

Covid-19 Update

Coronavirus Emergency Committee

18 December 2020

UK Covid-19 Position

- Cases have seen an increase throughout England as a whole in the last week. Cases in the South East of England, including Hertfordshire, have begun to increase significantly
- 7 day rolling daily average hospital admission for Covid-19 patients was 1,402 on 10 Dec, slightly increasing from 1,395 on 3 Dec
- 7 day rolling daily average Coronavirus-related deaths was at 377 on 3 Dec down from 441 on 3 Dec
- The latest UK & England 'R' rate on 11 Dec is slightly up at 0.9-1.0
The East of England 'R' rate has also slightly increased to at 0.9-1.1

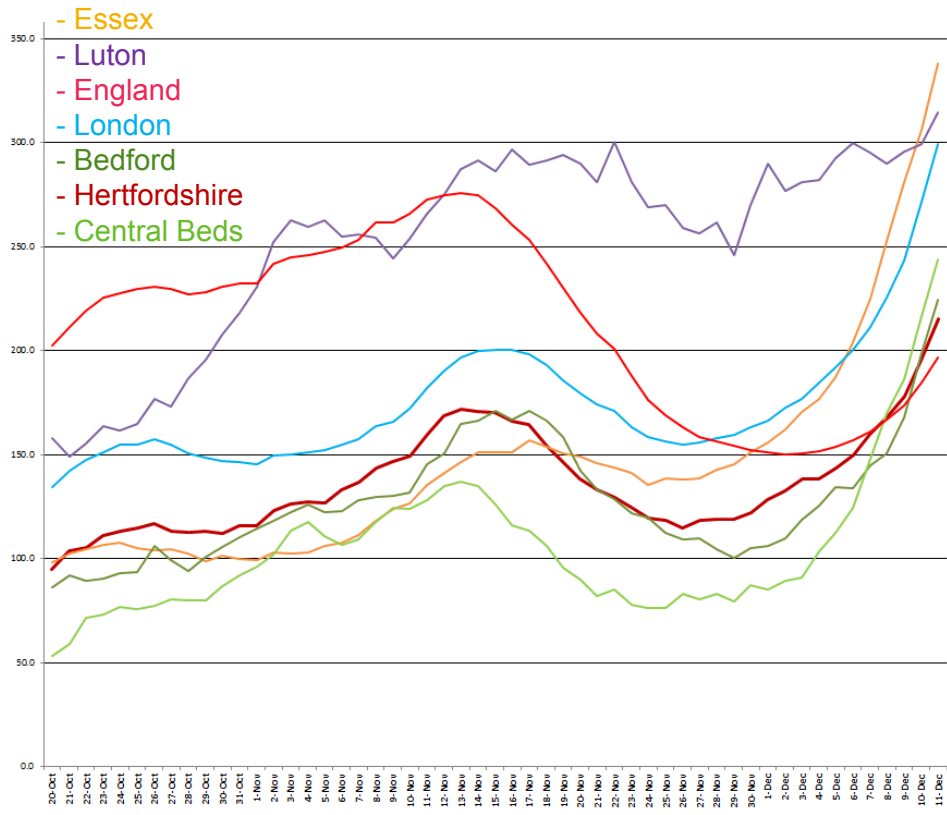
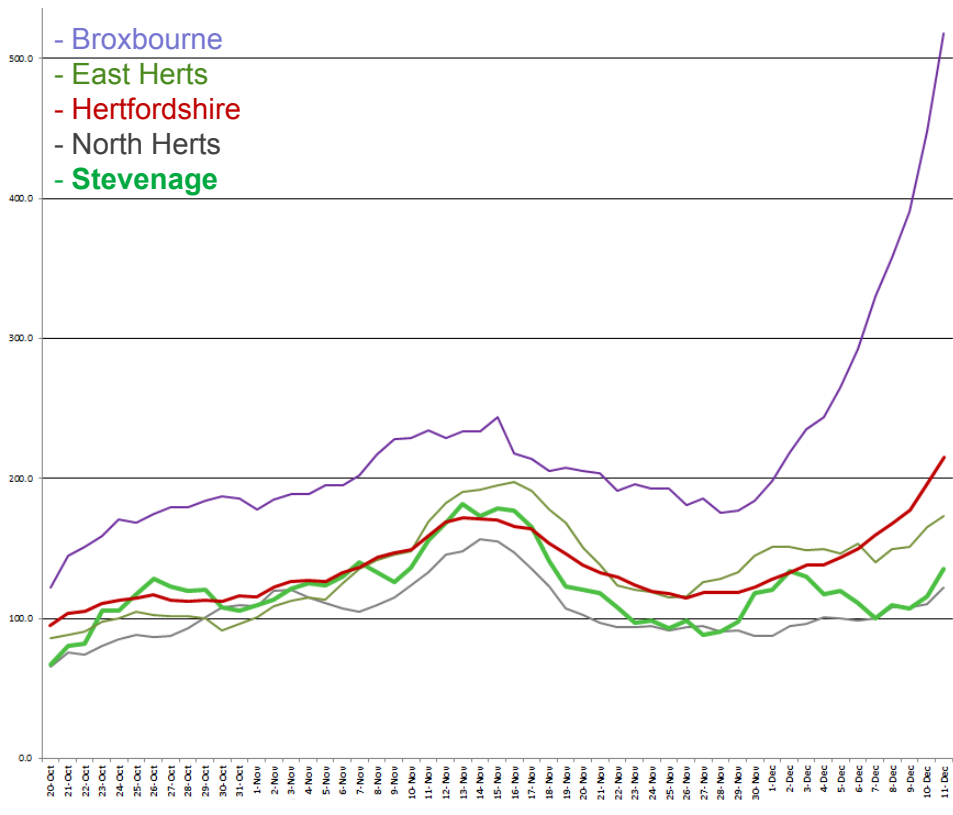
*Cases, Deaths & Admissions update daily (4pm) <https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk>
R rate updates every Friday afternoon www.gov.uk/guidance/the-r-number-in-the-uk*

