

YOUR HEALTHWATCH

(1) Share your views on the COVID-19 vaccine programme



Healthwatch are running a new survey asking for people's views, experiences, and feedback on the vaccine roll out so that we can feed this back to those in charge - it will help improve the future roll out to other groups.

As the COVID-19 vaccination programme is underway in Brighton and Hove, we at Healthwatch are keen to hear your views on the vaccine and your personal experiences of the COVID-19 vaccination process (if applicable).

Please take 10-15 minutes to tell us how you feel, and you'll have a chance to win **one of five £20 Amazon vouchers** (details in the last question).

➤ **Click this link to take the survey**

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/BtnandHoveVaccine>

“

David Liley, CEO of Healthwatch Brighton and Hove said:

The vaccine roll out has been delivered at pace and has successfully provided, or offered, the vaccine to everyone in the first 4 priority groups, providing protection and peace of mind. This has been a tremendous effort on the part of the NHS and teams of vaccinators.

Your answers will help us to understand public and patient opinion which we will share with health and care providers and decision-makers to inform and improve the vaccination process.

The vaccination programme will continue for the next 6 months at least so do please take 10 minutes to complete our survey as your views really do make a difference.

”

In addition, the NHS team running the roll out have developed a very short survey which you can access here. It is open until Friday 27th February.

https://yoursaysussexhealthandcare.uk.engagementhq.com/when-will-i-get-my-jab?tool=survey_tool#tool_tab

(2) Ask Us/Tell Us: a new Healthwatch in Sussex report



During Lockdown 2, Healthwatch in Sussex launched a ‘Tell Us - Ask Us’ campaign to encourage and support members of the public to Tell us about their experience of accessing health and care services and to ask us what they needed during this time.

Healthwatch in Sussex published a report based upon public feedback on health and care services during the second COVID-19 lockdown in November and December 2020.

Healthwatch in Sussex recognise that this report is being released at a time of extreme pressure for the NHS in Sussex due to high rates of COVID-19 infection and hospital admissions. We acknowledge all the NHS and others are doing in response and believe our report findings can contribute towards building a better health and care system for Sussex now the peak of the current crisis has passed.

During Lockdown 2, Healthwatch in Sussex launched a ‘Tell Us - Ask Us’ campaign to encourage and support members of the public to:

1. Tell us about their experience of accessing health and care services during the lockdown, including when they chose not to access a service for any reason.
2. Ask us for clarification on what they can and can't do during lockdown, including accessing health and care services where guidance is not clear or accessible.

Key themes and issues that you told us about were:

High Quality of Care	Community services: Lack of access
Lack of consistent communication	Emotional and mental wellbeing
Poor access to GP and dental services	COVID-19 Vaccinations
Outpatient Hospital Services: good care but poor communication	Care Homes and Carers: difficulties with visiting restrictions

The findings of this initiative were shared with Sussex NHS Commissioners who commented:



We would like to thank Healthwatch in Sussex for this insight. The last year has been an unprecedented time for the NHS and it has been challenging in terms of the delivery of health and care services. It is encouraging to hear what has worked well but equally important to hear where we can do more to improve the patient experience.

We will continue to work with Healthwatch in Sussex in order to demonstrate how the issues they have highlighted are already being addressed and are present in our ongoing plans to ensure that the population of Sussex continue to be able to access safe and appropriate care.



➤ You can read our Brighton and Hove report [here](#)

(3) REMINDER! Healthwatch Care Home webinar: 23rd March



Are you a relative or carer with a loved one in a care home?

If so, please join our online webinar hosted by Healthwatch East Sussex and Healthwatch Brighton & Hove and Sussex Partnership Foundation Trust:

Tuesday 23rd March 3 - 4pm

What could and should the system be doing to support relatives and carers. There will be an opportunity to join representatives from the Health and care system in a Q & A session and discussion.

The webinar is for you to hear from other family carers, contribute your thoughts and to seek answers to any burning questions that you may have.

The link below is to register for the webinar (via Eventbrite).

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/healthwatch-east-sussex-5988120465>

Please forward any question in advance of the webinar to:

elizabeth.mackie@healthwatcheastsussex.co.uk

Any media enquiries please contact: enquiries@healthwatcheastsussex.co.uk

(4) Updated guidance on seeing a dentist



We continue to hear from people who are experiencing difficulties finding an NHS dentist. Last week we received further information about additional NHS services that will be available from 27th February. We have updated our [webpage](#) and [guide for patients](#) with more information.

