

Please remember to **STAY ALERT, CONTROL THE VIRUS, SAVE LIVES**

SCC STATEMENT 19th AUGUST 2020

With best wishes,

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Current UK Alert Level: 3

On 19/06/2020 update from the UK Chief Medical Officers on the UK alert level confirmed that the UK COVID-19 alert level has been lowered from risk level 4 to risk level 3. It does not mean that the pandemic is over. The virus is still in general circulation, and localised outbreaks are likely to occur. Therefore, we all need to follow current infection prevention guidance and messages.

Please note the Government's messaging is '*stay alert, control the virus, save lives*' (previously '*stay at home, protect the NHS, save lives*')

COVID Alert Levels	
Level	Description
5	As level 4 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

HM Government

STAY ALERT | CONTROL THE VIRUS | SAVE LIVES

Current UK Situation

1. **As of 6:22pm on 18th August: 320,286 people have tested positive for COVID-19 in the UK (pillar 1 and pillar 2 testing). Of those who tested positive for COVID-19 in the UK, 41,381 have died (within 28 days of positive test) across all settings.** You can view the latest UK dashboard and cases by local authority [here](#).
2. Confirmed cases in Suffolk are broken down by Districts & Boroughs as follows.
3. 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 this 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.
4. **Compared to the previous briefing (17 August 2020) the cumulative number of cases has increased by 7. All 7 cases were added in the past 2 weeks.** These numbers are depicted in the two additional columns shaded in grey below.

			These columns may help in interpreting the data, they will only be calculated for Suffolk.	
Area	Cumulative cases	Rate per 100,000 residents (2019 mid-year estimates)	New or removed cases added since previous briefing:	Are these added cases more than 2 weeks old?
Ipswich	722	527.3 per 100,000 residents	3 on 16.08.2020	No
East Suffolk	899	360.6 per 100,000 residents	2 on 14.08.2020	No
Mid Suffolk	339	326.3 per 100,000 residents	1 on 13.08.2020	No
Babergh	276	299.9 per 100,000 residents	0	No
West Suffolk	513	286.5 per 100,000 residents	1 on 15.08.2020	No
Suffolk	2,749	361.1 per 100,000 residents	7	No
East of England	25,711	412.3 per 100,000 residents		
England	276,809	491.8 per 100,000 residents		

COVID-19 related news from [GOV.UK](#)

1. [Huge boost to national testing study will offer new COVID-19 insights](#): Infection survey to expand from testing 28,000 people per fortnight to 150,000 by October.
2. [Nail bars, salons and some outdoor venues to reopen in Leicester](#): In collaboration with local leaders, the Health Secretary Matt Hancock has agreed to ease certain restrictions in Leicester.
3. [The future of public health](#): Health and Social Care Secretary Matt Hancock spoke at Policy Exchange about the future of public health.
4. [Government creates new National Institute for Health Protection](#): A brand new organisation whose primary focus is public health protection and infectious disease capability is being established by the government.

Other COVID-related news

COVID-19 related publications:

1. [How will COVID-19 affect the coming flu season? Scientists struggle for clues](#): Fearing that a combination of seasonal influenza and COVID-19 will overwhelm hospitals, many countries are stepping up campaigns to increase flu vaccination.

BBC Health:

1. [Coronavirus smell loss 'different from cold and flu'](#): The loss of smell that can accompany coronavirus is unique and different from that experienced by someone with a bad cold or flu, say European researchers who have studied the experiences of patients.
2. [Depression doubles during coronavirus pandemic](#): Twice as many adults in Britain are reporting symptoms of depression now compared with this time last year, Office for National Statistics figures suggest.

