

## **Coronavirus (COVID-19): taxis and PHVs**

The Department for Transport (DfT) has produced sector-specific guidance for the taxi and private hire vehicle (PHV) industry to help drivers and operators of taxis and private hire vehicles stay safe, prevent the spread of coronavirus, and ensure passengers are well informed. You can access the latest on GOV.UK at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-taxis-and-phvs>.

In addition, the DfT have created a taxi and PHV specific section to their extranet where you will find resources that can be downloaded and shared, one aimed at drivers, and the other aimed at passengers, to remind and encourage everyone to travel safely. These resources are available at <https://extranet.dft.gov.uk/safer-transport-campaign/resources-for-taxi-phv/>. Please think about how to communicate these key messages to your customers and promote the contents in the sector-specific guidance – whether this is information on your websites, apps, social channels, or email bulletins so drivers and passengers know what measures they should be taking when travelling in a taxi or private hire vehicle.

## **Update from Shropshire Councils Community Reassurance Team:**

A week into our latest lockdown and both locally and nationally infection figures are still creeping in the wrong direction, however a lag in response to the lockdown was always anticipated.

Regarding the lockdown, it is important we try and support local businesses as much as possible, particularly following the new measures that apply nationally for four weeks up to and including Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December. At the end of that period, we will return to a regional approach, based on the latest data and subject to whatever replaces the current restriction legislation.

There is now a light at the end of the tunnel with the announcement of a potentially viable vaccine and Shropshire Council has been planning for a roll out of a mass vaccination program as soon as a vaccine becomes available. This will be a massive undertaking and many of you may get a chance to play a part. There are still many hurdles to overcome before this is possible though and it **remains very important at this point not to relax our social distancing and hygiene measures.**

There is a light, but for now it remains a long tunnel.

## **Here are the latest links to help and support available in the county....**

- **Shropshire Public Health Nursing service**- aiming to improve health outcomes for children and young people by offering support, information and signposting on a number of issues
- **Info for unpaid carers during coronavirus** - Being an informal carer can be challenging at the best of times but at the moment, with the added pressure of dealing with the coronavirus pandemic, it can be especially hard. That's why it is important that informal carers know what support is available to them and how to get help <https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/shropshire-choices/caring-for-someone-else/information-for-carers-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic/>.
- **Funding and support for Shropshire** - Following the mandated lockdown announced by Government and commencing on Thursday 5 November, it was announced that further funding to help support businesses that are required to closed would be put in place.  
If your business has not been forced to close but you have been severely impacted by COVID-19

There will also be a discretionary fund for businesses which will be published shortly <https://shropshire.gov.uk/coronavirus/information-for-businesses-and-the-self-employed/local-restrictions-support-grants/>.

- **Community Group Funding** - NHS Charities Together (NHSCT) has allowed a maximum of **£222,766.39** to be allocated to voluntary organisations supporting NHS patients in the Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin Sustainability and Transformation Partnership (STP) area following a bid-based process. This allocation is to be passed on to support the voluntary, care and hospice sector operating in that area to support those affected by COVID-19.
- **WIPS (The Well-being & Independence Partnership)** - Shropshire Council, in partnership with its health colleagues has commissioned a Winter Support Service that will work with vulnerable, and potentially vulnerable Shropshire residents. The service will support people to avoid a health and care crisis situation over the winter period and will connect them to a range of support. You can find out more information about the new service at <https://newsroom.shropshire.gov.uk/2020/11/winter-support-service-launches/>
- **Shropshire Councils Covid Helpline 0345 6789 028** – this phonenumber is designed to receive enquiries and concerns associated with Covid 19, of a non-medical nature.

## Shropshire Council Covid 19 Data

During the 7-day period from 6 November –12 November 2020 in Shropshire:

- 790 new cases reported
- This was an increase of 113 cases compared to the previous week
- The seven-day infection rate for Shropshire was 244.5 cases of COVID-19 per 100,000 of the population.
- For the West Midlands it was 354.9 per 100,000
- For England it was 269.5 per 100,000
- 175 cases relate to 20-29-year olds
- 80 cases relate to people aged 70+
- During the last week 39% of cases were in the Shrewsbury & Atcham area
- 30% were in north Shropshire
- 31% in south Shropshire

To check infection rates in your area, follow link <https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/details/interactive-map>

## Localised Covid 19 Testing

What is available in Shropshire? Where can I go locally?

Public Health, Shropshire Council have provided Mobile Testing Units and Localised Testing Sites in our county for you to attend if you are showing signs of Coronavirus or a particularly concerned you may have it.

Please see the following table with a description of each model and where and how you can access:

Name of Model	What does this mean?	Where can I go?	How do I book?
1. Mobile Testing Site	Regional resource that are designed to be more flexible and responsive to	Whitchurch Rugby Club	Tests can be booked for yourself or any member of your household. Residents can register

	<p>outbreak scenarios or areas of increased positivity rates.</p> <p>Drive through only.</p>	<p>21 Edgeley Road Whitchurch SY13 1EU</p>	<p>by calling NHS Test and Trace on 119 or by visiting <a href="https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/">https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/</a></p>
1. Localised Testing Site	<p>Is a community-based, walk through testing facility that can be accessed by members of the public showing symptoms of Covid-19. The test sites are placed in areas that enable the local community to access them without the need for transport (via a car or public means). This is still available as a drive through.</p>	<p>Beatrice Street Car Park Beatrice street Oswestry SY11 1QW</p>	<p>Launching: Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2020</p> <p>Tests can be booked for yourself or any member of your household. Residents can register by calling NHS Test and Trace on 119 or by visiting <a href="https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/">https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/</a>.</p>
2. Localised Testing Site		<p>London Road Car Park Shrewsbury SY2 6NS</p>	<p>Tests can be booked for yourself or any member of your household. Residents can register by calling NHS Test and Trace on 119 or by visiting <a href="https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/">https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/</a>.</p>
3. Localised Testing Site		<p>Innage Lane Car Park (formerly Bridgnorth Youth Centre Car Park) WV16 4HQ</p>	<p><b>Due to launch w/c 23 November 2020 – to be confirmed.</b></p>

For local advice and support during the pandemic (especially if you are self-isolating), call Shropshire Council's COVID-19 Helpline on **0345 678 9028** (telephone lines are also open on the weekend, Saturday from 9am-4pm and Sunday 9am-12pm) or visit the Council's website at [www.shropshire.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/coronavirus).