

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

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.

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



STAY ALERT · CONTROL THE VIRUS · SAVE LIVES

Current UK Situation

As of 9am 7 July, 285,768 people have tested positive for COVID-19 in the UK (pillar 1 and pillar 2 testing). As of 5pm 6 July, of those tested positive for coronavirus in the UK, 44,236 have died 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 – **please note that these case numbers and the rates per 100,000 population cannot be compared with the case numbers and rates given in previous bulletins.** 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 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. 2 new cases have been added compared to the previous briefing one located in Ipswich and one in East Suffolk.**

Ipswich	693	503.9 per 100,000 residents
East Suffolk	864	348.0 per 100,000 residents
Mid Suffolk	323	315.1 per 100,000 residents
Babergh	259	283.4 per 100,000 residents
West Suffolk	474	265.0 per 100,000 residents
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Suffolk	2,613	344.5 per 100,000 residents
East of England	23,371	376.9 per 100,000 residents
England	245,814	439.1 per 100,000 residents

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

- [Coronavirus outbreak FAQs: what you can and can't do after 4 July](#): This is a updated collection of FAQs and answers in relation to the easing of lockdown rules in England. For those who live in an area with a local outbreak they will have to follow local guidance.
- [NHS Test and Trace contacts more than 130,000 people](#): Statistics are now available, which cover the fourth week of operation (18 to 24 June) and were published on Thursday 2 July. The data this far demonstrates that in one month of operation, more than 130,000 people who may have been at risk of unknowingly spreading the virus have been reached by the service and asked to self-isolate. Testing turnaround times, showing the speed at which tests are returned will now be included in weekly statistics on NHS Test and Trace. Data from 28 May to 24 June shows significant improvements in the time it takes to deliver results, with tests at drive-through and mobile testing sites delivering the fastest results.
- [Travel corridors](#): From 10 July 2020, unless they have visited or transited through any non-exempt country or territory in the preceding 14 days, passengers arriving from the following countries and territories will not be required to self-isolate on arrival in England: Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba , Australia, Austria, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Bonaire, St Eustatius and Saba, Croatia, Curaçao, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominica, Faroe Islands, Fiji, Finland, France, French Polynesia, Germany, Greece, Greenland, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Hong Kong, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macao (Macau), Malta, Mauritius, Monaco, the Netherlands, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Reunion, San Marino, Serbia, Seychelles, South Korea, Spain, St Barthélemy, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Pierre and Miquelon, Switzerland, Taiwan, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Vatican City State, Vietnam (Ireland is already exempt as part of the common travel area, as are the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man.)
- [The UK's international Ambassador for Human Rights, Rita French delivered a statement during the interactive dialogue with the UN Working Group on Discrimination Against Women](#): The United Kingdom commends the work of the Working Group on Discrimination Against Women and Girls on protecting women's human rights in the changing world of work. When women have access to opportunities for economic participation, the benefits extend far beyond individual girls and women to societies and economies. Therefore, the imperative now should be to make women's economic empowerment and women's rights, including comprehensive sexual and reproductive health and rights, central to the global COVID-19 recovery.

Other COVID-19 related news

- [BBC: Boris Johnson criticised over 'cowardly' care home comments regarding coronavirus:](#) Boris Johnson has been criticised for saying "too many care homes didn't really follow the procedures" during the coronavirus outbreak. He said this while responding to the head of NHS England's call for reform within social care within a year. Mark Adams, CEO of Charity Community Integrated Care, told the BBC the PM's comments were "cowardly". Business Secretary Alok Sharma told BBC Breakfast "No-one is suggesting care homes have not done a great job under really difficult circumstances". He said what the PM was pointing out was that "Nobody at the time knew what the correct procedures were" because of a lack of understanding of levels of asymptomatic transmission and that is why "detailed guidance" was put in place for care homes to follow.
- [BBC News: Pubs close after positive tests:](#) At least three establishments announced they had shut their doors again just days after reopening at the weekend. The affected pubs announced their closures via Facebook. These include the The Lighthouse Kitchen and Carvery in Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset, the Fox and Hound in Batley, West-Yorkshire and the Village Home Pub in Alverstoke, Hampshire.
- [BBC News: Wear masks in crowded public spaces, says Science body:](#) Professor Sir Venki Ramakrishnan, president of the Royal Society, said face coverings should be worn "whenever you are in crowded public spaces". He added that there was evidence that they protected both the wearer and those around them. He states the UK was "way behind" many countries in its usage of masks. Current guidance on face coverings varies across the UK, but Public Health England previously said they did not need to be worn outdoors..
- [BBC News Can Rishi Sunak save your job? What the chancellor may be considering:](#) Firstly money for training, Rishi Sunak is expected to detail the beefing up of job centres, with more work coaches and advisors. Secondly he will be trying to preserve jobs where possible, which may mean different approaches for different industries. The struggling arts and heritage sector has been promised a £1.6bn bespoke package of loans and grants. Thirdly boosting new sectors, the chancellor is expected to earmark funds to support green jobs and promote environmentally friendly home improvements. Fourthly he may consider Tax cuts.
- [BBC News: Missing the grandchildren:](#) The Duchess of Cornwall says she "Can't wait to hug her grandchildren" after only seeing them on internet calls and at a social distance since the start of lockdown. The duchess said missing her grandchildren was "the worst" and she had needed to resist her instinct to give them a hug when she saw them for the first time in more than three months.
- [BBC Global picture](#)
 - Five million residents in the Australian state of Victoria asked to return to stay at home restrictions for six weeks, following a surge in COVID-19 cases. Victoria recorded 191 new infections on Tuesday, its highest one-day figure since the beginning of the pandemic.
 - Sweden tightens social distancing in bars. New regulations requiring pubs, bars and restaurants to ensure there's at least a metre between separate groups of customers have come into force in Sweden.
 - Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro was tested again for coronavirus after showing symptoms of coronavirus. His previous test was reported as negative.

