



BUSINESS
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BUSINESS CONTINUITY IN COVID-19

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HAMPSHIRE BUSINESSES COMING TOGETHER

The past 18 months have presented complex challenges for government, businesses and communities and placed enormous demands on all sectors of society at both national and local level.

From finding solutions to keeping up with the supply of essential equipment to developing a COVID-19 vaccine, the collective response against the fight against COVID-19 across industry and academia has been ground-breaking and world leading.

Here are just some of the examples of how businesses and universities in Hampshire have helped at a national and local level.

MANUFACTURE AND SUPPLY OF ESSENTIAL PPE

A number of Hampshire organisations and businesses signed up to a nationwide effort, to provide essential PPE to medical and healthcare providers.

A team of around fifty engineers from the [Royal Navy](#), based at HMNB Portsmouth used their 3D printers, normally used for producing parts for warships and helicopters, to build face shields for the front line.

Ben Ainslie's [INEOS TEAM UK](#), based in Portsmouth, together with their partners Mercedes-Benz Applied Science, utilised their engineering skills and made 5,000 face shields for NHS workers.

With reduced operating hours, [Southampton Airport](#) put its resources to good use by supporting a local campaign to sew scrubs for health workers.



Staff from the [National Oceanography Centre](#) (NOC) retooled their workstations to produce 250 face masks a day for Southampton General Hospital and Solent NHS Trust.

"Fab Lab" facilities in New Milton and Chandlers Ford operated by [Incuhive](#), also joined the national collective to print face shields for frontline staff as did tech firm [FliteTrak](#), based in Lee-on-the-Solent.

REPURPOSING PRODUCTION

Contact lens manufacturer [CooperVision](#), repurposed part of their R&D and production facilities to support the national drive to boost production of hand sanitiser.

[The Bombay Sapphire Distillery](#), based in Laverstoke Mill, was just one of eight Bacardi-owned sites to divert their manufacturing processes to supply alcohol needed for the increased production of hand sanitiser.

The award winning [The River Test Distillery](#) and the [Isle of Wight Distillery](#) added hand sanitiser into their production cycles.

Organic manufacturers of high-performance hair products [Herb UK](#), also switched production at their HQ in the New Forest and teamed up local gin distillery, [Conker Spirit](#), to help meet demand for the product.





UNIVERSITIES AT THE FOREFONT

As well as the amazing response from businesses, the universities in Hampshire have, and continue to, play a vital role in fighting COVID-19 through their research and ongoing community support.

Academics and researchers at the [University of Southampton](#) are involved in several projects designed to face the challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

A consortium led by the [Southampton Clinical Trials Unit](#) developed a new study which was able to accelerate the time in which patients received cutting-edge COVID-19 treatment. Their AGILE clinical trials platform was a world-first for infectious diseases and is now a global tool which will help how we respond to future pandemics.

A collaboration of engineers from the [University of Southampton](#), clinicians at [University Hospital Southampton](#) and industry partners including [McLaren Racing](#), [Kemp Sails](#) and [INDO Lighting](#) came together and developed a pioneering protective respirator to support NHS staff on the frontline. The project has won multiple awards including the President's Special Award for Pandemic Service from the Royal Academy of Engineering. Professors Paul Elkington and Hywel Morgan, who led the project have been awarded MBEs in the 2020 Queen's Birthday Honours.

University of Southampton spin out [Synairgen](#), a drug discovery and development company, have developed and are trialling an inhaled drug (SNG001) that could prevent Covid-19 worsening in those most at risk. The drug is in its Phase III clinical programme.



Experts at the **University of Southampton** also conducted research for the World Health Organisation and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control that models the effectiveness and timing of COVID-19 interventions for different regions of the world.

Work by the **University of Portsmouth** back in 2010 on a National Early Warning Score (NEWS) was recommended by the World Health Organisation for the monitoring of COVID-19 patients.

The university were also involved in several collaborative projects including a biosensor research project to address the urgent unmet need for wastewater surveillance mechanisms to monitor for COVID-19 outbreaks within populations and applying AI technology to undertake Covid testing.

Throughout the pandemic **Solent University** provided vital support and supplies to local NHS Trusts and the local community and supported research into the experiences of diverse and multicultural groups.

STAY LOYAL AND SHOP LOCAL



Quality food and drink producers across Hampshire came together to keep their businesses going and support local communities in need.

Members of [Hampshire Fare](#), an organisation of over 400 members in the food, drink, and craft sector, developed a new online offer to get produce out to people. Farm shops, village stores and box schemes worked together to quickly develop the offer giving communities access to great quality produce during lock down.

[Harvest Fine Foods](#), suppliers to the hospitality industry also launched a new home delivery service.

The Hildon Foundation, a charity funded directly by the Hampshire-based makers of [Hildon Natural Mineral Water](#) and private donors, provided weekly donation of its natural mineral water to local and London hospitals.

More than 350,000 bottles were supplied to hospitals in the region. The company also launched Frontline Meals, a partnership with various restaurant groups, including D&D London, M Restaurants and Gaucho. Together they supplied 38,000 meals to workers on the frontline.

GENERAL SUPPORT AND DONATIONS

Businesses, the self-employed, and employees have all faced many challenges as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic. Many Hampshire businesses created hubs on their website which provided legal information, guidance and tips.

Paris Smith, a Hampshire legal firm, launched a new community initiative to help businesses and individuals work together and support each other through the coronavirus crisis.

Aviva, the UK's largest insurer, pledged £5 million to NHS Charities Together as part of a package of measures aimed at supporting customers and their communities during the COVID-19 crisis.



Talon, a workforce management software company based on the **Southampton Science Park**, launched a new digital platform to help business stay connected with their employees. The platform allowed employers and workers to stay in contact and made the rehiring of workers as easy as possible.



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