

Covid-19 Update

Executive Committee

20 January 2021

UK Covid-19 Position

- Confirmed cases have seen a substantial decrease throughout England in the last week, including across all Hertfordshire districts and boroughs and all our neighbouring areas: Bedfordshire and Luton, Essex and London
- 7 day rolling daily average hospital admission for Covid-19 patients on 18 Jan was 4,136, up 61.0% in three weeks from 2,569 on 29 Dec
- 7 day rolling daily average Coronavirus-related deaths stood at 1,129 on 18 Jan - more than double (104.9%) from 551 on 30 Dec
- The latest England 'R' rate on 15 Jan has decreased to 1.1-1.3
- The East of England 'R' rate is slightly lower at 1.0-1.3

*Cases, Admissions & Vaccines update daily (4pm) <https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk>
R rate updates every Friday afternoon www.gov.uk/guidance/the-r-number-in-the-uk*

Local & National Epidemiology

provisional	Broxbourne	Watford	Welwyn H	Stevenage	Hertsmere	Three River	North Herts	Dacorum	East Herts	St Albans	Hertfordshire	London	Essex	Luton	Bedford	Central Beds	England
week change	-529	-235	-266	-178	-303	-253	-167	-292	-373	-321	-2,917	-31,942	-6,403	-544	-453	-352	-94,374
09/01 - 15/01 Rate & Cases	697.0 678	695.8 672	690.0 843	673.9 592	656.7 688	494.0 461	466.4 623	456.8 707	441.4 661	386.0 573	729.8 6,505	695.6 62,340	605.7 9,020	724.2 1,543	687.9 1,192	456.6 1,318	490.1 275,869
week change	-154	-69	134	48	-95	-192	138	-83	-105	-232	-610	2,331	-1,377	450	107	-187	40,828
02/01 - 08/01 Rate & Cases	1,240.8 1,207	939.1 907	906.2 1,115	876.5 770	945.5 992	765.1 714	591.5 790	645.5 999	690.5 1,034	602.2 894	1,057.1 9,422	1,052.0 94,282	1,035.7 15,423	979.6 2,087	949.3 1,645	578.6 1,670	657.8 370,243
26/12 - 01/01 Rate & Cases	1,399.1 1,361	1,010.6 976	797.3 981	821.9 722	1,036.0 1,087	970.8 906	488.1 652	699.1 1,082	760.6 1,139	758.5 1,126	1,125.5 10,032	1,026.0 91,951	1,128.1 16,800	768.4 1,637	887.5 1,538	643.3 1,857	585.2 329,415
19/12 - 25/12 Rate & Cases	1,072.2 1,043	795.2 768	491.7 605	513.4 451	901.6 946	791.9 739	341.4 456	512.4 793	541.6 811	543.6 807	832.4 7,419	766.0 68,653	806.6 12,012	496.6 1,058	612.8 1,062	468.0 1,351	378.9 213,265
12/12 - 18/12 Rate & Cases	841.9 819	508.4 491	302.3 372	358.6 315	601.4 631	505.8 472	251.6 336	321.1 497	347.9 521	373.9 555	562.0 5,009	648.1 58,079	730.6 10,880	500.3 1,066	414.9 719	405.3 1,170	327.4 184,264
05/12 - 11/12 Rate & Cases	518.1 504	311.7 301	150.4 185	135.5 119	279.3 293	216.5 202	122.0 163	204.2 316	175.0 262	146.8 218	287.6 2,563	300.8 26,955	339.2 5,051	317.8 677	225.1 390	244.9 707	197.4 111,085
28/11 - 04/12 Rate & Cases	244.7 238	180.2 174	115.4 142	117.3 103	154.4 162	130.7 122	101.1 135	113.1 175	148.9 223	116.5 173	184.8 1,647	184.9 16,573	177.3 2,640	282.1 601	125.2 217	103.2 298	151.9 85,488
21/11 - 20/12 Rate & Cases	186.1 181	156.4 151	89.4 110	88.8 78	140.1 147	132.9 124	95.1 127	93.7 145	126.2 189	107.1 159	158.3 1,411	156.0 13,979	138.9 2,068	256.3 546	110.2 191	80.4 232	158.7 89,322
14/11 - 20/11 Rate & Cases	203.5 198	169.8 164	135.7 167	120.7 106	143.9 151	143.6 134	102.6 137	124.7 193	150.9 226	114.5 170	184.7 1,646	179.3 16,071	149.5 2,226	290.1 618	142.0 246	89.7 259	218.0 122,701
07/11 - 13/11 Rate & Cases	234.4 228	186.4 180	160.1 197	182.1 160	155.4 163	207.9 194	148.2 198	126.0 195	190.3 285	165.0 245	229.4 2,045	196.9 17,649	146.6 2,183	288.2 614	163.9 284	137.2 396	276.1 155,436

