

## SUFFOLK CORONAWATCH BULLETIN

Dear all,

Welcome to the Coronawatch Bulletin. This bulletin provides an update on the current Covid-19 situation in Suffolk along with updates on the work being carried out as part of Suffolk's Local Outbreak Control Plan.

More eagle-eyed readers may notice that this week's edition is a day late. We apologise for this - you can expect next week's bulletin on Thursday as usual.

With best wishes

**Clr Matthew Hicks, Leader of Suffolk County Council**  
**Chair of the Suffolk Local Outbreak Engagement Board**

**Nicola Beach**  
**Chief Executive, Suffolk County Council**

**Stuart Keeble, Director for Public Health in Suffolk**  
**Chair of the Suffolk Health Protection Board**

## CORONAVIRUS IN SUFFOLK

### Update

### Suffolk Cases

As of October 14 there have been **61,605** total lab-confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Suffolk. In total there have been **8092.7** cases of COVID-19 per 100,000 people.

### District case rate as of 14 October 2021

Name	Daily Cases reported	Weekly Cases reported	Weekly case rate*	Trend	Total Cases	Total Case Rate	Total Rate Rank (of 315 England LTLAs)
^							
Babergh	82	473	473.4	↑	7,545	8136.1	294
East Suffolk	166	1,105	428.2	↑	18,605	7430.9	307
Ipswich	141	1,037	736.9	↑	14,189	10434.7	220
Mid Suffolk	77	446	395.8	↑	7,390	7047.7	310
West Suffolk	179	889	429.8	↑	13,876	7826.2	299
Suffolk	645	3,950	484.7	↑	61,605	8092.7	
East of England	4,385	27,234	399.0	↑	692,391	11044.4	
England	38,488	235,094	376.1	↑	7,073,467	12508.3	

*From 2 July, the number of lab-confirmed positive cases now includes those identified by testing in all settings (pillars 1 and 2). Pillar 2 refers to tests in commercial labs working in partnership with the NHS. Previously, only Pillar 1 confirmed cases were included (tests completed in NHS labs)*

Completed in the lab.

---

## Overview

In the week to the 14 October, there have been **3,950** new cases of COVID-19 in Suffolk. This is an increase on the numbers in the previous week.

The rate of new weekly cases in Suffolk has increased and is now, at **399** cases per **100,000** people. This is above the rates for the East of England region (**335.6 / 100,000**) and for England as a whole (**376.1 / 100,000**).

In total, up to 01 October, there have been **1,631** deaths in Suffolk where COVID-19 was recorded on the death certificate. There have been **12** COVID-19 related deaths in the most recent week of data.

The estimated 'R' value for the East of England is between 0.9 and 1.2 which is higher than the previous week has remained the same since last week, and is also the same as the 'R' value for England (0.9 – 1.2).

---

## Weekly Cases and Rates

COVID-19 cases are identified by taking specimens from people which are then tested, either using a PCR test which is processed in a lab, or by using a rapid lateral flow device (LFD).

Positive rapid lateral flow test results can be confirmed with PCR tests taken within 72 hours. If the PCR test results are negative, these are no longer reported as cases.

This policy was reintroduced in England on March 29, 2021. On April 9, 2021, a total of 116 cases with specimen dates after November 1, 2020, were removed from Suffolk's cumulative total retrospectively due to meeting this criteria.

In the week up to October 14, 2021 there were **3,950** new lab-confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Suffolk, an increase of **1,023** on the previous week's figure of **2,927**.

It is possible to calculate a case rate by dividing the number of cases by the number of people in a given population – this makes it possible to compare cases across different areas.

The most recent underlying weekly case rate in Suffolk was **484.7** cases per **100,000** people. This figure is up on the previous week's figure of **367.9**.

In the last week of reported data up to October 14, there have been **473** cases in Babergh (**352** the previous week), **1,105** cases in East Suffolk (**844**), **1,037** cases in Ipswich (**734**), **446** cases in Mid Suffolk (**390**) and **889** cases in West Suffolk (**607**).

---

## Regional 'R' Number and growth rate

What is the R number? R represents the average number of onward infections that will be generated by a single infectious individual. R tells us if the epidemic is getting bigger (>1) or smaller (<1) but not how large the epidemic is overall, and therefore shouldn't be used as the sole indicator of the threat posed by an epidemic at any single point in time. R cannot be measured directly, and there is always uncertainty about its exact value.

The current estimated regional 'R' numbers are below – the East of England currently has one of the higher rates in England. (Source: University of Cambridge MRC Biostatistics Unit).

---



Number of deaths involving Covid-19 occurring in care homes over the last three weeks						
	24.09.21	Change from last week	01.10.21	Change from last week	08.10.21	Change from last week
Suffolk	451	+2	451	0	451	0
Norfolk	647	+2	648	+1	648	0
Camb+ Peterborough	363	0	364	+1	364	0
Essex	871	0	872	+1	874	+2
Hertfordshire	706	+1	706	0	706	0



### Enhanced COVID-19 control measures in some Suffolk schools

Enhanced COVID-19 control measures are now in place in 12 Suffolk schools, in order to reduce the spread.

The new measure requires siblings of children who test positive for COVID-19 to remain at home for three days and then take a PCR test.

Once a negative result is received, they can return. This only applies in schools where an outbreak has occurred and does not apply to children who are vaccinated.

To put the number of schools into context, there are 327 schools in Suffolk.

