

## Local context

### Local Covid-19 data

The County Council will today (7 September) [publish](#) the latest weekly data dashboard. The data shows a total number of cases in Hampshire of **5,456** and **154** cases in the last seven days.

Hampshire's overall infection rate is **390.5** cases per 100,000 population. The county's current weekly rate stands at **6.2** cases per 100,000 population, compared to the England weekly rate of 12.1. The overall trend in the infection rate is increasing across Hampshire districts.

There have been **1,062** Covid-19 associated deaths in Hampshire since March, and no deaths in the last seven days - the trend in the number of deaths continues to decline.

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

### Remain vigilant

The County Council has issued a [press release](#) reminding residents of the importance of following government advice in order to avoid a return to lockdown. The Authority's Director of Public Health, Simon Bryant is quoted: "As a county we are in a relatively good place currently, with comparatively low numbers of confirmed cases of the virus. However, this could change quickly if we aren't vigilant. In particular, we are seeing small increases in infection rates, especially among young people, 15-29, some of whom are returning from holiday abroad, and in others who are socialising beyond boundaries. With thousands coming together in ways we haven't seen since the Spring, September will be an exciting time for many, but please be smart - keep your distance, wash your hands - you can never do this too often, and wear face coverings, wherever and whenever you're asked to do so."

### Business fire safety

Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service (HFRS) is [reminding](#) businesses who have had to make changes due to Covid-19 not to overlook fire safety. As part of this year's National Fire Chiefs Council Business Safety Week (7-13 September), businesses across the UK are being advised to make sure fire safety remains a priority and Fire Risk Assessments are reviewed.

Businesses are advised to consider how Covid secure measures, may in some cases, compromise fire safety measures, for example perspex screens obstructing smoke detectors or a lack of trained staff on site to support evacuation procedures.

HFRS are promoting the following free webinars throughout Business Safety Week:

- Tuesday 8 September, 10:00 am - Business Fire Safety workshop

- Friday 11 September, 10:00 am - High-rise Fire Safety workshop

To book a place, email: [csprotection.admin@hantsfire.gov.uk](mailto:csprotection.admin@hantsfire.gov.uk)

## Saliva testing trials in Southampton schools and university

In the second phase of the programme evaluating large scale population testing, widespread testing for Covid-19 using a home-based saliva test is to be trialled within educational settings in Southampton. Led by a partnership of the University of Southampton, Southampton City Council and the NHS, over 20,000 students, pupils and staff from University of Southampton and four Southampton schools will be invited to participate in the programme. University students will be encouraged to take a test on their arrival in Southampton, then periodically during the autumn term alongside testing of some staff. Testing in schools will be on a weekly basis in four schools in the Aspire Community Trust (Mount Pleasant Junior, Maytree Infant, Swaythling Primary, and Cantell Secondary). More information is available on [University of Southampton webpage](#).

## National context

### Communities

#### Evictions

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government has [written](#) to local authorities to notify them of the extension of emergency measures regarding notice periods which came into force on 29 August. The regulations amend [Schedule 29 of the Coronavirus Act 2020](#) to require residential landlords to give tenants 6 months' notice of their intention to seek possession, except in the most serious cases.

#### Domestic abuse

The charity Hestia has [launched](#) a new advice line for businesses supporting employees experiencing, or at risk of, domestic abuse. Funded by the Home Office, the Everyone's Business Advice Line, will be a point of contact for businesses, supporting them on how to approach disclosures of domestic abuse by their employees, particularly in light of Covid-19.

#### Driving tests

The Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency has [announced](#) that it has closed the driving test booking service. The service will reopen on Monday 14 September. From this date, they will extend the period in which tests are available from 6 weeks to 18 weeks ahead.

#### Wedding services

The Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) has [written](#) an open letter to businesses in the weddings sector about how consumer protection law applies to the wedding contracts they have with consumers during the Covid-19 pandemic.

### **Homelessness and rough sleeping**

The Government has [updated](#) the guidance on Covid-19 for commissioners and providers of hostel services for people experiencing homelessness and rough sleeping. The update has revised language in relation to self-isolation.

## **Children and education**

### **Autumn exams**

The Department for Education (DfE) has [updated](#) the guidance for schools and colleges on the responsibility for autumn exams which includes information about: the DfE exams support service, paying for exam fees, booking alternative sites and booking exam invigilation.

### **Vocational and technical qualifications**

Following consultation, Ofqual has [confirmed](#) decisions on arrangements for vocational and technical qualification assessments in 2021.

### **Teachers**

The Education Secretary, Gavin Williamson, has written to teaching staff to thank them for their efforts in welcoming all pupils back to school.

### **Laptops and tablets**

The DfE has [updated](#) the guidance on accessing digital devices for children requiring access to remote education due to shielding or local restrictions with further clarification of eligibility criteria.

## **Adults' social care and public health**

### **Clear face masks**

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has [confirmed](#) that 250,000 clear face masks will be delivered to NHS and social care workers to support better care for people who use lip-reading and facial expressions to communicate.

### **Weight management services**

Public Health England has [published](#) a rapid review to gain an understanding of how the Covid-19 pandemic affected people in lockdown, changes to weight management delivery and commissioning, and how services need to adapt in response to the recovery strategy.

### **Looking after people who lack mental capacity**

The DHSC has [updated](#) the guidance for health and social care staff who are caring for, or treating, a person who lacks the relevant mental capacity with new attachments to the guidance.

## **Environment, transport and travel**

### **International travel**

The Greek Islands of Lesbos, Tinos, Serifos, Mykonos, Crete, Santorini and Zakyntos are no longer on the travel advice exemptions list, following the latest assessment of Covid-19 risks. The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) [advises](#) against all

non-essential travel to these Greek Islands. The rest of Greece remains exempt from the FCDO's advice against all non-essential international travel.

### **Waste services**

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs is carrying out a one-off, voluntary survey of all English councils. The survey aims to understand whether councils have experienced, or expect to experience, greater financial cost or reduced income in providing waste services, as a result of having to manage impacts of the coronavirus pandemic.

Survey link: <https://bit.ly/3bsEi1W>

## **National Covid-19 data**

As of 4pm on 7 September, the total number of lab-confirmed cases was **350,100**. The daily number of lab-confirmed cases was **2,948**. The total number of Covid-19 associated deaths within 28 days of positive test was **41,554**, with **3** deaths reported on the day. The data is available to [view online](#).

The R number range for the UK is **0.9-1.1** and the growth rate range is **-1% to +2%** per day as of 4 September.

## **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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