

Christmas socialising poses 'substantial risks'

Mixing households at Christmas [could pose "substantial risks"](#), particularly for older people more vulnerable to coronavirus, a scientist advising the government has warned.

Prof Andrew Hayward said there would be a "cost" to families getting together.

It comes as ministers are looking at how to relax restrictions so families can celebrate Christmas together.

[Scientists have said](#) that for every day measures are eased, five days of tighter restrictions would be needed.

England is expected to come out of its second national lockdown on 2 December and return to the tier system of localised restrictions, with household mixing banned indoors in the top two tiers.

Professor Hayward, SAGE advisor, spoke to BBC Radio 4's Today programme [here](#).

Latest news

[Oxford vaccine shows 'encouraging' immune response in older adults](#)

[Seven things that may be different this Christmas](#)

[What the newspapers say...](#)

Guidance & announcements

[Full Guidance on new restrictions](#)

[Visiting care homes during coronavirus](#)

[Education and childcare settings](#)

[Getting tested](#)

[NHS information and advice](#)

Mental Health Summit

A virtual mental health summit today brings together speakers including Jeremy Hunt MP, South West Surrey MP and Chair of the Health and Social Care Select Committee; Mark Britnell, Partner & Global Health Expert at KPMG; Andy Bell, Deputy Chief Executive at Centre for Mental Health; Gavin Stephens, Chief Constable @SurreyPolice and residents who have used services. Surrey County Council Leader Tim Oliver and Chief Executive Joanna Killian will also address the meeting.

Now more than ever, with Covid-19 affecting lives and communities, we need to work together to promote the mental health and wellbeing of our residents.

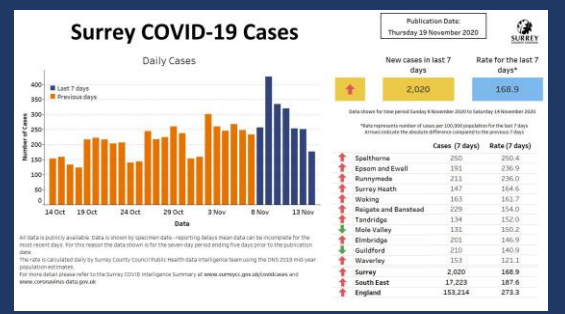
If you're struggling with your mental health, visit www.healthysurrey.org.uk/mental-wellbeing/adults to find a range of support in Surrey.

Coronavirus figures and statistics

Surrey's Public Health team are currently publishing the Surrey COVID-19 intelligence summary [here](#) twice weekly – on Mondays and Thursdays.

The data gives the latest picture in Surrey, broken down by district and borough area, relative to the national and regional picture.

A dashboard is produced daily and shared on social media.



Schools

Julie Iles, Cabinet Member for All-Age Learning, spoke to BBC Surrey this morning to discuss how coronavirus was affecting Surrey schools, and what support the council was providing ([Listen here](#), starts at 1:11:20).

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Latest coronavirus information in Surrey

Please continue to visit [our coronavirus webpage](#) which has Surrey related information, including how to get help, advice and support, information on council services available, schools, testing, mental health and wellbeing, how businesses can get involved and much more.

Surrey Community Helpline
 0300 200 1008

Opening hours:
 Monday – Friday 9am – 5pm

SMS: 0786 0053 465
 for Deaf and hearing impaired residents only
 (Monday to Friday: 9am to 5pm)



LRF update

As well as coordinating the response to Covid-19, Surrey's Local Resilience Forum (SLRF) also has responsibility for managing the response to other risks and threats that could impact on the county. These include adverse weather, flooding, seasonal flu and the EU Transition.

Much work is being undertaken by the team to ensure that any risks that could impact on Surrey and its population from the UK leaving the EU are identified and wherever possible mitigated. Surrey's LRF have been working hard with neighbouring LRFs on several fronts, especially in relation to understanding the impact on the county's roads from freight traffic travelling to ports in Kent, Sussex and Hampshire.

The LRF comms team are in the process of putting together a specific EU Transition top lines briefing document that will direct people to Government guidance on a range of issues. They are also preparing a briefing event for partners and stakeholders, with LRF Chair, Steve Owen-Hughes, that will take place at the beginning of December.

Yesterday (18/11/20) the Department for Transport published its [haulier handbook](#) which sets out the new regulations for transporting goods into the EU from the 1st January.

Self-isolation payments if you're on a low income

If you've been told to self isolate and you are on a low income did you know you may be eligible for a £500 payment from your local authority? For information on this and for guidance on what other financial support is available to Surrey residents [click here](#).

Struggling to put food on the table?

More and more people are finding themselves in times of hardship with people's livelihoods damaged as a result of COVID-19. Some are now finding themselves in situations they'd never have thought possible, struggling to put food on the table. But there is help at hand and not only does it cost nothing but it also does your bit for the environment by reducing food waste. Food Banks and Community Fridges are there to help you when you're struggling to put food on the table. It's there to be used. Don't go hungry. There's no shame in asking for help in times of need. See [more information here](#).

