

Hampshire County Council Divisional Report for Warnford Parish Meeting

Coronavirus (COVID-19) cases in Hampshire

On 9th November the latest weekly Covid-19 data dashboard showed the total number of cases in Hampshire as 12,426 since March 2020 when there were 3,081 cases and 1,714 cases confirmed in the last seven days, which is an increase of 132. The county's current weekly case rate stands at 123.7 per 100,000 population, which is below the England case rate at 243.2.

Sadly, there have been 1,091 Covid-19 associated deaths in Hampshire since March when there were 673, and 8 deaths in the last seven days.

The full data dashboard is available on the [Keep Hampshire Safe](#) webpage. Data on [Hampshire districts](#) and data on positive cases in [Hampshire schools](#). Many of our residents are quite rightly fearing this pandemic; equally many are sticking zealously to the former mantra "**Stay Home, Protect the NHS, Save Lives**".

Be assured that specialists from Public Health England (PHE) are working continuously with Hampshire County Council and NHS colleagues to help combat this pestilence. There is a special helpline for Hampshire's most vulnerable residents, set up as part of a collaboration between local councils across the county and the voluntary and community sector. Anyone in need of help can call 0333 370 4000 seven days a week, from 9am-5pm.

Business as usual for Hampshire's Household Waste Recycling Centres and Road Improvements.

Hampshire's Household Waste Recycling Centres will remain open through the second lockdown, re-introduced to help stop the spread of Coronavirus.

There is clarity from the Government in for this lockdown, the national guidance defines waste services as essential. It is also good news that the Government has said that construction is not expected to close operations down. The booking system at the HWRCs has been operating well for some time now. There are social distancing measures in place to ensure each of our sites is able to operate in a COVID safe way.

It is also confirmed that improvement works on Hampshire's highway network will continue. Covid-safe working standards were implemented earlier this year and all highways maintenance work on Hampshire's roads is carried out in line with the Construction Leadership Council's Site Operation Procedures, which is based on

Public Health England guidance. It is therefore business as usual for our work to improve Hampshire's road network. With an anticipated drop in traffic, good use will be made of this quieter time on the roads to press ahead with improvements across the county. This includes our Operation Resilience programme to make the roads more resilient to the impact of severe weather, as well as new schemes, such as those at Stubbington, the BRT busway extension in Gosport, and new cycling and walking provision at Whitehill and Bordon."

Booking slots are available seven days in advance at each of Hampshire's 24 HWRCs, and can be made online at www.hants.gov.uk/wasteandrecycling/recyclingcentres/book-appointment or, for those without internet access, by phone on 02380 179 949, between Monday and Friday 9am to 5:30pm.

Visiting a Hampshire Household Waste Recycling Centre:

- There is no need to bring confirmation of the booking to the site, the site will have information on confirmed bookings.
- Site staff will check registration plates upon arrival – people will need to arrive in the vehicle specified in the booking.
- Anyone turning up without a confirmed booking will not be allowed entry to the site.
- People wishing to cancel or amend a booking can do so via the link received on the confirmation email. This link enables residents to either cancel a booking or reschedule it to another available date and time.
- As per government guidelines, residents in the specified vulnerable category (those who are clinically extremely vulnerable, people over 70 and pregnant women) are strongly advised not to visit a site.
- Specific parking arrangements are in place with site staff guiding vehicles, from a safe distance, into spaces
- As far as possible, only one person per household should leave their vehicle during their visit to the HWRC.
- Due to social distancing measures, site staff will be unable to provide any assistance with unloading material or carrying material. Residents are asked to bring only the amount of waste they can comfortably carry and empty into containers.
- Everyone must always observe social distancing and keep at least a two-metre distance from others.
- Most waste materials will be accepted.
- Reuse sales areas will unfortunately have to be closed, in line with Government restrictions on non-essential shops. Where possible, please continue to store items of furniture which could be reused, donate to local furniture charities, or use online platforms (e.g. Freecycle / Facebook /

Gumtree). Please see the [Smart Living](#) website for more information on furniture reuse.

Local support for families in need in Hampshire this half-term.

Hampshire County Council is working with partners to immediately distribute £150,000 of funding which the Authority announced on 27th October to support food banks and charities that are helping support the most vulnerable families in Hampshire this half-term

Councillor Andrew Joy, Hampshire County Council Executive Member for Communities, Partnerships and External Affairs said: “We are very grateful for the support of the voluntary sector in helping us to reach the families in most need. In particular, our thanks go to Community First who will distribute this funding via the established local networks. This will ensure that the money is targeted and allocated swiftly to existing food assistance projects and organisations across Hampshire.”

Tim Houghton of Community First said: “There has been a huge wave of collective support across Hampshire this half-term, and food banks, charities and organisations are pleased to be playing a crucial role in helping families and children impacted by the many effects of Covid-19.”

Any vulnerable family in need of support with food at this time can visit the Hampshire County Council webpages - www.hants.gov.uk - where they will find local contact details for their nearest source of support.

Consistently high level of school attendance in Hampshire schools.

High attendance levels at primary and secondary schools in the Hampshire County Council area have continued into the second half of the autumn term 2020, despite the number of cases of COVID-19 rising across the county.

Early years childcare providers, nurseries and pre-schools are similarly reporting that the number of children they are looking after has been steadily increasing since the beginning of term, indicating parents’ and carers’ confidence in the measures that have been put in place to minimise the spread of infection.

Councillor Roz Chadd, Hampshire County Council’s Executive Member for Education and Skills, said: “Childcare and education settings have worked extremely hard to ensure their environments are COVID-19 secure - and my sincere thanks for all they have done. While a proportion have had some positive cases, and this has led to

other members of their settings' community needing to self-isolate, the numbers are relatively low.

“To maintain this stability, and to #KeepHampshireSafe, it is vitally important that we all continue to follow the new national guidance to continue social distancing, minimise social contact and avoid mixing with other households, as well as regular handwashing. As a mum of school age children myself, I know how tempting it is to stop outside the school gates and gather for a catch-up with other parents but, in doing so, we all need to be vigilant in making sure we stay two metres apart with anyone outside our household or support bubble. We all want to see this period of enhanced national restrictions come to an end on 2nd December – so please stick to the rules, and together we can get back to the freedoms enjoyed during the summer and early autumn months.”

Parents and carers are asked not to send their children to school if they have any of the most common symptoms of COVID-19 – high temperature, new and continuous cough or loss or change to sense of smell or taste. If a child has one of those symptoms they should be tested and then kept at home until the test result is confirmed. Children should only return to school if the result is negative or, when it is positive, after they have completed their period of isolation and are completely well.

Government COVID-19 childcare and education guidance for children, setting leaders, teachers, parents and carers can be found on the [gov.uk Coronavirus web pages](#)

Cllr Roger Huxstep
Member for Meon Valley Division
Hampshire County Council
12th November 2020