

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 the 27 January there have been **25,142** total lab-confirmed cases of COVID-19 in

Suffolk. In total there have been 3,302.3 cases of COVID-19 per 100,000 people. This is the lowest overall COVID-19 case rate in the East of England.

District case rate as of 27 January 2021

Area name	Daily Cases reported	Weekly Cases reported	Weekly case rate*	Wk on wk trend*	Cumulative cases	Cumulative case rate	National Rate Rank (of 315)
▲ Babergh	18	190	240.1	↓	3,437	3734.40	261
East Suffolk	58	604	278.6	↓	7,359	2950.00	291
Ipswich	60	486	368.1	↓	6,219	4542.30	205
Mid Suffolk	15	228	253.1	↓	2,808	2702.70	298
West Suffolk	51	476	277.0	↓	5,319	2970.80	290
Suffolk	202	1,984	286.2	↓	25,142	3,302.3	
East of England	2,467	21,821	396.6	↓	329,696	5,286.9	
England	22,914	190,545	386.6	↓	3,248,215	5,770.8	

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). Due to this change many cases previously not attributed to any area are now included in area totals. This is not a recent surge in cases – the cases now being reported occurred from April onwards. As the quality of this data continues to improve, these numbers may continue to fluctuate over time, but overall, case numbers and case rates in Suffolk remain low compared to the East of England and England as a whole.

Overview

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A new national lockdown in England began on Wednesday 6th January for an indeterminate period. The national COVID-19 alert tiers are suspended while the national lockdown is in place.

In the week to the 27th of January there were **1,984** new lab-confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Suffolk. This number has fallen compared to the previous week.

The underlying rate of new weekly cases in Suffolk has noticeably decreased and is now at 286.2 cases per 100,000 people. This rate remains below the rates for the East of England region (396.6 / 100,000) and for England as a whole (386.6/ 100,000).

In total, up to the 15th January, there have been 985 deaths in Suffolk where COVID-19 was recorded on the death certificate. There have been 106 COVID-19 related deaths in the last 7 days up to 15th January.

The estimated 'R' value for the East of England is between 0.6 and 0.9, the range has decreased in the last week, but is similar to the 'R' value for England (0.8– 1.0).

Weekly Cases and Rates

COVID-19 cases are identified by taking specimens from people and sending them to laboratories around the UK to be tested. If the test is positive this is referred to as a lab-confirmed case.

In the week 20th January – 27th January there were **1984** new lab-confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Suffolk. This is a slight decrease on the previous week.

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 286.2 cases per 100,000 people. This case rate is down on the rate from the previous week although Suffolk's rate remain the second lowest weekly COVID-19 case rate in the East of England.

In the last week of reported data up to 27th January there have been 190 cases in Babergh, 604 cases in East Suffolk, 486 cases in Ipswich, 228 cases in Mid Suffolk and 476 cases in West Suffolk. All areas have decreased in cases since last week.

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	0.6 to 0.9	-8 to -2
London	0.7 to 0.9	-7 to -3
Midlands	0.9 to 1.2	-2 to +2
North East and Yorkshire	0.8 to 1.1	-3 to +1
North West	0.9 to 1.2	-2 to +2
South East	0.7 to 1.0	-6 to -2
South West	0.9 to 1.2	-2 to +3
England	0.8 to 1.0	-4 to 0

Death Registrations to 15th January 2021

In Suffolk, there have been 985 deaths which mention COVID-19 in total. There have been 106 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

The majority of contact tracing as part of test and trace in Suffolk is being done by Public Health England and the NHS Test and Trace Service, with the Suffolk Public Health team involved in some more complex cases. In the data as of 26th January, 120.5% of Suffolk

cases had completed the test and trace process in the last 7 days, with 85.4% of all Suffolk cases having completed test and trace since the programme began. 100.0% of Suffolk contacts of cases have completed the NHS test and trace process in the last 7 days, with 86.2% of all Suffolk contacts of cases having completed test and trace since the programme began.