BBC Global News:

1. [South Korea tightens Covid-19 curbs amid warning of new 'crisis'](#): Museums, nightclubs and karaoke bars have closed in and around South Korea's capital, Seoul, as Covid-19 cases reach a five-month high.
2. [Coronavirus: France to make face masks mandatory in most workplaces](#): France is to make face masks compulsory in most workplaces as it grapples with a resurgence in coronavirus cases.
3. [Coronavirus: How many Covid-19 deaths is India missing?](#): India has registered more than 50,000 Covid-19 deaths, overtaking the UK to become the fourth-worst-affected country for fatalities. But the number of deaths per million people stands at 34 - far lower than what has been reported in Europe or North America.
4. [Coronavirus: Ireland at 'tipping point' as Covid-19 cases rise](#): The Republic of Ireland's cabinet has reversed some of its lockdown relaxation measures as it attempts to deal with rising Covid-19 case numbers.
5. [BBC live global updates](#):

1. Australia says it has secured access to a promising coronavirus vaccine and will offer free doses. The country's PM Scott Morrison backtracks after saying the vaccine should be "as mandatory as you can possibly make it". The vaccine, being developed by AstraZeneca and Oxford University, is in advanced clinical trials.

1. South Korea's capital Seoul closes museums, nightclubs and karaoke bars after cases spike

2. US stocks hit a new high after the coronavirus crash despite continuing worries about the economic impact

3. Ministers in England are under pressure to lift limits on the numbers studying medicine at university after the school exam grading system was changed

Suffolk

Cllr Hicks Column: In this week's column Cllr Matthew Hicks talks about Covid-19 in Suffolk and why we are managing to keep the spread relatively low. [Click here](#) to read the article.

Key National Guidance updates

	Title	Who For	Comments
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NEW	The Exercise of Commissioning Functions by the NHS Commissioning Board (Coronavirus) (No 2) Directions 2020	National Health Service Commissioning Board	These directions replace those published on 20 April and set out the exercise of functions for NHSE England to support the provision of services by the NHS to address the coronavirus (COVID-19) emergency.
UPDATED	Coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance on the phased return of sport and recreation	UK public, providers of outdoor sport facilities, elite athletes, personal trainers and coaches	Spectator guidance added and updated
UPDATED	COVID-19: guidance on shielding and protecting people defined on medical grounds as extremely vulnerable	Shielding and protecting people defined on medical grounds as extremely vulnerable from COVID-19	Added new guidance for young people who are clinically extremely vulnerable and have been shielding.
UPDATED	Coronavirus (COVID-19): courts and tribunals planning and preparation	All court and tribunal users during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak	Guidance for witnesses providing evidence during coronavirus updated.
UPDATED	COVID-19: guidance on shielding and protecting people defined on medical grounds as extremely vulnerable	Staff and patients/residents in health and social care settings	Updates made to section 4 to include guidance on when health and social care staff can be exempt from being considered a contact for the purposes of Test and Trace.

Useful Websites

	Title	Who For	Comments
1	<u>NHS – Your COVID Recovery</u>	General Public	Your COVID Recovery helps you to understand what has happened and what you might expect as part of your recovery.
2	<u>NHS - COVID-19 go-to page</u>	General Public	
3	<u>GOV.UK – COVID-19 homepage</u>	Main cover webpage for all government guidance for public & professionals alike	
4	<u>Coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance</u>	Main collection of guidance for anyone in any setting	Guidance includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Guidance for the public (incl. social distancing and shielding)- Guidance for non-clinical settings (incl. cleaning, educational settings, employees, employers, businesses, residential care, supported living and home care)- Guidance for health professionals- Infection prevention and control (incl. PPE)- Sampling and diagnostics
5	<u>Heatwave Plan for England</u>	Professionals	
6	Mental health support and advice from:	General public, staff and carers	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · WHO · mentalhealth.org.uk · Ipswich & East CCG · Living Life To The Full · NHS Practitioner Wellbeing · Samaritans 		
7	<p>Chronic disease self- care during COVID-19:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Asthma 2. Diabetes 	General public	
8	European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) COVID-19 homepage	Professionals	
9	Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker	Professionals	The tracker compares worldwide government responses to the coronavirus rigorously and consistently. The Oxford team collects information on common policy responses, scores the stringency of such measures, and aggregates these into a Stringency Index.

Local Resources:

Below are any local resources that would be relevant to Suffolk County Council and our partners.

