



Coronavirus update from Somerset County Council 29.5.2020

All our help and information is now **available in a single place** on the SCC website <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/coronavirus/covid-19-latest-advice/>

This page is refreshed through the day so please check in regularly to keep across developments and news.

Top stories today:



Weston Hospital: Working together to support Somerset patients

Healthcare providers in Somerset are working together to offer support to make sure that patients with the most urgent needs continue to receive the care that they need, following the announcement that Weston General Hospital has temporarily stopped accepting new patients.

Dr Alex Murray, GP and Clinical Director for Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group said “We fully understand that this announcement may cause concern for people living locally, patients and carers who use services at Weston hospital and those with family and friends who are patients or staff. We would like to reassure you that NHS services in Somerset are here for you and your family when you need them. You can continue to access healthcare advice or urgent treatment in a range of ways.

“Both Musgrove Park Hospital and Yeovil District Hospital, as well as all of our General Practices, remain open and continue to follow strict infection control guidelines to protect staff, patients and visitors.

“We are working closely with health and social care organisations across Somerset to monitor the demand on our services and have put in place a range of services that help patients to be discharged from hospital as soon as they are medically fit to do so, and where possible to keep them out of hospital in the first place.”

“There are a number of ways that you can access medical advice or treatment; contact your local community pharmacy for advice on minor ailments and medication enquiries. For immediate information and advice call NHS 111, or visit: www.nhs.uk. GP practices can be contacted as usual by phone or online for healthcare advice, guidance and treatment.”

Full details on the locations and opening hours of all Minor Injury Units in Somerset can be found at: http://www.sompar.nhs.uk/our_services/adult_services/minor_injuries_unit

For urgent and emergency care, please call 999 as usual, or attend the hospital accident and emergency departments in Taunton and Yeovil. <https://www.somersetccg.nhs.uk/your-health/coronavirus/>

Read more >



If not now, then when? Crisis must bring change, says Council Leader

The Leader of Somerset County Council is urging action to secure the future of social care in the wake of COVID-19.

Councillor David Fothergill has written to the Secretary of State saying that social care nationwide is at a 'watershed', with Coronavirus exposing its fragile state after decades of funding that has failed to match increasing demand. The plea comes 12 months after the first Panorama 'Crisis in care' documentaries were broadcast to an audience of millions. Filmed with Somerset's Adult Social Care teams it generated national headlines in May last year and pushed the issue to the top of the political and public agenda.

Read more >



On-street parking patrols to resume

On-street parking patrols are due to restart in Somerset on Monday (1 June) following the easing of coronavirus restrictions. With more pupils returning to schools and some businesses starting to reopen, Somerset County Council's civil enforcement officers will return to help keep roads clear and traffic moving.

[Read more >](#)



Somerset Libraries Presents!

Staff from libraries across Somerset have been busy creating dozens of great videos for children of all ages to enjoy each week online. These include regular story times, health and wellbeing videos, top tips on cooking and gardening and of course some useful book reviews. There have already been thousands of views for the different videos and the digital library offer has also been extended to include quizzes, podcasts and even a very helpful guide on what flowers to look out for in verges when walking the beautiful Somerset lanes.

[Read more >](#)



Standard summer opening hours resume at recycling sites

All 16 recycling sites in Somerset will be returning to standard summer opening hours from Monday 1 June. Opening hours information will be updated on the Somerset Waste Partnership website from Monday morning. SWP will also be ending the odds and even number plate access system for all sites from Monday. SWP is continuing its plea for people to only come if it is really necessary, and to expect long queues as the number of unloading bays has been reduced to allow social distancing.

[Read more >](#)



Coronavirus public health messages take to the road

Vital public health messages are going mobile in Somerset as Somerset County Council uses its fleet of highways vehicles to spread the word about some of the best ways to reduce the spread of COVID-19. From this week, around 29 Council vans will be seen around

the Yeovil, Taunton, Minehead, Glastonbury and Bridgwater areas sporting important public health messages.

Read more >



Send to a friend

These coronavirus bulletins are now available to anyone. Please send to a friend who would like to stay up to date with the latest developments. To sign up simply visit www.somerset.gov.uk/coronavirus.

Read more >