Suffolk

Pillar 1 and 2 data: In this week's column, Councillor James Reeder, Cabinet Member for Public Health has written a column about pillar 1 and 2 data what this means, and why we need to continue to stick with it Suffolk. [Click here](#) to read the column.

Bury Re-Use Shop Reopens: Suffolk County Council, FCC Environment and The Benjamin Foundation are delighted to announce that after the successful reopening of the Re-use shop at Foxhall Recycling Centre, the second Re-use shop at Bury St Edmunds will reopen on Thursday [July 9]. Sales at the shop have been going very well and donations of any suitable items can now be made at all 11 Recycling Centres. The donated items are then sold to help support local charities. For more information [click here](#)

Coronavirus cases within care home settings: SCC will be reporting weekly on the number of suspected or confirmed cases within Suffolk care home settings, that Suffolk County Council has been made aware of. Below is a table showing the number of providers affected and the number of suspected and confirmed cases since reporting began on 21/04/2020. 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.

	21/04/2020		28/04/2020		05/05/2020		12/05/2020		19/05/2020		26/05/2020	
	Provider s affected	Suspecte d and confirmed Cases	Provider s affected	Suspecte d and confirm cases								
Ipswich and East Suffolk	30	157	43	209	54	259	47	216	38	199	30	1
West Suffolk	13	61	12	78	17	113	20	115	19	82	17	
Waveney	7	47	14	76	14	64	12	86	10	71	10	
Total	50	265	69	363	85	436	79	417	67	352	57	2

The below data is sourced from the ONS data set for the number of deaths in care homes involving COVID-19 by date of notification to the Care Quality Commission, Local Authorities in England. <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/datasets/numberofdeathsincarehomesnotifiedtothecarequalitycommissionengland>

Number of deaths involving COVID-19 occurring in care homes during the period 10 April - 03 July 2020.

	29.05.20	Change from last week	05.06.20	Change from last week	12.06.20	Change from last week	19.06.20	Change from last week	26.06.20	Change from last week	03.07.20	Change from last week
Suffolk	163	11+	166	3+	171	5+	171	0	173	2+	176	3+
Norfolk	118	8+	124	6+	131	7+	132	1+	133	1+	137	4+
Cambs+ Peterborough	121	14+	128	7+	134	6+	137	3+	140	3+	140	0
Essex	220	9+	234	14+	240	6+	245	5+	248	3+	251	3+
Hertfordshire	258	7+	263	5+	266	3+	267	1+	271	4+	273	2+

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

The existing guidance is being updated extremely regularly so please check any guidance relevant to your area to ensure that you are accessing the most up to date version. We are not including in this table all the published material but some of the key guidance that would be relevant to Suffolk County Council and our partners.

	Title	Who For	Comments
NEW	Majority of children no longer need to shield	Schools, parents, GP practices	The majority of children currently shielding will not need to do so in the future (date not specified in this report but likely from August 1 when shielding restrictions are due to be lifted for all shielding individuals). Only a small group of children with certain medical conditions are likely to be advised to shield, these includes children who have received or are receiving cancer care or those at risk of severe infection due to an immunodeficiency.
NEW	Diabetic eye screening: invitation and result letter templates	Diabetics, opticians and GP practice	There is COVID-19 guidance updated, which explains that mask wearing and social distancing will be expected in all appointments for diabetic eye screening.
UPDATED	Directed letter- operational allowance interim arrangements for extraction of coronavirus positive cases	Service personal	Coronavirus positive service individuals in quarantine will be eligible for operational allowance during that time. This has been effective from 1 April 2020.

