

Local context

Keep Hampshire Safe campaigns

There are currently multiple campaigns live across social media, both paid for adverts and organic posts (shared at no cost). Members are encouraged to share/retweet with their social media followers, any relevant messages that we are posting on our corporate social media feeds – via @hantsconnect on both Twitter and Facebook. View and share the latest campaigns at the following links:

- [Act like you've got it](#) (paid for only)
- [Doing your essential shop?](#)- on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)
- [Wash hands](#) - on [Twitter](#)
- [Cover face](#) - on [Twitter](#)
- [Make space](#)- on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)
- [New variants, same rules](#)- on [Twitter](#)
- [Vaccine information](#) on - [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)

In addition, the following key messages are currently being shared on social media:

- Vaccine Fraud warning on -[Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)
- Local Tracing Service on -[Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)
- Advice for Nepalese speakers on [Twitter](#) and BAME communities on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)
- Support bubbles information on - [Twitter](#)
- Transport to vaccination centres advice and help on - [Facebook](#)
- Text based scams warning on - [Facebook](#)

Offline, the [Do the right thing](#) outdoor media campaign launched this week, which aims to remind people to keep following the rules (posters at bus stops, road signs, digital sheets at supermarkets and shopping centres). Also, a new radio advert will launch this weekend (on Heart Radio, Wave 105, Capital South Coast, Hits Hampshire) which contains key vaccination messages and hands-face-space reminders.



Vaccination

NHS partners report that very good progress continues to be made with delivery of the Covid-19 vaccination programme across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight (HIOW). Both HIOW Care System (ICS) and Frimley Health and Care ICS (includes North East Hampshire), have now delivered the first dose of the vaccine to more than 91% of people aged 80 and over. People in the [Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation \(JCVI\) priority groups](#) 1- 4 continue to be prioritised to receive the first dose.

All eligible care home residents and staff across HIOW have been offered a first dose, apart from those in a small number of care homes where positive cases of the virus have been identified. Over coming weeks, the NHS will return to these care homes to vaccinate people who have not yet received their first dose.

This week, vaccination centres opened at Basingstoke Fire Station, the St James's Hospital site in Portsmouth and The Riverside Centre in Newport on the Isle of Wight. Meanwhile, an additional four pharmacies across the area have started vaccinating by appointment. This brings the total number of vaccination sites across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight to 63. Details of all sites within HIOW are available to view [online](#).

Work continues to further understand and tackle inequalities, addressing individual concerns and circumstances - including medical history, age and ethnic background. This includes a joint working group comprising of NHS and local authority communications leads to develop a robust BAME communications plan. Additionally, outreach work with BAME groups is underway in several areas.

To stay up to date with the latest information on the vaccination programme in Hampshire, please visit the County Council's [vaccination webpage](#) and also see the [Southampton City CCG](#) webpages which contain information on the HIOW area including FAQs, stakeholder updates and the vaccination site map.

Asymptomatic community testing

The Government is expanding asymptomatic testing across the country to ensure that those who need to leave home for work have access to a test. Testing will initially be offered through two primary delivery channels; institutional (workplace) testing where tests are provided by large employers to their staff in both the public and private sectors, and community testing where tests are provided by the local authority.

The County Council is co-ordinating bids to the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) to support the roll out of asymptomatic community testing across Hampshire, Southampton, Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight for an initial six-week period. Should these bids be approved by DHSC, asymptomatic testing would be available to people who are not covered by an existing workplace scheme. Subject to confirmation, community testing could start to roll out from the middle of February.

The bids broadly focus on several proposed testing locations aimed primarily at people who must leave their homes regularly for work, and who may therefore be at a higher risk of exposure to the virus. This includes local authority frontline workers, staff in early years settings, retail staff including supermarkets, construction and maintenance workers, transport workers and volunteers, including those supporting local authorities and emergency services in providing a welfare response to residents.

For more information, see the Executive Member for Public Health's [decision day paper](#) (8 February). Also, the County Council has developed a new webpage to keep residents up to date with the latest information on testing and contact tracing - [view online](#).

National context

National Covid-19 cases, deaths and vaccines data

The NHS Covid-19 vaccination daily data shows that within the reporting period as of 5 February 2021, a total of **9,430,261** people have received the 1st dose and a total of **468,782** people have received the 2nd dose. The data, including the weekly statistical release, is available to [view online](#).