In the last week cases across Hertfordshire & our neighbouring areas have started to decline

Broxbourne case rate has significantly reduced, halving to below 700/100,00 from 1,400 two weeks ago

Case rates in Hertfordshire, Essex and London have substantially reduced in the past week from rates above 1,000 per 100,000 for 2 weeks to just above 700 for Herts, below 700 for London & just above 600 for Essex

- Stevenage and Welwyn Hatfield's case rate are now up with Broxbourne, Watford and Hertsmere rates
- The downward trend across all area is now expected to continue for the next 4 weeks whilst lockdown continues

Stevenage confirmed cases by MSOA

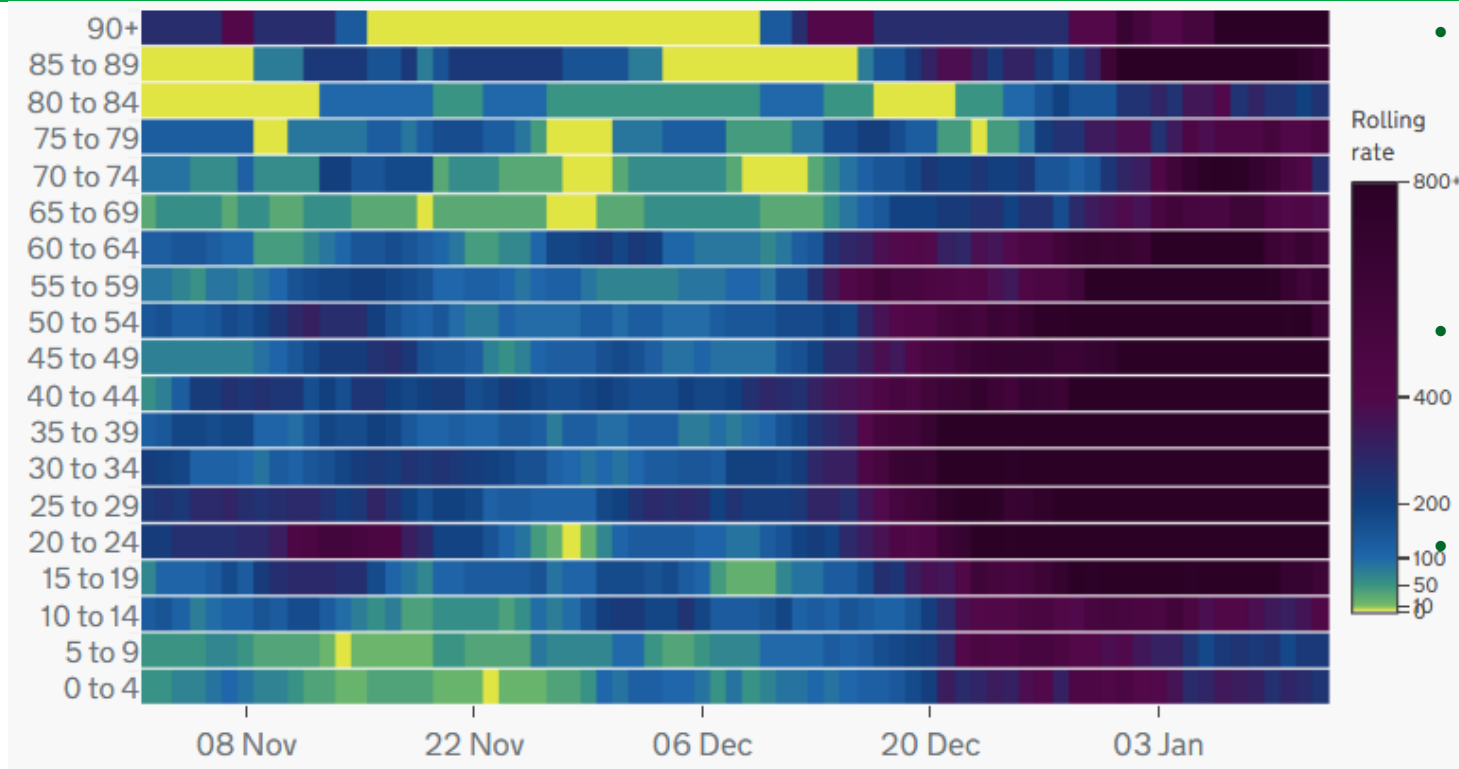
https://hcc-phei.shinyapps.io/covid19_public_dashboard