<p>UPDATED</p>	<p>COVID-19: Guidance for the safe use of council buildings</p>	<p>Councils</p>	<p>A new section on gatherings. Businesses and venues following COVID-19 Secure Guidelines can host larger groups that the maximum 30 people (the current limit for any gatherings in private homes). This is also the case for events in public outdoor spaces that are organised by businesses, charitable or political organisations, and public bodies, provided they take reasonable steps to mitigate the risk of transmission, in line with COVID-19 Secure guidance and including completion of a risk assessment.</p>
<p>UPDATED</p>	<p>Going to a court or tribunal during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak</p>	<p>Everyone</p>	<p>The court will maintain appropriate social distancing. A facemask is not advised inside court and tribunal buildings and visitors will not routinely be provided with one. If there are specific reasons why an individual will need a face-covering then they are advised to discuss the need with a member of staff on the day.</p>
<p>UPDATED</p>	<p>How to treat certain expenses and benefits provided to employees during coronavirus (COVID-19)</p>	<p>Everyone</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coronavirus testing kits and third-party tests which have been purchased by employers, should be treated as a taxable

			<p>benefit in kind on the employee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If employees are working in a situation where the risk of coronavirus transmission is very high, and the risk assessment shows that PPE is required, then PPE must be provided to employees free of charge. • The provision of PPE to employees is non-taxable for employers. If an employee requires PPE to carry out their role and an employer is unable to provide it, they must reimburse the employee of the actual expense of the PPE purchase. This is non-taxable and employees cannot claim tax relief on these expenses from HMRC.
UPDATED	Coronavirus (COVID-19): getting tested	Everyone	<p>Updates to guidance to reflect the new retesting programme for care homes, including how often staff and residents should retest. Regular testing (retesting) for care homes in England will begin from 6 July. This involves care homes testing staff weekly and residents every 28 days. Retesting will begin with care</p>

		homes for the over-65s and those with dementia. It will take 4 weeks to provide retesting to all care homes for the over-65s. Retesting will be offered to other adult care homes from early August.
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Useful Websites

	Title	Who For	Comments
1	NHS - COVID-19 go-to page	General Public	
2	GOV.UK – COVID-19 homepage	Main cover webpage for all government guidance for public & professionals alike	
3	Coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance	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
4	Heatwave Plan for England	Professionals	

5	<p>Mental health support and advice from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WHO • mentalhealth.org.uk • Ipswich & East CCG • Living Life To The Full • NHS Practitioner Wellbeing • Samaritans 	General public, staff and carers	
6	<p>Chronic disease self-care during COVID-19:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asthma • Diabetes 	General public	
7	European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) COVID-19 homepage	Professionals	
8	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
Mobile Testing Units in Suffolk	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?
Support from the Suffolk Growth Programme Board (SGPB)	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.
Suffolk Domestic Abuse 24/7 Helpline – Freephone 0800 977 5690	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.
New Anglia: Employment Opportunities in Key Sectors in Norfolk and Suffolk	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.
Suffolk Safeguarding Partnership	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.

NEW ANGLIA GROWTH HUB	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.
Healthy Suffolk: COVID-19 Emotional Wellbeing, Mental Health and Learning Disabilities Information Hub	Everyone	This page contains links to a wealth of resources and support for your health and wellbeing.
Suffolk County Council: Coronavirus information	Everyone	Suffolk County Council coronavirus (COVID-19) information, including health advice, service changes, business support and schools guidance.
Keep Moving Suffolk	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 Situation Report – 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.

Situation in Numbers WHO SitRep 168, 6 July

Total (new cases in last 24 hours)

Globally	11 125 245 cases (203 836)	528 204 deaths (5 195)
Africa	356 666 cases (14 251)	6 746 deaths (118)
Americas	5 697 954 cases (122 472)	262 538 deaths (3 444)
Eastern Mediterranean	1 153 157 cases (18 468)	27 074 deaths (555)
Europe	2 774 221 cases (16 665)	199 879 deaths (369)
South-East Asia	918 591 cases (29 859)	24 473 deaths (699)
Western Pacific	223 915 cases (2 121)	7 481 deaths (10)