(5) COVID-19 vaccines / vaccinations 'Fact Check'



We have created a [Vaccine "Fact Check" webpage](#) to provide you with accurate information about COVID-19 vaccines and to help answer your questions or concerns. This sits alongside our dedicated vaccine webpage on the [Healthwatch Brighton and Hove website](#) which is being regularly updated and explains

how the vaccines are currently being rolled-out and also includes news and updates.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE UPDATES

(1) The roadmap out of the current lockdown

On 23rd February, the Prime Minister announced a phased opening up of society starting with schools re-opening on 8th March. Care homes residents will also be allowed one nominated indoor visitor from this date (see below for more information).

- For a simple guide to the key dates please [click here](#).
- For more detail [click here](#).

As we move through each of these phases in the roadmap, we must all remember that COVID-19 remains a part of our lives. We are going to have to keep living our lives differently to keep ourselves and others safe. We must carry on with 'hands, face, space'. Comply with the COVID-Secure measures that remain in place. Meet outdoors when we can and keep letting fresh air in. Get tested when needed. Get vaccinated when offered. If we all continue to play our part, we will be that bit closer to a future that is more familiar.



From 8th March, people in England will see restrictions start to lift and the government's four-step roadmap offer a route back to a more normal life.

This plan we will be guided by data, not date. For that reason, all the dates in the roadmap are indicative and subject to change.

There will be a minimum of five weeks between each step: four weeks for the scientific data to reflect the changes in restrictions and to be analysed; followed by one week's advance notice of the restrictions that will be eased.

Only when the government is sure that it is safe to move from one step to the next will the final decision be made. The decision will be based on four tests:

1. the vaccine deployment programme continues successfully.
2. evidence shows vaccines are sufficiently effective in reducing hospitalisations and deaths in those vaccinated
3. infection rates do not risk a surge in hospitalisations which would put unsustainable pressure on the NHS.
4. our assessment of the risks is not fundamentally changed by new Variants of Concern

Step 1	Step 1 will start on 8th March The priority is to ensure that all children and students return safely to face-to-face education in schools and colleges from 8 th March. From 29 th March, when most schools start to break up for the Easter holidays, outdoor gatherings (including in private gardens) of either 6 people (the Rule of 6) or 2 households will also be allowed
Step 2	Step 2 will be no earlier than 12th April This will see the opening of non-essential retail; personal care premises such as hairdressers and nail salons; and public buildings, including libraries and community centres. Indoor leisure facilities such as gyms will also reopen
Step 3	Step 3 will be no earlier than 17th May This will see a continued easing of limits on seeing friends and family. Restrictions on meeting outdoors will be lifted - although gatherings of over 30 people will remain illegal. Indoors, the Rule of 6 or 2 households will apply
Step 4	Step 4 will take place no earlier than 21st June The government hopes to be in a position to remove all legal limits on social contact.

(2) Care home residents to be allowed one visitor as part of cautious easing of lockdown

Care home residents will be able to be visited indoors by a single, named individual from 8th March as part of the Prime Minister's roadmap to ease lockdown restrictions. The scheme will allow a single visitor to hold hands indoors with their relative or contact in a care home and make repeat visits under carefully designed conditions to keep residents, staff, and visitors safe.

Every resident will have the opportunity to name one individual, who will be required to have a test beforehand, wear PPE during the visit and avoid close contact.



Health and Social Care Secretary Matt Hancock said:

I know how important visiting a loved one is, and I'm pleased we will soon be in a position for people to be carefully and safely reunited with loved ones who live in care homes.

This is just the first step to getting back to where we want to be. We need to make sure we keep the infection rate down, to allow greater visiting in a step-by-step way in the future.



Restrictions on visits have been in place during national lockdown to protect vulnerable residents. While coronavirus cases remain high, the number of infections is falling. The UK's vaccination programme has seen every care home resident offered a jab, with almost 17 million vaccinations carried out in total.

- [Click here to read more](#)
- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) lateral flow testing of visitors in care homes](#) Sets out how care homes and visitors can prepare for visitor testing with lateral flow devices

(3) Clinically Vulnerable People

The government has updated the definition of clinically extremely vulnerable groups, meaning that the number of people asked to shield has expanded.

The government announcement that an additional 1.7 million people are to be added to the shielded list across the country. Anyone who is being added and who will be asked to shield is expected to receive a letter this week.

Currently around 2.2 million people are currently on the list in England, many of whom were identified for a single reason, such as specific cancers, those on immunosuppression drugs or who have severe respiratory conditions. The additional 1.7 million will bring the number on the list to almost four million.

The shielding scheme was expanded after researchers, led by scientists at Oxford University, developed a new tool to assess whether someone is at risk of severe disease or death. It includes factors such as age, ethnicity, body mass index (BMI), other health conditions and postcode - which is indicative of levels of deprivation.

