

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.

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 20 October, there have been **65,116** total lab-confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Suffolk. In total there have been **8553.9** cases of COVID-19 per **100,000** people.

District case rate as of 20 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	61	459	524.1	↑	7,922	8542.6	297
East Suffolk	142	1,083	460.9	↑	19,522	7797.2	308
Ipswich	150	1,086	865.6	↑	15,134	11129.7	213
Mid Suffolk	90	577	518.8	↑	7,890	7524.5	309
West Suffolk	127	951	547.7	↑	14,648	8261.6	302
Suffolk	570	4,156	569.1	↑	65,116	8553.9	
East of England	4,752	31,258	475.8	↑	719,264	11473.1	
England	41,498	272,029	447.9	↑	7,303,864	12915.7	

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).

Overview

In the week up to 20 October, there have been **4,156** 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 **569.1** cases per **100,000** people. This is above the rates for the East of England region (**475.8 / 100,000**) and for England as a whole (**447.9 / 100,000**).

In total, up to 8 October, there have been **1,636** deaths in Suffolk where COVID-19 was recorded on the death certificate. There have been 5 COVID-19 related deaths in the last week.

The estimated 'R' value for the East of England is between 0.9 and 1.2 which has remained the same in the last week, but remains largely similar to the 'R' value for England (0.9 – 1.1).

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 20, 2021 there were **4,156** new lab-confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Suffolk, an increase of **206** on the previous week's figure of **3,950**.

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 **569.1** cases per **100,000** people. This figure is up on the previous week's figure of **464.7**.

In the last week of reported data up to October 20, there have been **459** cases in Babergh (**473** the previous week), **1,083** cases in East Suffolk (**1,105**), **1,086** cases in Ipswich (**1,037**), **577** cases in Mid Suffolk (**446**) and **951** cases in West Suffolk (**889**).

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 now 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).

Region	R value	Growth rate % per day
East of England	0.9 to 1.2	-1 to +3
London	0.9 to 1.1	-2 to +2
Midlands	0.9 to 1.1	-1 to +2

North East and Yorkshire	0.9 to 1.1	-1 to +1
North West	0.9 to 1.1	-1 to +2
South East	0.9 to 1.1	-1 to +2
South West	0.9 to 1.1	-1 to +2
England	0.9 to 1.1	-1 to +2

Death Registrations to 8 October 2021

In Suffolk, there have been **1,636** deaths which mention COVID-19 in total. There have been **5** COVID-19 deaths in the most recent week of data. Currently deaths due to causes other than COVID-19 are occurring at similar levels compared to the five year average for Suffolk.

Contact Tracing

Suffolk's Public Health Team has responsibility for all contact tracing in Suffolk.

In the data as of 19 October, **81.4%** of all Suffolk cases had been contact traced.

During the pandemic as a whole, **88.3%** of cases have been successfully contact traced.

This week's figure is slightly lower than the East of England average (**83.7%** in the last week, **89.3%** for the pandemic as a whole) and similar to the England average (**82.7%** in the last week, **87.3%** for the pandemic as a whole).

For contacts of cases, in the seven days up to October 19, a total of **97.3%** of contacts in Suffolk had been successfully contact traced, and during the pandemic as a whole **95.6%** of contacts have been successfully contact traced.

These numbers are similar to the East of England (**97.3%** in the last week and **94.5%** for the pandemic as a whole) and England averages (**97.2%** in the last week and **91.9%** for the pandemic as a whole).

Coronavirus cases in care homes

An outbreak is classed as a care home with two or more cases. These figures are listed on an area basis and will not include the details of any specific care homes. These figures include care homes, extra care housing and supported housing.

As a notifiable disease, care homes are required to report any potential or confirmed cases of Coronavirus to Public Health England (PHE) in order that this can be captured as part of the national reporting processes and also for PHE to provide advice and guidance on infection control.

Care providers are under no obligation to report suspected or confirmed cases to the county council.

	15/09/2021	22/09/2021	29/09/2021	06/10/2021	15/10/2021	20/10/2021
Ipswich & East Suffolk	7	7	7	7	6	6
West Suffolk	2	2	2	2	0	0
Norfolk & Waveney	1	1	1	1	1	1
Total	10	10	10	10	7	7

	01.10.21	Change from last week	08.10.21	Change from last week	15.10.21	Change from last week
Suffolk	454	0	454	0	454	0

Region	Total	0+	Total	0+	Total	0+
Norfolk	648	1+	648	0+	648	0+
Cambs+ Peterborough	364	1+	364	0+	364	0+
Essex	872	1+	874	2+	874	0+
Hertfordshire	706	0+	706	0+	706	0+

SUFFOLK CORONAVIRUS NEWS

Face masks back as additional measures brought in to reduce Covid-19 transmission in Suffolk schools

Face masks and restrictions on visitors are to be reintroduced to Suffolk schools to help slow the current rate of transmission in education settings.

