

Local context

Local Covid-19 data

The County Council will today (19 April) [publish](#) the latest weekly Covid-19 data summary.

The total number of cases in Hampshire since March 2020 is now 63,366 and there have been 240 cases confirmed in the last six days.

The county's case rate in the last 7 days has decreased to 15.8 per 100,000 population and remains below the England case rate at 27.9.

There have been 2,805 Covid-19 associated deaths in Hampshire since March 2020 and 3 deaths reported in the last seven days.

A total of 750,974 people have been vaccinated with at least one dose in Hampshire, and 7,964 people have been vaccinated with at least one dose in the last 7 days.

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

Asymptomatic testing

The County Council has [urged](#) secondary school pupils and college students without symptoms of Covid-19 to take a free, rapid lateral flow device (LFD) test before returning to education today (19 April). Pupils are reminded that LFD tests should be taken the day before or morning of the start of summer term. Secondary school pupils and college students should continue to test twice weekly.

Children of primary school age or younger who are not experiencing any symptoms do not need to take Covid-19 tests at home, although other members of their household should regularly test at home if they are an adult, or a child of secondary school age or older. More information is available in the [press release](#).

May elections

Hampshire County Council is reminding residents that today (19 April) is the last day to [register to vote](#) in the 6 May elections. 5pm tomorrow (20 April) is the deadline for receipt of postal vote applications, and 5pm on 27 April is the deadline for receipt of proxy vote applications.

More information on the May elections and Covid-19 safe voting is available on the [County Council's website](#).

This May's elections are your chance to **influence how important services are delivered in Hampshire...**



National context

National Covid-19 cases, deaths and vaccines data

The Covid-19 vaccination daily data shows that up to 17 April, a total of **32,849,223** people have received a 1st dose and a total of **9,930,846** people have received a 2nd dose.

As of 6pm on 18 April, the total number of people tested positive for Covid-19 was **4,387,820** and daily number of lab-confirmed cases was **1,882**. The total number of Covid-19 associated deaths within 28 days of a positive test was **127,270** with **10** deaths reported on the day. The data is available to [view online](#).

The R number range for the UK is **0.7 to 1.0** and the growth rate range is **-6% to -1%** per day as of 16 April.

Communities

Events Research Programme pilot events

Ministerial directions in relation to the Events Research Programme (ERP) pilot events have been [published](#). ERP pilot events will run across a range of settings, venues, and activities to explore how different approaches to social distancing, ventilation and test-on-entry protocols could ease opening and maximise participation.

Outdoor hospitality

The Secretary of State, Robert Jenrick, has [written](#) to local authorities outlining how they should apply government measures to support hospitality businesses to reopen safely, including at listed buildings and historic visitor attractions.

Welcome Back Fund

New guidance has been [issued](#) to help local authorities and partners to deliver activities supported through the Welcome Back Fund. This funding builds on the Reopening High Streets Safely Fund announced in May 2020.

Children and education

School meals

The guidance for councils and schools on arrangements for school meals during the Covid-19 outbreak has been [updated](#). The guidance now includes information on claiming for additional costs, the Winter Grant Scheme and the Covid-19 Local Support Grant and further information on free meals in further education.

The Big Ask

The Children's Commissioner, Dame Rachel de Souza, has today (19 April) [launched](#) the '[The Big Ask](#)'. The survey will run until 19 May and will ask children across England to set out their priorities for improving childhood post-Covid.

Adults' social care and public health

Surge testing

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has [announced](#) that, working in partnership with councils, additional surge testing and genomic sequencing is being deployed to targeted areas within Barnet, Sandwell and Birmingham.

New Variant Under Investigation designation

A new Covid-19 variant, first detected in India, has now been [designated](#) a Variant Under Investigation (VUI). Public Health England has identified 77 cases of this variant in the UK and all appropriate public health interventions will be undertaken, including enhanced contact tracing.

Vaccination advice for pregnant women

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) has [issued](#) new advice on the Covid-19 vaccination for pregnant women. JCVI now advises that it's preferable for pregnant women in the UK to be offered the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccines where available, at the same time as the rest of the population. There is no evidence to suggest that other vaccines are unsafe for pregnant women, but more research is needed.

Ultraviolet radiation disinfection products

The Office for Product Safety and Standards has [issued](#) a report on a study on a range of products which were promoted for reducing the risk of catching Covid-19.

Environment, transport and travel

Rail vouchers

It has been [announced](#) that passengers with unused rail vouchers which have expired or are due to expire between 20 October 2020 and 30 June 2021 will get an additional 6 months after their original expiry date to redeem them.

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>

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