Local & National Epidemiology

	Broxbourne	Watford	Hertsmere	Three River	Dacorum	East Herts	Welwyn H	St Albans	Stevenage	North Herts	Hertfordshire	England	Central Beds	Bedford	Luton	Essex	London
*provisional																	
week change	267	126	131	81	142	36	43	45	16	28	915	25,276	406	172	124	2,404	10,283
05.12 - 11.12/100,000	518.1	309.6	279.3	215.4	204.8	173.6	150.4	147.5	135.5	122.0	242.4	196.6	243.9	224.5	314.5	333.0	299.3
*05.12 - 11.12	504	299	293	201	317	260	185	219	119	163	2,560	110,684	704	389	670	5,033	26,827
week change	56	23	15	-4	30	35	33	15	25	8	236	-3,888	66	27	55	565	2,569
*28.11 - 04.12 /100,000	243.6	179.1	154.4	128.6	113.1	149.6	115.4	117.2	117.3	101.1	155.8	151.7	103.2	125.2	282.1	176.5	184.6
*28.11 - 04.12	237	173	162	120	175	224	142	174	103	135	1,645	85,408	298	217	601	2,629	16,544
*14.11 - 20.11/100,000	186.1	155.3	140.1	132.9	93.7	126.2	88.6	107.1	88.8	95.1	133.4	158.6	80.4	109.6	256.3	138.6	155.9
*21.11 - 27.11	181	150	147	124	145	189	109	159	78	127	1,409	89,296	232	190	546	2,064	13,975
14.11 - 20.11/100,000	205.6	168.8	143.0	144.7	125.4	150.3	136.5	114.5	120.7	102.6	156.1	218.0	90.1	142.0	289.6	149.1	179.4
14.11 - 20.11	200	163	150	135	194	225	168	170	106	137	1,648	122,680	260	246	617	2,221	16,074
07.11 - 13.11/100,000	233.3	187.4	155.4	206.8	126.0	190.3	160.9	165.7	182.1	148.2	175.0	275.9	137.2	164.5	287.3	146.3	196.8
07.11 - 13.11	227	181	163	193	195	285	198	246	160	198	1,848	155,323	396	285	612	2,178	17,633
31.10 - 06.11/100,000	195.3	175.0	117.2	125.4	113.1	125.5	164.2	107.8	129.8	107.1	136.2	249.3	106.7	122.9	254.9	107.8	154.6
31.10 - 06.11	190	169	123	117	175	188	202	160	114	143	1,438	140,313	308	213	543	1,605	13,855
24.10 - 30.10/100,000	187.1	176.0	135.3	95.4	78.8	91.5	119.5	70.7	108.1	107.8	112.6	230.5	87.0	105.6	207.5	101.2	147.0
24.10 - 30.10	182	170	142	89	122	137	147	105	95	144	1,189	129,768	251	183	442	1,507	13,171
17.10 - 23.10/100,000	159.3	139.8	137.2	125.4	101.4	98.2	112.2	86.9	105.9	80.9	115.1	225.3	73.1	90.6	163.8	106.6	151.3
17.10 - 23.10	155	135	144	117	157	147	138	129	93	108	1,215	126,830	211	157	349	1,588	13,563
