

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

**SCC BULLETIN 04/09/2020**

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*')

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

 

### Current UK Situation

- As of 4:00pm on 3<sup>rd</sup> September: 340,411 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, 41,527 have died (within 28 days of positive test) across all settings. You can view the latest UK dashboard and cases by local authority [here](#).
- Confirmed cases in Suffolk are broken down by Districts & Boroughs as follows.
- 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.

- **There remains an issue with the data download from the national site, we anticipate this should be resolved shortly. However, we cannot currently provide robust comparisons to previous case numbers, therefore these columns have been temporarily removed.**

Area	Cumulative cases	Rate per 100,000 residents (2019 mid-year estimates)
Ipswich	734	536.1 per 100,000 residents
East Suffolk	914	366.4 per 100,000 residents
Mid Suffolk	354	340.7 per 100,000 residents
Babergh	285	309.7 per 100,000 residents
West Suffolk	536	299.4 per 100,000 residents
Suffolk	2,823	370.8 per 100,000 residents
East of England	26,971	432.5 per 100,000 residents
England	293,925	522.2 per 100,000 residents

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

- [Letter from PHE and NHS Test and Trace to school and college leaders](#): The Medical Director of Public Health England and Chief Medical Adviser of NHS Test and Trace have written to school and college leaders regarding coronavirus testing and shielding.
- [New Lighthouse Lab to boost NHS Test and Trace capacity](#): Lab capacity to continue to increase ahead of winter, with a new Lighthouse Lab set to open near Loughborough by the end of September.

### **Other COVID-related news**

BBC Health:

- [Coronavirus: Testing boss 'very sorry' for shortages](#): Some people are being asked to travel hundreds of miles to get tested. UK labs were described as "maxed out" after a rise in demand - 170,000 tests a day are being processed, up from 100,000 in mid June.
- [Coronavirus: Cheap steroids save lives from severe Covid](#): The findings confirm the results of an earlier trial, which has already led to steroids being used widely for Covid patients in intensive care.
- [Coronavirus quarantine rules: Differences across UK 'confusing', Grant Shapps says](#): The transport secretary acknowledged people's frustrations, as Scotland and Wales asked arrivals from Portugal and parts of Greece to isolate, but England and Northern Ireland held off.

BBC Global News:

- [France in huge coronavirus recovery plan focusing on green energy](#): France has unveiled a 100bn-euro (£89bn) economic stimulus package to help repair the economic damage caused by coronavirus. President Emmanuel Macron's government said the investment would include big spending on green energy and transport.
- [Coronavirus: Is the rate of growth in Africa slowing down?](#): The number of new daily confirmed cases overall has been dropping, although some countries are still seeing a rise in cases.
- [Coronavirus: Italy ex-PM Silvio Berlusconi in hospital](#): Italy's former prime minister Silvio Berlusconi, aged 83, has spent a night in hospital in Milan for checks after testing positive for the coronavirus.
- [BBC live global updates](#):
  - Doctor with 'long Covid' calls for more research
  - 'Pivotal moment' as infection rate rises in Leeds
  - UK chancellor hails eating out scheme 'a success'
  - New Zealand sees first Covid-related death since May
  - Face masks: How to wear a covering and inhibit coronavirus

## Suffolk

**Coronavirus cases in care homes:** In line with government guidelines are reporting weekly on the number of outbreaks within Suffolk care home settings, that Suffolk County Council has been made aware of. An outbreak is classed as a care home with two or more cases. These figures are listed on area basis and will not include the details of any specific care homes. These figures include care homes, extra care housing and supported housing. As a notifiable disease, care homes are required to report any potential or confirmed cases of Coronavirus to Public Health England (PHE) in order that this can be captured as part of the national reporting processes and also for PHE to provide advice and guidance on infection control. Care providers are under no obligation to report suspected or confirmed cases to the county council.

<b>Care providers with outbreaks</b>			
	18/08/2020	25/08/2020	01/08/2020
Ipswich and East Suffolk	5	4	3
West Suffolk	2	0	2
Waveney	0	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>

<b>Number of deaths involving COVID-19 occurring in care homes during the period 10 April - 28 August 2020.</b>														
	17.07.20	Change from last week	24.07.20	Change from last week	31.07.20	Change from last week	07.08.20	Change from last week	14.08.20	Change from last week	21.08.20	Change from last week	28.08.20	Change from last week
<b>Suffolk</b>	194	1+	194	0+	194	0+	195	1+	195	1+	195	0+	195	0+
<b>Norfolk</b>	151	0+	151	0+	151	0+	152	1+	152	1+	153	1+	153	0+
<b>Camb.+ Peterborough</b>	157	1+	157	0+	157	0+	157	0+	158	0+	160	2+	160	0+
<b>Essex</b>	293	2+	293	0+	293	0+	294	1+	295	1+	295	0+	295	0+
<b>Hertfordshire</b>	318	5+	320	1+	322	2+	322	0+	323	0+	324	1+	324	0+

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/datasets/numberofdeathsincarehomesnotifiedtothecarequalitycommissionengland/2020>

In Suffolk we are continuing to see a higher percentage of Covid-19 related deaths within care homes compared to some other areas. The reasons for this are complex, but factors we think are contributing to this are more people choosing to die in their usual place of residence and

the high number of nursing beds that we have within care homes. These provide care for people with complex care needs who may be coming towards the end of their life and in Suffolk we have very good practices for providing end of life care.

