

Staffordshire County Council Coronavirus/COVID19 Update

This briefing summarises the National and Regional COVID19 situation and a summary of key response and recovery activity undertaken by the county council.

Wednesday 27th May 2020

National & Local Situation – Cases & Deaths

- As of 0900hrs on 27th May 2020, there have been **3,798,490** COVID19 tests undertaken in the UK.
- There were **117,013** tests on 26th May 2020. This figure includes kits sent out to homes and test centres. Of those tested so far **267,240** have tested positive for COVID19¹.
- As of 1700hrs on 26th May 2020, of those who tested positive for COVID19 in the UK, **37,460** have sadly died. This is an increase of **412** across all settings, not just in hospitals.
- The equivalent figure under the old measure would have been **30,177**.

	Tests	People tested*	Positive	Deaths in hospitals	Deaths in all settings
<i>Daily</i>	117,013	Unavailable	2,013	212	412
Total	3,798,490	Unavailable	267,240	30,177	37,460

* n.b. A number of technical issues have been experienced with regards to testing and therefore, certain data cannot be updated fully at the present time.

Staffordshire Situation 26th May 2020

Numbers of confirmed Hospital Admissions & Rates per 100,000 Resident Population

England Total	150,903	269.6	609	3,158	
Regional Total	16,692	282.9	58	346	11.06%

Local Authority	Number	Rate	Daily Increase	Change since 22/05/20	% Regional Total	% National Total
Cannock Chase	209	208.8	-	3	1.26%	0.14%
East Staffordshire	314	264.8	3	6	1.89%	0.21%
Lichfield	286	275.1	1	6	1.72%	0.19%
Newcastle-under-Lyme	438	338.3	2	13	2.63%	0.29%
South Staffordshire	273	243.5	1	2	1.64%	0.18%
Stafford	304	223.7	1	9	1.83%	0.20%
Staffordshire Moorlands	214	217.5	2	15	1.29%	0.14%
Tamworth	181	236.1	2	10	1.09%	0.12%
Staffordshire CC	2,219	253.5	12	64	13.34%	1.48%

Source: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>

Clap for Carers – Final Event

- The UK's weekly applause for front-line workers tackling the COVID19 pandemic will end tomorrow (Thursday, 28th May 2020). This will be the tenth and last in the series. The final Clap For Our Carers will happen on Thursday 28 May at 2000hrs. After tomorrow's event the focus will be upon Clap For Our Carers becoming an annual celebration

¹ n.b. A number of technical issues have been experienced with regards to testing and therefore, certain data cannot be updated fully at the present time.

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Latest COVID19 Related Announcements – National News

NHS England Test and Trace System

- Today, the Prime Minister, Boris Johnson MP gave evidence to the House of Commons Liaison Committee. During the session, the Prime Minister announced that the national COVID19 Test and Trace operation will begin tomorrow 28th May 2020 at 0900hrs. People who tested positive today will be the first to be contacted.
- The aim of the test and trace system is to move from the lockdown of the many to the isolation of the few. Test and trace will also give far more detail on how and where the virus is spreading with the information potentially allowing for **local lockdowns to tackle flare-ups** in towns, schools or workplaces.
- This system requires that all those experiencing COVID19 symptoms will need to be tested for the virus. If the test is positive the NHS will be in contact to discuss what close contact has taken place and with whom. Any of those contacts deemed at risk of catching the virus will be instructed by the NHS to go into isolation for 14 days. It should be noted however that scientists have warned it is not a "magic bullet" and may prevent between 5% and 15% of infections.
- Mr Johnson told the members of the Liaison Committee that the government "will consider bringing in financial sanctions" if people do not self-isolate. The Prime minister also stated that the goal is to have all tests completed and returned within 24 hours.