10.10 - 16.10/100,000	99.7	103.5	107.7	99.7	70.4	73.5	86.1	58.6	45.5	44.2	81.0	173.5	55.4	65.8	123.0	80.4	107.1
10.10 - 16.10	97	100	113	93	109	110	106	87	40	59	855	97,640	160	114	262	1,198	9,595
03.10 - 09.10/100,000	90.5	96.3	84.8	93.2	65.3	88.8	62.6	56.6	33.0	47.9	74.0	162.3	41.6	77.3	96.2	60.0	92.4
03.10 - 09.10	88	93	89	87	101	133	77	84	29	64	781	91,378	120	134	205	894	8,281
26.09 - 02.10/100,000	50.4	60.1	54.3	42.9	42.6	59.4	30.9	42.4	10.2	26.2	44.4	110.9	25.3	59.4	59.1	36.3	62.5
26.09 - 02.10	49	58	57	40	66	89	38	63	9	35	469	62,399	73	103	126	540	5,605
19.09 - 25.09/100,000	42.1	34.2	24.8	41.8	18.7	24.7	17.1	29.0	13.7	15.7	26.6	66.0	19.7	48.5	70.4	23.2	39.7
19.09 - 25.09	41	33	26	39	29	37	21	43	12	21	281	37,125	57	84	150	346	3,557
12.09 - 18.09/100,000	43.2	28.0	44.8	15.0	12.9	12.7	10.6	31.7	20.5	18.7	23.4	38.8	23.6	19.6	35.7	14.0	21.3
12.09 - 18.09	42	27	47	14	20	19	13	47	18	25	247	21,843	68	34	76	209	1,913
05.09 - 11.09/100,000	16.4	22.8	35.3	18.2	10.3	11.4	34.9	35.0	30.7	16.5	23.4	34.7	12.5	28.9	27.7	10.8	26.2
05.09 - 11.09	16	22	37	17	16	17	43	52	27	22	247	19,538	36	50	59	161	2,348
29.08 - 04.09/100,000	19.5	20.7	60.0	22.5	18.7	8.0	18.7	20.9	18.2	9.0	22.2	23.2	11.4	16.7	26.3	10.9	20.5
29.08 - 04.09	19	20	63	21	29	12	23	31	16	12	234	13,082	33	29	56	162	1,838
Total 29.08-27.11	1,810	1,470	1,447	1,163	1,530	1,659	1,359	1,436	838	1,131	13,012	1,128,603	2,877	2,021	4,167	17,642	134,260

- Hertfordshire has seen a significant increase in cases over the last week with three areas at or approaching 300 cases per 100,000
- This is most apparent in Broxbourne which has a rate of over 500 cases per 100,000
- The average rate in Hertfordshire is only just behind that of Essex and London and similar to Bedfordshire
- Stevenage continues to have the second lowest rate in Hertfordshire, with only North Herts being lower
- Despite this, Stevenage has seen its cases and rate increase over the last two weeks, even though these numbers initially dropped following the latest national lockdown