	Symonds Green	Shephall	St Nicholas	Bedwell	Bandley Hill	Woodfield + Old Town	Chells	Pin Green + Old Town	Roebuck	Longmeadow	Martins Wood	Manor	Stevenage
10/12 - 13/01 (5 weeks) Average Rate & Total Cases	958.5	917.2	883.3	788.8	783.2	765.0	737.2	727.5	718.6	716.4	650.6	626.3	772.4
	231	234	270	251	209	376	201	256	199	168	165	154	2,714
07/01 - 13/01 Rate & Cases	614.1	674.2	824.4	779.4	794.5	708.0	586.9	591.1	751.1	665.2	536.3	618.2	683.0
	37	43	63	62	53	87	40	52	52	39	34	38	600
31/12 - 06/01 Rate & Cases	1,394.2	721.2	929.1	1,030.8	854.4	634.8	895.0	818.5	852.2	511.7	694.0	520.6	815.1
	84	46	71	82	57	78	61	72	59	30	44	32	716
24/12 - 30/12 Rate & Cases	1,078.8	956.4	876.7	678.8	554.6	797.5	762.9	773.0	534.5	852.8	599.4	650.7	759.3
	65	61	67	54	37	98	52	68	37	50	38	40	667
17/12 - 23/12 Rate & Cases	464.7	940.7	667.4	477.7	524.7	626.6	498.8	522.9	418.9	494.6	536.3	455.5	556.7
	28	60	51	38	35	77	34	46	29	29	34	28	489
10/12 - 16/12 Rate & Cases	282.2	376.3	235.5	188.6	404.7	293.0	205.4	204.6	317.8	341.1	236.6	260.3	275.5
	17	24	18	15	27	36	14	18	22	20	15	16	242

- Confirmed cases across Stevenage have now plateaued and starting to come down in most wards
- The case rate in Symonds Green has significantly reduced in the past week, halving from 1,394.2 in the first week of January to 614.1 in the week to 13 January, putting it at the 4th lowest
- In the last week, the case rate range has reduced to a low of 536.3 in Martins Wood to a high of 824.4 in St Nicholas
- In the last 5 weeks, average case rate per week is still well spread across the town, from a low of 626.3 in Manor to 9.58.5 in Symonds Green

Stevenage confirmed cases by Age

<https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/details/cases?areaType=lla&areaName=Stevenage>



- This heat graph from the PHE daily data update shows rate by 5 year age group from the start of Nov to 13 Jan in Stevenage

- It is clear that throughout December rates in all age groups have risen significantly

The case rate in the latest week have started to come down, though still above 800 so staying in the dark purple range

- Of particular concern is the rate among 90+ which continue at a rate over 1,200
- The rate among the 85-90 has started to come down but is still high

Hertfordshire Covid-19 Related Deaths

www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/causesofdeath/datasets/deathregistrationsandoccurrencesbylocalauthorityandhealthboard

Week	Hertsmere	Watford	Three Rivers	St Albans	Broxbourne	Dacorum	Welwyn Hatfield	North Hertfordshire	Stevenage	East Hertfordshire	Total
Total last 14 weeks	63	49	64	86	59	79	36	43	29	50	558
02/01 - 08/01	21	12	19	21	15	19	17	18	7	11	160
26/12 - 01/01	6	8	8	11	9	17	5	5	5	4	78
19/12 - 25/12	7	4	7	17	9	9	5	6	3	13	80
12/12 - 18/12	3	3	4	3	2	7	2	2	4	3	33
05/12 - 11/12	1	2	5	5	3	3	0	2	4	1	26
28/11 - 04/12	2	2	2	6	6	5	0	3	2	6	34
21/11 - 27/11	3	1	5	6	1	1	5	2	1	6	31
14/11 - 20/11	3	3	7	7	1	4	1	1	1	3	31
07/11 - 13/11	4	2	1	3	6	1	0	1	0	0	18
31/10 - 6/11	3	2	0	0	2	2	0	1	1	1	12
24/10 - 30/10	2	0	1	1	0	2	0	1	1	0	8
17/10 - 23/10	3	5	1	1	1	3	0	1	0	0	15
10/10 - 16/10	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	0	0	0	9
03/10 - 09/10	1	1	2	1	2	3	0	0	0	1	11
Rate per 100,000	234.5	181.2	163.9	152.2	139.8	132.5	121.1	105.6	101.3	100.8	108.5
Total	246	175	153	226	136	205	149	141	89	151	1,291

