



Local Covid-19 update

Free symptomatic and asymptomatic Covid-19 testing for the general public will end from 1 April.

But, as we adjust to [live with the virus](#), taking the simple precautions we've become used to throughout the pandemic will help in reducing the spread of Covid-19 and other diseases:

- Stay at home if you feel unwell.
- Let in fresh air in enclosed spaces.
- Wear a face covering, particularly in crowded places or when you are with people you don't routinely meet.
- Wash your hands regularly and carry tissues to 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it.'



Read the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) article on [effective ways to protect yourself and others](#).

Vaccinations

Getting vaccinated remains the best defence against Covid-19.

People aged 75 and over, and those aged 12 and over who are immunosuppressed, are now eligible for a spring Covid-19 booster vaccination. [Find more information here](#).

To book or manage a Covid-19 vaccination appointment, go to the [national booking system](#) or call 119. [Walk-in vaccination sessions](#) are also available across West Sussex.

You can book [free travel to and from your Covid-19 vaccination appointment](#), if you have no other means to get there, by calling the Sussex Health & Care Partnership travel coordinator on 01444 275008.

If you or someone you know needs more information on vaccinations [please visit the Sussex Health & Care Partnership FAQs](#).

Mental health support

If you're feeling anxious, support is at hand to help you to manage these feelings and make it easier to adjust. Don't suffer in silence. There is advice available on [our health and wellbeing pages](#).

You can also find ways to cope with anxiety [on the Every Mind Matters website](#).

Remember to check in with a child or young person about how they're feeling. Our [Your Mind Matters website](#) offers information, free training, guidance and links to resources and organisations that can help you support your child's mental health.

More local information on Covid-19 and vaccinations

West Sussex response to the conflict in Ukraine



Following the launch of the [‘Homes for Ukraine’](#) scheme, if you are able to offer support for families or individuals please register via the [online portal](#).

If you have a named family or individual you wish to support you will be able to fill in a form requesting to sponsor them.

We are prepared to deliver wraparound support for those arriving under this scheme, as we are for recently evacuated Afghan families, and those who fled from other global conflicts under the current UK Resettlement programmes.

Find further information, links and the dedicated email address on our webpages below. They are being updated as new information becomes available.

More information

We'd like to hear your views

Please take part in the following consultations:



- We are developing a new three-year Education & Skills strategy outlining how we will support the learning of children and young people across West Sussex from early years to adulthood. Help develop the strategy by [completing this short survey](#). Closing date: **Sunday 3 April**.
- We need your feedback on five new proposals which are part of our aim to improve walking and cycling facilities in Chichester, Lancing, Sompting and Shoreham to Brighton. Information about each proposal and the survey [can be found here](#). Closing date: **Tuesday 12 April**.
- We are consulting on the [Post-16 Transport Policy Statement](#). It outlines the help that might be available through the county council, schools, colleges and transport operators to help young people of sixth form age and young adult learners aged 19+ who have an Education Health and Care Plan to get to school and college. Closing date: **Sunday 10 April**.
- The Environment Agency is consulting [on updating the River Basin Management Plans \(RBMPs\) for the protection and improvement of the water environment](#). Closing date: **Friday 22 April**.

Reintroducing overdue and reserving charges in libraries



Our Library Service will be reintroducing overdue and reserving charges for books and other items which are borrowed on or after Friday 1 April.

We are also encouraging anyone who needs to return items that are already overdue to do so before Thursday 31 March ahead of the charges being reintroduced.

Any overdue items returned from 1 April will be charged a fee from the date they became overdue.

Overdue fees and charges for reserving items were suspended during the Covid-19 pandemic. With services and opening times now returned to normal, it's now easier to collect and return items.

Library loans can be renewed online, and many libraries have a facility for people to drop items off even when the library is closed.

[More information](#)

Registering a death

The Coronavirus Act 2020 allowing death registrations by telephone ends at midnight tonight (Thursday 24 March).

From tomorrow (Friday 25 March), you must come in to the office you choose when booking your appointment to register the death.

We will no longer be legally allowed to conduct the appointment over the telephone.



[More information on death registrations](#)

Complete our prize draw eNewsletter survey



Thank you to everyone who has already taken a few minutes to complete our survey.

There's still time to let us know what you think of this eNewsletter and how we can improve it and, if you leave your contact details, you will be in with a chance of winning a year's family

membership to the Weald & Downland Living Museum.

To complete the survey, please click the link below before it closes at midnight this Sunday (27 March).

Please use one of the following browsers when completing the survey to ensure it looks and works as it should: Google Chrome (version 86 and above), Firefox (version 78 and above), Microsoft Edge (version 86 and above) or Safari (version 14 and above).

[Start the survey](#)

More news

- A £32million programme of [investment in highways and transport has been agreed](#) by the county council.
- Firefighters at [Partridge Green Fire Station are searching for more people to join their ranks as retained \(on-call\) firefighters.](#)
- A Littlehampton shop owner's alcohol licence has been suspended after selling cider to an underage minor, [following an investigation by West Sussex Trading Standards.](#)
- [A major milestone has been reached in a proposed new school project in Burgess Hill](#) now that an academy trust has been appointed to run it.
- Littlehampton is set to get a further [£1.25million boost for public realm improvements](#) – this time to enhance approach to the town centre from the railway station.
- A new partnership is providing young carers and young adult carers in West Sussex [with some much-needed fun and a break from caring.](#)



It's Mother's Day this Sunday (27 March) – check out some of the bespoke experiences and gifts you can buy on our [Experience West Sussex website](#).

Know someone who would like to receive this eNewsletter?

If you know anyone 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.



**YOUR
MIND
MATTERS**

Support and advice
for young people
and families

westsussex.gov.uk/
YourMindMatters