Those newly added will be receiving letters informing of them of their new status, which means they are entitled to statutory sick pay, prioritisation for online shopping slots and help collecting medicines.

Deputy chief medical officer for England Dr Jenny Harries said: "This action ensures those most vulnerable to COVID-19 can benefit from both the protection that vaccines provide and from enhanced advice and support should they choose it."

➤ [click here to read more](#)

In addition:

[COVID-19: letter to people identified as high risk - aged 70 and over](#)

[COVID-19: letter to people identified as high risk - aged 19 to 69](#)

[COVID-19: letter to clinically extremely vulnerable people](#)

[COVID-19: letter to clinically extremely vulnerable children and young people](#)

[COVID-19: guidance on shielding and protecting people defined on medical grounds as extremely vulnerable](#)

(4) Register with a GP

Anyone can register with a GP surgery. You do not need proof of address, ID, or immigration status to register with a GP practice.

Register with your local GP practice today or [find out more online](#)

You might be able to register with a GP surgery that is not in the area you live. [Find out about registering with a GP surgery out of your area](#)

To find a GP near you [click here](#)

If you have problems registering with a GP surgery, call the NHS England Customer Contact Centre on 0300 311 22 33.



Questions and answers

Can a GP surgery refuse to register me?

A GP surgery can refuse to register you because:

- they are not taking any new patients
- you live outside the practice boundary and they are not accepting patients from out of their area
- you have been removed from that GP surgery register before
- it is a long way from your home and you need extra care, for example home visits

Can I use a GP surgery I am not registered with?

You can contact any GP surgery if you need treatment and:

- you are away from home
- you are not registered with a GP surgery
- it is a medical emergency

You might need to register as a temporary resident or permanent patient if you need treatment for more than 14 days.

You can register as a temporary resident for up to 3 months. You will still be registered with your usual GP surgery if you have one.

How do you register with a GP under the Mental Capacity Act?

The Mental Capacity Act (MCA) is designed to protect and empower people over 16 who are unable to make decisions about their care and treatment. If a person is unable to register with a GP because they cannot make decisions about their care, registration can be done by a relative, the main carer, a lasting power of attorney, a person appointed by a court under the Mental Capacity Act

(5) Wellbeing and Mental Health during Covid-19: a guide to looking after yourself and others

Wellbeing and mental health during Covid-19: A guide to looking after yourself and others

A new booklet “Wellbeing and Mental Health during Covid-19: a guide to looking after yourself and others” has been published.

This booklet is available on the [Community Roots website](#), which includes a [News Article](#) too.

It is very engaging and includes simple tips for everyone: staff, those who use our services and local residents.

If you would like printed hard copies, then email Liz Tucker Liz.Tucker@brighton-hove.gov.uk

LOCAL COVID NEWS

(1) A message from the Director of Public Health for our City



25 February 2021

In the seven days up to 19 February (based on data published on 23 February) we had 146 confirmed new Covid-19 cases in Brighton & Hove. This is:

- 27% less than the previous week
- equivalent to a weekly rate of 50 per 100,000 residents
- lower than the rate for England, which was 120 per 100,000 and the South East which was 82 per 100,000

On 24 February there were 51 inpatients with Covid-19 at the Royal Sussex County Hospital including 18 patients in need of critical care.

What does this mean for Brighton & Hove?

Once again, I'm happy to share that [cases have reduced in Brighton & Hove](#). Our rates put us in the lowest 10% of all local authorities in England.

While we are certainly moving in the right direction, remember that we've come down from an extremely high position and there's still a way to go. Prevention is still crucial, and we are still in a lockdown. Please keep up with the good work you've been doing.

The government has this week shared their plan for gradually lifting the lockdown in England. This is something we can all look forward to, but I do want to reinforce that this is a roadmap and not set in stone. Restrictions will only be lifted on these dates if we keep the virus under control. So please keep following the guidance, get tested and book your vaccine as soon as you are able to.

Vaccinations

This week vaccination invites are being sent to informal carers and people on the Learning Disability Register. If you haven't yet received an invite, please wait to hear from your GP.

If you were offered the vaccine earlier in the year and haven't already taken it up, please book an appointment as soon as possible. For anyone who is 65 or over, clinically extremely vulnerable, a frontline health or social care worker, or who is eligible for a Carer's Allowance, the fastest way to get your vaccination is to [book through the national booking system](#) to go to the Brighton Centre.

Even if you've had Covid, you still need to get a vaccine to protect yourself and others and help stop the spread.

