



COVID-19 update



Keep West Sussex Safe Podcast – Lisa Stone

“Be patient, we’re not going to come out of lockdown and be back to normal”

Listen to Lisa Stone, Infection Prevention and Control Nurse at West Sussex County Council, talk about why the hands, face, space guidance is so important and what we can do to keep safe as we move out of lockdown. [Listen to the podcast on Soundcloud.](#)

Infection Rates

In the seven days to Saturday 13 March there were 293 new cases (34 per 100,000 population). This means on average 42 people are testing positive for COVID-19 each day in West Sussex. However, cases are falling compared to the previous week.

You can get information on the infection rates in your area by [visiting the Data Dashboard.](#)

Remember, if you think you may have any coronavirus symptoms, isolate immediately and book a test by [visiting the 'test, trace, and isolate' section of our website](#) or by calling 119 to get an appointment to visit a test site.

Could you help us spread the message? We have shared the images we use for the Keep West Sussex Safe campaign [on our website](#). Please feel free to download and share them with your friends, family and people in your community who might not otherwise see these important messages.

Thank you for your support and let's continue to do all we can to stop the spread of coronavirus. Act like you have it. #KeepWestSussexSafe

Find your test

COVID-19 tests for people without symptoms are becoming more available.

1 in 3 people with the virus don't have any symptoms, so regular testing and self-isolation if you test positive are key things we can all do in the fight against the pandemic and protecting friends, families, colleagues and our communities.

The following helps explain some of the symptom-free testing currently available:

- [Adults who need to leave home for work, caring or volunteering and who can't access testing via other means](#)
- [Adults living or bubbling with school-age children](#)
- [Teachers, school staff, pupils and students](#)
- [Care home workers](#)
- [Personal assistants in adult social care](#)
- Businesses looking for symptom-free testing for their workforce can apply directly to the government scheme. The scheme is open to all businesses registered in England whose employees cannot work from home. Businesses must register for the scheme before 31 March. [Full details are available on the government website.](#)

Remember: If you have any of the symptoms of COVID-19, you must self-isolate immediately and book a test via the [NHS website](#). It is everyone's responsibility to stick to the hands, face, space guidance to stay safe and protect ourselves, each other and the NHS.

FIND OUT MORE

COVID-19 vaccinations



NHS teams and volunteers in Sussex reached a major milestone this week when they gave their 750,000th COVID-19 vaccination.

You are now able to book a vaccine appointment if you are aged 50 or over, if you are at high risk (clinically extremely vulnerable) or moderate risk (clinically vulnerable) from

coronavirus, if you have a learning disability, live or work in a care home or are an unpaid carer.

You can book your vaccination appointment at one of the NHS centres by going [online](#) or by calling 119. You may also be contacted by your GP practice or GP led vaccination service (supported by your GP practice) if you are eligible.

Local vaccination services are also starting to contact people who are due for their second dose. This is to make sure that all those who have had one jab receive their follow up appointment.

If you are worried that you might not be able to get to your COVID-19 vaccination appointment, you can now book a free return journey through Sussex NHS Commissioners. This new service aims to help those who don't have access to transport or have a family member, friend or carer who can help.

If you would benefit from this service, once you have booked your vaccination appointment, you can call 01444 275 008 to speak to a travel coordinator who will be able to help arrange free travel for you. The booking service is available between 10am and 1pm, and 2pm and 5pm, from Monday to Friday.

All transport providers have signed up to a COVID-19 safety policy to ensure that all precautions are in place for a safe journey.

You can find out more information about the local vaccination programme by visiting the [Sussex Health & Care Partnership website](#).

FIND OUT MORE

A Day to Reflect and Remember

The nation is due to fall silent next Tuesday as we remember friends and relatives who have died during the pandemic.

The National Day of Reflection on 23 March is organised by the charity Marie Curie to mark a year since the first lockdown, and is backed by government.



Everyone is invited to pause to reflect during a minute's silence at 12 midday and to come together later that evening outside our homes with a light and show support to people grieving the death of a loved one.

For more information, including details of how you can get involved and join the online event, go to the [Marie Curie website](#).

FIND OUT MORE

Easter meal vouchers



The 16,000 West Sussex children who receive free school meals will again be given supermarket food vouchers for the Easter holiday.

The County Council is providing a £30 voucher for each eligible child for the two-week break. It follows the County Council scheme which ran over the Christmas and February school holidays, taking the total value of supermarket vouchers distributed to free school meal-eligible families by the Council to £1.2m.

The vouchers are again being funded by the government's Winter Support Grant Scheme, which has been extended to cover Easter, and enables local authorities to give further financial support to those in need during the pandemic.

The West Sussex Community Hub remains open to support families and individuals who are experiencing financial hardship or are in need of supplies, including those not eligible for free school meals.

The hub is open from 8am-8pm, seven days a week and people can [contact the Hub online](#) or by calling 033 022 27980.

FIND OUT MORE

Need help with the Census?

The 2021 Census is 'digital first' which means people are being asked to complete the form online.

Anyone without internet access or digital skills can get support from library staff who can help them complete their Census forms.

As our libraries are currently not open for browsing or computer use, staff will complete the form online for residents over the phone. To book an appointment, phone 0330 222 3455, Monday to Friday between 10.00am – 4.00pm.



FIND OUT MORE

'Book to Recycle' trial gets underway



Residents wishing to visit certain Household Waste Recycling Sites (HWRSSs) can avoid queues and long waiting times by booking a slot online as part of the 'Book To Recycle' trial scheme.

From Monday 29 March anyone visiting Bognor Regis, Crawley, Horsham, Littlehampton, Shoreham-By-Sea or Worthing HWRSSs will need to pre-book their slot in advance, either online or by telephone.

The trial scheme has been introduced due to an increased demand in recent weeks, which has led to Sussex Police closing sites temporarily and is similar to schemes successfully running in neighbouring counties.

Slots can be booked up to 14 days in advance but must be booked by the day before you plan to visit.

You will be able to make one trip in a week (Monday-Sunday) per household and are asked to continue using a site local to you rather than traveling further afield.

You can book your slot now or find out more information about the 'Book to Recycle' trial [here](#) or by calling 01243 642106.

You will need to provide your vehicle registration number and postcode.

Please note you will still need to be prepared to show ID, to prove you live in West Sussex, and a permit if you have a trailer or commercial style vehicle.

All HWRSSs are now operating their summer opening hours. Find out when your local site is open [here](#).

FIND OUT MORE

Update on birth registrations

The Registration Service has commenced a phased return for birth appointments. You can now book an appointment to register a birth for babies born anytime in 2020 up until 31 December 2020. Please book your appointment online via the [website](#) or telephone 01243 642122. The team appreciates your patience and asks for your support in adhering to the phased return to enable the 2020 babies to be registered first.



Before registering the birth, new parents can make a claim for [Child Benefit](#) or [Universal Credit](#).

For emergency birth registrations only, please contact us on [01243 642122](tel:01243 642122) and ask for Technical Enquiries.

Birth registrations and travelling

Before booking any travel arrangements abroad, please allow time for the birth to be registered and a passport application processed. Both services will be under extreme pressure at this time, so it could take longer than usual.

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Know someone who would like to receive this eNewsletter?

If anyone you know who would like to sign up for this bulletin, please forward this eNewsletter to them and they can [sign up here](#). Thank you for your support.