What we are seeing is while Suffolk has a higher percentage of Covid-19 related deaths within care homes compared with some other areas, we also have a lower percentage of Covid-19 related deaths within hospitals than some other areas.

Dying within a care home setting is often reflective of a person's wish to remain in their usual place of residence, in comfortable surroundings with people around them who are familiar, as opposed to being within a hospital setting.

Suffolk's care homes continue to care for residents with the utmost professionalism and kindness. They are following national guidance regarding social distancing, hygiene standards and the correct use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Testing is available for all care homes, for the entire home including staff and residents who are not displaying any symptoms. With more testing taking place, infection control and prevention measures can be more effective

### **Key National Guidance updates**

	Title	Who For	Comments
<b>UPDATED</b>	<a href="#">NHS Test and Trace statistics (England): methodology</a>	Everyone	Updated to include more detail about coronavirus (COVID-19) testing in the UK.

### **Useful Websites**

	Title	Who For	Comments
1	<a href="#">NHS – Your COVID Recovery</a>	General Public	Your COVID Recovery helps you to understand what has happened and what you might expect as part of your recovery.
2	<a href="#">NHS - COVID-19 go-to page</a>	General Public	
3	<a href="#">GOV.UK – COVID-19 homepage</a>	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: - 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	Mental health support and advice from:  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· <u>WHO</u></li> <li>· <u>mentalhealth.org.uk</u></li> <li>· <u>Ipswich &amp; East CCG</u></li> <li>· <u>Living Life To The Full</u></li> <li>· <u>NHS Practitioner Wellbeing</u></li> <li>· <u>Samaritans</u></li> </ul>	General public, staff and carers	
6	Chronic disease self- care	General public	

	during COVID-19: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Asthma</u></li> <li>• <u>Diabetes</u></li> </ul>		
7	<u>European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) COVID-19 homepage</u>	Professionals	
8	<u>Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker</u>	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.

	<b>Title</b>	<b>Who For</b>	<b>Comments</b>
	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 <b>Where can I get tested in Suffolk?</b>
<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 Sectors in Norfolk and Suffolk</u>	Individuals and Businesses wanting to know what employment opportunities are available in some of our key sectors	The New Anglia LEP - alongside other partners including local authorities - have 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.
	<a href="#"><u>Healthy Suffolk: COVID-19 Emotional Wellbeing, Mental Health and Learning Disabilities Information Hub</u></a>	Everyone	This page contains links to a wealth of resources and support for your health and wellbeing.
	<a href="#"><u>Suffolk County Council: Coronavirus information</u></a>	Everyone	Suffolk County Council coronavirus (COVID-19) information, including health advice, service changes, business support and schools guidance.
	<a href="#"><u>Keep Moving Suffolk</u></a>	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](#)

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

**Table 1. Newly reported and cumulative COVID-19 confirmed cases and deaths, by WHO Region, data as of 30 August 2020\*\***

WHO Region	New cases in last 7 days (%)	Change in new cases in last 7 days	Cumulative cases (%)	New deaths in last 7 days (%)	Change in new deaths in last 7 days*	Cumulative deaths (%)
Americas	854 959 (48%)	-1%	13 138 912 (53%)	23 178 (61%)	-4%	461 754 (55%)
South-East Asia	539 341 (30%)	9%	4 073 148 (16%)	7 821 (21%)	3%	75 276 (9%)
Europe	220 777 (12%)	5%	4 205 708 (17%)	2 723 (7%)	12%	219 131 (26%)
Africa	44 134 (2%)	-20%	1 044 513 (4%)	1 401 (4%)	-24%	21 722 (3%)
Eastern Mediterranean	87 340 (5%)	-6%	1 903 547 (8%)	2 273 (6%)	-9%	50 466 (6%)
Western Pacific	36 260 (2%)	-13%	487 571 (2%)	692 (2%)	20%	10 562 (1%)
<sup>†</sup> Other	-	-	741 (0%)	-	-	13 (0%)
<b>Global</b>	<b>1 782 811 (100%)</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>24 854 140 (100%)</b>	<b>38 088 (100%)</b>	<b>-3%</b>	<b>838 924 (100%)</b>

\*Percent change in the number of newly confirmed cases/deaths in past seven days, compared to seven days prior.

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