

West Sussex County Council coronavirus (Covid-19) update

Issue 5 Monday 23 March 2020

This briefing is sent to: West Sussex County Council Members, Leaders and Chief Executives of West Sussex District and Borough Councils, West Sussex MPs, and the Corporate Leadership Team of West Sussex County Council

Key contacts:

[Anna Raleigh](#) - Director of Public Health

[Hannah Clubb](#) - Head of Communications

[Martin Funnell](#) - Resilience and Emergencies

Key sources of information:

[WSCC website](#)

WSCC social media - [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)

[Government's coronavirus website](#)

Latest national situation

The very latest advice and information remains available on the government's [website](#).

Last week the government published [new guidance for all schools and colleges](#), which includes 'key worker' definitions.

You can keep abreast of government policy updates by registering your email address via [this link](#).

The situation in West Sussex

We continue to review the fast-changing situation and are updating [our website](#) with the latest news.

The number of cases in the county is reported as 27. The number of cases in the UK continue to be reported daily by the [Chief Medical Officer](#).

West Sussex schools are being asked to continue to provide care for a limited number of children who are vulnerable, whose parents are key workers and critical to the Covid-19 response and those that cannot be safely cared for at home.

The government has also published [further Information for parents and carers about the closure of schools and other educational settings](#), which it will update.

WSCC continues to work together with partners to monitor and ensure preparedness for a variety of scenarios.

Latest actions

- All Household Waste Recycling sites have been closed until further notice in order to reinforce social distancing guidelines.
- The council has worked with bus companies to ensure pensioners and vulnerable people with West Sussex County Council bus passes can use buses earlier on weekdays.
- The Partnerships and Communities Team is liaising with all parish/town/city councils around their local Emergency or Community Resilience Action Plans. They are keeping us informed of the volunteering plans in their local areas.
- With the exception of Cabinet, meetings of council members will be suspended until the end of April. The position beyond April will be reviewed over the next few weeks.

Protecting Vulnerable People

Guidance on residential care, supported living and home care guidance remains available [online](#).

WSSC is working with PHE and local health providers to reassure the public and share the latest information and guidance with older residents and providers of residential care, supported living and home care.

West Sussex Governance

Internal Groups - reminder:

- A Strategic Management Co-ordination Group (SMG) comprises the Executive Leadership Team (ELT), is chaired by the Chief Executive, Becky Shaw and meets daily to provide corporate oversight to WSSC's response.
- A Tactical Management Group (TMG) meets daily to progress business continuity planning.
- Functional Teams have also been formed underneath the TMG to deliver and implement various business continuity plans.

Pan Sussex and South East Systems Governance - reminder:

- A daily South East NHS England/Improvement (NHSE/I), Integrated Care System (ICS), and Directors of Public Health (DsPH) teleconference.
- A weekly Local Resilience Forum Strategic Group has been formed.

Monitoring and ensuring preparedness

Different services and government agencies remain responsible for leading different parts of our response to the situation:

Department for Health & Social Care (DHSC): The Chief Medical Officer for England confirms each incident

Public Health England (PHE): co-ordinates the response, information and advice on the virus

NHS: local and national NHS services are working on the front line to test individuals, and provide advice through their website and NHS 111

West Sussex County Council (WSSC): provides local public health leadership by working in partnership to safeguard the county. We are working with system partners via the Local Health Resilience Partnership (LHRP) and the Local Resilience Forum (LRF) to ensure appropriate application of the Sussex pandemic Plan.

Communications

- WSCC is closely monitoring updates provided by national government in relation to the national and regional situation.
 - Internal communications are being shared with all employees, members and stakeholders to provide information and offer reassurance around preparedness.
 - WSCC is sharing communications with District and Borough councils.
 - WSCC is sharing Government updates with residents and businesses via its social media channels and eNewsletters.
 - Public Health posters with hygiene advice have been placed in all council buildings.
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Business continuity

- WSCC is monitoring and amending its Business Continuity Plans with regard to potential issues, should the situation escalate, and if impacts are seen within our organisation
- The WSCC Pandemic Contingency Plan has been reviewed and also the Emergency Situation Policy is now active
- WSCC has also reviewed the Sussex Resilience Forum Pandemic Influenza Plan and this remains in a state of readiness should the situation escalate.

Media handling

If you receive any requests for interviews or comment, continue to direct journalists to the WSCC Press Office. Our press contacts remain as follows:

Press Office - Pressoffice@westsussex.gov.uk / 03302 228090

Out of hours - Dutypress.officer@westsussex.gov.uk / 07767 098415

If you have any queries, please email publichealth@westsussex.gov.uk.

Your feedback

We hope you are finding these updates helpful. If you have any feedback, requests or suggestions regarding future content, please email: communications@westsussex.gov.uk



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