

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,

Cllr 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 July 14 there have been **33,029** total lab-confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Suffolk. In total there have been **4338.2** cases of COVID-19 per 100,000 people. This is the third lowest overall COVID-19 case rate in the East of England.

District case rate as of July 14, 2021

Name	Daily Cases reported	Weekly Cases reported	Weekly case rate*	Trend	Total Cases	Total Case Rate	National Rate Rank (of 358)
Babergh	61	217	145.6	↑	4,319	4692.7	324
East Suffolk	62	339	96.2	↑	9,601	3848.7	352
Ipswich	43	257	157.0	↑	8,217	6001.6	259
Mid Suffolk	28	162	102.0	↑	3,683	3544.9	358
West Suffolk	37	178	101.7	↑	7,209	4026.4	347
Suffolk	231	1,106	115.2	↑	33,029	4338.2	
East of England	3,182	17,128	238.5	↑	436,440	6998.6	
England	37,895	219,202	341.5	↑	4,550,298	8084.1	

From 2 July 2020, 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 July 14 there have been **1,106** new cases of COVID-19 in Suffolk.

The underlying rate of new weekly cases in Suffolk is now at **115.2** cases per 100,000 people. This rate is below the rates for the East of England region (**238.5 / 100,000**) and below England as a whole (**341.5 / 100,000**).

In total, up to **July 2, 2021**, which is the latest data from ONS, there have been **1,581** deaths in Suffolk where COVID-19 was recorded on the death certificate. There have been **zero** COVID-19 related deaths in the seven days up to July 2.

In the last week, deaths due to causes other than COVID-19 have occurred at a similar level compared to the five-year average for Suffolk.

The estimated 'R' value for the East of England is between **1.1 and 1.5**. The estimated 'R' value for England as a whole is also **1.2 – 1.5**.

Any R value greater than 1 means the epidemic may no longer be decreasing.

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 July 14, 2021 there were **1,106** new lab-confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Suffolk.

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 **115.2** cases per 100,000 people.

In the last week of reported data up to July 14, there have been **207** cases in Babergh, **339** cases in East Suffolk, **257** cases in Ipswich, **162** cases in Mid Suffolk and **178** cases in West Suffolk.

Total Cases and Rates

As of July 14, 2021 there have been **33,029** total lab-confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Suffolk. In total there have been **4338.2** cases of COVID-19 per 100,000 people.


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 should not 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. (Source: University of Cambridge MRC Biostatistics Unit).

Latest Regional R Value published on		09 July 2021	
Area	R Rate	Growth rate % per day	
East of England	1.1 to 1.5	2 to 7	
London	1.1 to 1.4	2 to 6	
Midlands	1.2 to 1.5	4 to 8	
North East and Yorkshire	1.3 to 1.6	5 to 8	
North West	1.1 to 1.2	1 to 4	
South East	1.3 to 1.6	4 to 9	
South West	1.3 to 1.6	5 to 8	
England	1.2 to 1.5	3 to 7	

Death Registrations to July 2, 2021

In the most recent currently available data to June 25 there have been **1,581** deaths in Suffolk which mention COVID-19 on the death certificate. There have been **zero** COVID-19 deaths in the most recent week of data. In the last week, deaths due to causes other than COVID-19 have occurred at a lower level 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 week up to July 6 a total of **75.3%** of cases were successfully contact traced.

During the pandemic as a whole, **89.8%** of cases have been successfully contact traced.

Both these figures are similar to the East of England (**75.0%** in the last week and **89.4%** for the pandemic as a whole) and England averages (**77.8%** in the last week and **86.8%** for the pandemic as a whole).

For contacts of cases, in the seven days up to July 6 a total of **96.3%** of contacts in Suffolk had been successfully contact traced, and during the pandemic as a whole **92.9%** of contacts have been successfully contact traced.

These numbers are similar to the East of England (**97.0%** in the last week and **92.2%** for the pandemic as a whole) and England averages (**96.9%** in the last week and **88.2%** 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 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.

Care providers with outbreaks						
	10/06/2021	17/06/2021	24/06/2021	01/07/2021	08/07/2021	15/07/2021
<u>Babergh</u>	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ipswich & East Suffolk	3	3	3	3	3	3
Mid Suffolk	0	0	0	0	0	0
West Suffolk	0	0	0	0	0	0
Norfolk & Waveney	0	0	0	0	1	1
Total	3	3	3	3	4	4

Number of deaths involving Covid-19 occurring in care homes over the last three weeks						
	25.06.21	Change from last week	02.07.21	Change from last week	09.07.21	Change from last week
Suffolk	448	0	448	0	448	0
Norfolk	639	+4	641	+2	641	0
<u>Cambs+ Peterborough</u>	358	-1	357	-1	357	0
Essex	861	+7	861	0	862	+1
Hertfordshire	700	+1	700	0	700	0

SUFFOLK CORONAVIRUS NEWS

Leader welcomes lifting of COVID restrictions but urges caution



People will still need to be prepared to continue to use facemasks despite the lifting of coronavirus restrictions on July 19. Picture: SCC

The easing of COVID-19 restrictions on July 19 is good news but we must proceed ahead with caution because the pandemic is far from over, Councillor Matthew Hicks has warned.

Cllr Hicks said the announcement by Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Monday was welcome news for businesses, particularly for the night-time economy and sectors such as tourism.

But with the growing number of coronavirus cases locally and nationally there was still some way to go, and he supported Mr Johnson's call for caution if a return to restrictions was to be avoided.