Local & National Epidemiology



Covid-19 Related Deaths in Hertfordshire

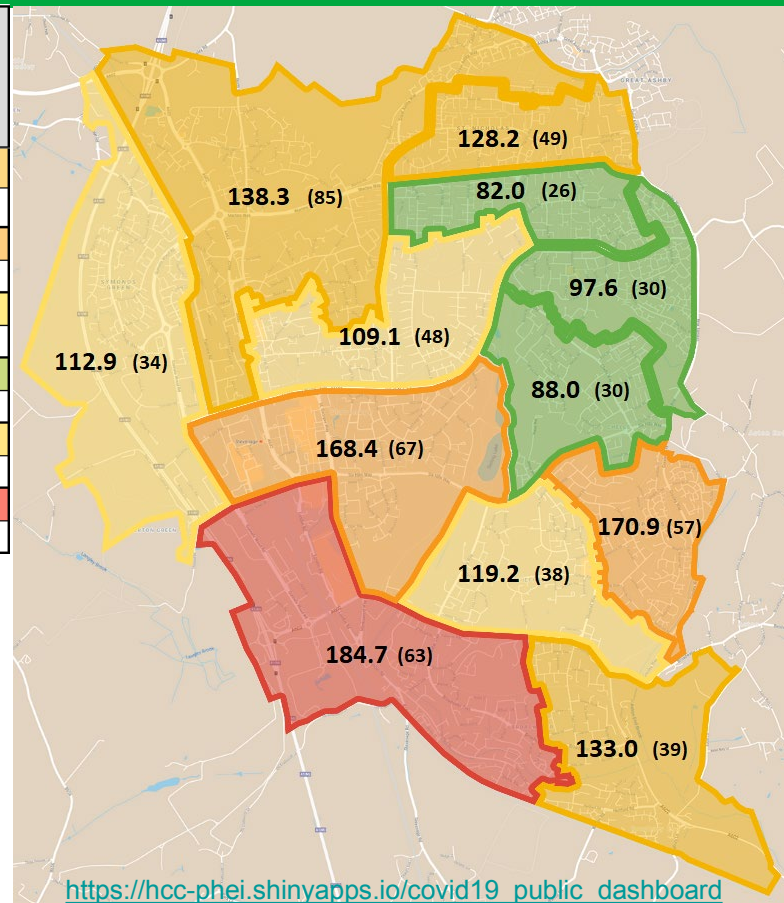
www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/causesofdeath/datasets/deathregistrationsandoccurrencesbylocalauthorityandhealthboard

Week	Hertsmere	Watford	Three Rivers	St Albans	Broxbourne	Welwyn Hatfield	Dacorum	North Hertfordshire	East Hertfordshire	Stevenage	Total
Total last 14 weeks	25	20	21	28	20	6	24	10	18	6	144
28/11 - 04/12	2	2	2	6	6	0	5	3	6	2	34
21/11 - 27/11	3	1	5	5	1	4	1	2	6	1	29
14/11 - 20/11	3	3	7	7	1	1	4	1	3	1	31
07/11 - 13/11	4	2	1	3	5	0	1	1	0	0	17
31/10 - 6/11	3	2	0	0	2	0	2	1	1	1	12
24/10 - 30/10	2	0	1	1	0	0	2	1	0	1	8
17/10 - 23/10	3	5	1	1	1	0	3	1	0	0	15
10/10 - 16/10	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	0	0	0	9
03/10 - 09/10	1	1	2	1	2	0	3	0	1	0	11
26/09 - 02/10	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
19/09 - 25/09	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
12/09 - 18/09	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
05/09 - 11/09	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
29/08 - 04/09	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
Rate per 100,000	198.2	151.2	117.9	112.5	99.7	97.5	96.9	80.9	79.5	75.1	108.5
Total	208	146	110	167	97	120	150	108	119	66	1,291

- Unfortunately, for the third reporting week in a row, deaths throughout Hertfordshire have remained around 30 for the week.
- Stevenage has now had cases in each of the last 3 weeks, and in 5 of the last 6 weeks. With the latest week being the first to have multiple deaths in the same week.
- Despite this, Stevenage has the joint lowest amount of deaths since the end of August (6), shared with Welwyn Hatfield.
- Overall Stevenage has the lowest amount of deaths in the county (66) and the lowest rate per population (75.1).
- As with cases, Stevenage is clearly behind the trend of other districts in Hertfordshire.