Title	Who For	Comments
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Public Health Suffolk's <u>COVID19 RADAR</u> (Research Action Digest And Review)	Professionals	Weekly summary of COVID-19 related research evidence that is relevant to the Suffolk system, makes recommendations for consideration, and aims to ensure research evidence is rapidly disseminated and turned into local action.
Public Health Suffolk's <u>Coronawatch Dashboard</u>	Everyone	Access to national and local data including confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19), deaths from coronavirus, Care home outbreaks and Google social mobility data from the dashboard along with a series of briefings which have been produced on related topics, all from publicly available sources.
<u>Mobile Testing Units in Suffolk</u>	Everyone	It is important that anyone with coronavirus symptoms gets tested. Mobile testing units are mobilised by the Ministry of Defence and regularly appear across Suffolk. Please share details of the testing sites with your local community – see under Where can I get tested in Suffolk?
<u>Support from the Suffolk Growth Programme Board (SGPB)</u>	Everyone	SGPB is a partnership of all Suffolk local authorities, Suffolk Chamber of Commerce, University of Suffolk and New Anglia LEP. In Suffolk our Economy & business recovery work for COVID-19 is being led by SGPB and the website includes links to funding / surveys / economic impact work. Please do pass this information on to your contacts.
<u>Suffolk Domestic Abuse 24/7 Helpline – Freephone 0800 977 5690</u>	Everyone	The freephone number is live from 9am on Friday 22nd May 2020 for anyone with concerns including professionals who may be supporting clients as well as friends and family members who are concerned for loved ones.
<u>New Anglia: Employment Opportunities in Key</u>	Individuals and	The New Anglia LEP - alongside other partners including local authorities - have

<u>Sectors in Norfolk and Suffolk</u>	Businesses wanting to know what employment opportunities are available in some of our key sectors	pulled together lists and links to key employment roles needed now as part of the response to the current crisis.
<u>Suffolk Safeguarding Partnership</u>	Everyone	The website aims to help everyone understand the signs of neglect or abuse and what to do if they are worried about a child or an adult.
<u>NEW ANGLIA GROWTH HUB</u>	Businesses needing support	A one stop shop source of information for government support and guidance available to businesses including 121 business advice sources of business grants and loans.
<u>Healthy Suffolk: COVID-19 Emotional Wellbeing, Mental Health and Learning Disabilities Information Hub</u>	Everyone	This page contains links to a wealth of resources and support for your health and wellbeing.
<u>Suffolk County Council: Coronavirus information</u>	Everyone	Suffolk County Council coronavirus (COVID-19) information, including health advice, service changes, business support and schools guidance.
<u>Keep Moving Suffolk</u>	Everyone	The website contains free resources, ideas, tips, useful links and positive stories to encourage people to stay active during these unprecedented times. The website and our social channels will be constantly updated.

Global: WHO Weekly Epidemiological Update – reports available [here](#)

1. [WHO Covid-19 Dashboard](#) for professionals using near real time data.
2. [GOARN COVID-19 Knowledge hub](#) - central repository of quality public health information, guidance, tools and webinars which can be accessed freely at any point.

Situation in Numbers WHO Weekly Epidemiological Update - 1

Table 1. Number of COVID-19 confirmed cases and deaths reported in the last seven days, by WHO Region, data as of 16 August 2020**

WHO Region	New cases in last seven days (%)	Percentage change in new cases in last 7 days*	Cumulative cases (%)	New deaths in last seven days (%)	Percentage change in new deaths in last seven days*	Cumulative deaths (%)
Americas	973 599 (53%)	<1%	11 420 860 (54%)	29 250 (75%)	13%	414 326 (54%)
South-East Asia	474 368 (26%)	9%	3 040 168 (14%)	7 306 (19%)	9%	59 875 (8%)
Europe	180 196 (10%)	<1%	3 754 649 (18%)	- 2 728 (-7%)	-187%	214 092 (28%)
Africa	60 175 (3%)	-27%	945 165 (4%)	2 073 (5%)	-21%	18 476 (2%)
Eastern Mediterranean	88 733 (5%)	10%	1 723 673 (8%)	2 624 (7%)	-3%	45 704 (6%)
Western Pacific	43 984 (2%)	-5%	409 589 (2%)	575 (1%)	90%	9 293 (1%)
Global	1 821 055	1%	21 294 845	39 100	-6%	761 779

*Percent change in the number of newly confirmed cases/deaths in past seven days, compared to seven days prior. All percentages rounded to the nearest integer.

**See [data](#), [table](#) and [figure notes](#).