

County Councillor report October 2020

Highways Meeting

This meeting was held as planned on the 30th October at 1300hrs at the Village Institute Longstanton. All highway issues were discussed with our highways team and a special thanks to our Chairman for his help and tea/coffee making abilities.....

As Oakington were unable to be represented, a special one off meeting will be set up for them. Due to the new lockdown, some members of staff will be redeployed to support the County Hub.

Covid-19 update for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, 5 November 2020

Confirmed Covid-19 cases

- **816 new lab-confirmed Covid-19 cases** were detected in Cambridgeshire (519) and Peterborough (297) in the latest reporting week, 26 October – 1 November. This is 27 less than the previous reporting week.
- The **weekly incidence per 100,000 population has decreased in Cambridgeshire and increased in Peterborough** in the last reporting week. At a district level, all districts except Huntingdonshire had a decrease. Regional and national incidence rates have also decreased.

All cause and Covid-19 deaths – all settings and in care homes

- **There were two Covid-19 related deaths** in Cambridgeshire (Huntingdonshire) and Peterborough in ONS reporting week 43 (week ending 23 October, but registered up to 31 October). ONS reporting week 42 also had two Covid-19 deaths.
- There were **117* all-cause deaths** in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough in week 43 (up from 115 in week 42).
- At a district level, **Cambridge (+4), East Cambridgeshire (+4), and Fenland (+2) reported an increase in all-cause deaths** compared to the previous week.
- The latest **notification of a Covid-19 related death** in a **Cambridgeshire care home** was **21 August**. The last notification at a **Peterborough care home** was **18 September** (data received by 30 October).
- The **number of all-cause deaths is above the 2015-19 average in Cambridgeshire, and below the 2015-19 average in Peterborough** for week 43. Numbers in Cambridge and Fenland are also below the 5 year average for all-cause deaths. Numbers in South Cambridgeshire are similar, and numbers in East Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire are above for week 43.
- The **number of all-cause deaths in care homes is above the 2015-19 average in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough**. All districts are 'above' or 'similar to' the 5yr average in week 43 except South Cambridgeshire.

Covid-19 cases – pillar 1 and pillar 2

CONFIRMED CASES – most recent data

- **816 new lab-confirmed Covid-19 cases** were detected in Cambridgeshire (519) and Peterborough (297) in the latest reporting week, 26 October – 1 November. This is **27 less than the previous reporting week**.
- At a district level, **all districts had a decrease in positive cases** detected **except Huntingdonshire (+25)**, when compared to the previous week.

Incidence rate of Covid-19 cases per 100,000 residents

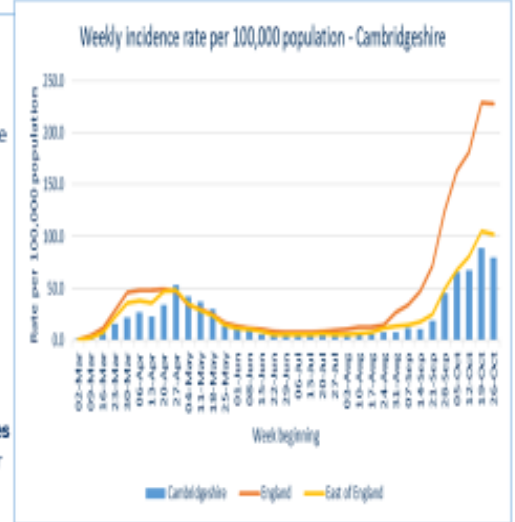
Area	Most recent weekly data (Mon-Sun)		
	Weekly incidence rate from 19 Oct to 25 Oct	Weekly incidence rate from 26 Oct to 01 Nov	Difference in weekly incidence rate from previous week
Cambridge	193.9	143.4	-50.5
East Cambridgeshire	43.4	37.8	-5.6
Fenland	89.3	84.4	-4.9
Huntingdonshire	52.8	66.9	14.0
South Cambridgeshire	71.7	63.5	-8.2
Cambridgeshire	88.7	79.4	-9.3
Peterborough	130.0	146.8	16.8
East of England	105.1	102.3	-2.8
England	229.4	228.5	-0.9

PUBLIC HEALTH intelligence

Cambridgeshire County Council

Confirmed cases, and incidence rates, have increased in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough since the middle of September overall. Though the most recent weekly rates show a decline for Cambridgeshire, East of England and England compared to the previous week.

Weekly incidence rates of confirmed cases for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough remain lower than the national rates.



Slides produced by PHI, 05 November 2020

Covid-19 and all-cause mortality

ONS reporting Week 43 (ending Friday 23 October 2020):

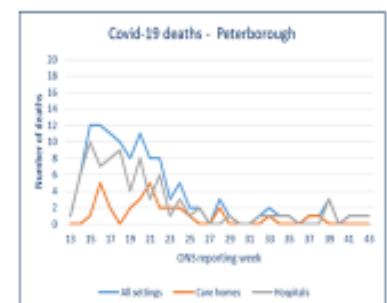
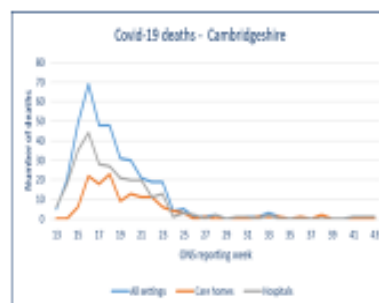
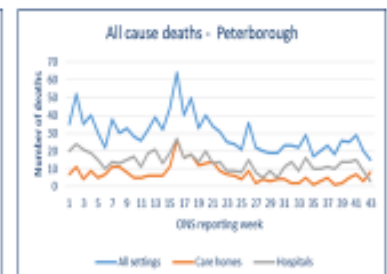
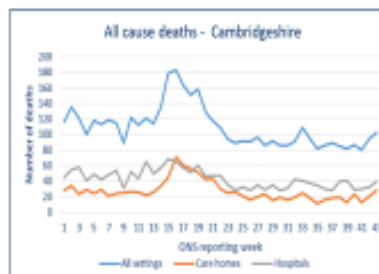
DEATHS