Stevenage confirmed cases Geography

	Roebuck	Bandley Hill	Bedwell	Woodfield + Old Town	Longmeadow	St Nicholas	Shephall	Symonds Green	Pin Green + Old Town	Manor	Chells	Martins Wood	Stevenage
07/11 - 11/12 (5 week) Average Rate & Cases	184.7 63	170.9 57	168.4 67	138.3 85	133.0 39	128.2 49	119.2 38	112.9 34	109.1 48	97.6 30	88.0 30	82.0 26	128.9 566
05/12 - 11/12 Rate & Cases	190.5 13	194.9 13	163.4 13	170.9 21	153.5 9	117.8 9	188.1 12	83.0 5	102.3 9	113.9 7	58.7 4	63.1 4	135.5 119
28/11 - 04/12 Rate & Cases	161.2 11	179.9 12	113.1 9	138.3 17	153.5 9	91.6 7	156.8 10	99.6 6	56.8 5	162.7 10	44.0 3	63.1 4	117.3 103
21/11 - 27/11 Rate & Cases	161.2 11	134.9 9	125.7 10	32.6 4	68.2 4	91.6 7	78.4 5	116.2 7	68.2 6	48.8 3	102.7 7	78.9 5	88.8 78
14/11 - 20/11 Rate & Cases	117.3 8	224.9 15	226.3 18	73.2 9	102.3 6	65.4 5	47.0 3	116.2 7	147.8 13	65.1 4	132.0 9	142.0 9	120.7 106
07/11 - 13/11 Rate & Cases	293.1 20	119.9 8	213.7 17	276.7 34	187.6 11	274.8 21	125.4 8	149.4 9	170.5 15	97.6 6	102.7 7	63.1 4	182.1 160



- Cases continue to be spread throughout Stevenage. Despite this, Roebuck, Bandley Hill & Bedwell are seeing a slightly higher case rate.
- However, as numbers remain low in each area, we still see that a small number of cases can drastically change the rate per 100,000.
- The highest contributing factor to cases in Stevenage continues to be household clusters and community transmission.
- We are not seeing the same patterns regarding secondary school pupils as the rest of Hertfordshire.

Care Homes – 11th December

As of Friday 11 December	Hertsmere	Watford	Three Rivers	st Albans	Welwyn Hatfield	Dacorum	Broxbourne	North Hertfordshire	East Hertfordshire	Stevenage	Total
Number of Beds	1259	1082	576	1107	1113	1083	378	1286	1312	680	9876
Residents w/ Covid-19	6	13	6	16	1	19	0	4	6	7	78
Staff w/ Covid-19	3	7	11	31	4	7	1	12	12	23	111
Homes with outbreaks of 5+ in last week	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1

- The above table provides a snapshot of cases in care homes on Friday 11 December.
- Throughout Hertfordshire we continue to see a decline in care home outbreaks.
- Only one care home in Hertfordshire had an outbreak of 5 or more cases in the previous week.
- HCC Adult Care Services Incident Management team responds directly to reported outbreaks.
- 7 patients and 23 members of staff were diagnosed with Covid in Stevenage at the time of reporting.
- This is the second highest amount of staff with Covid-19 across the county, despite having the third lowest amount of beds.
- Sadly there have been a total of 29 confirmed deaths in care homes from 1 Sep to 10 Dec. Up 3 in the reporting week.