We are of course taking these numbers seriously and school leaders are being extremely vigilant to ensure children and staff safe. If parents have concerns we would advise them to speak to their schools who will be able to reassure parents of the measures they are taking.

Our main focus is to balance pupil and staff safety whilst giving children as positive and normal an education as possible.

### Vaccinations latest

#### Booster vaccinations - now no need to wait

People in Suffolk no longer have to wait to receive an invitation from the NHS to have their COVID-19 booster vaccination.

Now, anyone in an eligible group who had their second dose of COVID-19 vaccine at least six months ago, which is Easter-time/mid-April or before, can go to a walk-in, no-appointment clinic for a booster vaccination, book via the national NHS website or call 119.

Previously, people had to wait to receive a letter or text from the NHS saying they were eligible.

The number of locations where people can have their booster vaccination has also been increased, including many local pharmacies now offering booked appointments, in addition to around 60 walk-in clinics which are taking place locally over the coming weeks – for details about walk-in clinics go to [the SNEE website](#).

So far 34,588 booster vaccines have been administered across the Suffolk and North East Essex Integrated Care System (ICS), and this latest move aims to encourage even speedier take-up.

People are eligible for a booster six months after receiving their second dose, and include those aged 50 years and over, frontline volunteers and health and social care staff, people with severely weakened immune systems and their resident household contacts and those aged under 50 with an underlying health condition.

Elizabeth Moloney, who is leading the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccination programme across the ICS, said: "The booster rollout began last month and it's pleasing that so many people have taken up the offer.

"Yet we are mindful that we need to administer as many booster vaccinations as possible to those who are eligible, so that their health can be best protected over the winter months.

"We know too that vaccinated people are far less likely to suffer complications of COVID-19, helping reduce the number of hospitalisations and pressure on our busy health services this winter, which is another reason for getting the booster into as many people as quickly as possible.

"If you meet the eligibility criteria, please don't wait to get your booster."

For more details about the booster programme and eligibility criteria go to [the SNEE website](#).

#### **Frontline volunteers now eligible for boosters**

All frontline, patient-facing volunteers can now get their COVID-19 booster vaccination by booking an appointment or attending one of the many walk-in clinics taking place across the Suffolk and North East Essex Integrated Care System (ICS) area.

All eligible volunteers need to have had their second dose of COVID-19 vaccine at least six months ago.

Frontline volunteers who are encouraged to take up the offer of a booster vaccination include those working in vaccination centres, hospitals and other health service locations where they are dealing face-to-face with members of the public.

Examples of eligible volunteer roles include stewards, those working in patient transport and those volunteering with VSOs such as St John Ambulance, British Red Cross or Age UK.

When attending for their booster vaccination people will need to provide evidence of their patient-facing volunteering role with either:

- A letter demonstrating that they are working as patient-facing volunteer, such as a letter from their workplace/organisation; or
- A volunteer workplace or voluntary organisation photo ID

The booster vaccinations can be booked via the [national NHS booking website](#), by calling NHS 111 or visiting one of [the local walk-in clinics](#).

The full list of who is eligible for a booster vaccination can be read at [the NHS website](#).

#### **SNEE update**

Each week colleagues at the Suffolk and North-East Essex care system (SNEE) send out an update on the vaccine roll out in Suffolk.

This update can be found [here](#).

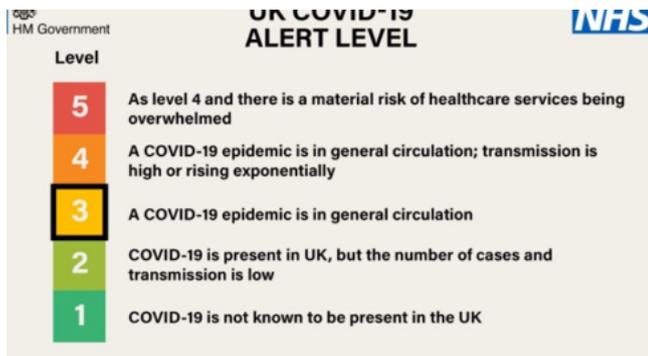


#### **UK Cases**

As of 4:00pm on 14 October: **8,317,439** people have tested positive for COVID-19 in the UK (pillar 1 and pillar 2 testing). Of those who tested positive for COVID-19 in the UK, **138,237** have died (within 28 days of positive test) across all settings. You can view the latest UK dashboard and cases by local authority [here](#).

#### **Current UK Alert Level: 3**

On Monday May 20, following advice from the Joint Biosecurity Centre and in the light of the most recent data, the four UK Chief Medical Officers and NHS England National Medical Director agreed that the UK [alert level](#) should move from level 4 to level 3 in all nations.



On July 19, 2021 England moved to Step 4 of the roadmap which saw further restrictions lifted and removed from law.

'Let's Keep Life Moving' encourages the public to continue with simple actions to continue to help reduce the spread of COVID-19, and protect those around us.



The information contained in this email or any of its attachments may be privileged or confidential and is intended for the exclusive use of the addressee. Any unauthorised use may be unlawful. If you receive this email by mistake, please advise the sender immediately by using the reply facility in your email software.

The Council reserves the right to monitor, record and retain any incoming and outgoing emails for security reasons and for monitoring internal compliance with our policy on staff use. Email monitoring and/or blocking software may be used and email content may be read.

For information about what we do with personal data see our privacy notice <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/about/privacy-notice/>