

Covid-19 daily update

Key messages

Gloucestershire updates

- We are working hard to provide PPE to carers of the 3300 people receiving care in their own homes and 330 care homes.
- £25m government funding has been made available to support hospices around the country. Gloucestershire will allocate this funding as soon as central government confirm this process.
- [This year a total of 6649 Gloucestershire children have been offered a primary school place for September, with 98 percent being offered a place at one of their preferred schools. 92 percent of pupils also received a place at their first preference school.](#)
- [We are supporting people with disabilities at this challenging time by relaxing rules on Blue Badge renewal.](#)
- Gloucestershire Archives at the Gloucestershire Heritage Hub is creating a 'living archive' of life

Daily stats

Total UK Tests - **398,916**

Total UK Cases - **98,476**

Total UK Deaths - **12,868**

Total Confirmed Cases in South West - **3,774**

Total Confirmed Cases in Gloucestershire - **737**

Total Deaths in Gloucestershire - **101**

Help hub stats

- I can offer help – **2945**
- I need help – **2030**
- Someone I know needs help – **735**
- My business can help – **237**

during the COVID-19 pandemic. [Find out how your community can get involved.](#)

National updates

[Coronavirus: getting tested](#) - Guidance on coronavirus testing for critical workers who are self-isolating. Including a [Youtube video](#) explaining the testing process for critical workers.

[Coronavirus: adult social care action plan](#) - How the government will support the adult social care sector in England throughout the coronavirus outbreak.

[Coronavirus: social care guidance](#) - new landing page to bring together guidance for the social care sector.

[Government to offer testing for “everyone who needs one” in social care settings](#) - All care home residents and social care staff with coronavirus symptoms will be tested as capacity is built up.

[COVID-19: guidance for commissioners and providers of services for people who use drugs or alcohol](#)

[Coronavirus: early years and childcare closures](#) - Updated introductory sections and sections on Who this guidance is for, Prioritising children, Funding, Staying open for children of critical workers and vulnerable children, EYFS and Holidays.

Key links

[National Guidance](#)

[General NHS advice](#)

[Latest advice and developments from Gloucestershire NHS](#)

[Gloucestershire's Community Help Hub](#)

[Council service updates](#)

[Make an adult social care referral](#)

[Business advice and support](#)

[Looking after your wellbeing](#)

[Support for children and families during Covid-19](#)

Your questions answered

What can residents do if they are unable to top up electricity / gas meter?

Here is some information from some of the main power suppliers;

- [British Gas](#)
- [EDF](#)
- [E-on](#)
- [N-Power](#)
- [Scottish Power](#)
- [SSE](#)
- [Ecotricity](#)

What arrangements are there with public transport providers to ensure those in rural communities remain able to use buses and trains to carry out essential activities, such as food shopping, visiting pharmacies and so forth?

Conversations are taking place with all public transport providers in the county to assess the impact of the crisis on them and their services and to provide support where possible to keep essential services running for all communities. There is a reduction in the frequency of many public transport services however we aim to keep as many essential services in place as possible.

The public transport network is constantly reviewed and the situation is changing daily, we are also in conversation with the Department for Transport, neighbouring Local Authorities and many other transport stakeholders.

So far, [Community transport operators have been given a £100k funding boost](#) and working together with Stagecoach, we've put in place free travel on all Stagecoach buses for NHS staff in Gloucestershire who show a valid NHS ID to the bus driver from Thursday 16 April 2020.

We are in regular contact with all operators to ensure that all routes continue to serve their communities, no bus service has been removed entirely as passengers still need to make essential trips. The two exceptions are the Hedgehog and Villager Community Transport services, the operators have suspended these services as all office staff, drivers and passengers are very elderly and at high risk of infection. This has been communicated to all passengers and alternative arrangements made where required. We have also asked GWR to protect essential

rail journeys into Cheltenham and Gloucester for hospital staff and other key workers.

What is GCC doing to support public transport operators with PPE?

We have spoken with Stagecoach and Pulhams (who cover almost all bus services between them) and they are following the guidelines set by the Confederation for Passenger Transport (CPT – bus operators advocacy group) and they are using their risk assessments. This involves:

- Minimise cash fares, encourage smart cards and contactless payment
- Enhanced cleaning regime every day
- Perspex screens on all Stagecoach and the Pulhams 99 (their busiest route)
- Hand sanitiser issued to every driver
- Social distancing being enforced, signage on buses
- Majority of drivers are furloughed, high risk drivers prioritised. No one is forced to drive.
- We have offered to help secure further PPE if the operators think this is necessary.