

Local context

Temporary walking and cycling improvements

The County Council has launched several consultations to ask residents for their views on proposed plans to use road space differently to encourage people to walk or cycle more.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, a number of temporary walking and cycling improvements were implemented to reflect how the pandemic changed travel patterns and behaviour. This is a now a critical time to consider how changes could be made to our roads to support a prosperous, healthy and green recovery from Covid-19 - making it easier for people to sustain healthier lifestyles, supporting local businesses and helping to meet the County Council's carbon reduction targets as part of our [Climate Change Strategy](#).

Consultations include:

- [Petersfield Town Centre](#)
- [Aldershot Railway Station](#)
- [A27 corridor](#)
- [Brookley Road, Brockenhurst](#)
- [Eastleigh Town Centre](#)

Vaccination walk-in appointments

Solent NHS Trust has [confirmed](#) that from today (24 February), for a trial period of 7 days, eligible people will be able to 'walk-in' for their Covid-19 vaccination at four large-scale vaccination centres across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

Walk-in appointments will be offered 7 days a week, between 12.30pm and 3.30pm, at Basingstoke Fire Station, St James's Hospital in Portsmouth, The Riverside Centre in Newport on the Isle of Wight and Oakley Road in Millbrook, Southampton.

The walk-in service is being offered to people in line with recommendations from the JCVI:

- people age 64 and over
- people who have received a letter from the government saying they are at high risk from coronavirus (clinically extremely vulnerable)
- Adults in receipt of Carer's Allowance

To use the walk-in vaccine service, people will need to bring proof of eligibility (e.g., shielding letter from the government, photo identification including date of birth, or Department of Work and Pensions letter for eligible carers, specifying in receipt of Carer's Allowance). Whilst visiting the centres, people are asked to follow all government guidance to control the virus and save lives –following the 'hands, face, space'.

Community testing

Hampshire County Council has [launched](#) a community testing campaign which aims to encourage those without symptoms of Covid-19 who are regularly leaving home to go to work, and who are not covered by an existing workplace testing scheme, to access regular testing. Eleven appointment-only community testing sites across the county became operational this week - tests can be booked online 24 hours in advance through district council websites or on the [County Council website](#) and appointments should take no more than 30 minutes.

There is a paid for advert currently live on Facebook and an advert will also soon launch on LinkedIn, in addition the campaign is being shared on Twitter. Watch the animation [online here](#).



National context

National Covid-19 cases, deaths and vaccines data

The Covid-19 vaccination daily data shows that up to 22 February, a total of **17,916,181** people have received the 1st dose and a total of **642,788** people have received the 2nd dose.

As of 4pm on 23 February, the total number of people tested positive for Covid-19 was **4,134,639** and daily number of lab-confirmed cases was **8,489**. The total number of Covid-19 associated deaths within 28 days of a positive test was **121,305** with **548** deaths reported on the day. The data is available to [view online](#).

The R number range for the UK is **0.6 – 0.9** and the growth rate range **-6% to -3%** per day as of 19 February.

Communities

Proxy voting

The Government has [announced](#) that individuals who need to self-isolate due to Covid-19 will still be able to vote in the local elections, following a planned amendment to the emergency proxy voting rules published in Parliament.

The [regulations](#) will allow anyone who is self-isolating due to coronavirus to access an emergency proxy vote, up to 17:00 on 6 May.

Updated COVID-19 renting guidance

The Government has [updated](#) its non-statutory Covid-19 renting guidance for landlords, tenants and councils. Guidance has also been [published](#) regarding the possession action process for landlords and tenants for private and social rented housing.

Children and education

School return

To support the announcement that schools will re-open to all pupils from the 8 March, the Department for Education (DfE) has [published](#) updated guidance on managing a school or early years setting, as well guidance for parents and carers and university students and those in higher and further education.

All primary school children will return on Monday 8 March, as staff continue to take two rapid Covid-19 tests each week at home. All secondary school and college students will take Covid-19 tests as they return to the classroom from the 8 March. Secondary schools and colleges will have discretion on how to stagger the return of their students over that week to allow them to be tested on return.

Wraparound childcare for primary and secondary pupils will resume from 8 March, where necessary to enable parents to access work, education or medical care.

Education recovery package

DfE has [announced](#) that over £700m will be used to help young people in England catch up on lost learning due to the pandemic (£300m of which has been previously announced).

Adults' social care and public health

Asymptomatic testing options

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government has [published](#) guidance outlining the current routes available for asymptomatic testing of work forces.

Organisation testing registration

The Government has [issued](#) a new spreadsheet for organisations such as schools and care homes, to record the details of people who have been tested for Covid-19 on that day.

Contain outbreak funding

As part of the Government's Covid-19 Spring Response, an extra £400 million funding for the Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) was [announced](#) to cover further public health activities from 1 April, taking total COMF support across 2020/21 and 2021/22 to £2 billion.

Test and Trace Support Payment scheme

DHSC has confirmed that the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme is to be extended until 30 June. The eligibility criteria have been expanded to allow one parent or guardian to be paid if they have to take time off work to care for a child who is self-isolating (where the parent or guardian isn't required to self-isolate). Funding available to English councils for discretionary payments is also increasing to £20 million per month through to the end of June.

Vaccination priority list

Following advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation the Secretary of State for Health has [asked](#) the NHS to ensure that everyone on the Learning Disability Register is invited for vaccination as part of cohort 6.

Economy, business and finance

Business support

The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy has [confirmed](#) an extension to the Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed) until the end of March. The grant supports businesses that were required to close due to the current national lockdown. A further payment will be made to all billing authorities, covering 16 February to 31 March.

New VAT deferred payment scheme for businesses

Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs has [announced](#) a new online VAT Deferral New Payment Scheme for businesses. Businesses can opt-in to the scheme, until 21 June via the government's website.

Environment, travel and transport

Local waste services

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has published a new video reminding the public to check which local waste services are available, to respect waste workers and not to fly tip. These are live on [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#) and will be featured across other social media channels.

Local Transport

The Minister for Roads, Buses and Places, Baroness Vere, has [written](#) to all local transport authorities updating them on the Government's expectations of local transport as the country emerges from the national lockdown. The letter contains an update on bus and light rail service levels, home to school and college transport, staffing levels, transport demand management, face coverings and social distancing, and workforce testing.

Testing for hauliers

The Department for Transport is [reminding](#) hauliers to make sure they have a negative Covid-19 test before heading to the border at one of the [37 haulier advice sites](#) set up around the country, ensuring there is no build-up in and around ports.

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