

Local context

Local Covid-19 data

The County Council will today (12 October) [publish](#) the latest weekly Covid-19 data dashboard. The data shows a total number of cases in Hampshire of **6,918** and **667** cases confirmed in the last seven days, which is an increase of **339**.

The county's current weekly rate stands at **27.5** cases per 100,000 population.

There have been **1,074** Covid-19 associated deaths in Hampshire since March, and **2** deaths in the last seven days.

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

Alresford Fair

Due to Covid-19 safety concerns, the County Council has today (12 October) [issued](#) a direction to prevent Alresford Fair from taking place this week.

The ability to issue directions prohibiting events is part of new powers given to upper tier local authorities to direct organisers to close their attractions and events, should there be a serious threat to public health in relation to Covid-19. In Hampshire, this decision is taken by the Chief Executive on the recommendation of the Director of Public Health. This process is overseen by the Health Protection Board, chaired by the Director of Public Health, and the Outbreak Engagement Board, chaired by the Leader of Hampshire County Council. All such matters are also notified to the Department of Health and Social Care.

The County Council works closely with district and borough councils and will continue to review any event referred to it by partners to determine whether it should go ahead, on a case by case basis.

National context

Prime Minister's statement – 12 October

The Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, [delivered](#) a statement to the House of Commons at 3.30pm on 12 October in which he outlined a new three tier system known as "local COVID alert levels". In order to streamline and simplify local responses, the Government will introduce new COVID alert levels from Wednesday which are set at three levels:

- **Medium** – This is the lowest-risk tier and will mean continuing to live under the existing national restrictions, including the rule of six, current social distancing measures and the 10pm hospitality curfew.
- **High** – This level incorporates the existing measures, but primarily aims to reduce household to household transmission, by preventing all mixing between different households or support bubbles indoors. The rule of six will continue to apply

outdoors. Most areas already subject to local restrictions will automatically move into the high alert level.

- **Very high** – The highest level will only apply where transmission rates are rising most rapidly. The Government will set a baseline of prohibiting social mixing indoors and in private gardens. Pubs and bars will be closed in these areas. Retail, schools and universities will remain open. Restrictions will last for four weeks at a time before they are reviewed. Local leaders will also be offered the opportunity to extend the baseline with their own measures.

Communities

Culture Recovery Fund

The Culture Secretary, Oliver Dowden, has [confirmed](#) details of the cultural organisations receiving a share of £257 million as part of the Government’s £1.57 billion Culture Recovery Fund. A full list of the recipients has been [published](#).

Help our Helplines campaign

The Government has donated £1 million in response to ITV’s Help our Helplines campaign. The funding will be allocated to mental health charities’ helplines as part of the Coronavirus Mental Health Response Fund.

Queen’s Birthday Honours

The Queen’s Birthday Honours 2020 list was [published](#) on Saturday 9 October. 1,495 people have been honoured and many have been recognised for their services during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Children and education

2021 exams

The Department for Education (DfE) has [confirmed](#) that summer exams will go ahead next year, but most AS, A levels and GCSEs will be held three weeks later to help address the disruption caused by the pandemic. The summer exam series will start on 7 June and end on 2 July for almost all AS/A levels and GCSEs. Results days will be Tuesday 24 August for A/AS levels and Friday 27 August for GCSEs.

Vocational and technical qualification assessments

Ofqual has [published](#) regulatory arrangements on adapting vocational and technical qualifications and assessments in 2021.

State of the Nation

The DfE has [published](#) the second annual state of the nation 2020 on children and young people’s wellbeing. The report provides an in-depth picture of the experiences of children and young people during the pandemic and how it affected their wellbeing.

Adults' social care and public health

Flu vaccination

The Department of Health and Social Care has [issued](#) guidance to GPs outlining how they can order additional vaccines from the central supply. The Government is aiming to ensure 30 million people are vaccinated this winter.

Economy and business

Covid Corporate Financing Facility

The Treasury has [confirmed](#) that the Covid Corporate Financing Facility (CCFF) has provided £30 billion of support to investment grade firms with short-term cash-flow problems during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Job Support Scheme

The Treasury has [announced](#) that the Job Support Scheme (JSS) will be expanded to protect jobs and support businesses required to close as a result of Covid-19 restrictions.

National Covid-19 data

As of 4pm on 12 October, the total number of lab-confirmed cases was **617,688**. The daily number of lab-confirmed cases was **13,972**. The total number of Covid-19 associated deaths within 28 days of a positive test was **42,875**, with **50** deaths reported on the day. The data is available to [view online](#).

The R number range for the UK is **1.2-1.5** and the growth rate range is **+4% to +9%** per day as of 9 October.

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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