

# Covid-19 daily update

## Key messages

### Gloucestershire updates

- Below is a member briefing on how Gloucestershire is supporting the county's mental health and wellbeing during the pandemic, from the Lead Commissioner Clare Procter.
- ITV West is speaking to a local care home today about PPE following a [donation of over 300k items of equipment from Superdry](#). The piece is due to air in the next couple of days.
- Cllr Richard Boyles did an interview yesterday (Thursday 30 April) to highlight our [children's safeguarding campaign: Spot the signs](#).
- The NHS is still open for business. You can still contact your GP, 111 online or call 111 for help. If you are told to go to hospital, you must go. The NHS will give you the care you need. Find out more at [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)

## Daily stats

Total UK Tests - **901,905**

Total UK Cases - **171,253**

Total UK Deaths - **26,771**

Total Confirmed Cases in South West - **6,177**

Total Confirmed Cases in Gloucestershire\* - **1,181**

Total Deaths in Gloucestershire\*\* - **182**

## Help hub stats

- I can offer help – 3311
- I need help – 2567
- Someone I know needs help – 992
- My business can help – 326

- The NHS Cheltenham and Gloucester fundraising team are looking for donations of the following items:

- - Lip salve – stick form
  - E45 face lotion for under staff masks

**Please note these items should be new and unused.** They will go to staff who are working in Covid-19 wards locally.

If you can donate these items please get in touch with T'pu Kapadia from the Integrated Transport Unit to arrange collection. Contact details: [T'pu.kapadia@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:T'pu.kapadia@gloucestershire.gov.uk)

## National updates

- [Treasury cuts taxes to reduce PPE costs](#) - From 1 May 2020, PPE purchased by care homes, businesses, charities and individuals to protect against Covid-19 will be free from VAT for a three-month period.
- [COVID-19: mitigating impacts on Gypsy and Traveller communities](#) - a letter from Lord Greenhalgh, Communities Minister, to local authority chief executives.
- [Providing free school meals during the coronavirus outbreak](#) - Added Aldi and McColl's to the list of supermarkets taking part in the national voucher scheme.

## 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

### Briefing for members on work to support population mental health and wellbeing during the Covid-19 outbreak

29/04/20

#### 1. The work of the multi-agency mental health and wellbeing 'cell'

The council and its partners recognise the impact that the Covid-19 outbreak may have on mental health and emotional wellbeing both in the short and longer-term. Uncertainty, concerns over health and finances, bereavement, the pace of social change, and the impact of self-isolation and social distancing will all be contributory factors. There is a need to take action to promote positive wellbeing and alleviate emotional distress.

To oversee this work, a Mental Health and Wellbeing multi-agency 'cell' (chaired by Gloucestershire County Council) has been established; reporting into the Tactical Co-ordination Group (TCG). The primary purpose of the cell is to oversee action across the system to provide residents and the workforce with information and support to enable them to look after their mental health and emotional wellbeing during both the outbreak and the recovery phase.

The cell is focusing on a number of work-streams, including: providing information and support to the general population about looking after your mental health and wellbeing; providing targeted advice and support to people or groups which might be at higher risk of poor mental health; building capacity within the system and community to respond; supporting workforce wellbeing, and suicide prevention. The cell includes representation from providers and commissioners of mental health services, the police, the voluntary and community sector, and district councils.

#### 2. Key areas of work

To date the cell has been taking forward a number of areas of work, including:

- creating a designated area on the [council website](#) to provide information on looking after your mental wellbeing, and signposting to further support;
- taking forward a proactive communications campaign to promote the key messages, including social media adverts, work with local media, a short film (produced in conjunction with Gloucestershire Health and Care and [available to view online](#)); and a planned 'mail drop' of information to households, including local sources of support for mental health.

- working with partners and the providers of mental health services to understand current trends in need and demand for mental health support among Gloucestershire residents during the Covid-19 outbreak.

### **Developing and adapting services**

Mental health support will need to be available for people with different levels of 'need' (i.e. from milder anxiety through to more severe mental health issues or 'crisis' situations). The way we provide services also needs to be adapted in light of social distancing; moving from face to face services to online, video-chat or telephone delivery.

Lead Cabinet Member approval has been given to [introduce a number of new mental health services for adults, and children and young people](#) in response to the Covid-19 outbreak. These will work alongside the county's existing services (such as the Let's Talk service, Self-Harm helpline, and Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services). The new services will help to ensure there are a range of options available to provide people with different levels of support appropriate to their need.

The new services include:

- Two digital mental health support platforms; one for adults and one for young people, for individuals experiencing issues with their emotional wellbeing, such as stress or anxiety. The platforms will be open access (i.e. no referral is required) and will provide online self-care resources, access to moderated peer support via online forums, and online counselling.
- A funded programme of 1:1 counselling for individuals whose mental health has been more seriously impacted by the Covid-19 outbreak (for example due to bereavement, or the exacerbation of existing mental health issues). The service will be targeted at adults (18 plus) whose circumstances mean they would not normally be able to fund and access this type of counselling.
- An open access, anonymous helpline for young people aged 9-21 years struggling with mild or temporary emotional wellbeing and mental health issues due to the impact of the Covid-19 outbreak.

The services will launch between May and June and further information will be communicated once launch dates are finalised.

### **Support for community volunteers and other responders**

The council has commissioned two short online training courses targeted at community volunteers (and other individuals involved in the Covid-19 response) to enable them to act as mental health 'first aiders' and provide basic advice on wellbeing and mental health to vulnerable individuals they come into contact with.

Recognising that we also need to support the emotional wellbeing of volunteers themselves, the council is commissioning a pilot programme of emotional support for volunteers which can be scaled up if required.

### **3. Additional initiatives**

#### **NHS England funding for Suicide Prevention**

Gloucestershire is due to receive an allocation of £125K per annum (for a three year period) under the national NHS England Suicide Prevention Transformation programme. The council's original proposal submitted to NHS England in January, mainly focused on community based interventions to support suicide prevention. NHS England has indicated that local areas will be able to adapt their proposals to respond to the Covid-19 situation; and commissioners are awaiting further guidance on this.

#### **Government funding for Mind**

The government has announced a £5 million grant, to be administered by the national mental health charity Mind, to fund additional services for people struggling with their mental wellbeing during this time. The grant funding will be available for voluntary sector mental health organisations in England. It opened for applications on 16<sup>th</sup> April. The National Survivor User Network (NSUN) will administer part of the fund to ensure that smaller community organisations who might not meet all the standard eligibility criteria can also apply. Further information is available on the [Mind website](#).

Gloucestershire VCS Alliance is working with the local VCS in Gloucestershire to bring forward bids.

#### **Lead officer contact - Claire Procter, Lead Commissioner (Sexual Health and Mental Wellbeing)**

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

\*\*This section contains information on deaths of patients who have died in hospitals in Gloucestershire and had tested positive for Covid-19 at time of death or where Covid-19 was mentioned on the death certificate. All deaths are recorded against the date of death rather than the date the deaths were announced. It is based on national NHS data [published here](#).

The data in this briefing is updated at 9am each day based on the figures released at 2pm the previous day.