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Update for our residents

22 September 2020

Message from the council

Along with the rest of the country, we are seeing an increase in Covid-19 infection in our area. Over the past seven days, there were 33 new confirmed cases in South Gloucestershire which indicates a rate of 14.7 per 100,000 population. While this remains below the all-England rate of 38.7 per 100,000, it is currently higher than the overall south west rate and of concern to us all.

This week, we will see new restrictions imposed by government and also the launch of the NHS Covid-19 app. We are encouraging all residents who have a smartphone to download and use the app as this will help in the fight against Covid-19 and of course, to continue to do the right thing to protect our loved ones, by following government guidance. Please remember: Wash hands; Cover face; Make space.

Thank you for your support.

Covid-19 Website 

Visit our help and information hub
southglos.gov.uk/coronavirus

Email 

Send us your questions

CustomerCare@southglos.gov.uk

Call us for free 

Freephone us on
0800 953 7778

Cllr Toby Savage

Leader of South

Gloucestershire Council

Dave Perry

Chief Executive, South

Gloucestershire Council

Covid-19: the local picture at-a-glance

We would like to share our new local Covid-19 dashboard with you.

A dashboard is an 'at-a-glance' picture of the current situation in South Gloucestershire. Ours provides the latest published Covid-19 figures for South Gloucestershire, including:

- total number of laboratory confirmed cases to date in South Gloucestershire
- number of laboratory confirmed cases in South Gloucestershire in the last 7 days
- total number of all deaths of South Gloucestershire residents by week, since January 2020
- total number of deaths of South Gloucestershire residents where Covid-19 is mentioned on the death certificate, and place of death for these Covid-19 deaths.

This is updated daily Monday to Friday, in the morning. Visit

www.southglos.gov.uk/dashboardcovid19



National updates

Think you need a Covid-19 test?



Only get a test if you have symptoms of Covid-19. The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- a high temperature – you feel hot to touch on your chest or back
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or three or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

Most people with coronavirus have at least one of these symptoms. If you have any one of these symptoms, book a test online www.nhs.uk or call 119.

We are aware some people with symptoms are finding it difficult to book a test. The NHS and Department of Health and Social Care, who run the booking portal and the test facilities, advise people to keep trying the website at different times, as more slots for tests are made available during the day.

Remember, if you don't have symptoms, you should not be booking a test unless you have been instructed to by the NHS Test and Trace service.

NHS Covid-19 app



Later this week, on Thursday, the government will be launching the NHS Covid-19 app. The NHS app is part of the NHS Test and Trace service in England and Wales. The app will be used, alongside traditional contact tracing, to notify users if they come into contact with someone who later tests positive for coronavirus. It allows people to report symptoms, order a coronavirus test, check in to venues by scanning a QR code and it helps the NHS trace individuals that may have come into contact with someone with coronavirus.

Every person who downloads the app will be helping in the fight against coronavirus. Protect your loved ones. Get the app.

The app will help the NHS understand where and how quickly the virus is spreading, so local authorities like South Gloucestershire Council can respond quickly to stop it spreading further and save lives. The app does this while protecting a user's anonymity. Nobody, including the government, will know who or where a particular user is. The app helps the NHS track the virus, not individuals. More information is available [here](#).

Important legal requirement for businesses



From Thursday 24 September, it will be a legal requirement for certain businesses across England and Wales like pubs, restaurants, hairdressers and cinemas to download and display NHS QR code posters at their premises so customers who have downloaded the new NHS Covid-19 app can use their smartphones to easily check-in. They will also need to provide a pen and paper customer log.

NHS QR code posters are a quick, simple and secure way for visitors to anonymously register that they've been to a venue. This allows those customers or visitors to receive important public health messages if needed.

By supporting the official NHS QR code poster system, businesses will be protecting their visitors and their business. This will help to slow the spread of the virus, reduce the impact of any second wave, and help normal life to resume more quickly. Businesses can [generate their QR code here](#).

