



## Coronavirus update from Somerset County Council

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All our help and information is now **available in a single place** on the SCC website <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/latest-coronavirus-updates/>

This page is refreshed through the day so please check in regularly to keep across developments and news.

**Public Health dashboard:** Detailed Public Health information dashboards are available on our website [www.somerset.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/coronavirus) just scroll down to 'Covid-19 dashboard'. These are updated daily.

### Top stories today:

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## Enjoy the great outdoors responsibly

Now that restrictions are easing, it's important to keep following the rules while still enjoying the new freedoms – and the current sunny weather.

You can now meet in groups of up to six people – or two households – out in the open, including private gardens.

Please keep travel to a minimum, avoid unnecessary journeys and try to combine trips if that's possible. If you need to travel, walk or cycle where possible, and plan ahead to avoid busy times and routes if you use public transport. This will allow you to practise social distancing while you travel. If you need to use public transport, you should follow the safer travel guidance: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): safer travel guidance for passengers -](#)

Before setting off, do check if facilities are open to visitors - for example, car parks and toilets. Do not park on verges or block gates as this restricts access for other vehicles. When in the countryside, please follow the [Countryside Code](#).

More detailed information and guidance can be found here: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): advice on accessing green spaces safely - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

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## Funeral of HRH the Duke of Edinburgh

The funeral of His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh takes place tomorrow (Saturday April 17) at Windsor at 3pm.

There will be a national one minute's silence before the service begins – for full details of the funeral, please visit:

<https://www.royal.uk/funeral-duke-edinburgh-0>

It will be a Ceremonial Royal Funeral, the same as for Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, rather than a State Funeral – something which is generally reserved for Monarchs. The plans have been approved by The Queen and reflect appropriate Government advice.

People are respectfully asked not to gather in public places to lay flowers or other tributes. Instead you can donate to one of His Royal Highness's many patronages in honour of his legacy. People can also sign an online, national Book of Condolence – details of how to make a donation or sign the book can be found here: <https://www.royal.uk/>

If you're planning to watch the funeral at home, please remember that gathering indoors with people from outside your household is still not permitted, unless they are part of your support bubble.

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## Remaining university students to return to from 17 May

The Government has confirmed that all university students who have not yet returned to campus and in-person teaching will be able to do so from 17 May.

The timing aligns with step three of the Government's roadmap, where restrictions on social contact and indoor mixing will be further eased.

Progression to step three of the roadmap will be dependent on a review of the latest data and the impact of step two on the four key tests.

When they return, all students and staff are encouraged to take three supervised tests (three to five days apart) at an asymptomatic testing site on campus, where this is available. Students will also have access to home testing kits throughout the summer term through both the government's offer of free rapid lateral flow devices tests twice a week and through the 'University Collect' service.

Read more



## Clinton's Covid catch-up focuses on testing

In this week's Covid Catch Up [Somerset Covid Catch up - Week 19, 13 April 2021 - YouTube](#), former BBC Points West correspondent Clinton Rogers speaks to staff at a local testing site and a pharmacy in Somerset.

Lateral Flow Testing - regular twice weekly testing for people without symptoms, is now available universally in England. There are many ways in which you can get tested, including collecting kits from local sites and

pharmacies or ordering online for delivery to your home.

Regular testing for Covid-19 is so important as society opens up again as it helps to identify cases that may have gone undetected and therefore breaks the chain of transmission. Regular testing also helps to identify new strains of Covid-19.

For more information on getting tested, please visit: [Coronavirus – Get a test if you do not have symptoms \(somerset.gov.uk\)](#)

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## Vaccine and Testing Survey

To support people's ability to access testing we are keen to hear your views and have launched a community survey to seek the views of as many people across Somerset as possible.

As we continue the cautious journey out of national lockdown, we are keen to hear from you about three key areas:

1. testing
2. vaccination
3. self-isolating

Please help us by responding to our survey to help us get a better understanding of any barriers that may prevent people from doing these tested or having the vaccine when it is offered.

[Read more >](#)

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## Guidance on moving home

The Government has just updated guidance for people moving into homes in England, whether as owner-occupiers or as private or social renters, to reflect changes to national lockdown rules which came into effect on Monday.

[Read more](#)



## Support for Somerset residents

Help is available for anyone in Somerset who may need additional support. The five councils in Somerset have been working together since the first lockdown to provide a single phone number for anyone in Somerset who needs Coronavirus-related support.

Residents are reminded they can call 0300 790 6275 if they need any help themselves or are concerned about relatives or neighbours. Lines are open seven days a week between 8am and 6pm.



## Reduce the risks and follow advice

It's vital everyone acts to reduce their own risk, and the risk to others, from getting ill with coronavirus.

There's really important information available to help Somerset residents, businesses and visitors take all-important precautions.

[Read more](#)





## Send to a friend

These coronavirus bulletins are now available to anyone. Please send to a friend who would like to stay up to date with the latest developments. To sign up simply visit [Coronavirus updates \(somerset.gov.uk\)](https://www.somerset.gov.uk/coronavirus-updates).

Read more



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