Coronavirus cases in care homes

In line with government guidelines are reporting weekly on the number of outbreaks within Suffolk care home settings, that Suffolk County Council has been made aware of. 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						
	23/12/2020	30/12/2020	04/01/2021	11/01/2021	18/01/2021	25/01/2021
Babergh	6	7	9	9	8	9
East Suffolk	4	4	6	12	17	20
Ipswich	7	7	7	8	8	9
Mid Suffolk	3	3	3	4	5	6
West Suffolk	4	3	4	7	9	9
Total	24	24	29	40	47	53

Number of deaths involving Covid-19 occurring in care homes over the last three weeks						
	08.01.21	Change from last week	15.01.21	Change from last week	22.01.21	Change from last week
Suffolk	286	8+	313	27+	347	34+
Norfolk	257	25+	313	56+	382	69+
Cambs+ Peterborough	205	14+	225	20+	259	34+
Essex	415	33+	484	69+	573	89+
Hertfordshire	385	22+	442	57+	497	55+

A blue banner with a stylized sunburst graphic on the left side. The text "SUFFOLK CORONAVIRUS NEWS" is written in white, bold, uppercase letters across the center of the banner.

SUFFOLK CORONAVIRUS NEWS

Vaccination 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](#).

First Suffolk coronavirus large vaccination centre launches

The first COVID-19 NHS large vaccination centre in Suffolk opened on Tuesday 26 January, as the health service continues to ramp up the number of crucial first doses of the vaccine as part of the biggest immunisation programme in its history.

The centre at Gainsborough Sports Centre in Ipswich is one of 30 new centres opening nationally this week and one of the first in the East of England as the vaccination programme accelerates across the region.

The centre can vaccinate thousands of people each week and will be giving the jab to people aged 70 and over who have received a letter inviting them to attend, along with health and care staff.

It offers an additional option for people to the hospital hubs and GP-led vaccination services already offering coronavirus vaccinations across Suffolk and north east Essex and more will be going live in the next few weeks.

COVID-19 vaccination scams

Unfortunately criminals continue to use COVID-19 as a way of exploiting people, whether to get personal information or even money.

Recent examples in Suffolk include:

- Door knockers: A man knocking on a house door in Capel St Mary, falsely claiming to be from the local doctor's surgery to give the owner their Covid-19 vaccination ([read more on this on Suffolk Trading Standards Facebook page](#))
- Text messages: Fake messages claiming to be from the NHS, offering the Covid-19 Vaccine ([read more on this on Suffolk Trading Standards Facebook page](#))
- Emails: Fake emails claiming to be from the NHS, inviting you for your vaccination. Links take you to a website that asks for financial details to pay for the vaccine ([read more on this on Suffolk Trading Standards Facebook page](#))

Important information to remember and share:

- COVID-19 vaccinations from the NHS are free
- Anyone contacting you regarding a real NHS COVID-19 vaccination booking will never ask for payment or bank details, ask you to press a button on your keypad when on the phone, or ask you to send a text to confirm the booking
- Health professionals will never arrive unannounced at your door to administer the vaccine
- If you are concerned if a call, text or email is genuinely from the NHS, hang up or do not respond to the message and confirm details by contacting your local GP surgery.
- A reminder that door-to-door sales and traders are not permitted during lockdown

How to report a scam:

- If you receive a suspicious call, hang up immediately. You can report it to Suffolk Trading Standards/Citizens Advice consumer service on 0808 223 1133
- If you receive a suspicious email, forward it to report@phishing.gov.uk
- If you receive a suspicious text message, forward it to 7726 (free of charge)
- If you believe you have been the victim of fraud or identity theft, you should report this directly to Action Fraud either online [actionfraud.police.uk](https://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or call 0300 123 2040
- If you have any information relating to vaccine fraud you can stay 100% anonymous by contacting Crimestoppers COVID Fraud Hotline online [covidfraudhotline.org](https://www.covidfraudhotline.org) or call 0800 587 5030

Stay up-to-date with the latest scams and rogues targeting Suffolk, by signing up to Suffolk Trading Standards weekly email: www.suffolk.gov.uk/JoinTheFight

For more information about the COVID-19 vaccination programme in Suffolk, visit www.sneevaccine.org.uk

Supermarket shoppers asked to shelve COVID-19 by sticking to the basics

Suffolk needs supermarket customers to follow basic safety guidelines to stop COVID-19 from spreading.

Shoppers are being reassured that supermarkets are safe to visit, but shopping must be for essential items, the number of shopping trips should be minimised, and you must shop alone wherever possible.

Suffolk's councils have been working with local stores, to ensure that staff and customers are doing what they can to prevent the virus moving from person to person. Supermarkets have received written advice and guidance, and council teams have been carrying out visits to talk with workers and shoppers.