Tier 3 (Very High) Restrictions

Tier 3 Restrictions

Meeting Friends & Family	No mixing of households. Max of 6 in public parks/gardens only	Personal Care	Open
Bars, Pubs and Restaurants	Closed – takeaway, drive-through or delivery only	Weddings and Funerals	15 at weddings & wakes. 30 at funerals. No wedding receptions
Retail	Open	Entertainment	Indoor venues closed
Education	Open	Places of Worship	Open. Can only interact with household/support bubble
Work and Business	Everyone who can work from home should do so	Travelling	Avoid leaving your area other than for work of education
Indoor Leisure	Open – Group activities and classes should not take place	Exercise	Outdoor sport/classes can take place outdoors but should avoid higher-risk contact sports. Indoors with own household/bubble. Activities for elite sport, under 18s and disabled people can continue
Accommodation (e.g. hotels , B&Bs)	Closed (except for work or where cannot return home)	Large Events	Events should not take place. Drive-in events permitted.
Overnight stays	No overnight stays outside of local area, unless for work or education		

National Update

- New variant of Covid identified which could be accelerating the rate of transmission
- Restrictions will still be relaxed between 23 and 27 December within England, however in Wales only two households will now be able to meet in law, and in Scotland people are being asked to meet on one of the five days
- The self isolation period for those who have come into contact with someone with Covid-19 has been decreased from 14 to 10 days.
- The Government has confirmed the first wave of Tier 3 areas to receive its community testing offer.

National Update

- Pupils returning to secondary schools in January will be staggered in England
- All staff in secondary schools and colleges will be eligible for weekly rapid tests and students will be eligible for daily testing for seven days if identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive
- Government aim is for the NHS to vaccinate 250,000 people this week. More than 200 GP hubs commenced vaccinations this week together with 83 hospitals. The NHS hope to increase the number of GP centres to 300 next week
- National Leisure Recovery Fund to support publicly owned leisure facilities through the pandemic now open for applications
- Electoral Commission has set out safety rules for May elections.

Herts Covid-19 Vaccination Programme

- Vaccinations are now being carried out in hospitals in Hertfordshire and through some Primary Care Networks.
- Within Stevenage a couple of GP surgeries are being used as immunisation centres and vaccines will start to be administered to those over 80 years this week.
- Continuing to work with NHS (including Primary Care Trusts) Hertfordshire County Council and other Districts and Boroughs to roll out vaccine pods in response to the mass vaccination programme.
- Over 40 SBC staff trained to support non-clinical roles to date
- Vaccines will be prioritised as per the Government's vaccine prioritisation plan with first vaccinations currently being delivered in hospital settings.

Hertfordshire Resilience Update

- Herts Strategic Co-ordination Group moved to Alert Level 4 (red) last week – reaffirms major incident status due to pressure on acute trusts
- Cases in acute trusts are continuing to increase, including ventilated bed occupancy. Hospitals under pressure and activating BC plans. Death rate however remains stable. Community lateral flow testing to commence within the county in January
- Outbreaks flattening within Care Homes. However outbreaks within supported living accommodation scheme is becoming a concern

Hertfordshire Resilience Updates

- The Schools Cell is working to reduce case rates in schools due to this potentially being a main source of community transmission
- The current number of Clinically Extremely Vulnerable People within the county stands at 40,852
- Funding for fuel and food poverty has been received and will be distributed via Herts Help.
- Herts Communications Cell is focusing on the prevention of sharing practices which are emerging as potential transmission routes, sharing vapes, canned drinks, cigarettes and chewing gum.
- The Herts LEP has published its Covid Impact Assessment

Community testing



- Local Test Site (LTS) identified subject to site survey mobilisation could be early January.
- Site will be open 8am to 8pm every day with capacity for 290 pre-booked tests per day.
- SALC Conference Suite likely to go forward as a Lateral Flow (LF) test centre.
- Other sites in tier 3 districts to be stood-up as LF test centres

Outbreak management

- Local intelligence regarding outbreaks
- Contact tracing case numbers stable and self-isolation compliance visits successful
- Contact tracing service capacity remains sufficient for now



If you develop symptoms, book a test at www.nhs.uk or call 119
For support, contact HertsHelp at info@hertshelp.net or 0300 123 4044



Compliance and enforcement

- Herts Outbreak TCG is working to set up a deployable Covid marshal force
- SBC Marshalling rota in place - business case requesting additional resources to be submitted to HCC
- Compliance visits are up following an uplift in notified workplace clusters/outbreaks
- Ongoing regular liaison with the police regarding hotspots



