

Key messages

Gloucestershire updates

- 176 people were tested yesterday at the Mobile Testing Unit (MTU) in Gloucester. The MTU will be staying in Gloucestershire, at the Oxstalls Tennis Centre, until **Thursday 21 May**. This is delivered by the military under the Department for Health and Social Care Pillar 2 scheme.
- **Reminder** - [from today \(18 May\) the Household Recycling Centre at Fosse Cross near Cirencester will re-open for pre-booked visits.](#)
- [We are supporting Mental Health Awareness week 18-24 May 2020. The theme this year is kindness.](#)

National updates

- From today the general clinical case definition for COVID-19 has been updated to include loss of or change in smell or taste. It is now: New continuous cough OR fever OR loss of/ change in smell or taste.
- Everyone, including health and social care workers, should self-isolate if they develop a new continuous cough or fever or loss of/ change in smell or taste. The individual's household should also self-isolate for 14 days as per the current guidelines and the individual should stay at home for 7 days, or longer if they still have symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell or taste.
- [Care home support package backed by £600 million to help reduce coronavirus infections](#)
- [Coronavirus: support for care homes](#) -

Daily stats

Total UK Tests - **2,580,769**

Total UK Cases - **243,695**

Total UK Deaths - **34,636**

Total Confirmed Cases in South West - **7,294**

Total Confirmed Cases in Gloucestershire* - **1,345**

Total Confirmed Cases in:

- Cheltenham - **318**
- Cotswold - **153**
- Forest of Dean - **108**
- Gloucester - **394**
- Stroud - **195**
- Tewkesbury - **177**

Total Deaths in Gloucestershire** - **216**

Help hub stats

- I can offer help – 3410
- I need help – 2920
- Someone I know needs help – 1152
- My business can help – 339

Key links

[National Guidance](#)

[General NHS advice](#)

sets out the support package to keep care homes safe.

- [Government begins large scale study of coronavirus immunity](#)
- [Government publishes latest R number](#)
- [Overview of scientific information on coronavirus](#) - the Department for Education's response to issues raised regarding the science on coronavirus.
- [Coronavirus: guidance for educational settings](#) - added clarification on guidance and legislation.
- [Providing free school meals during the coronavirus outbreak](#) - updated information about claiming for additional costs, providing meals or food parcels through your food provider and ordering vouchers to cover multiple weeks.
- [Actions for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus outbreak](#) - updated guidance including a new section clarifying the position on welcoming back all children to early years settings from 1 June, information on when childminders can reopen to more children and what provision they can currently provide, and information for parents on temporary changes to the 30 hours free early education entitlements.
- [Supporting vulnerable children and young people during the coronavirus outbreak](#) - updated guidance to reflect wider plans for more year groups to return to education settings.
- [Coronavirus: advice to local authorities on prioritising waste collections](#) - updated: Managing household waste and recycling centres (HRCs) in England to reflect changes to the rules on necessary

[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](#)

journeys.

- [COVID-19: guidance for care of the deceased](#) - added clarification on guidance and legislation.
- [COVID-19: guidance for commissioners and providers of services for people who use drugs or alcohol](#) - added clarification on guidance and legislation.

Your questions answered

I am very worried about the impact of the 'No Recourse to Public Funds' condition on families and young people during this public health emergency. What support is in place to help victims of domestic abuse?

No recourse to public funds (NRPF) is a condition imposed on someone due to their immigration status. Section 115 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 states that a person will have 'no recourse to public funds' if they are 'subject to immigration control'. [You read more about this online.](#)

[Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Support Service \(GDASS\)](#) do work with victims of domestic abuse who have no recourse to public funds (there are currently three clients where it is directly impacting their support needs).

GDASS will support clients to make relevant applications to address their circumstances, and they may be able to apply for temporary leave to remain under the Destitution Domestic Violence (DDV) Concession. However this only applies to Spousal Visas, where there are added complications around different types of Visas GDASS rely on partner agencies to help provide support i.e. [Gloucestershire Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers \(GARAS\)](#), Karma Nivarna, Southall Black Sisters.

The local district housing authorities do not have any housing duties in relation to victims with no recourse to public funds and it is very difficult to get these victims into refuges. There are specialist refuges but they are usually full, other/ none specialist refuges may be willing to take referrals but are limited to taking very low numbers as there are obvious funding implications that the refuge will have to meet themselves.

If a victim has children then social care can be approached for support with meeting housing costs as part of their duty to protect the children (GDASS have had a client in a place of safety under these conditions).

For further information - even when a client has been awarded Temporary Leave To

Remain, GDASS are being asked to provide funding in lieu of their benefits being paid to the refuge, which GDASS are unable to do.

The Care Quality Commission says there has been significantly more deaths in places supporting people with learning disabilities in England last month, than reported in the same period last year. Are they able to get tested for Covid-19 and are their deaths being monitored? What measures are there in place to support people with learning disabilities?

You are correct that at the moment there isn't community testing for everyone and testing is currently provided for;

- all essential workers including NHS and social care workers with symptoms
- people over 65 with symptoms
- people with symptoms going to work who cannot work from home (for example, construction workers, shop workers, emergency plumbers and delivery drivers)
- anyone who has symptoms of coronavirus and lives with any of those identified above
- Also anyone admitted to hospital with symptoms would be tested.

For everyone outside of this, if they experience symptoms it is recommended that they should isolate for seven days to avoid transmitting the virus.

While there will be many people with a learning disability living in their own home or with family that wouldn't meet the criteria for testing, I can confirm that the following arrangements are in place for testing in care homes in Gloucestershire:

- **Residents in care homes with newly reported outbreak:** Testing is available now. Public Health England South West Health Protection Team will arrange testing for the initial five cases in a home.
- **Residents in care homes who require additional testing:** If homes require additional testing, whole-home testing is available through the [care home testing portal](#).
- **Residents in care homes without suspected outbreak:** Whole-home testing available through the [care home testing portal](#)
- **Clients receiving care at home with symptoms:** Testing is available now. Over 65s can self-refer [online](#) or go to NHS111 online or get GP referral. Test type dependent on client needs.

As a local system we are alerted to Covid-19 outbreaks in care homes, and lead commissioners for learning disabilities are kept informed. We do not currently

appear to be seeing large numbers of outbreaks in our learning disabilities residential settings. We do not have any detail on the numbers of people with a learning disability testing positive for, or dying with, Covid-19.

Gloucestershire has a very active learning disabilities partnership board who have been promoting guidance and educational material on how to support someone with a learning disability as well as working with the community resilience working group to ensure that those in the community that need support can access it.

Please find attached or below a helpful reference document for health care professionals to utilise when supporting someone with a learning disability to access healthcare settings. This has been designed to be printed and made available for staff. This guide has been developed in response to Covid-19 by the Gloucestershire Learning Disability and Autism Clinical Programme Group and was co-produced by people with lived experience and those with clinical experience of supporting this vulnerable group of patients:

- [Learning Disabilities Guide CH April20.pdf](#)

Additionally there has been work to pull together [easy read information for those with a learning disability](#), and those supporting them, through this difficult time.

*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.