For anyone that's concerned or unsure about getting the vaccine I would like to remind you that months of testing have proven that the vaccines are safe. They have been tested with adults of all ages, people with a range of health conditions and from different ethnic backgrounds.

And for those that are worried about leaving the house to go to a busy vaccination centre, please be reassured that every precaution is being taken to make sure they are safe and [if you need support to get there it is available](#).

If you would like to know more about the NHS vaccination programme the [Sussex Health and Care website](#) is regularly updated with the latest information.

Kind regards
Alistair Hill, Director of Public Health



You must stay at home. This is the single most important action we can all take to protect the NHS and save lives.

You must not leave your home unless necessary.

Stay 2 metres apart from anyone not in your household or bubble.

Support is available

Whilst NHS services are currently extremely busy, and demand continues to rise due to higher rates of COVID-19 in our communities, you can still access urgent medical help by contacting NHS 111 online or by phone. Please only call 999 in the event of a medical emergency.

The Sussex Mental Healthline offers crisis care 24 hours a day, seven days a week on 0300 5000 101.

If you need support or advice during the pandemic the [Council](#) website has more information: [Brighton and Hove City Council Covid-19 pages](#)

A coronavirus help directory for Brighton & Hove is also available [here](#). Use this site to find support with food shopping, money, and work, COVID testing, and more. You can also use it to find help for friends, family, and neighbours.

For advice around attending school, college and universities please click [here](#). Answers to commonly asked questions are available [here](#).

(2) How and where to get a COVID test

Full advice from the Council is available [here](#).

Click here to [get a coronavirus test](#).

If you do not have access to the internet, you can call 119 to book or order a test.

If anyone with symptoms is unable to obtain a local test, it is not recommended that you travel long distances. Government advice is to try booking again in a few hours. A good time to try is 8.30pm when new slots are made available.

A test for suspected COVID-19 is free and NHS treatment for COVID-19 is free for all, including overseas visitors who are not usually entitled to free treatment from the NHS.

These websites contain all the information you need:

- [Brighton and Hove City Council](#) (including links to translated materials)
- [Coronavirus in children](#)
- This link to the [government website](#) explains all you need to know about testing
- More information explaining how Test and Trace works can be found [here](#). [The council has updated their advice about obtaining a test for COVID-19](#)
- [Testing for coronavirus at home](#) How to use your coronavirus home test kit
- [COVID-19 self-test help](#) Find out how to test yourself for coronavirus (COVID-19) if you are asked to and learn what help is available. This contains a link to the self-test instructions for use and translated versions of it.

Antibody testing is available for certain groups only.

You can get [a free at-home antibody test if all of these apply](#) you live in England , you are 18 or over and you work in paid adult social care.

More information can be found in these links:

[How tests and testing kits for coronavirus \(COVID-19\) work](#)

[NHS Test and Trace: how we test your samples](#)

[Testing for coronavirus before hospital](#)

LOCAL COVID DATA

(1) Local data on COVID and statistics published by the Council

Key statistics for Brighton & Hove

You can find key local data showing confirmed cases of COVID-19 and deaths related to COVID-19 on the [Brighton and Hove Council website](#). We have reproduced some of the data displayed on the website. The data is accurate as at the time of publication, but updates occur daily. The Council also provides links to other available data which can be accessed [here](#). The graphs below provide more detail.

CONFIRMED CASES OF COVID-19 in Brighton and Hove

HEADLINES

As of 20th February 2021, the total number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 (recorded since February 2020) in Brighton and Hove stood at 13,930. In the 7 days up to 7th February, there were 152 new cases.

Published data provides us with an average rate of new cases of COVID-19 per 100,000 people over two time periods:

- a) the last 7-days
- b) the average since March 2020

The two averages are therefore different. For information, the population of Brighton and Hove is estimated by the ONS to be 290,885.

In the last 7 days

In the seven days up to 20th February (based on data published on 24th February) we had 152 confirmed new COVID-19 cases in Brighton & Hove.

- This is 27% less than the previous week.
- This is equivalent to a weekly rate of new cases of 52.3 per 100,000 residents (calculated as follows: $152 / 290,885 \times 100,000 = 52.3$).
- The rate for Brighton and Hove has decreased from 109.7 as published in our last Healthwatch bulletin issued on 12th February.
- For comparison, the current weekly rate for Brighton and Hove is now lower than it was as of 16th December 2020 when it stood at 101.4
- The current weekly rate for Brighton and Hove is lower than the rate for England, which was 118.3 per 100,000 and the South East which was 80.7 per 100,000 as of 25th February.

This data is published by the [Public Health England](#) and population data by the Office for National Statistics.

Average rate since February 2020

As of 25th February, the total number of confirmed cases across the city stood at 13,930.

