusts and local authorities can help disadvantaged children get online using free mobile data increases or 4G wireless routers provided by the Department for Education.

All secondary schools have also been invited by the Government to order laptops and tablets through the 'Get help with technology service' to support remote education. DfE will invite primary schools to order over the coming weeks.

# Adults' social care and public health

## **Oxford AstraZeneca vaccine**

NHS England has [confirmed](#) that the new Oxford AstraZeneca vaccine is being rolled out to General Practice led services.

## **Moderna vaccine**

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency has today (8 January) authorised the Moderna vaccine. The UK has ordered an additional 10 million doses of the vaccine, taking its total to 17 million, to be delivered from the spring.

## **Treatment**

The Department of Health and Social Care has [reported](#) that results from a clinical trial show that the drugs tocilizumab and sarilumab, typically used to treat rheumatoid arthritis, reduced the relative risk of death by 24%, when administered to Covid-19 patients within 24 hours of entering intensive care.

## **Supported living services**

The Government has [updated](#) the guidance for providers of supported living settings to reflect the national lockdown.

## **Shielding**

The Government has [updated](#) the guidance on shielding and protecting people who are clinically extremely vulnerable during the national lockdown.

# Environment, transport and travel

## Safer travel for passengers and operators

The Department for Transport (DfT) has [updated](#) the guidance for passengers and travel operators on how to work and travel safely during the national lockdown in England. The Government has also the guidance for drivers, operators and owners of taxis or private hire vehicles.

## Testing for hauliers

The DfT has [confirmed](#) that the testing requirement for hauliers crossing the Channel will continue following a decision by the French Government yesterday (7 January).

## Travel restrictions

Travel restrictions are to be extended to southern African countries from 4am Saturday 9 January to protect against the spread of a new Covid-19 variant initially detected in South Africa.

In addition, Israel (and Jerusalem) to be removed from list of travel corridors following data showing a significant increase in confirmed cases. Mauritius, Seychelles and Botswana also removed from travel corridor list as part of tighter restrictions to slow the spread of the variant prevalent in South Africa.

## National Covid-19 data

As of 4pm on 8 January, the total number of people tested positive for Covid-19 was **2,957,472** and daily number of lab-confirmed cases was **68,053**. The total number of Covid-19 associated deaths within 28 days of a positive test was **78,508**, with **1,162** deaths reported on the day. The data is available to [view online](#).

The R number range for the UK is **1.0- 1.4** and the growth rate range **0% to +6%** per day as of 8 January.

## 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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