

COVID-19 Suffolk Weekly Briefing

23 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 23 June 2021 there were 156 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 20.1 cases per 100,000 people. This rate is lower than the rate for the East of England region (42.6 / 100,000) and the rate for England as a whole (94.6/ 100,000).
- In total, up to the 11 June 2021, which is the latest data currently available 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 last 7 days up to 11 June.
- The estimated 'R' value for the East of England is between 1.1 -1.3. Both these values have increased compared to the previous week. The estimated 'R' value for England as a whole has also increased this week (1.2-1.4). 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 three 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 23 June 2021 there were **156** 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 **20.1** 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 (42.6/ 100,000) and the rate for England as a whole (94.6/100,000).

In the last week of reported data up to 16 June there have been 30 cases in Babergh, 34 cases in East Suffolk, 32 cases in Ipswich, 21 cases in Mid Suffolk and 39 cases in West Suffolk. Cases have increased all areas this week.

Total cases and rates

As of the 23 June 2021 there have been **30,973** total cases of COVID-19 in Suffolk, with an overall rate of 4,068 cases per 100,000 population. This is lower than the overall rate for the East of England (6,426 / 100,000) and for England as a whole (7,202 / 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 21 June 2021		
Region	R value	Growth rate % per day
East of England	1.1 to 1.3	1 to 5
London	1.1 to 1.4	2 to 6
Midlands	1.0 to 1.3	2 to 6
North East and Yorkshire	1.0 to 1.3	1 to 6
North West	1.3 to 1.5	5 to 8
South East	1.0 to 1.3	1 to 5
South West	1.0 to 1.5	1 to 9
England	1.2 to 1.4	3 to 6

Death Registrations to 11 June 2021

In Suffolk, up to 11 June 2021, there have been **1,581** deaths which mention COVID-19 on the death certificate in total. 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

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 the 23 of June, 95.1% of cases were successfully contact traced and during the pandemic as a whole 90.1% of cases have been successfully contact traced. Both these metrics are higher than the East of England (79.3% in the last week and 89.8% for the pandemic as a whole) and England averages (78.9% in the last week and 87.1% for the pandemic as a whole). For contacts of cases, in the last 7 days to the 23 June, 92.3% of contacts in Suffolk had been successfully contact traced, and during the pandemic as a whole 92.8% of contacts have been successfully contact traced. These numbers are similar to the East of England (93.8% in the last week and 91.9% for the pandemic as a whole) and England averages (94.1% in the last week and 87.2% for the pandemic as a whole).