

Please see the update below from Public Health England for 18 May.

- The **Department of Health and Social Care** (DHSC) has confirmed that, as of 9am on 18 May, there have been 2,682,716 tests, with 100,678 tests on 17 May. 1,887,051 people have been tested, of which 246,406 tested positive. As of 5pm on 17 May, of those tested positive for coronavirus in the UK, 34,796 have died. This new figure includes deaths in all settings, not just in hospitals. The equivalent figure under the old measure would have been 28,555.

#### **Other data sets**

- **The PHE dashboard, which** can be found here on [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk). Our daily reporting includes deaths that have occurred in all settings where there has been a positive COVID-19 test, including hospitals, care homes and the wider community. The report also includes case rates per 100,000 resident population at lower tier local authority level. A technical summary is [available here](#).
- PHE's weekly COVID-19 epidemiology surveillance summary has been published today here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/weekly-covid-19-surveillance-report-published>
- The number and percentage of **care homes reporting a suspected or confirmed outbreak of COVID-19** to PHE by local authorities, regions and PHE centres is also available [on line here](#).
- The [ONS weekly death registrations data for England and Wales](#) which is released every Tuesday now includes data split down to LA level and the excel tables can be found here
- 
- Provisional counts of [deaths in care homes notified to the CQC](#) will now also be released every Tuesday, includes all number of death in social care up to 3 days prior. You can find out more about the [CQC data here](#).

#### **Information, advice and guidance**

- The Secretary of State for Health and Social Care Matt Hancock updated Parliament on the government's response to coronavirus. This included details on Test & Trace, symptoms and the recruitment of 21,000 contact tracers. The statement is available [online](#).
- The UK Chief Medical Officers have issued an update about coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, which now include Anosmia (the loss of or a change in your normal sense of smell). Press release can be found [online](#).
- PHE has published a Public Health Matters blog on the R number, explaining what the R number is and how it is calculated. It is available [online](#).

- New **Staying Alert and Safe** (social distancing) guidance is now live and can be found at the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/staying-alert-and-safe-social-distancing/staying-alert-and-safe-social-distancing>.
- New guidance on Staying Safe outside your home can be found at the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/staying-safe-outside-your-home>
- The government has published FAQs with advice on what you can and cannot do now the changes have come into effect today which are available at the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do>
- A new £600 million Infection Control Fund has been introduced to tackle the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) in care homes. A press release is available [online](#).
- UK research to find a coronavirus vaccine will benefit from £84 million of new government funding. A press release is available [online](#).
- DHSC has announced a major large scale study of coronavirus immunity. A press release is available [online](#).
- DHSC announced trials for specially-trained 'COVID dogs' that may be able to detect coronavirus (COVID-19) in humans, even before symptoms appear, are set to begin as part of new research. A press release is available [online](#).

### **Mental health awareness week**

Mental health awareness week runs from Monday 18 to Sunday 24 May. Every Mind Matters has lots of practical advice in these uncertain times. You can access social media resources with tips from Every Mind Matters on the [Campaign Resource Centre](#).

- Follow us on Twitter: @PHE\_SouthEast