- There has been a >100% increase in Covid-19 related deaths in Hertfordshire in the most recent week that data is available, up to 160 between 2-8 Jan, the previous week had 78 deaths
- This includes 7 Stevenage residents, bringing the total for the town to 89 and a rate per 100,000 of 101.3, the second lowest in the county
- Stevenage has now had 29 deaths since the start of October, the lowest in the county
- The affects of the latest national lockdown on death figures will likely not be seen for another few weeks
- It will likely take until February at the earliest before we start to see the impact of vaccination programme on mortality

National Update

- Lockdown seems to be having a positive effect particularly in London and the South East
- All UK travel corridors now closed in face of new variants. People entering the UK will need to self-isolate and provide a negative test
- Travellers from a number of countries in South America and Portugal will no longer be granted access to the UK
- Studies show that immunity post infection can persist for up to 5 months
- Additional £10M to assist with accommodating rough sleepers and ensuring they are registered with a GP so they can be vaccinated
- Opposition day debate has been called in the House of Commons on the issue of prolonging the Universal Credit uplift

UK Vaccinations Statistics – 18th Jan

Breakdown by Region of Residence - Provisional

Region of residence	1st dose	2nd dose	Cumulative Total Doses to Date
Total	3,520,056	427,386	3,947,442
East Of England	370,989	53,146	424,135
London	367,209	50,016	417,225
Midlands	681,042	65,445	746,487
North East And Yorkshire	610,684	70,633	681,317
North West	480,227	60,918	541,145
South East	578,287	74,063	652,350
South West	409,060	52,732	461,792

- 2,700 sites now offering vaccinations including seventeen regional mass vaccinations centres
- Over-70s and “clinically extremely vulnerable” people to start to receive offers of a vaccine this week
- 24 hour vaccination sites to be piloted

Hertfordshire Vaccination Update

- All 23 GP-led sites in Hertfordshire now open
- Regional vaccination centre in Stevenage now open and vaccinating approximately 1000 people a day
- E&NHT has delivered just under 10,000 vaccinations and have a further 9,500 booked
- Transport to vaccination sites is available via HCC. Demand so far however is low. Taxis can also be mobilised at a cost if required
- HCC is working with Ambulance service to set up a single number for transport queries after referral from NHS booking system
- Residents and staff in more than 85 residential homes have now been vaccinated
- Vaccination eligibility criteria for frontline social workers has now been published
- Plans are being made to take vaccinations to people aged 80 and over who are housebound

<https://www.healthierfuture.org.uk/covid>

Hertfordshire Resilience Update

- New variant is now the dominant strain in the East of England
- Lockdown is having some effect. 3-4 weeks lag before possible decrease in hospital admissions
- Acute trusts remain pressured with high rate of Covid-19 related staff absence
- Critical care patients could be transferred out of Integrated Care System boundary
- 50% of older people care homes known to have a Covid-19 outbreak
- Death registrations remain high with 50% indicating Covid as a cause
- Pressure growing on care homes and deaths are sadly increasing
- Districts working on staff deployment to assist NHS
- Additional police patrols continue and officers are working closely with Covid Marshals, EHOs and Trading Standards to ensure people follow lockdown rules

Covid-19 testing

- Quick turnaround tests being given to every local authority in England targeted at people unable to work from home
- Rapid testing for Key Workers to go live in Hertfordshire on 20th January
- Local Testing Site at Primett Road is now live and operational
- Tests are by prior appointment only; designed as a walk-in centre
- Stevenage Arts and Leisure Centre may go forward as a rapid test centre

A keyworker test can be booked at: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/rapidtest