Writing in the East Anglian Daily Times, he said: "Despite the legal requirement to wear face masks in shops and on public transport being lifted it is being recommended people continue to wear face coverings in crowded areas such as on trains and buses - although not venues such as nightclubs.

"We know that the Delta variant of the virus, which is now the dominant strain in this country, is highly infectious and we must continue to do what we can to continue to curb its spread.

"Nationally, scientists predict infections could peak after August, with 1,000 - 2,000 hospital admissions and 100 – 200 deaths per day.

"These are sobering figures and illustrate how seriously we must take what lies ahead over the next few weeks.

"However, I am encouraged by recent county council data which shows many people in Suffolk would appear to agree. Of those who were asked, 78% said they would wear a mask indoors in public spaces, while 92% of residents expected to continue with regular hand washing.

"I believe that the measures we need to take are simple enough:

- Meet in well-ventilated areas where possible, such as outdoors or indoors with windows open
- Wear a face covering where you come into contact with people you do not normally meet in enclosed and crowded spaces
- Wash your hands with soap and water or using hand sanitiser regularly throughout the day
- Covering your nose and mouth when you cough and sneeze
- Stay at home if unwell, to reduce the risk of passing on other illnesses onto friends, family, colleagues, and others in your community

"I know masks divide opinion, but medical and public experts are both of the belief that they have a big part to play.

"Masks are not just about you; they are about protecting others. If you have the virus – and you may well not realise that you have it – they prevent you from spreading it through a cough or a sneeze.

"We also need to remember there are many people in the community who may not be able to get vaccinated or have conditions that leave them immuno-supressed. The simple act of putting on a mask around them could go a long way towards making them feel just a bit more at ease.

"But it is not all doom and gloom. The vaccination programme continues to go well – the recent delay to the lifting of restrictions has allowed a further seven million jobs to be given, with the government now saying it is on track to beat its target of offering every adult a first dose - with two-thirds of adults being given two doses - by July 19.

"This really would be cause for celebration and I would urge you to accept the vaccine at the first chance that you get."

New guidelines on reducing COVID-19 spread in the workplace

Working safely during coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance from Step 4

From: [Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy](#) and [Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport](#)

Published 14 July 2021

Updated: 14 July 2021, [see all updates](#)



The Government issues new guidelines on working safely during coronavirus after the July 19 lifting of restrictions. Picture: Gov.UK

The Government has issued new guidelines for businesses and the self-employed on working safely once COVID restrictions are lifted on July 19.

Under Step 4 of the roadmap out of lockdown all businesses can open and the government is no longer instructing people to work from home.

To support businesses through this next phase the 'Working Safely' guidance will provide advice on precautions employers can take to manage risk and support their staff and customers.

For more details go to the [Coronavirus information page](#) on the Government website.

Vaccinations latest

Walk-in vaccination clinics across Suffolk and North-East Essex

Suffolk and North-East Essex CCG have put on several no-appointment walk-in COVID-19 vaccination clinics in Suffolk.

Suffolk residents over the age of 18 can now attend these clinics and receive a first or second dose of the Pfizer, Moderna or Astra Zeneca vaccine.

In line with government guidelines, the AZ vaccine will only be offered to people aged 40 and over.

The schedule for the Pfizer clinics is as follows:

- Gainsborough Sports Centre, Ipswich – July 15 to 18, 2pm-6pm
- Chevington Close, Bury St Edmunds – July 15, 2pm-6pm
- Tesco, Haverhill – July 15, 12pm-7pm
- Salvation Army Centre, Stowmarket - July 16-18, 2pm-6pm

The Astra Zeneca vaccine is available as follows:

- Chevington Close, Bury St Edmunds - July 16-18, 2pm-6pm

The Moderna vaccine is available as follows:

- Martlesham Pharmacy – July 15, 9am-1pm and 2pm-5.30pm, July 16 9am-2pm, July 19 10.15am-12.30pm and 2pm-5.30pm. July 20 10.15am-1pm and 2pm-5.45pm. July 22 9am-1pm and 2pm-6pm. July 23 9am-1pm

For further details go to [the SNEE website](#).

Clinics open in Norfolk & Waveney

Norfolk and Waveney CCG is opening up new drop-in opportunities to get a COVID-19 vaccine, with no appointment needed.

Anyone aged 18 or older can visit Old Law Court in Lowestoft between 9am and 3pm, for a walk-in vaccination appointment, no appointment needed.

For full details see the [CCG's website](#).

A blue banner with a white circular pattern in the background. The text "NATIONAL CORONAVIRUS NEWS" is written in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. The words are arranged in three lines: "NATIONAL" on the top line, "CORONAVIRUS" on the middle line, and "NEWS" on the bottom line. The text is set against a dark blue rectangular background that is partially obscured by the circular pattern.

**NATIONAL
CORONAVIRUS
NEWS**

UK Cases

As of 5.45pm Wednesday July 14, 2021 a total of **5,233,207** people have tested positive for coronavirus in the UK (pillar 1 and 2) and there have been **128, 530** deaths within 28 days of a positive test.

Further information on the data is available here: <https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/>

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.



The current Government messaging is '*Hands, Face, Space, Fresh Air*' (previously '*stay alert, control the virus, save lives*' and '*stay at home, protect the NHS, save lives*')

Hands: wash your hands regularly and for 20 seconds.

Face: Wear a face covering in indoor settings where social distancing may be difficult, and where you will come into contact with people you do not normally meet.

Space: Stay 2 metres apart from people you do not live with where possible, or 1 metre with extra precautions in place (such as wearing face coverings or increasing ventilation indoors).

Fresh air: Meet in the fresh air to help stop the spread of COVID-19.

