

# Covid-19 daily update

## Key messages

### Gloucestershire updates

- Counselling support is now available for staff in care homes. Information will be sent to care homes to advise how their staff can access this service.
- [The county council has approved plans for new online and telephone mental health services to support adults, young people and children in response to the Covid-19 outbreak.](#)
- [Over 100,000 items of PPE equipment offered by local businesses to support frontline workers](#)
- [The county's six district councils are maintaining their separate collections of recycling, food waste and residual waste.](#)
- [People are benefiting from a vast range of digital resources available while Gloucestershire's libraries are closed – with more than 40,000 items downloaded in March and April.](#)

## Daily stats

Total UK Tests - **669,850**

Total UK Cases - **152,840**

Total UK Deaths - **20,732**

Total Confirmed Cases in South West - **5,797**

Total Confirmed Cases in Gloucestershire\* - **1,098**

Total Deaths in Gloucestershire\*\* - **167**

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

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

## Help hub stats

## National updates

- [Mobile coronavirus testing units to target frontline workers.](#)
- [New measures to protect UK high street from aggressive rent collection and closure during the coronavirus pandemic.](#)
- [Clinical trial approved to help the NHS treat COVID-19 patients using plasma](#) - If effective, a national programme will deliver up to 10,000 units of plasma a week to the NHS to help treat coronavirus (COVID-19) patients.
- [More than £12 million now available to keep children at risk of neglect or abuse safe during the Coronavirus outbreak.](#)
- [Providing free school meals during the coronavirus outbreak](#) - Guidance for schools and local authorities on free school meals arrangements during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

- I can offer help – **3237**
- I need help – **2410**
- Someone I know needs help – **917**
- My business can help – **296**

## 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

**As lockdown goes on, communities will try to reach out to each other, with some still planning VE Day celebration parties in their front gardens. Please can you give us clear advice in advance to**

## **prevent police and other agencies from being inundated with reports?**

The government advice is very clear and currently bans social gatherings of more than two people unless for very specific reasons. The advice states:

*The single most important action we can all take, in fighting coronavirus, is to stay at home in order to protect the NHS and save lives. When we reduce our day-to-day contact with other people, we will reduce the spread of the infection. That is why the government has introduced these three measures:*

- 1. Requiring people to stay at home, except for very limited purposes.*
- 2. Closing certain businesses and venues.*
- 3. Stopping all gatherings of more than two people in public.*

*Every person in the UK must comply with these new measures, which came into effect on Monday 23 March. The relevant authorities, including the police, have been given the powers to enforce them – including through fines and dispersing gatherings.*

The government will look again at these measures every three weeks, and relax them if the evidence shows this is possible.

This advice is still current and is in place to reduce our day to day contact with people and reduce the rate of transmission. It is not acceptable at the moment for gatherings such as those noted in the email to take place even if they were staying 2m apart (i.e. maintain social distancing).

[Full details can be found online.](#)

**It seems that a disproportionate number of people from ethnic minority backgrounds, particularly those in frontline services (such as domiciliary care workers, taxi drivers and bus drivers) have been more susceptible to Covid-19. If this is the case, what measures have we taken so far and what additional steps will be taking to ensure these people are better protected and supported?**

Ensuring adequate PPE for all staff is essential. We are supporting colleagues in identifying PPE needs and the whole system is working on this issue as a priority. All services in Gloucestershire are following the national guidance on PPE and are responsive to the frequent updates to this guidance that take place.

[There is more information available online here.](#)

In line with national guidance staff testing is being increased, and is available to symptomatic staff and symptomatic family members. It is hard to determine if some groups, for example BAME communities, are more at risk as overall the total number of cases at the Gloucestershire level is too small to be able to understand this.

If we were to see such a trend there may be other factors that might explain this, such as BAME communities being more likely to have lower socioeconomic status, or predisposition to other health conditions, and this is why this analysis needs to be done on a larger number of cases.

The Office for National Statistics has started to review this from the death certification data it receives. We have explored whether we can collect some more information locally but it would involve introducing a new recording system for our Registrations team. However, as the team are currently working hard to adapt to new ways of working due to the pandemic, we have not proceeded with this so far. The measures we have in place such as social distancing, shielding and the community hubs are designed to protect more vulnerable individuals from contracting COVID-19.