

Covid-19 daily update

Key messages

Gloucestershire updates

- We are working with Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group to review information available for families who are shielding children at this time. We will be in touch with those families soon.
- All PPE offers following our appeal last week are being pursued to develop new supply lines.
- Council committee meetings will begin remotely this week. Members will receive instructions individually.
- Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service officers are being trained to support the South West Ambulance Service.
- Work is ongoing with the local registrations team to collate more accurate information on community deaths and deaths in care home residents. The ONS have released a

Daily stats

Total UK Tests - **501,379**

Total UK Cases - **124,743**

Total UK Deaths - **16,509**

Total Confirmed Cases in South West - **4,861**

Total Confirmed Cases in Gloucestershire* - **934**

Total Deaths in Gloucestershire** - **143**

*The above data reflects nationally published data [available here](#).

**The above data reflects nationally published NHS data [available here](#).

local authority breakdown of community deaths by setting, however this has a considerable time lag and only covers deaths that occurred prior to 3 April. As a result, we are exploring alternative sources of this information to enable a more accurate and timely understanding of community deaths. More details can be found below.

Help hub stats

- I can offer help – **3072**
- I need help – **2209**
- Someone I know needs help – **816**
- My business can help – **248**

National updates

- [Coronavirus: Letter from the Local Government Minister to councils setting out further details of additional funding](#)
- [Grant funding provided to businesses by local authorities in England](#) - data on the amount of money distributed to SMEs by every local authority in England as part of the 2 grant schemes launched to help businesses deal with coronavirus.
- [Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme up and running](#)
- [Coronavirus: reducing burdens on educational and care settings](#) - Guidance on which data collections, services or requests will be cancelled, paused or will continue in the 2019 to 2020 academic year.
- [Coronavirus: free school meals guidance](#) - Updated information about school food contracts and free school meal eligibility. Added guidance and a sample application form on the temporary extension of free school meals eligibility to NRPF groups.
- [National testing programme FAQs](#) and [map of official testing sites](#)

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](#)

- New Public Health campaign resources are available online here: [Symptoms; Hand Hygiene](#)

Your questions answered

What is the process for recording Care Homes and Covid-19 cases? What are the latest stats you have?

There has been a number of questions about the number of cases and deaths in care homes in Gloucestershire. The current process is that care homes need to notify PHE when they believe they have two or more cases of suspected Covid-19. PHE then risk assess this situation, send out testing kits (up to five per setting currently), provide advice and then inform the county council.

As of Friday 17 April, GCC had been notified a total of 205 possible or confirmed cases across the county in 47 care home settings, of which 29 of these had at least 1 lab confirmed case of Covid-19. Some of these cases may have gone on to test negative for Covid-19, tested positive for another respiratory illness, or have recovered from Covid-19. There may be more cases than those notified to GCC.

Sadly, we have also been informed of 41 deaths in care home residents who were suspected to have Covid-19, but we do not know whether Covid-19 was a contributory factor in each of these deaths. We will issue a similar update on Thursday 23 April with the most up to date information we have, and will endeavour to update this weekly.

Work is ongoing with the local registrations team to collate more accurate information on community deaths and deaths in care home residents. The ONS have released a local authority breakdown of community deaths by setting, however this has a considerable time lag and only covers deaths that occurred prior to 3 April. As a result, we are exploring alternative sources of this information to enable a more accurate and timely understanding of community deaths.

IMPORTANT: The data provided is not a complete picture of all social care settings in the county, it only reflects the position in relation to cases of Covid-19 that the council has been notified of in settings in which they have customers, up to and including 17 April. These figures will form part of future data that will be published by the ONS, they are not additional. More detail in relation to cases or locations will

not be provided as GCC do not receive details of each individual suspected or confirmed case.

When will members be able to hold meetings again? Other councils have reinstated democratic oversight and scrutiny of decisions, please can you update us on Gloucestershire's progress?

We are reinforcing the rules set out in the constitution for decision making, including the provisions it makes for urgent decision-making.

It has been agreed that, in the interests of transparency, scrutiny vice-chairs will be consulted when the scrutiny chairs are being asked to agree to urgent decision making. In the background, we are also testing ICT solutions that we hope will make it possible for meetings to take place virtually, once the regulations are in place that would allow us to do so.

How well have care homes been provided with PPE?

Clearly supply is not just a Gloucestershire issue, getting enough of the right items to the those working across health and social is a real challenge. In the last week or so we have received two PPE drops in the county, a total of 15 pallets containing more than 450,000 pieces of PPE, including, gloves, masks, glasses and aprons. The first drop of around 400,000 items was distributed to a number of care locations last week, with more being delivered this week. The county council has retained a small stock in order to support settings should their own supply chain(s) dry up.

Having the correct PPE is the first key step but making best use of it in protecting health and care workers is equally important. National guidance has been developed and been made available and communicated to relevant groups and organisations. Further advice and guidance is currently being produced nationally for care home settings and is due to be published in the very near future.

Residential and nursing homes are doing fantastic work caring for the elderly and vulnerable during these unprecedented times. The care they provide is vital not just to their residents, but also to protect the NHS at this time. Unfortunately, it is inevitable that there will be cases of Covid-19 within the community, including in the county's care homes. In partnership with health colleagues we are supporting homes to make sure they are taking all necessary steps to minimise risk to both their staff and residents.

This includes providing advice and guidance in relation to appropriate infection control measures, the safe and appropriate use of PPE, and supporting them if their own stocks become depleted and they can't restock themselves. We will help them access the community help hub so they can call on additional local support.