SCC are advising that the following measures be implemented from the 1 November 2021.

- **Staff** in all education settings (primary, secondary, and higher education) to wear face coverings in communal areas outside of the classroom, unless exempt for medical reasons.
- **Students** in all secondary and higher education settings to wear face coverings in communal areas outside of the classroom, unless exempt for medical reasons.
- All education settings to restrict entry to their site to essential visitors only.
- Any visitors to wear a face covering while on-site, this includes adults collecting children in the playground.

The number of cases within children and young people aged 10-14 has increased by almost 15% and cases amongst 15–19-year-olds has increased by 32% in the past week of data. This means that in October alone school children in Suffolk have lost 26,264 days of education due to positive cases of Covid-19.

These measures will be reviewed during the week commencing Monday 15 November 2021.

Read more on the [Suffolk County Council website](#).

Fourteen schools in Suffolk have Covid measures in place

On October 6, Suffolk County Council introduced a new sibling policy, which advised children and young people aged between 4 and 18 years to stay at home when a sibling they live with tests positive for COVID-19. This applies to schools with an outbreak of Covid-19 and is still in place.

This measure is currently in place in 14 of the county's schools and education settings including:

- Kesgrave High School
- East Bergholt High School
- Breckland School
- East Point Academy
- St Mary's School (Hadleigh)
- Northgate High School
- Occold Primary School
- Thurston Community College
- St Johns CoE Primary School (Ipswich)
- St Albans Catholic High School
- Ormiston Endeavour
- Halifax Primary School
- Castle Manor Academy
- Samuel Ward Academy

Immunosuppressed in Waveney urged to get their third vaccine as soon as possible

Immunosuppressed people in Waveney are being contacted directly to come forward for their planned third primary dose of COVID-19 vaccine.

The Joint Committee for Vaccinations & Immunisations (JCVI) has recommended that people who were severely immunosuppressed at the time of their first or second vaccination should be offered a third dose eight weeks after their second.

This is an extra 'top-up' dose in response to evidence showing that they may not have responded as well to the vaccine as others and will therefore have lower levels of protection against COVID-19. It includes people with leukaemia and advanced HIV and

protection against COVID-19. It includes people with leukaemia and advanced HIV and people who have had recent organ transplants.

The primary third dose for this group of patients is different to the six month booster being now offered to people aged 50+, health and care workers and those who are clinically extremely vulnerable.

Learn more on the [CCG's website](#).

Ask the Expert event – vaccinating 12-15s

Suffolk and north east Essex ICS held their latest Ask the Expert event on 12 October, they worked with schools across Suffolk.

The Q&A session aimed to answer questions and address concerns about the Covid vaccine that local 12-15 year olds and their parents raised.

You can watch this session and previous sessions on the [SNEE website](#).

Testing site opening hours are changing

All Local Covid testing and Regional testing sites in England are reducing their opening hours. From 1 November, operational times across all testing sites in England will change to an opening time of 8am and a closing of 6pm. This is a shortening from the previous times of 8am – 8pm.

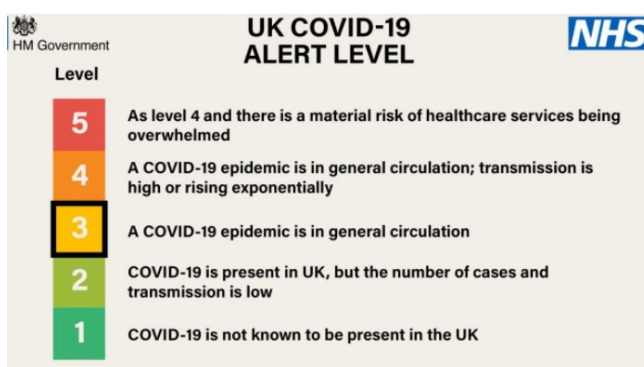


UK Cases

As of 4:00pm on 20 October: **8,589,737** 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, **139,031** 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.

Let's keep life moving.



FRESH AIR



TESTING



FACE COVERINGS



APP



HANDWASHING

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