Council news and support

Get the latest news on our roadworks projects



South Gloucestershire Council is investing an unprecedented £174 million over the next four years in highways. Keep up-to-date on all our highway improvement projects by signing up to our highway improvements newsletter [here](#).

A warm welcome to all South Gloucestershire students



A big welcome to all those students who will be studying and living here. Please remember to follow the guidelines in place to ensure a safe return to education. Do the right thing to keep you and your friends safe and stop the spread of

Covid-19. Follow our pages for the latest information on [Facebook](#) and Twitter and go to our Covid-19 [webpage](#).

Need help with your food shopping?



We're here to help if you are unable to get food because of Covid-19. Our partner Southern Brooks can put you in touch with people in your local community to help while you are isolating or need support for food and basic provisions.

Email Communitysupport@southernbrooks.org.uk or call 0333 5774666
(Monday- Friday 9am-5pm)

We are also part of a new scheme that helps eligible vulnerable people get priority access to supermarket delivery slots at Iceland or Tesco. Find out more [here](#). Or you can call 01454 868364 or email Prioritysupermarketdelivery@southglos.gov.uk about referral.

New campaign to recruit more foster carers across South Gloucestershire



We have launched a new campaign to attract more potential foster carers. Watch our new [film](#) or visit our fostering [Facebook](#) page. Please help us by sharing and forwarding on the film.



Gipsy Patch Lane bridge replacement



The railway bridge at Gipsy Patch Lane, in Patchway, will be replaced between Saturday 24 October and the early hours on Saturday 7 November. Find out more [here](#).

Hidden heroes



On World Gratitude Day yesterday, we thanked some of our local Hidden Heroes: council staff, colleagues from partner organisations, and members of our communities, who have stepped up to support local people during these difficult times. You can read more about them [here](#).

Updates from our partners

'Healthier Together' open letter on local health services



Read the [letter](#) from Healthier Together, the Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire (BNSSG) Sustainability and Transformation Partnership which brings together 10 local health and care organisations. The letter explains how

the focus is now on getting services back to their pre-pandemic levels ahead of winter.

September 2020

Healthier
Together



HEALTH & CARE SERVICES UPDATE

Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire



To safely reinstate local health and care services to pre-coronavirus levels between now and winter



- We have restarted planned operations and procedures
- Over 1,500 appointments online each week
- Community services such as physiotherapy resumed
- Home health visits for new mums



Safety will always come first, so waiting times may be longer. Some routine procedures were paused earlier this year



Continue with sensible precautions in our everyday lives, including:

- Social distancing
- Regular hand washing
- Wearing face coverings as required
- Social gatherings up to six people only

More information

0117 900 2583

@HTBNSSG

www.bnssghealthiertogether.org.uk

Bi Visibility Day 2020



Celebrate Bi Visibility Day 2020 by joining a webinar, hosted by the Diversity Trust and UWE tomorrow (Wednesday) at 2pm. To book please email info@diversitytrust.org.uk

Keeping you informed

We plan to continue sending these emails with the latest information on general council services. If you do not want to receive these emails, you can unsubscribe at any time.

[Update Preferences](#)

Useful sources of information

- South Gloucestershire Council dedicated webpage: www.southglos.gov.uk/coronavirus
- South Gloucestershire Council freephone Covid-19 number 0800 953 7778 open 08.45 to 17.00 Monday to Thursday and 08.45 to 16.30 Fridays
- Our partner Southern Brooks for support with food deliveries, prescriptions, mental health support and much more on 0333 577 4666 Mon-Fri 09:00-18:00.

- South Gloucestershire Council social media accounts, [twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).
- Latest information from the Government on coronavirus: www.gov.uk/coronavirus
- NHS information on coronavirus: www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/
- Q&A from Public Health England on coronavirus [here](#).
- British Sign Language (BSL) video from Public Health England on 'Coronavirus and home isolation advice' on our [YouTube channel](#).



www.southglos.gov.uk

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