



Coronavirus update from Somerset County Council

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 just scroll down to 'Covid-19 dashboard'. These are updated daily.

Top stories today:



Back to school – carefully

Schools, colleges, and early years settings will be opening their doors again next week to welcome back children and young people at the start of another academic year.

Somerset County Council's Public Health team has been working closely with Public Health England and education colleagues to prepare for the return. As Covid-19 becomes a virus that we learn to live with, it's really important to reduce the disruption to children's education - particularly as the direct clinical risks to children are extremely low, and every adult has been offered a first vaccine and the opportunity for two doses by mid-September.

The evidence is clear that being out of education and childcare causes

significant harm to educational attainment, life chances, and mental and physical health. Educational settings are expected to have their own contingency plan or outbreak management plan as outlined by national guidance.

Secondary schools and colleges are offering two tests on-site at the start of term, followed by continued regular testing at home.

There's more information here: [Back to school campaign launches - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/campaigns/back-to-school)

Resources are being published on the SSE website as they become available: [COVID-19 Guidance and information page](#) | [Support Services for Education](#)



Clinton goes back to school for latest Covid Catch-up

In this week's Covid Catch-Up, Clinton discusses the return to school of most Somerset pupils, and the differences from last term because of the change in advice regarding Covid-19.

While pupils need to return to education, Covid-19 is still with us and case numbers are still high in the South-West so care is needed. Clinton explains the need for staff, parents, and pupils to help with the safe return to the classrooms and the continued journey on the road to recovery.

Watch now: [Somerset Covid Catch up - Week 37, 2 September 2021 - YouTube](#)



Concessionary travel update

Restrictions on the use of Concessionary Bus Passes in Somerset will return

to normal from Monday 6 September.

As bus services in Somerset return to pre-Covid-19 levels and with students returning to schools and colleges, Concessionary Bus Pass holders will no longer be able to travel free of charge on local routes before 9.30am.

[Read more >](#)



The NHS Covid Pass

The Covid Pass lets you share your Covid-19 vaccination records or Covid-19 test status. You may be required to show your Covid Pass at events and venues that have chosen to use this service or for travel abroad. The Covid Pass is available on the NHS app.

You can download it on your phone but if you are not able to do that, you can also request a Covid Pass letter in the post on the NHS website or by calling 119.

[Read more >](#)



International travel changes

On Monday 30 August there were changes to the international travel list. Montenegro and Thailand are now on the travel red list. If you are returning from either of these countries, you must now quarantine in a Government facility.

The Azores, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Liechtenstein, Lithuania and Switzerland are now on the travel green list. If you are returning to Somerset from any of these countries, you must take a PCR test. You only need to self-

isolate if the result is positive.

Check here for more details: [Travel abroad: step by step - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk)
(www.gov.uk)



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/>

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)

Read more