Outbreak Management and Compliance

Outbreak Management

- Definition of a "close contact" has been tightened
- Contact tracing demand continues on an upward curve
- Enhanced CT service with additional dedicated EH staff set to commence early Feb
- Sustained numbers of outbreaks and clusters in workplaces

Compliance and Enforcement

- Covid Marshals continue to maintain visible presence throughout the town including patrols of play areas
- Reinforcing work from home message to employers
- Multi-faceted approach to supermarket covid security in train with Public Health Team

Community and Housing

- Herts Help received 1700 calls last week, 500 more than the week before
- VPAC meeting twice weekly to consider Shielding arrangements, Herts Help capacity and additional support for vulnerable groups
- Further discussions held around Free School Meals provision and some emergency support arrangements being considered through Stevenage Helps
- Demand for SADA continues to grow, along with pressures on Safe Spaces
- National Leisure Recovery Fund bid submitted ahead of 15th January deadline
- Meeting held with National Lottery Fund to consider future community recovery bid with VCS partners
- 178 households currently in Emergency, Temporary and B&B accommodation at 8 January 2021
- Housing Rent Arrears = £1,095,064
- Court action delayed until 21 February 2021

Grants Summary

- Total Business rate reliefs granted on Retail, Hospitality and Leisure £21,797,100
- Total grants paid to date £14,669,634 of which £2.26Million was paid out on 19 Jan (includes £1.3Million of one off lockdown payment up to £9K)
- Total hardship payments top up council tax support of up to £150 - awarded £524,222
- Track and trace payments (£500 per application) - awarded £24,500

Business support

LRSB (addendum)

- Grants to support businesses mandated to close during 2nd lockdown (5.11.20 to 1.12.2020) – applications close 31.1.2021

LRSB (OPEN)

- Grant Funding to support businesses open during 2.12.20 to 18.12.2020) now LIVE

LRSB (CLOSED) 2.12.20 to 18.12.20 & 19.12.20 to 4.1.2021 (Tier 4)

- Businesses Mandated to close – Funding being administered

Christmas Support Payment for wet-led pubs:

- Grants of £1K available – applications close 31.1.21

LRSB (CLOSED) 5.1.2021

- Funding available to businesses mandated to close

Top – up one of payments announced by Chancellor

- £4-£9K to businesses Retail, Hospitality and Leisure

Employment support for those facing Redundancy

<https://www.stevenage.gov.uk/business-and-licensing/covid-19-support-for-businesses/redundancy-support>

Growth Hub's COVID-19 Business Resource Page

<https://r1.dotdigital-pages.com/p/4OQI-9KW/hgh-covid19>

Continuity, wellbeing and resilience

Oversight

- Continued focus on resource levels for key services, redeployment to priority areas and support for the overall incident management arrangements such as vaccination efforts
- The spread of the pandemic is presenting challenges to parts of the organisation, for example with increased absences in waste; housing options and independent living; and environmental health such as contact tracing
- Significant efforts have been in place to focus on redeployment to the front line and how far we can further support vaccination, NHS providers, covid marshals and contact tracing

Wellbeing and resilience

- Support is available via the Employee Assistance Programme, a resilience, mental health and wellbeing support package, counselling and dedicated bereavement support

Essential services update

Service area	Operational status
Housing	Operational, experiencing pressures in housing options based on both volume of demand and vacant posts, and Independent Living
Customer Service Centre and OOH	Operational with urgent only face to face services
Communities and Neighbourhood	Services operational with redeployments from key services to other frontline
Environment services	Operational and supporting waste and recycling front line via redeployment. May require temporarily pausing non-discretionary services
ICT and Digital	Operational
Payroll and payments	Operational with particular capacity challenges
Planning, Housing Development, Regeneration	Operational. Pressures on Environmental Health related to outbreak management and contact tracing
Safeguarding, No More, ASB	Operational with significant demand
Repairs, caretaking	Operational but essential repairs only
Revs and Bens	Operational and with significant demand related to additional grants payments

Communications update

- #StaySafeStevenage Campaign ongoing - digital/online/print
- Focus on **Stay at Home / Lockdown** messages
- Supporting vaccination rollout programme
- Proactive comms and marketing of play area closures
- Digital screens/boards: In progress following Director of Public Health support and approval
- Frequently Asked Questions updated and CEC presentations shared on the council's website