Be Prepared if you get stuck in

Have you thought about how to get your essential shopping or medicines if you get told to self isolate for fourteen days? Let's not get into stockpiling toilet rolls again, we all just need to make sure we've thought about what help might be at hand. Have you asked family, friends or neighbours if they can help. More information can be [found here](#).

Active Travel

Surrey County Council [has been allocated](#) £6,445,750 of government funding to invest in improved footpaths and cycleways for residents.

Residents can continue to have their say about what schemes could work in their local area by using interactive maps available via the council's website: www.surreycc.gov.uk/activetravelfund. Information about the schemes to be taken forward will be announced following further consultation with residents.

Libraries

Following the latest Government guidance, taking effect from Thursday 5 November in order to try and halt the spread of COVID-19, [libraries across Surrey County Council will close to the public](#). Instead residents will be able to use a Click&Collect service for library books at select locations, allowing libraries to get books and resources safely into the hands of readers.

A full list of libraries offering Click&Collect along with their opening times can be found here: <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/libraries>

Testing

The National Testing Programme continues to experience high demand; however, testing utilisation is down on the previous month and we are taking action to help increase utilisation.

Testing capacity continues to grow. A continued drive to improve testing capacity, which has already seen capacity increase to more than 500,000 a day this week, will contribute to ongoing improvement in turnaround times over the coming weeks.

Mass testing will be available for the whole of the UK. The four nations are in ongoing discussions as to how these new technologies can best be deployed to meet the needs of the UK.

After successful field trials, the National Testing Programme is now ready to start a series of pilots of lateral flow tests – a clinically validated swab antigen test that does not require a laboratory for processing and can turnaround rapid results within an hour at the location of the test.

Lateral Flow devices will be provided to Directors of Public Health for them to pilot in their communities according to local needs. We are awaiting further details on this for Surrey.

Winter help and advice

Surrey residents have already experienced many months of isolation, worry and disrupted services. Restrictions in coming weeks and months are likely to impact heavily on all our residents, in particular those who live alone and who have been separated from their loved ones for long periods.

We are increasingly worried about the wellbeing of residents and the impact of COVID on their mental health – one of the many 'hidden harms of COVID.

To help support residents through this difficult time, Surrey County Council has produced an all-residents mailout with advice and help available around staying safe and well throughout the winter months.

The mailout will contain a reminder of public health advice and links to the latest government guidance as well as practical advice on 'how to be prepared', tips on 'keeping healthy this winter', and information about how you can 'keep yourself and others safe'.

It will also provide useful signposting information and a list of useful contact numbers for help and support available to residents who are worried about a loved one or need help themselves this winter.

The mailout will begin arriving on resident's doorsteps from the 1st December.

Surrey Together
Winter help and advice

2020 has undoubtedly been a difficult year for everyone. Over the last months, so many of you have played your part, supported your community, and kept Surrey safe. Thank you for your efforts. We are, however, still in challenging times. For many of us, this may be the most difficult winter in our lifetimes. But we want to reassure you that there is help available and we will get through this time together. We have pulled together all the advice and support here in Surrey to help you through the coming weeks and months. Please take a look and access the help available if needed.

We are here for you. We continue to work with partners across Surrey, including district and borough councils, NHS, emergency services and of course our Voluntary and Community organisations to keep you safe and our essential services running.

Surrey's Public Health team have constantly monitored and reacted to data on local COVID-19 infection rates. That work will continue, so please follow Surrey County Council's social media channels for the latest information and advice.

Surrey is a fantastic county to live in, full of caring and compassionate communities. This year has brought us closer together and shone a light not only on those that need help, but also the togetherness and compassion that has helped us through these difficult times.

By supporting each other, and sticking together, we will get through this winter and can look forward to a better 2021.


Tim Oliver
Leader of Surrey County Council


Ruth Hutchinson
Surrey Director of Public Health

Find us on social media - Facebook: search 'Surrey County Council'
Twitter: @SurreyNews Instagram: surreycountycouncil

Surrey Police

Surrey Police continue to publish daily content from 11 local social media accounts and main accounts. This is in order to:

- Maintain confidence in our communities that Surrey Police is present in communities and proactively responding to crime.
- Build resilience within our communities to Lockdown2-related criminality – domestic abuse, fraud, home security, online child safety, mental health.
- Proactively publish enforcement activity that is in the public interest.
- Cover any changes to business as usual services – front counters, overseas registrations, firearms licensing.
- Support the national policing and government messaging.

Follow Surrey Police on – Facebook, Instagram, Twitter & LinkedIn - @SurreyPolice

Media

If you are contacted by the media please ask the journalist to contact the SCC comms team and refer any queries you're sent directly to:

- Director of Communications & Engagement Andrea.Newman@surreycc.gov.uk
- Head of External Communications Mike Stringer Michael.Stringer@surreycc.gov.uk

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