Community and Housing

- Districts will each receive £10k from HCC to support local food banks to help those in hardship from January to March
- Stevenage Helps have issued food and activity parcels
- HC have started to issue holiday food vouchers for children who are eligible for free school meals
- Our National Leisure Recovery Fund expression of interest has been submitted. The Council will be submit a full bid before the deadline of 8th January 2021
- 165 households currently in Emergency, Temporary and B&B accommodation, including 26 rough sleepers
- Rent Arrears currently stand at £1,180,840

Claimant Count Mar 20 – Nov 2020

	Stevenage	Stevenage	Hertfordshire	Hertfordshire	East	Great Britain
	(Level)	(%)	(Level)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Mar-20	1,435	2.6	14,370	1.9	2.4	3.1
Apr-20	2,590	4.6	25,795	3.5	4.1	5.1
May-20	3,575	6.4	38,550	5.2	5.7	6.4
Jun-20	3,290	5.9	36,350	4.9%	5.4	6.2
Jul-20	3,365	6	37,370	5.1	5.5	6.4
Aug-20	3,410	6.1	38,390	5.2	5.6	6.5
Sep-20	3,400	6.1	38,045	5.1	5.6	6.4
Oct-20	3,235	5.8	36,410	4.9	5.3	6.2
Nov-20	3,260	5.8	37,495	5.1	5.4	6.3

Business Support

- The National Job Retention Scheme has been extended to the end of April and the criteria remains unchanged – up to 80% of the salary of employees for hours not worked, with a cap of £2,500
- Business Update sent with info on funding, access to markets, EU Transition & business requirements in Tier 2/Tier 3
- Job opportunities to support mass testing site in Stevenage, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic
- **Employment support for those facing Redundancy**
<https://www.stevenage.gov.uk/business-and-licensing/covid-19-support-for-businesses/redundancy-support>
- **Growth Hub's COVID-19 Business Resource Page**
<https://r1.dotdigital-pages.com/p/4OQI-9KW/hgh-covid19>

Business Support – Grant funding

LRSB (OPEN) and (CLOSED):

Guidance received and local scheme subject to Member approval – likely to go live next week

Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG):

Discretionary grant scheme open to support businesses not previously supported including those without rateable premises

Christmas Support Payment for wet-led pubs:

New support for wet-led pubs that have been severely impacted over the Christmas period due to temporary local restrictions; criteria:

- based in England, derive less than 50% of sales from food
- in Tier 2 or Tier 3 local restrictions since 2 December 2020
- established before 1 Dec 2020

SBC Business Continuity and Workforce

- Cover arrangements for Christmas and New Year in place
- Focus on protecting vital frontline services
- Continued pressures on particular services in housing, repairs, So Safe, Environmental Health
- Continuing to identify back up capacity to support priority areas
- Identified SBC colleagues who can support the vital vaccination efforts
- All Staff Webinar – 17th December – on mental health and wellbeing



Communications update

- #StaySafeStevenage Campaign ongoing - digital/online/print
- Tier 2, Self-isolation and safety messages shared on social media
- Developing messaging to target and inform younger people to be safe
- Reopening of the High Street and Town Centre campaign with media partners
- Digital screens/boards: In progress following Director of Public Health support and approval
- Frequently Asked Questions updated and shared on the council's website

The screenshot shows a Facebook post from Stevenage Borough Council, dated yesterday at 16:44. The post text states: "From 00:01 am on Wednesday 16 December, the following areas of Hertfordshire will be in Tier 3: -Broxbourne -Three Rivers -Watford -Hertsmere. ... See more". Below the text is a map of Hertfordshire with various districts highlighted in orange and red. Labels on the map include North Hertfordshire, Stevenage, East Hertfordshire, St. Albans, Welwyn Hatfield, Broxbourne, Hertsmere, Three Rivers, and Watford. To the right of the map are two mobile app interface screenshots. The top one is titled "TIER 2 HIGH ALERT" and the bottom one is titled "TIER 3 VERY HIGH ALERT". Below the map, the post shows engagement statistics: "3,827 People reached" and "1,168 Engagements". A "Boost Unavailable" button is visible. At the bottom, there are 60 reactions (thumbs up, hearts, and other icons) and "12 comments 52 shares".