- This is equivalent to a rate of 4,789 per 100,000 residents (calculated as follows $13,930 / 290,885 \times 100,000 = 4,789$)

- This is lower than the rate for England, which was 6,465.7 per 100,000 and the South East which was 5,631.8 per 100,000. This data is published on the [government website](#).

People tested, and positivity rates.

The number of individuals in Brighton and Hove who have had [polymerase chain reaction \(PCR\) test](#) in the 7 days up to 20th February stood at 7,083. The percentage of individuals who tested positive in the same time period was 2.5% which is lower than previously reported.

Death rates

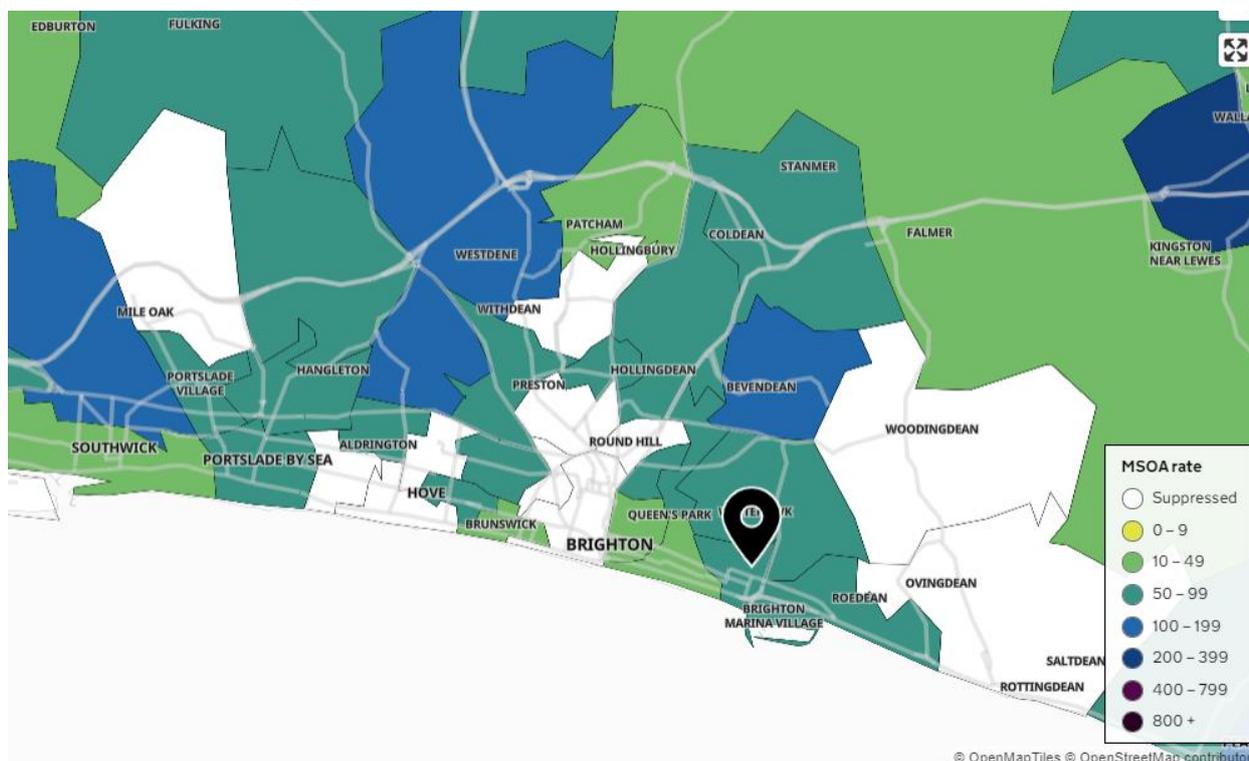
The total [number of deaths](#) recorded up to 12th February 2021 with mention of COVID-19 on the death certificate stood at 415. In the week up to 12th February there were 16 recorded deaths.

Number of patients in hospital

On 24th February there were [51 inpatients](#) with confirmed COVID-19 across the Royal Sussex County and Royal Alexandra Children’s Hospital sites. 18 patients were receiving intensive care. These figures relate to all patients and not just those from Brighton and Hove.

Where are the highest rates of infection in the city?

The government [map](#) displayed below shows weekly data and was last updated on 4th February 2021. This indicates that many areas of Brighton and Hove have rates of infection of 100 or less per 100,000 people. In the last week, many areas have continued to see a decrease in their rates of confirmed cases (shown in blue, green, and white).



