

COVID-19 Suffolk Weekly Briefing

21 July 2021

Summary

- On Monday 19th July 2021, England moved to stage four of the road map out of lockdown, with an end to most restrictions and social distancing requirements.
- In the week to the 20 July 2021 there were 2,139 new cases of COVID-19 in Suffolk. This number has increased compared to the previous week.
- The underlying rate of new weekly cases in Suffolk has increased and is now at 217.8 cases per 100,000 people. This rate is lower than the rate for the East of England region (375.0/100,000) and the rate for England as a whole (473.5/ 100,000).
- In total, up to the 9 July 2021, which is the latest data currently available from ONS, there have been 1,582 deaths in Suffolk where COVID-19 was recorded on the death certificate. There has been 1 COVID-19 related death in the last 7 days up to 9 July.
- The estimated 'R' value for the East of England is between 1.2 -1.5, which is slightly higher than the previous week. The estimated 'R' value for England has decreased very slightly this week (1.2-1.4). Any R value greater than 1 means the epidemic is increasing.

Alert Levels

As of 19 July 2021, England moved to stage four of the road map out of lockdown. Most national Covid restrictions have been lifted, with an end to social distancing requirements in most places, however face coverings continue to be recommended in crowded and enclosed spaces.

Weekly cases and rates

In the week to 20 July 2021 there were **2,139** new cases of COVID-19 in Suffolk. This number has increased 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 **217.8** cases per 100,000 people. This case rate has increased compared to the previous week. This rate is lower than the rate for the East of England region (375/100,000) and the rate for England as a whole (473.5/100,000).

In the last week of reported data up to 20 July there have been 406 cases in Babergh, 397 cases in Ipswich, 622 cases in East Suffolk, 458 cases in West Suffolk and 256 cases in Mid Suffolk. Case numbers have increased in all areas this week.

Total cases and rates

As of 20 July 2021 there have been **34,937** total cases of COVID-19 in Suffolk, with an overall rate of 4,589 cases per 100,000 population. This is lower than the overall rate for the East of England (7,391/ 100,000) and for England as a whole (8,550/ 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 19 July 2021 | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------|-----------------------|
| Region | R value | Growth rate % per day |
| East of England | 1.2 to 1.5 | 4 to 8 |
| London | 1.2 to 1.4 | 3 to 6 |
| Midlands | 1.3 to 1.5 | 5 to 8 |
| North East and Yorkshire | 1.2 to 1.6 | 5 to 9 |
| North West | 1.0 to 1.3 | 1 to 5 |
| South East | 1.3 to 1.6 | 5 to 8 |
| South West | 1.2 to 1.5 | 4 to 8 |
| England | 1.2 to 1.4 | 4 to 7 |

Death Registrations to 9 July 2021

In Suffolk, up to the 9 July 2021, there have been **1,582** deaths which mention COVID-19 on the death certificate in total. There has been **1** COVID-19 death in the most recent week of data. In the last week, deaths due to causes other than COVID-19 have occurred at a higher 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. In Suffolk in the week up to 20 July, 70.7% of cases were successfully contact traced and during the pandemic as a whole 89.1% of cases have been successfully contact traced. These metrics are similar to the East of England (67.8% in the last week and 88.6% for the pandemic as a whole) and England averages (74.7% in the last week and 86.5% for the pandemic as a whole).

For contacts of cases, in the last 7 days to 20 July, 97.2% of contacts in Suffolk had been successfully contact traced, and during the pandemic as a whole 93.3% of contacts have been successfully contact traced. These numbers are slightly higher than the East of England (97.0% in the last week and 92.5% for the pandemic as a whole) and England averages (97.0% in the last week and 88.7% for the pandemic as a whole).