

COVID-19 update: 25 March 2020

It is essential communities follow the up to date guidance from government and the NHS and that they are not causing unnecessary anxiety and concerns due to misinformation being shared with them, however well meaning. Therefore, please only use the information in the briefing below and/or information and advice from Government or NHS sources.

Key messages for today:

- Please follow the national advice regarding staying at home unless it's absolutely necessary to go out for one of the reasons set out in the guidance – this will help manage the spread of Covid-19 and support the NHS and care sector to cope
- Please take time to look after your mental health – make sure you are keeping your mind and body active
- Remember to keep up the good handwashing and to catch sneezes and coughs in a tissue
- Government has launched an [urgent appeal for 250,000 volunteers](#) to help the NHS during the Coronavirus outbreak
- If you need help or someone you know does please visit the Community Help Hub (click on the banner below) and complete the relevant form. So far 543 people have offered their help and 44 businesses; 46 people signed up for support, and 11 asked for help for a neighbour



The position in Gloucestershire

- The Strategic Coordination Group (SCG), chaired by Sarah Scott, Director of Public Health at the county council is the multi-agency group consisting of partners from across the county who is leading Gloucestershire's response to Covid-19. The group is currently meeting weekly. It is supported by a "Tactical Coordination Group" (TCG) that is responsible for delivering the actions from the SCG.
- Public Health England (PHE) has formally confirmed:
- 49 cases in the county
- 1 death in the county
- 345 confirmed cases in the South West

UK

Total UK Tests: 90,436

Total UK Cases: 8,077

Total UK Deaths: 442

PHE is now prioritising testing for Covid-19 for those who require hospital care for pneumonia or acute respiratory illness. Wider community testing is no longer happening as a matter of course but PHE will continue to investigate if there are specific outbreaks, i.e. where several cases are connected, especially in a particular setting such as care homes.

Local updates

- Keep up to date with [changes to GCC service provision](#)
- Libraries will soon have a new digital library management system. Members will be sent a web link on 2 April which can be used to view the online catalogue and download e-books or magazines. It will also be available via the [GCC libraries website](#)
- We want to remind people that we are currently unable to undertake any ceremonies. People with existing bookings will be contacted as soon as possible. We would ask customers not to contact the service directly – someone will be in touch
- We continue to promote Gloucestershire's Community Help Hub so that residents who need support can be matched with people who can help. Requests and offers are separated into district/borough council areas and shared with the relevant council to follow up on. Access hub [here](#)
- Over the weekend, many supermarkets have adjusted their opening hours to support key workers, particularly NHS staff, being able to access food supplies
- The police are urging people to follow government directives and have confirmed that they will enforce the restrictions as directed by the government
- Following Government guidance, Gloucester City Council has reviewed the position regarding attendance at services, and can now only allow a maximum of five immediate family mourners to attend a funeral service. People are also asked to consider guidance around social distancing when in the chapel

Latest national guidance

- If you haven't already, please see [Full guidance on staying at home and away from others](#)
- [Advice for accommodation providers](#) - Businesses providing holiday accommodation (including hotels, hostels, B&Bs, campsites, caravan parks, boarding houses and short

term lets) should now take steps to close for commercial use as quickly as is safely possible. Unless – they are needed to support key workers or vulnerable groups, they are being used to provide emergency accommodation, they provide people’s primary form of residence or are providing rooms for the homeless.

- [Guidance on the closure of all retailers that sell non-essential goods and other non-essential premises](#) Added guidance on work carried out in people’s homes and additional details to the list of businesses and premises that must remain closed.
- [Prison visits temporarily cancelled](#)
- [Companies to receive 3-month extension period to file accounts](#)
- [Guidance for schools and other educational settings](#) Added guidance on implementing social distancing in education settings and information on early years and childcare closures.
- [Guidance for people in the UK on a Visa](#)
- [Lorries, busses and trailers will be exempt from needing an MOT for 3 months from 21 March 2020](#)
- [Driving theory tests are suspended for one month, and driving tests are suspended for up to 3 months due to coronavirus - but tests are available for critical workers.](#)
- [Coronavirus bill: summary of impacts](#)
 - [Updated guidance for employees, employers and businesses](#) Guidance added for local authorities on administering Small Business Grant Fund and Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Fund.
 - [Updated guidance for UK businesses](#) trading internationally, including a new helpline.
 - [Updated guidance for local government](#) - Added Guidance setting out details of eligibility and delivery of the Small Business Grants Fund (SBGF) and Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Fund (RHLGF); Guidance for employees, employers and businesses in providing advice about the coronavirus; Guidance for providers of safe accommodation with support for victims of domestic abuse and their children; Extra protection for businesses with ban on evictions for commercial tenants who miss rent payments; Guidance to billing authorities on council tax hardship fund; Planning Inspectorate guidance on site visits, hearings, inquiries and events.

Previous Government guidance:

- [Stay at home guidance](#) for households
- [Guidance on shielding and protecting people](#)
- [Social distancing](#) now in multiple languages
- [employers and businesses](#)
- [Mass gatherings](#)

- [residential care provision, supported living provision and home care provision](#)
- [local government](#) including new [public procurement guidance](#)
- [Guidance for businesses and venues subject to closure](#)
- [Guidance on rail emergency measures](#)
- [Guidance on courts and tribunals](#)
- [Guidance to avoid non-essential domestic travel](#)
- All of the above information can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>
- The Department for Education has set up a [helpline](#) offering guidance for anyone with education related questions
- General NHS advice can be found at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

The NHS in Gloucestershire is taking responsible steps to plan ahead and respond to the unfolding Covid-19 situation. Here is a link to the latest information from the NHS on service advice and developments: [NHS update](#)

This will be updated daily, Monday to Friday.