

Somerset's Covid-19 Weekly Update

Friday 13 November 2020

This update is provided by the Somerset Covid-19 Engagement Board and is designed to provide a weekly update on the current Covid-19 situation in Somerset.

Over-arching message: Somerset's Public Health supports the current national restrictions and urges residents in the county to stay home to protect the health of their families, friends, neighbours and critically, to protect the capacity of our NHS and social care services to help them cope through what could be a very busy winter.

Somerset has seen coronavirus cases rising at a steady rate. Although the numbers here are lower than other parts of the country, they have been increasing over recent weeks, and continue to rise.

It is too early to tell what impact the current national restrictions will have on our case numbers and rates in the county but we are optimistic that by following the advice to stay home as much as possible, we will be vital to flatten the curve and bring these numbers back down.

'Remember, everyone can catch it, anyone can spread it'.



David Fothergill
Leader of
Somerset County Council
Twitter: @DJAFothergill



Trudi Grant
Director of Public Health
Twitter: @SomersetDPH



Clare Paul, Cabinet Member
for Public Health and
Wellbeing
Twitter: @Clarepaul_

Testing and cases: We are seeing a general trend of increased transmission in Somerset, across all age groups and within all districts.

We're all in it together

Our [Covid-19 dashboard](#) provides the latest published figures for Somerset. We have been seeing a steady rise in our Covid-19 cases over recent weeks. As of 13 November, Somerset's seven-day infection rate is 97.8 new cases per 100,000. Between 3rd- 9th November, 16,453 tests were carried out and during these dates, at the time of writing, there have been 555 new confirmed cases in the county.

Somerset's infection rate remains lower than both the England and South West 7-day averages, which at the time of writing stands at 252.8 per 100,000 for England and is currently estimated to be 163.6 per 100,000 for the South West.

At the time of writing, rates are currently highest in Sedgemoor (118.1 cases per 100,000) and Mendip (74.6 cases per 100,000).

The link below shows the Somerset Dashboard which tracks our local epidemic from the start in March, to the current time:

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/covid-19-dashboard/>

Care Sector: Somerset County Council Public Health and Adult Social Care, Public Health England and Somerset CCG are supporting staff across the care sector to keep some of our most vulnerable residents protected from the virus.

Between 06 – 12 November, we had 52 positive cases in 10 care settings in Somerset. Most of these cases are relating to staff employed at the care home rather than residents and involve single cases being identified through routine asymptomatic testing.

For the latest known information and advice for adult care providers in Somerset visit: <https://ssab.safeguardingsomerset.org.uk/covid19/>

Schools and Early Years Settings: We continue to support all educational settings with both the prevention and mitigation of coronavirus within their school community.

Between 06 – 12 November, there has been:

- 41 cases in 26 schools and 3 nurseries
- 9 schools have had 2 or more positive cases linked to them over the last 14-days.

More often than not, these cases are from one household or are as a result of social contact outside of school. These cases refer to both student and staff cases and do not always result in the identification of close contacts from the school community.

Information for parents, carers and guardians:

- New COVID Checker for parents:
https://www.cypsomersethealth.org/resources/covidchecker-schools_V2.pdf
- Resources for parents to understand the difference between a cold and Covid-19:
<https://www.healthysomerset.co.uk/covid-19/info/ipc/>
- School self-isolation guidance:
<https://www.healthysomerset.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/School-Self-Isolation-Guidance-1.pdf>

Communications: Our focus on communications is on the importance in looking after our mental health and wellbeing during this time. We will be promoting the five ways to wellbeing (Connect, Be Active, Take Notice, Keep Learning, Give). These are simple and proven actions to help people find balance, build resilience and boost mental health and wellbeing. The themes help people to think about the things that matter under each of the headings. Information on the five ways to wellbeing plus a wealth of other resources can be found here: <https://www.healthysomerset.co.uk/covid-19/>

We are promoting our campaign **#StayHomeForSomerset**. This campaign is aimed at bringing back the community spirit we saw during the first lockdown earlier this year and reminding people that each of our actions has an impact on others and the wider society, more information below.

Who do you #StayHomeForSomerset for? During the second 'lockdown' from 5 November – 2 December, we want to know who you are staying at home for. Are you staying home for your family and friends, or the wider society? Perhaps you are staying home because you and/or a family member is particularly vulnerable, or you want to relieve the pressure on our health and care services? We must remember, we are not just doing this for ourselves, we are all in it together.

Join in the campaign by uploading a photo of you and the reason you are staying home (perhaps write it on a piece of paper in the photo or include it in the caption) and upload it to our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages with the hashtag **#StayHomeForSomerset**.

We are here to help you: These really are unsettling times for us all. Please, if you are worried, or struggling, then get in touch. Our coronavirus support line is here to provide support on a number of issues you may be facing, for things like financial concerns, housing and medical support to employment and skills advice. You can call **0300 790 6275** between 8-6pm seven days a week if you need help or are concerned about relatives or neighbours.

Mindline is open 24 hours a day seven days a week and is there to support you. It is a friendly service open to anyone during these challenging times. People may be anxious when they are not normally anxious, and this line is as much for them as for someone

who may have a mental health problem already and needs extra support. Please call **01823 276 892**.

Finally, please share the information and particularly our current campaigns with your networks. Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) for further updates.

Let us know if you feel there is a gap in our messaging, or a format or resource that the communities you work with or are part of would find useful. Your insights are valuable to us. Please email any feedback you have, to: lzrogers@somerset.gov.uk

Resources and Further Information: For the latest local information as well as digital resources, posters and flyers please visit:

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/coronavirus/>

For information and resources on staying healthy happy and safe at the time please visit:

<https://www.healthysomerset.co.uk/covid-19/>

The Somerset Local Outbreak Management Plan outlines how we, the council, will work with the NHS Test and Trace Service, PHE, the NHS and other partners to ensure a whole system approach to preventing and managing local outbreaks. This can be found [here](#).