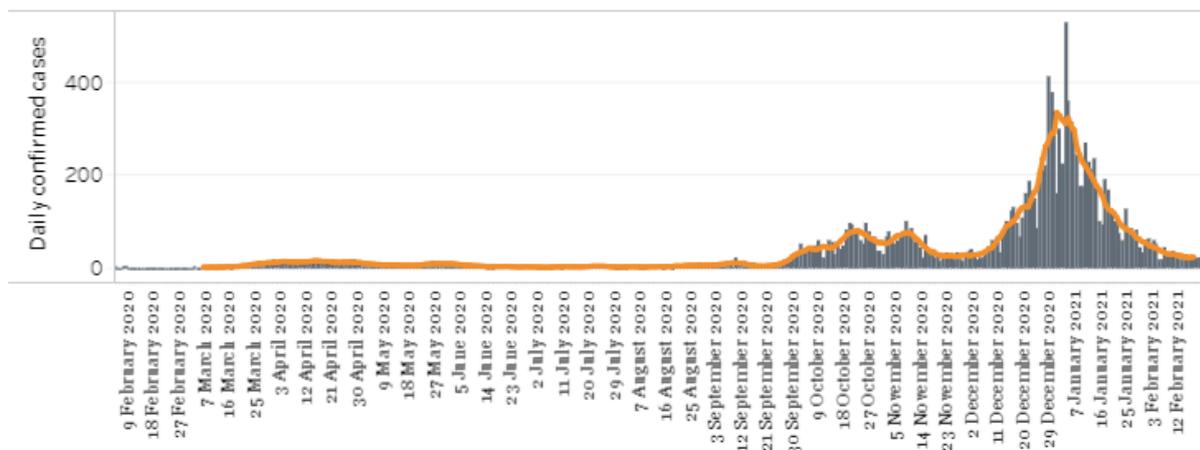
Government data shows the numbers of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Brighton and Hove by date:

Date	No of confirmed cases	Total number of confirmed cases
24.2.21	1	13,930
23.2.21	19	13,929
22.2.21	22	13,910
21.2.21	20	13,888
20.2.21	22	13,868
19.2.21	21	13,846
18.2.21	20	13,825
17.2.21	20	13,805
16.2.21	25	13,785

COVID-10 confirmed cases following a test conducted within the those carried out by commercial laboratories (data obtained from the [Brighton and hove Council website](#)).



Confirmed COVID-19 cases in Brighton & Hove



Key 7 day daily average Daily confirmed cases	Confirmed cases up to 24 February 2021: 13,930	Confirmed cases (rate per 100,000 population) up to 24 February 2021: 4,789
	Confirmed cases in the 7 days up to 20 February 2021: 152	Confirmed cases (rate per 100,000 population) in 7 days up to 20 February 2021: 52.3

Most recent days subject to reporting delay. Last available data: 24 February 2021

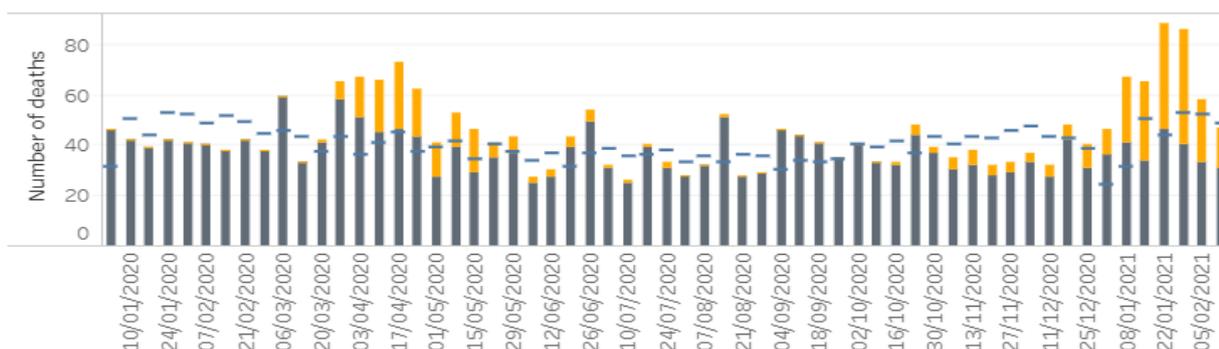
Deaths related to COVID-19 in the city.

The total number of deaths recorded up to 12th February 2021 (registered as of 20th February) with mention of COVID-19 on the death certificate stood at 415. In the last 7 days up to 12th February, there were 16 new deaths recorded.