If you are planning a trip to a supermarket or shop it is important to follow these steps, even if you have received a vaccination:

- Wash/sanitise your hands at the store entrance
- Wear a facemask, unless medically exempt
- Enter the shop alone unless you are assisting or caring for another
- Follow the signage and rules provided by the supermarket
- Only touch products that you are intending to purchase
- Keep your distance from other shoppers in the aisles and when in queues
- Wash/sanitise your hands at the store exit

Don't be one of those who thinks it is okay for you to bend the rules

That's the message from Suffolk Constabulary as the county looks ahead to another weekend in lockdown to tackle the pandemic and save lives and protect the NHS.

Last weekend (Friday 22 Jan to Sun 24 Jan inclusive) 42 people were given Fixed Penalty Notices for breaching lockdown rules over the three day period, and 41 people received

warnings. The previous weekend (Friday 15 Jan to Sun 17 Jan inclusive) 56 people were fined for breaching lockdown rules and 39 people received warnings.

The message is simple - stay as local as possible to where you live. Where people are breaching the regulations and they are away from home without a reasonable excuse, they may be issued with a FPN.



Welcome to a round-up of news from the Collaborative Communities Board. The Board is made up from representatives from across Suffolk, including councils, emergency response, health colleagues, community and voluntary sector and religion and faith groups.

The work of the Board is once again dealing with the emergency response to Covid-19 in our communities following the latest lockdown. Some of this work is covered in detail in this update.

The Suffolk Advice and Support Service:

This phonenumber helps anyone that needs support with housing , debt or employment worries. The number is **0800 068 3131**

Here are a couple of examples of people we have helped:

- A woman was referred to the Sudbury and District Citizens' Advice after calling SASS because she needed help to furnish her flat. She was helped to apply for a Local Welfare Assistance Scheme for help with appliances and furniture and also advised about a Budgeting Loan. As a result of the call some other problems were identified and she was offered help to address her financial difficulties and her benefits needs. She was also referred to the mental health team and domestic violence charity.
- A mother of three young children called about a delayed food voucher, which was resolved, but other issues were also picked up on the call, including a faulty washing machine and fridge. A application was made to the Welfare Assistance Scheme and

since then Ipswich Furniture Project contacted the family and has delivered the new appliances.

The **Home, But Not Alone** phonenumber is now up and running again, and can help those who are clinically vulnerable, self-Isolating or need assistance with access to food, medication and community support. The number is: **0800 876 6926**

Self-isolation payments:

Residents on low incomes or benefits can now get financial help if they are told to self-isolate due to COVID-19 as Suffolk councils extend support payments to help more people.

Councils across Suffolk are helping administer the Government grant scheme to help people remain at home and do their bit to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Details about the Test and Trace Support Payments can be found on District and Borough Council websites and how to apply for it. This is part of a range of measures that councils across Suffolk have introduced to support communities and businesses during the coronavirus pandemic, which includes the new Suffolk Support and Advice Service phonenumber to help those facing financial difficulty.

If you have been contacted by NHS Test and Trace and told to self-isolate on or after 28 September 2020, you are under a legal obligation to do so, and could be eligible for a £500 Test and Trace Support Payment.

Those who are not eligible for the government test and trace payment might be able to access the discretionary payments using the same application process and we encourage anyone self-isolation to have a conversation with the teams at your local council.

Visit your District or Borough Council websites for details on how to apply for the £500 Test and Trace Support Payment:

- Babergh District Council: babergh.gov.uk/benefits/coronavirus-money-and-benefits-advice/
- Mid Suffolk District Councils midsuffolk.gov.uk/benefits/coronavirus-money-and-benefits-advice/
- East Suffolk Council www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk
- Ipswich Borough Council www.ipswich.gov.uk
- West Suffolk Council [Test and Trace Support Payment \(westsuffolk.gov.uk\)](http://Test%20and%20Trace%20Support%20Payment%20(westsuffolk.gov.uk))

Suffolk vaccination news:

There are two helpful websites with information about the vaccination roll-out in Suffolk.

