

COVID-19 Suffolk Weekly Briefing

2 June 2021

Summary

- On 17 May 2021, England moved to step three of the government's four-step roadmap out of lockdown. The national COVID-19 alert tiers remain suspended at this stage.
- In the week to the 1 June 2021 there were 42 new cases of COVID-19 in Suffolk. This number has decreased compared to the previous week.
- The underlying rate of new weekly cases in Suffolk has decreased and is now at 7.5 cases per 100,000 people. This rate is now lower than the rate for the East of England region (19.5 / 100,000) and the rate for England as a whole (28.9/ 100,000).
- In total, up to the 14 May 2021, which is the latest data currently available from ONS, there have been 1,576 deaths in Suffolk where COVID-19 was recorded on the death certificate. There have been 9 COVID-19 related deaths in the last 7 days up to 14 May.
- The estimated 'R' value for the East of England is between 0.9-1.1. Both these values have increased compared to the previous week. The estimated 'R' value for England as a whole has increased slightly this week (1.0-1.1). Any R value greater than 1 means the epidemic may no longer be decreasing.

National alert levels

On 17 May 2021, England moved to step two of the government's four-step roadmap out of lockdown. The national COVID-19 alert tiers remain suspended at this stage.

Weekly cases and rates

In the week to 1 June 2021 there were **42** new cases of COVID-19 in Suffolk. This number has decreased compared to 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 **7.5** cases per 100,000 people. This case rate has decreased compared to the previous week. This rate is lower than the rate for the East of England region (19.5 / 100,000) and the rate for England as a whole (28.9/ 100,000).

In the last week of reported data up to 1 June there have been 4 cases in Babergh, 16 cases in East Suffolk, 7 cases in Ipswich, 16 cases in Mid Suffolk and 9 cases in West Suffolk. Cases have decreased all areas except East Suffolk this week.

Total cases and rates

As of the 19 May 2021 there have been **30,626** total cases of COVID-19 in Suffolk, with an overall rate of 4,023 cases per 100,000 population. This is lower than the overall rate for the East of England (6,314 / 100,000) and for England as a whole (6,962 / 100,000).

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

Regional R Value as at 27 May 2021		
Region	R value	Growth rate % per day
South East*	0.8 to 1.0	-3 to 0
East of England	0.9 to 1.1	-1 to 3
London	1.0 to 1.2	0 to 3
Midlands	0.9 to 1.0	-2 to 1
North East and Yorkshire	0.8 to 1.0	-3 to 0
North West	1.0 to 1.2	0 to 4
South West	0.9 to 1.1	-1 to 3
England	1.0 to 1.1	0 to 3

Death Registrations to 14 May 2021

In Suffolk, recorded in the most recent currently available data to the 14 May 2021 (an update to this has been delayed due to the bank holiday), there have been **1,576** deaths which mention COVID-19 on the death certificate in total. There have been **9** 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

As of the 15 March 2021 Suffolk's Public Health Team has taken on responsibility for all contact tracing for new cases in Suffolk. Currently there are ongoing problems with the national reporting of contact tracing data, which are limiting our ability to provide full comparative reporting. Our local Suffolk data says that in the last 7 days the Suffolk Contact and Trace team have dealt with 39 cases with a success rate of 97%. 85% of these cases were reached within the first or second call attempts. On average contact tracing is completed within 12 hours of Suffolk being notified of a case through the Contact Tracing System.