The number of deaths of Brighton & Hove residents where COVID-19 was recorded on the death certificate (yellow) is shown in the graph below (data obtained from the Brighton and Hove Council [website](#))



Deaths in Brighton & Hove in 2020-2021



Legend	
■	Covid deaths in week
■	Non-Covid deaths in week
—	5-Year Average (2015-19)

Number of deaths recorded in 2020-2021, up to 12 February 2021, with mention of COVID-19 on the death certificate:
415

Number of deaths recorded in the week up to 12 February 2021, with mention of COVID-19 on the death certificate:
16

Deaths shown occurred up to 12 February 2021 and were registered up to 20 February 2021.

Deaths recorded by NHS Trusts.

The total number of deaths recorded across NHS Trust since the beginning of the outbreak is shown below. This data is published by [NHS England](#) and is available here: [COVID 19 total announced deaths 25 February 2021](#)

For interest (comparisons are not appropriate) other Sussex Trusts have recorded the following numbers of deaths:

Brighton and Sussex University NHS Trust	437 (previously 416)
East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust	650 (612)
Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust	628 (585)
Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust	50 (50)
Western Sussex Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	464 (426)

(2) Data on COVID in care homes

For Brighton and Hove the number of deaths in care homes linked to COVID-19, as of 19th February, stood at 129. This is against a total of 415 COVID-related deaths in the city which had occurred up to 12th February and registered up to 20th February 2021 [This data is available via a link on the Brighton and Hove website.](#)

(1) Analysis showing the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is effective against COVID-19 from the first dose

Public Health England (PHE) published the first independent analysis in the UK showing the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is effective against COVID-19 from the first dose

Early data from PHE's [SIREN study](#) shows a promising impact on infection in healthcare workers aged under 65. Healthcare workers in the study are tested for coronavirus (COVID-19) every 2 weeks - whether or not they have symptoms.

Data shows one dose reduces the risk of catching infection by more than 70%, rising to 85% after the second dose. This suggests the vaccine may also help to interrupt virus transmission, as you cannot spread the virus if you do not have infection.

PHE's analysis of routine testing data also shows that one dose is 57% effective against symptomatic COVID-19 disease in those aged over 80. This effect occurs from about 3 to 4 weeks after the first dose.

Early data suggests the second dose in over 80s improves protection against symptomatic disease by a further 30%, to more than 85%.

Hospitalisation and deaths rates are falling in all age groups - but the oldest age groups are seeing the fastest decline since the peak in mid-January.

Early data suggests vaccinated people who go on to become infected are far less likely to die or be hospitalised. Overall, hospitalisation and death from COVID-19 will be reduced by over 75% in those who have received a dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine.

The risk of dying in those aged over 80 is less than half (56%) in vaccinated cases compared to unvaccinated cases, at least 14 days after receiving the first dose.

Those over 80 who develop COVID-19 infection after vaccination are around 40% less likely to be hospitalised than someone with infection who has not been vaccinated.

➤ [Click here to read more](#)

(2) UK will be the first country in the world to run a Covid-19 human challenge study

[World's first coronavirus Human Challenge study receives ethics approval in the UK](#)

The UK will be the first country in the world to run a Covid-19 human challenge study, following approval from the UK's clinical trials ethics body. Backed by a £33.6 million UK government investment, the first-of-its-kind study for this virus will involve establishing the smallest amount of virus needed to cause infection, which will give doctors greater

understanding of Covid-19 and help support the pandemic response by aiding vaccine and treatment development.

Due to begin in the next few weeks, it will involve up to 90 carefully selected, healthy adult volunteers being exposed to the virus in a safe and controlled environment.

(3) COVID and university students

[Fewer than 1 in 5 university students had COVID-19 by end of autumn term](#)

A study conducted by Public Health England (PHE) estimates that 17.8% of university students in England had COVID-19 antibodies.

(4) Wider impacts of COVID-19

In this section we have provided articles or publications which describe the effects that COVID-19 has had on society. These primarily relate to health and social care, but some go wider.

[Coronavirus and the social impacts on Great Britain: 19 February 2021](#)

[Coronavirus and the latest indicators for the UK economy and society: 25 February 2021](#)

[COVID-19: mental health and wellbeing surveillance report](#)

NATIONAL COVID DATA

(1) COVID-19 national data

(a) Death rates

Deaths are counted where a lab-confirmed positive coronavirus test result is reported in any setting.

Deaths within 28 days of positive test by area

Across the whole of the UK, as of 25th February 2021, the total number of deaths of people who had had a positive test result for COVID-19 and died within 28 days of the first positive test stood at 122,070.

In the South East, the total number of deaths stood at 16,669 cases.

Data on death rates are published on the [daily dashboard](#).

