

Key messages

Gloucestershire updates

- [We are supporting Mental Health Awareness week 18-24 May 2020. The theme this year is kindness.](#)
- [The county council's virtual school is holding a Virtual Sports Day for all children and young people on Tuesday 26 May to raise funds for NHS charities.](#)
- An update on testing available in the county is below in the 'your questions answered' section.

National updates

- [Statement from the UK Chief Medical Officers on an update to coronavirus symptoms: 18 March 2020](#) - all individuals should self-isolate if they develop a new continuous cough or fever **or anosmia**.
- [Everyone in the United Kingdom with symptoms now eligible for coronavirus tests](#) - anyone experiencing a new, continuous cough; high temperature; and now also a loss of or change in your normal sense of smell or taste can book a test by visiting www.nhs.uk/coronavirus. 21,000 contact tracers in England now recruited.
- PHE has published a Public Health Matters blog on the R number, explaining what the R number is and how it is calculated. It is available [online](#).
- [£37 million to support children with complex needs](#) - The multi-million-pound settlement will help low-income families with seriously ill or disabled

Daily stats

Total UK Tests - **2,682,716**

Total UK Cases - **246,406**

Total UK Deaths - **34,796**

Total Confirmed Cases in South West - **7,315**

Total Confirmed Cases in Gloucestershire* - **1,346**

Total Confirmed Cases in:

- Cheltenham - **317**
- Cotswold - **154**
- Forest of Dean - **108**
- Gloucester - **395**
- Stroud - **195**
- Tewkesbury - **177**

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

Help hub stats

- I can offer help – 3393
- I need help – 2871
- Someone I know needs help – 1128
- My business can help – 336

Key links

[National Guidance](#)

[General NHS advice](#)

children with the cost of equipment, goods or services.

- [Coronavirus: letter to social housing residents](#) - setting out the measures that are in place to support social housing residents during the next phase towards reopening society.
- [Coronavirus Statutory Sick Pay Rebate Scheme set to launch](#)

[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

Testing Update

New Case Definition for Covid-19

The four UK Chief Medical Officers have announced that anosmia – the loss or a change in your normal sense of smell or taste – has been added as a symptom of Covid-19.

This means that individuals need to self-isolate immediately – and will be eligible for a test – if they have a new continuous cough, or they have a high temperature, or they feel a loss or changed sense of normal smell or taste. All members of their household must also self-isolate according to current guidelines, unless the symptomatic individual receives a negative test result.

National Testing Expanded

From today, everyone who is showing coronavirus symptoms is eligible to book a swab test to find out if they have the virus.

People can register for a test at www.nhs.uk/coronavirus, after checking their symptoms. Arrangements for essential workers are set out below.

Those in England and Wales who do not have any access to the internet, or who have difficulty with the digital portals, will be able to ring a new 119 service to book their test.

Access to Testing for Essential Workers

Essential workers are prioritised for testing, while allowing as many tests as

possible for the wider population:

- Essential workers and members of their household who have symptoms should continue to register for a test through [the Self-Referral and Employer Portals](#).
- Care homes in England can [continue to register for delivery of tests](#) for all their staff and residents, whether or not they have symptoms. There are 30,000 daily capacity for this channel. We are continuing to support care homes that have been identified as a priority to receive tests as early as possible; we have supplemented this locally with an accelerated care homes testing team using some of the spare capacity from the Pillar 1 site at Brockworth.

Mobile Unit

The Mobile Testing Unit will be in Gloucestershire until Tuesday 26 May (excluding Saturday 23 May and Sunday 24 May).

We have had early conversations with a representative from the Department of Health and Social Care about the possibility of having a mobile unit allocated specifically to Gloucestershire, but this is yet to be confirmed. Once we have a clear indication of the offer, we will work with local stakeholders and communities to establish a site (or sites) that are appropriate and acceptable for a longer term solution, and ensure we make the public aware of this.

Are ice cream vans allowed to be operational at the moment?

According to government guidance, food delivery and takeaway can remain operational. Although it doesn't specify ice cream vans, [the guidance states](#):

'Food delivery and takeaway can remain operational. This covers the provision of hot or cold food that has been prepared for consumers for collection or delivery to be consumed, reheated or cooked by consumers off the premises'.

This is the advice from Gloucester City Council; other council's may have a slightly different policy but are likely to be roughly the same.

"Ice cream vans are now allowed to operate (considering they have a street trading licence from the council); however they are expected to take measures to ensure social distancing is maintained. This may include a barrier between the vendor and the customer to maintain 2 metres between them, contactless payment, and queue management to maintain 2 metres between queuing customers."

If people are concerned that ice cream vans are not taking appropriate social distancing measures, they can contact the relevant district council via their contact centre.

*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.