

Coronavirus update from Somerset County Council 28.8.2020

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:



Guidance on school and college transport

Somerset County Council is following current Government guidance in relation to school and college transport. Changes may be made as that advice evolves. Parents and students are being advised to walk, cycle or be driven to school or college where possible - in line with Government advice.

For those that use school transport, students will be travelling with their peers on transport that is not available to the public. Students are advised to sit with their year group colleagues on the bus where possible and at present we are strongly advising all secondary students to wear face coverings on the bus.

Students are also being advised to wash their hands before they board the bus and as soon after they alight the bus as possible. There will be enhanced cleaning measures in place for vehicles, focused in particular on touch points within the vehicles.

Somerset County Council's school transport web page sets out the details on specific measures relating to coronavirus: www.somerset.gov.uk/schooltransport.

For college transport, where we provide college-day-only bus services we will ensure that these are available solely for students. Where the daily local bus network provides access to college we have been working with operators and colleges identifying routes that will require extra capacity. In the instances where additional capacity is needed, there will be a second bus on the route which will be for students only. This will ensure capacity for both workers and students travelling at peak times.

We are laying on approximately 20 additional buses across the public transport network in Somerset at peak times. This will allow us to increase or reduce capacity to meet demand accordingly.

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Awareness Day to help prevent drug-related deaths

Keyworkers in healthcare organisations across Somerset are raising awareness of their work to help prevent drug-related deaths as part of International Overdose Awareness Day.

Held annually on 31 August, International Overdose Awareness Day helps to raise awareness and reduce the stigma of drug-related deaths, which are on the rise across England and Wales.

Local healthcare organisations have been working together to reduce overdose during Covid-19. Turning Point, who deliver Somerset Drug & Alcohol Service

(SDAS), have been expanding the availability of naloxone, a life-saving drug which temporarily reverses the effects of overdoses from opioids like heroin, allowing time for an ambulance to arrive.

Access for support in Somerset around opioid use and information on naloxone is available at any time of the day by calling 0300 303 8788 or online at www.turning-point.co.uk/sdas

More information on International Overdose Awareness Day can be found here: www.overdoseday.com

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Summer Bank Holiday collections one day later

No collections on the Summer Bank Holiday Monday, 31 August, mean recycling and rubbish services are one day later all week, including Friday pick-ups on Saturday 5 September. The changes affect collections of recycling, refuse and garden waste, as well as assisted collections.

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Coronavirus: how to self-isolate when you travel to the UK

The government has updated the guidance to clarify the exceptional circumstances in which a non-exempt international arrival could leave their home while self-isolating:

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Enjoy the August Bank Holiday safely

As we enter the Bank Holiday weekend, we're urging people to remember the social distancing guidelines and be respectful of local communities if travelling to the coast or beauty spots.

The government has announced a series of new enforcement measures targeting the most serious breaches of social distancing restrictions.

In the coming weeks, fines for repeatedly not wearing face coverings where mandated will be significantly increased. The fines will double at each offence, up to a maximum value of £3,200. [The guidance on face coverings has been updated to reflect this.](#)

On the spot fines for hosting or facilitating illegal gatherings of more than 30 people will also be introduced. [The guidance for the public on meeting people outside of their household has been updated in line with this announcement:](#)

Finally, we hope everyone enjoys a peaceful and safe weekend – and here's a reminder of what people can and cannot do with updated guidance on what happens if you fall ill while on holiday in England.

[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 >

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HOME** 

**PROTECT
THE *NHS***

 **save
lives**