Opening of Retail establishments

- The Prime Minister Boris Johnson MP has announced that certain retail establishments and other services for the public will be allowed to open in June 2020 as part of the easing of the COVID19 lockdown. These include:
 - From 1st June 2020, outdoor markets and car showrooms;
 - From 15th June 2020, all non-essential retailers.
- The full list that (although some are already allowed to be open) includes:
 - Food retailers
 - Charity shops
 - Auction houses
 - Antique stores
 - Craft fairs
 - Gift shops & retail spaces in theatres, museums, libraries, heritage & tourism sites
 - The guidance also applies to those currently open, including banks, post offices and other money businesses
 - Chemists
 - Fashion shops
 - Car dealerships
 - Betting shops & arcades
 - Retail art galleries
 - Hardware/homeware stores
 - Mobile phone stores
 - Indoor and outdoor markets
 - Tailors, dress fitters & fashion designers
 - Photography studios

Opening will be subject to the ongoing COVID19 situation and the continued reduction in the numbers of reported cases.

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Latest COVID19 Related Announcements – Staffordshire

Care Act Easements

- As previously stated, the county council took the decision to implement care act easements in line with the Coronavirus Act 2020 owing to capacity issues; therefore, the authority had temporarily introduced a streamlined COVID19 assessment form and suspended routine annual reviews.
- The county council now has improved staffing capacity, and, therefore it is no longer operating under “Care Act Easements” and is now providing full Care Act Assessments and annual reviews.
- The county council continues to review staffing capacity and the demand pressures for adult social care services, and care act easements will only be reinstated if it is necessary to ensure the sustainability of adult social care services to protect Staffordshire’s most vulnerable residents.

Weekly Office of National Statistics Report:

Deaths occurred up to 15 May, and registered up to 22 May:

- All deaths in Staffordshire remained fairly stable in week ended 15th May at 193, with a drop in COVID19 deaths to 45, compared to 56 in the previous week.
- In week ended 15th May, Staffordshire recorded 37 deaths, above the 2015-19 average, a similar position as in the previous week.
- All deaths in care homes, continue to drop. There were 42 deaths in care homes in week ended 15th May, down from 54 in the previous week. COVID19 deaths in Care Homes have also dropped – 12 in week ended 15th May, down from 17 in the previous week.
- There has been a total of 666 COVID19 related deaths in Staffordshire since the start of the outbreak, with 45 in the week ended 15th May.
- There has been a total of 164 COVID19 deaths in care homes since the start of the outbreak (25% of all COVID19 deaths)

Test and Trace – Local Delivery

- Further details of the Test and Trace Service have been confirmed. Every area will have an Outbreak Control Plan and an Outbreak Control Committee, including Staffordshire. This will be led by the county council.
- The PM has said there will be “strong directional effort and control” input by the new Joint Biosecurity Centre.
- The county council’s role will focus on identifying and containing potential outbreaks in places such as workplaces, care homes and schools.
- With lock down restrictions easing further from next week the county council is now reinforcing plans to ensure we are in a strong position to manage any local outbreaks both swiftly and effectively.

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Funding available to support armed forces charities through Coronavirus

- Funding is available for those organisations across Staffordshire that are helping support their local Armed Forces Communities through the COVID19 pandemic. Grants of up to £60,000 are being made available by the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust with support to apply from Staffordshire County Council.
- Voluntary groups, charities and community interest companies delivering services to veterans, Armed Forces families and others from the Armed Forces community are eligible for the grants.
- Projects must provide support in areas including: Support to the elderly, Service families, Mental and physical health, Domestic violence, Housing and employment, or to help keep valuable services up and running.
- The closing date for applications is Friday 29 May 2020. People can get further information on eligibility and apply at www.covenantfund.org.uk

English Tourism Week (25th – 31st May 2020)

- This week is English Tourism Week next week (25th-31st May). Tourism continues to play a huge role in Staffordshire generating millions of pounds for the local economy and employing thousands of people.
- English Tourism Week provides an opportunity to recognise the contribution tourism makes to the Staffordshire economy and cherish what we have, from some of the biggest theme parks in the country to the guesthouses and cafes going the extra mile to give visitors a wonderful experience; all of whom will need support after the lockdown, and we urge all Staffordshire residents to do their bit to help this vital industry get back on its feet over the next few months.
- Please pledge their support by posting a photo or video message on your social media channels holding the “[I Support English Tourism](#)” sign (download here) along with the hashtag [#EnglishTourismWeek20](#) tag us [@VisitEnglandbiz](#). Full details can be found at <https://www.enjoystaffordshire.com/trade/what-we-do/business-support>

Thank you

[#Stay Alert](#) | [#Control the Virus](#) | [#Save Lives](#)