As of 4pm on 4 February, the total number of people tested positive for Covid-19 was **3,892,459** and daily number of lab-confirmed cases was **20,634**. The total number of Covid-19 associated deaths within 28 days of a positive test was **110,250** with **915** deaths reported on the day. The data is available to [view online](#).

The R number range for the UK is **0.7 – 1.0** and the growth rate range **-5% to -2%** per day as of 5 February.

Communities

May elections

The Cabinet Office has [confirmed](#) that the May 2021 local polls will take place, including local authority and Police and Crime Commissioner elections. A delivery plan has been published which describes how they will proceed in the Covid-19 context and includes information on managing:

- public health and social distancing
- nominations and campaigning
- voting
- the delivery of elections

Guidance for local government

The Government has [updated](#) its guidance page for councils during the Covid-19 outbreak.

Safe volunteering

The Government has [updated](#) the guidance to help organisations and groups understand how to safely and effectively involve volunteers during the pandemic.

It now includes new information on political campaigning and volunteers eligible for vaccines.

Job Finding Support service

The Department for Work and Pensions has [announced](#) that its new Job Finding Support service has launched. Over the next year, an expected 160,000 jobseekers will receive digital support and advice, as part of the new service.

Children and education

Asymptomatic testing in specialist settings

The Department for Education (DfE) has [updated](#) the guidance on mass asymptomatic testing in specialist settings. This follows the recent statement from Public Health England (PHE) that daily contact testing in schools and colleges would be paused, except for those taking part in the evaluation.

Restricting attendance

DfE [updated](#) the guidance for schools on restricting attendance during the national lockdown, to reflect the announcement made by the Prime Minister on 27 January that most pupils will continue to learn remotely after the February half-term.

After-school clubs and out-of-school settings

DfE has [updated](#) the guidance for providers of after-school clubs and out-of-school settings to include further information on vulnerable children who have difficulty engaging in remote education and on NHS Test and Trace support payments.

DfE also [updated](#) the guidance for parents and carers whose children attend out of school settings making it clear that as far as possible, parents should try to limit the number of settings their children attend.

Catch-up

The Government has [announced](#) the appointment of Sir Kevan Collins as the Education Recovery Commissioner, to oversee a comprehensive programme of catch-up aimed at young people who have lost out on learning due to the pandemic.

Children's mental health

Former Love Island contestant, Dr Alex George, has been [appointed](#) as youth mental health ambassador for the Government and will be part of the Mental Health in Education Action Group, set up specifically support young people returning to school after lockdown.

Adults' social care and public health

Progress of the vaccine programme

The Minister for Vaccine Deployment, Nadhim Zahawi, [delivered](#) a statement to Parliament on the progress of the vaccine programme.

Expansion of asymptomatic testing

The Government has [published](#) a briefing on how it is expanding asymptomatic testing across the country to ensure that those who need to leave home for work have access to a test.

New variants

While the Pfizer/BioNTech and Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccines appear to work against the Covid-19 variants currently dominant in the UK, the Government has [announced](#) that they have entered a new partnership with vaccine manufacturer, CureVac, to rapidly develop new vaccines in response to new Covid-19 variants if required.

Vaccine safety

Data [published](#) from UK's independent medicines regulator confirms approved vaccines meet strict regulatory standards for safety.

Alternating dose vaccine study

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has [announced](#) that a world-first Covid-19 alternating dose vaccine study has launched in the UK. Patients taking part in the clinical study will receive different Covid-19 vaccines for their first and second dose to monitor the impact of the different dosing regimens on patients' immune responses.

Mental health

Public Health England has [updated](#) the advice and information on looking after mental health and wellbeing during the Covid-19 pandemic to include new information for students.

Environment, transport and travel

Hotel quarantine

The Government has [confirmed](#) that from 15 February, anyone travelling to the UK from a country on the UK's travel ban list will be required to quarantine in a government-approved facility for 10 days. Yesterday evening (4 February) DHSC issued a commercial specification to hotels near ports and airports, asking for proposals on how they can support the delivery of Managed Quarantine Facilities ahead of formal contracts being awarded.

Additional links

- NHS information on the Covid-19 vaccination programme: 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>

Deborah Harkin
Assistant Chief Executive