(b) Infection levels

The data reveals that as of 25th February 2021:

- Across the whole of the UK, the total number of lab-confirmed UK cases of COVID-19 since February 2020, stood at 4,154,562. This is the total number of people who have had at least one positive test result.
- In the South East, the total number of lab-confirmed UK cases of COVID-19 stood 517,011. There were 7,404 new cases in the last 7-days.

For up-to-date numbers of coronavirus (COVID-19) cases and risk in the UK, click [here](#).

(c) R-number and growth rates

[Last updated on Friday 25th February 2021](#)

Latest R range for the UK 0.6 to 0.9

Latest growth rate range for the UK -6% to -2% per day

An R value between 0.6 and 0.9 means that, on average, every 10 people infected will infect between 6 and 9 other people.

A growth rate of between -6% and -2% means that the number of new infections is shrinking by between 2% and 6% every day.

What do these numbers mean?

[The reproduction number \(R\)](#) is the average number of people one person who is infected with COVID-19 may go onto infect. A high R number implies the transmission rate from person to person is increasing, a low number means it is declining (for up-to-date numbers of coronavirus. Brighton and Hove Council has previously confirmed that it is not possible to calculate meaningful R values at a very local level.

[The growth rate](#) reflects how quickly the number of infections is changing day-by-day. If the growth rate is greater than zero (+ positive), then the disease will grow, and if the growth rate is less than zero then the disease will shrink. The size of the growth rate indicates the speed of change. A growth rate of +5% will grow faster than one with a growth rate of +1%. Likewise, a disease with a growth rate of -4% will be shrinking faster than a disease with growth rate of -1%.

(d) Test and trace

You can access data here from the [NHS Test and Trace \(England\) statistics: 11 February to 17 February 2021](#)

84,310 people tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) at least once¹ in England between 11 February and 17 February 2021, a 21% decrease compared to the previous week. This continues the decrease in positive cases observed over the last six weeks. 2,580,210 people were tested at least once between 11 February and 17 February 2021 for COVID-19, a 14% decrease compared to the previous week

(2) Government announcements

The current situation means that new guidance is being issued daily. Below we have provided links to some announcements which may be of interest.

[COVID-19 Response - Spring 2021](#)

The government has published the 'COVID-19 Response - Spring 2021', setting out the roadmap out of the current lockdown for England.

[Prime Minister sets out roadmap to cautiously ease lockdown restrictions](#)

[PM statement at coronavirus press conference: 22 February 2021](#)

[Slides and datasets to accompany coronavirus press conference: 22 February 2021](#)

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): guidance on the phased return of elite sport](#)

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccination statistics, plans and documentation](#)

This page brings together COVID-19 vaccination programme-related documents published by DHSC, and vaccination statistics published by other bodies within the UK.

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): advice for people in England with animals](#)

Advice for pet owners and livestock keepers on looking after the welfare of animals during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. This advice applies to England only.

Healthwatch Brighton and Hove information and advice

The following Healthwatch COVID-19 guides are available (these are being regularly updated):

- [COVID-19 information and advice webpage](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccination webpage](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Fact Check webpage](#)
- [Answers to Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Maternity and pregnancy advice and information](#)
- [Services open over Christmas and New Year, and tips for staying well during winter](#)
- Top tips for [staying active and looking after your mental health](#).
- Guides which provide information about:
 - visiting a [dentist](#)
 - [seeing a GP](#)
 - [collection of prescriptions](#)

Plus, accessibility resources to help you communicate about COVID-19.

- **NEW:** [Beyond Words is providing free picture stories and illustrated guides to support people with learning disabilities and autism through the coronavirus pandemic](#)
- A series of videos aimed at encouraging people to continue to use health services if they are unwell. They are available in [English](#), [Arabic](#), [Farsi](#), [Kurdish](#) and [Sylheti](#).

- [Resources from Learning Disability England](#)
- [Signhealth has made their InterpreterNow remote BSL interpretation service available for free across all healthcare services](#)
- [Signhealth is providing a video of summaries of key coronavirus guidance in BSL](#)
- [Signhealth advice for testing](#)
- [Public Health England stay at home guidance](#), translated and in Easyread.
- [NHS guidelines translated into up to 50 languages by Doctors of the World](#) and find video advice [here](#)
- [Easy read information on COVID-19](#) from Mencap
- [About the NHS Test and Trace scheme](#)
- [What to do if you are contacted by NHS Test and Trace](#)
- The NHS have also created [easy read posters like this](#) so people know when and how to get a test for coronavirus.
- [Public Health England resources](#) in accessible formats
- [COVID-19 guidance for providers of services for people experiencing rough sleeping](#)
- The [handwashing rap](#), produced to help people who have a learning disability



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