

COVID-19 Suffolk Weekly Briefing

19 May 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 19 May 2021 there were 112 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 increased and is now at 12.7 cases per 100,000 people. This rate is now lower than the rate for the East of England region (17.9 / 100,000) and the rate for England as a whole (21.2/ 100,000).

In total, up to 7 May 2021, which is the latest data currently available from ONS, there have been 1,567 deaths in Suffolk where COVID-19 was recorded on the death certificate. There have been 2 COVID-19 related deaths in the last 7 days up to 30 April.

The estimated 'R' value for the East of England is between 0.8 and 1.1. Both these values have remained the same compared to the previous week. The estimated 'R' value for England as a whole has increased slightly this week (0.8– 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 the 19 May 2021 there were **112** 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 **12.7** 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 (17.9 / 100,000) and the rate for England as a whole (21.2/ 100,000).

In the last week of reported data up to 19 May there have been 8 cases in Babergh, 25 cases in East Suffolk, 22 cases in Ipswich, 18 cases in Mid Suffolk and 39 cases in West Suffolk. Cases have decreased all areas except Ipswich, where they remained the same, and Mid Suffolk, where they increased by 1 case.

Total cases and rates

As of 19 May 2021 there have been **30,520** total cases of COVID-19 in Suffolk, with an overall rates of 4,008 cases per 100,000 population. This is lower than the overall rate for the East of England (6,275 / 100,000) and for England as a whole (6,905 / 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 | 17 May 2021 | |
|--------------------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| Region | R value | Growth rate % per day |
| East of England | 0.8 to 1.1 | -5 to 1 |
| London | 0.8 to 1.0 | -4 to 0 |
| Midlands | 0.8 to 1.0 | -3 to 0 |
| North East and Yorkshire | 0.8 to 1.0 | -4 to 0 |
| North West | 0.8 to 1.1 | -3 to 2 |
| South East | 0.8 to 1.0 | -5 to -1 |
| South West | 0.8 to 1.1 | -4 to 1 |
| England | 0.8 to 1.1 | -3 to 1 |

Death Registrations to 7 May 2021

In Suffolk, recorded in the most recent currently available data to the 7 May 2021, there have been **1,567** deaths which mention COVID-19 on the death certificate in total. There have been **2** 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 15 March 2021 Suffolk's Public Health Team has taken on responsibility for all contact tracing for new cases in Suffolk. Currently there are problems with the national reporting of contact tracing data, and the data has not been updated since last week. Therefore, in the data as of 5 May, 96.2% of the cases dealt with by the Suffolk team in the last week had completed the test and trace process, with 90.0% of all Suffolk cases having completed test and trace since the programme began. 84.2% of Suffolk contacts of cases had completed the test and trace process in the last week of data, with 87.2% of all Suffolk contacts of cases having completed the test and trace process since the programme began. All these numbers are higher than or similar to the East of England and England averages.