



## 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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## Big Push for 16 and 17 year olds to grab a jab over Bank Holiday weekend

Over eight million vaccinations have now been given in the South West, and [16 and 17 year olds](#) are being encouraged to #Grab-a-Jab at walk in clinics across the area.

The NHS locally is encouraging all young people to protect themselves, their loved ones, and their local community by getting their jab today – and get back to school or having fun with their mates. They can get their jab either by using the [online booking system](#), calling NHS 119 or they can [#Grab-a-Jab at a local walk-in clinic](#) – more clinics have been stepped up over the bank holiday weekend to reach as many young people as possible so they have

the opportunity to get protected before returning to school in early September.

Dr Michael Marsh, NHS England and NHS Improvement South West Medical Director, said: “The vaccine is safe and effective with nearly nine in 10 adults already taking up the offer, and I would urge anyone eligible, especially those 16 and 17 year olds heading back into education or training, to get their life-saving jab.”

There are several walk-in clinics available across Somerset this weekend. For details on locations and opening hours, please [click here](#).

Visitors to this weekend's Bath & West Country Festival will be able to get their Covid-19 vaccination at a pop-up clinic at the site.

The pop-up clinic will run from 9am – 5pm on Friday 27, Saturday 28 and Sunday 29 August. It will be at stands 38 and 39 on Avenue A, opposite the stables which are between ring 2 and the Main Lawn.

The team of vaccinators will be giving vaccinations to anyone aged 16 and over and will be offering first or second doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine and second doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine.

You can also check which sites are offering walk in clinics on the grab-a-jab website or on [Covid-19 vaccinations in Somerset – Somerset CCG](#)

[Read more >](#)



## Clinton visits Bridgwater in latest Covid Catch Up

In this week's Somerset Covid Catch-Up, Clinton Rogers discusses how we are all living with Covid now most restrictions have been lifted.

Covid infection rates in the South-West are now higher than the national average for the first time, and Sedgemoor has had the highest infection rate

in the country.

But is the spread of Covid-19 inevitable now restrictions have eased? This week Clinton has been out in Bridgwater, and spoken with Somerset County Council's Director of Public Health, Professor Trudi Grant, to find out more.

View the video here: [Somerset Covid Catch up - Week 36, 25 August 2021 - YouTube](#)

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## Somerset steps up to support Afghan refugees

People across Somerset have been stepping forward to help support Afghan refugees as the crisis being played out in the international spotlight deepens.

Somerset County Council is committed to help a scheme to house Afghans who supported British military and to resettle interpreters and translators. And local residents have done our county proud offering spare rooms, lodgings and entire houses to help out.

The Council anticipates the Government will fund a number of places for refugees through its resettlement programmes. These programmes have strict rules on the types and locations of suitable accommodation.

“It has been an amazing response and I want to acknowledge all those who have offered their time, help and even lodgings or spare rooms,” said Cllr David Fothergill, Leader of Somerset County Council.

“Sadly, we are unable to place refugees in temporary accommodation. We have had a number of very generous people offer self-contained flats and houses and that is the type of accommodation that we need.”

Most resettled Afghans will be housed in town centres where they can access specific foods, medicines and transport to link with other communities.

Anyone who would like to help in anyway please contact us at [resettlement@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:resettlement@somerset.gov.uk) and we can put you in touch with partners and voluntary groups doing great work in this crisis.

The Council is particularly keen to speak to private landlords with self-contained accommodation.

For more information, visit: [www.somerset.gov.uk/refugee-resettlement](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/refugee-resettlement).

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## **£5,000 grants to help rural businesses bounce back**

Grants of up to £5,000 are now available to help businesses in rural parts of Somerset bounce back after the coronavirus pandemic.

The Rural Services Grant Fund is part of a £6m package of funding from Somerset County Council which aims to kickstart the county's economy.

The Covid-19 pandemic has had a devastating effect on many rural communities in Somerset. The £5,000 grants (up to 80% of project costs) are now available to assist service businesses in rural areas to help them move forward and become more sustainable. A business will need to provide 20% of their own match funding.

The application process is open to:

- Sole Traders providing rural services
- Businesses providing rural services
- Town and Parish Councils
- Local Community led organisations operating on a not-for-profit basis and are legally constituted

The fund launched on Thursday (26 August) and will close at 5pm on 10 September 2021. Initial applications will be treated on a first come, first

served basis but we will need time to check eligibility and respond. To apply you will need to complete an Expression of Interest form which can be found at [Somerset Recovery Fund](#) – click on Rural Renaissance Rural Services Grant.

Once your Expression of Interest has been reviewed, if the work is eligible and appropriate, you will be invited to submit a Full Application. This will then require three quotes, further details of the aims/objectives and trading accounts to enable us to assess the project fully.

If you require further information please email your query to [RRGrants@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:RRGrants@somerset.gov.uk).

The scheme is part of the [Somerset Recovery Fund](#) – a wider £6m package of funding from Somerset County Council to kickstart Somerset’s economy in the wake of Covid-19. This fund will include financial support for businesses, financial support for individuals and a range of other measures to stimulate the economy and boost the county as it recovers from coronavirus.

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## Health and social care in Somerset shortlisted for Health Service Journal award

Health and social care organisations in Somerset which make up the Somerset Integrated Care System (Somerset NHS Foundation Trust, Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group, Somerset County Council and Yeovil District Hospital NHS Foundation Trust) have been shortlisted for the “health and local government partnership” category in the Health Service Journal awards.

The award recognises NHS health organisations and local authorities which have made progress in working together, with judges looking for evidence of strong, collaborative partnerships which are leading to demonstrable improvements for patients and citizens. Somerset has been recognised for its

joint approach to providing intermediate care services across the county.

Pat Flaherty, Chief Executive of Somerset County Council and Chair of the ICS, which brings health and social care organisations in Somerset together, said: “The council and NHS organisations in Somerset have a shared aim to improve the health of the people living in our county. That includes working together to provide people with the right care and support in their own homes or in a community setting so that they do not need to go into hospital, as well as supporting them to leave hospital when they are medically fit to do so.”

The HSJ awards ceremony will take place on 18 November 2021.

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## Latest international travel update: new destinations added to government travel lists

New destinations will be moved to the UK government’s green and red lists, as part of a safe and cautious reopening to international travel.

From 4am on Monday, 30 August, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Switzerland, and the Azores will be added to the [green list](#), as the risk that travel from these countries poses to public health in the UK is low. Travellers from these destinations will not have to quarantine regardless of whether they are fully vaccinated, but will still need to take pre-departure and day 2 tests and complete a passenger locator form.

Thailand and Montenegro will be added to the [red list](#) from 4am on Monday 30 August 2021, reflecting the increased case rates in these countries and the higher risk that travel from these countries poses to UK public health.

Passengers arriving in the UK from these red list destinations will need to isolate for 10 days in a managed quarantine facility and follow the necessary testing requirements.

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## 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. You can also check out the Healthy Somerset website, which has a huge amount of information and resources to help keep everyone healthy happy and safe at this time:

<https://www.healthysomerset.co.uk/covid-19/>

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## 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).

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