These are:

Suffolk and North Essex Vaccination Centre: www.sneevaccine.org.uk

Suffolk County Council: [COVID-19 vaccinations in Suffolk | Suffolk County Council](#)

Press release: **Leading BAME doctor urges others to say yes to Covid-19 vaccination**

A well-known health care professional in Ipswich has pledged his confidence in the safety of the Covid-19 vaccine and is urging everyone, including other members of Black Asian Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities, not to be afraid of having the vaccination. Full story here: [Ipswich and East Suffolk CCG > News & events > News 2021 > Leading BAME doctor urges others to say yes to Cov](#)

Suffolk Foodbanks

The demand on Suffolk's foodbanks continue to grow. For a full list of foodbanks please visit here: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/suffolk-advice-and-support-service/food-banks/>



UK Cases

As of 16:35 on 26 January 2021: 3,715,054 people have tested positive for COVID-19 in the UK (either lab-reported or lateral flow device). 101,887 have died (within 28 days of a positive COVID-19 test) across all settings in the UK. You can view the latest UK dashboard and cases by local authority [here](#).

Current UK Alert Level: 5

On 04/01/2021 [update from the UK Chief Medical Officers on the UK alert level](#) was that the UK COVID-19 alert level has been raised from level 4 to level 5. The COVID-19 epidemic is in general circulation, transmission is high and rising exponentially and there is a material risk of healthcare services being overwhelmed.

STAY HOME > PROTECT THE NHS > SAVE LIVES	
UK COVID-19 Alert Level	Description
5	A COVID-19 epidemic is in general circulation; transmission is high or rising exponentially and there is a material risk of healthcare services being overwhelmed
4	A COVID-19 epidemic is in general circulation; transmission is high or rising exponentially
3	A COVID-19 epidemic is in general circulation
2	COVID-19 is present in the UK, but the number of cases and transmission is low
1	COVID-19 is not known to be present in the UK

The current Government messaging is '*Hands, Face, Space*' (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).



National News

COVID-19 related news from GOV.UK

- [Coronavirus and higher education students: England, 8 January to 18 January 2021](#): Information on the behaviours, plans, opinions and well-being of higher education students in the context of guidance on the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.
- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Infection Survey: characteristics of people testing positive for COVID-19 in England, 27 January 2021](#): This release provides data about the characteristics of people testing positive for COVID-19 from the COVID-19 Infection Survey.
- [Companies House to pause voluntary and compulsory strike off processes for one month](#): Services have been temporarily paused for one month from 21 January until 21 February 2021.
- [Prime Minister's statement to the House of Commons on coronavirus: 27 January 2021](#): Prime Minister Boris Johnson made a statement to the House of Commons on the Government's measures to safeguard our United Kingdom against the new variants of Covid until we have administered enough vaccinations to free ourselves from the virus.
- [REACT-1 study of coronavirus transmission: January 2021 final results](#): Results of real-time assessment of community transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19) during January 2021. The findings will provide the government with a better understanding

of the virus's transmission and the risks associated with different population subgroups throughout England.

BBC

- [Boris Johnson to make case for united Covid response on Scotland visit](#): Prime Minister Boris Johnson is due to visit Scotland later, where he is expected to emphasise the strength of the UK working together in the fight against Covid-19.
- [Covid: UK vaccine supplies 'won't be interrupted' - Gove](#): There "will be no interruption" to UK vaccine supplies, Cabinet Office minister Michael Gove has said, after the EU urged AstraZeneca to supply it with doses from UK plants.
- [Covid: Black over-80s 'half as likely' to have been vaccinated](#): Black people over the age of 80 were half as likely as their white peers to have been vaccinated against Covid by 13 January, a large study suggests.
- [English National Opera lessons for long Covid sufferers](#): Mum of two, Sheeba, is one of the early participants of a joint venture between English National Opera and Imperial College London to help those feeling the effects of long Covid.
- [Covid: 'Virus going in right direction but not fast enough'](#): Scientists behind a study tracking coronavirus in England say there are signs of a "shallow decline" in infection levels but they remain high.
- [Covid vaccines: Misleading claims targeting ethnic minority people](#): There have been growing concerns about the uptake of Covid vaccines among black, Asian and other ethnic minority communities in the UK.

BBC Global News

- [Covid: WHO probe team in China exits Wuhan quarantine](#): A World Health Organization (WHO) team have come out of quarantine and will start on-the-ground investigations into the origins of the coronavirus in the Chinese city of Wuhan.
- [Coronavirus: EU and AstraZeneca seek to resolve vaccine supply crisis](#): The EU and the UK-based Covid vaccine maker AstraZeneca have vowed to work together to resolve a bitter row over supply shortages to the 27-member bloc.
- [Covid: Australian states to reopen to Sydney after outbreak contained](#): Two Australian states will reopen their borders to New South Wales (NSW) after it managed to control a Covid-19 outbreak in Sydney.

