

As well as the direct impact of the coronavirus on people's health, the unprecedented measures that the government is taking to reduce its spread will affect everybody's lives. For some, the impact will be greater than others. This factsheet identifies the numbers of people or households who may be particularly vulnerable to some of the social consequences that have already been identified.

56,000

People who are at increased risk of severe illness from coronavirus (COVID-19)

and are advised to be particularly stringent in following social distancing measures



30% of population



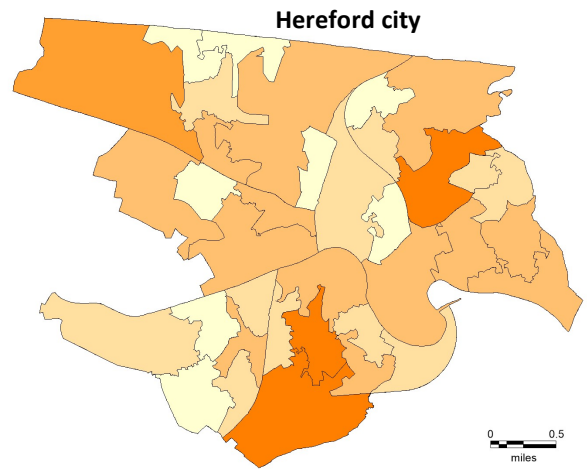
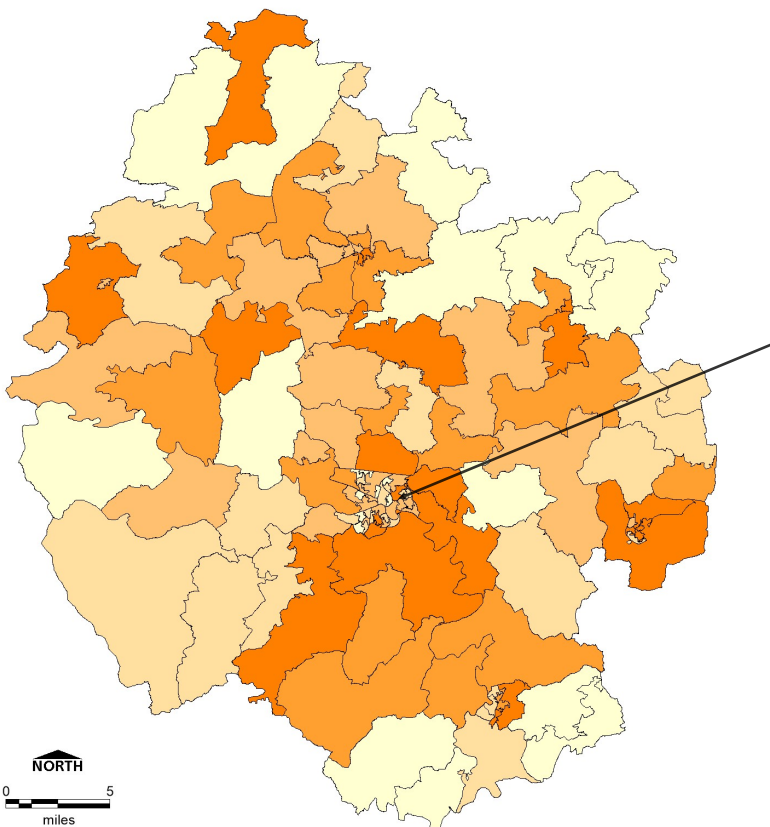
33,700 over 70s



20,300

under 65s
entitled to free
annual flu jab

1,700
pregnant
women



Population at Risk by LSOA

- less than 400
- 400 to 450
- 450 to 500
- 500 to 550
- more than 550

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7,400

shield & protect

People, including children, who have been identified by the NHS as being extremely clinically vulnerable due to an underlying health condition.

They will have received a letter from the NHS strongly advising them to isolate themselves and minimise interaction with anyone for 12 weeks, starting no later than 29 March 2020. In addition, these people were eligible for extra support from the government and local authority (e.g. food parcels), as well as priority slots for supermarket food deliveries.

After several large fluctuations (from 5,000 to almost 9,000) whilst clinical vulnerabilities were reviewed by medical professionals, the number had stabilised at 7,400 by late May. www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19

COVID-19: Potential impacts in Herefordshire

ISOLATION

Some people will be more vulnerable to the effects of isolating themselves than others

All adults

- 24,800** have a common mental health problem (eg depression)
- 14,400** provide 50+ hours of unpaid care a week
- 12,800** feel lonely most of the time
- 9,600** have irregular contact with family or friends (once a month or less)
- 10,000** digitally excluded
- 1,800** households with assisted rubbish collections

Older people

- 11,200** pensioners living alone
- 6,100** aged 60+ living in poverty

CHILDREN

The closure of schools and childcare will affect all families, but will have a bigger impact on some

- 32,200** under 16s in the county
- 4,300** living in poverty
- 2,800** school age children eligible for free school meals
- 670** children in care, or with plans for their protection
- 6,500** under 18s living with an adult with at least one of the so-called "toxic trio" (mental ill-health, substance misuse or domestic abuse)

ECONOMIC VULNERABILITY

Some industries will be disproportionately affected by changes to ways of living, and some workers are likely to face more uncertainty

- 14,000** employees in industries facing high impact of social distancing measures (eg. retail, travel, hospitality, leisure, entertainment)
- 22,100** self-employed people
- 3,700** people on zero hour contracts
- 2,500** people currently unemployed
- 10,100** businesses with <50 employees (98% of all county businesses)

HOME

The need to stay at home may have financial implications for some people, and job uncertainty may affect their ability to afford household bills. Others do not have anywhere to call home.

- 83,800** households in Herefordshire
- 23,500** homes owned with a mortgage or loan
- 15,200** privately rented homes
- 22,300** low income households
- 9,800** low income households in fuel poverty
- 14,300** households experiencing excess cold
- 30** rough sleepers, and
- 50** other homeless people at any point in time

What is being done?

The government is introducing various support measures - for example financial support for those unable to work; school places for vulnerable children and those of key workers, and vouchers for those eligible for free school meals. For the latest advice, see www.gov.uk/coronavirus

Locally, the council is working with partners to plan for the impacts on services, and with community organisations and businesses to help connect people to support being co-ordinated in local areas. Letters sent to all households advise them to follow government advice on protecting themselves and others, and to create their own plan for living well over the next few months. If there are gaps in someone's plan, support is available from the Talk Community team on 01432 260027 or at talkcommunitycovidresponse@herefordshire.gov.uk

Anyone who would like to volunteer to help can register at www.herefordshire.gov.uk/covid19help

For further information about this document, or if you would like it in another format or language, please call 01432 2601944 or e-mail researchteam@herefordshire.gov.uk