- **2 Covid-19 related deaths** occurred in Cambridgeshire (Hunts) and Peterborough in ONS reporting week 43 (similar to the previous week).
- There were **117* all-cause deaths** in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough in week 43 (up from 115 in week 42).
- At a district level, **Cambridge (+4), East Cambridgeshire (+4), and Fenland (+2) reported an increase in all-cause deaths** compared to the previous week.

EXCESS DEATHS

- The number of all-cause deaths is above the 2015-19 average in Cambridgeshire, and below the 2015-19 average in Peterborough for week 43. Numbers in Cambridge and Fenland are also below the 5 year average for all-cause deaths.
- The number of all-cause deaths in care homes is above the 2015-19 average in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough in week 43.

Source: ONS and ONS provided by PHE (death occurrences), published 05 November



Slides produced by PHI, 05 Nov 2020

Working with our universities

The County Council's Public Health team have been working in close partnership with the Public Health England Health Protection Team, the University of Cambridge and Anglia Ruskin University to prepare for the return of students, support outbreak management, and ensure that the health and wellbeing of students, staff and the wider community is protected during the current pandemic.

A COVID-19 Outbreak Management University Working Group (CUWG) has been set up including members from the County Council Public Health Directorate. This sits within the Education Cell of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Outbreak Control Plan and reports into the daily Outbreak Management Team and into the weekly Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Health Protection Board.

Both universities have procedures in place to notify the authority of **every** positive student and staff case. These cases will be monitored by the County Surveillance Cell to identify changes in rates of infection over time with increases flagged if necessary to the Outbreak Management Team and Health Protection Board.

An outbreak is defined by Public Health England as two or more confirmed cases of COVID-19 among students or staff who are direct close contacts, proximity contacts or in the same cohort in the university or halls of residence within 14 days. A cohort might be a tutorial group, lecture group, lab session, social club, or other defined group within the school.

Cambridge University Covid-19 Testing results

Cambridge University have their own pathway for rapid testing for all staff and students with symptoms. In addition they are rolling out a weekly asymptomatic testing programme for all students resident in College accommodation. Since the start of term, Cambridge University have been publishing the results of both their asymptomatic testing programme and their testing of symptomatic students on <https://www.cam.ac.uk/coronavirus/stay-safe-cambridge-uni/data-from-covid-19-testing-service>

This shows that after rising in the second week of term, numbers of cases and the percentage of students testing positive have now started to reduce.

Total number of positive cases identified through University testing programmes

Week	Total no. of positive cases
5-11 October	34
12-18 October	154
19-25 October	156
26 October - 1 November	78

The data above represent the number of cases as identified through the University's testing programmes.

All cases have been followed-up and, where appropriate, are being supported to isolate.

Anglia Ruskin University will use the NHS national testing system. To enhance access for students public health has been working to get macro-level approval to have a Local Testing Site (walk-in site) in Cambridge City in an area that is accessible to Anglia Ruskin students, and the local population.

The County Hub

Children and families have been receiving meals over the school holidays from the Cambridgeshire countywide hub service The Countywide Hub, which is run by the County Council, has been providing free meals and support to local residents since the pandemic began, and this has continued throughout the school holiday this week. Between the start of half-term on Monday 26 October and yesterday Thursday 29 October), 113 requests for support were made to our Contact Centre. 113 households, including 305 children, received food boxes. The hub has provided food packages to children and families who are eligible for free school meals as well as those who are not but may be struggling as a result of the pandemic. To contact the Countywide Hub, **call 03450455219**. The County Hub has been making sure food is readily available for those who need it and this support will continue. **No child should or will go hungry. Schools have also issued reminders of how to access help from the County Hub to the parents of all children eligible for free school meals in Cambridgeshire. County Council staff have once again been redeployed to maintain the hub's capability on supply, distribution, and support.**

The next four weeks

The County Council are pulling together information on how they will be delivering services for the four weeks from Thursday, and getting new information and guidance each day.

- Schools, early years setting and colleges will remain fully open to all children. Support services will continue to work with all settings, minimising where possible visit in person but these will be undertaken where essential to support a child.
- Adult Social Care has continued to deliver statutory functions under the Care Act throughout the pandemic, supporting vulnerable adults and seeking out and implementing any opportunity to help people to stay independent building on all the learning from the Adults Positive Challenge Programme. For the next four weeks the council will be continuing to function in the same way it did in the last lockdown and where needed they will carry out face to face work with the necessary risk assessments in place. The reablement and in house Learning Disability Teams (respite, supported living, day opps) have continued to function throughout the pandemic and will continue to throughout this lockdown and staff will ensure all the right arrangements continue to be in place to enable them to do this safely. The first point of contact continues to be our Contact Centre / Adult Early Help team which continues to fully function as normal and is there to support people with advice information and to put in place practical measures that mean people don't need to get into the more formal statutory care system. The day services are currently undergoing a phased return and the County Council is making sure that the requirements re social distancing are in place. This means they haven't been able to get everyone who wants to back to day services, although some people have said at this stage they don't want to whilst infection levels in the community are still rising. Staff will continue to respond to the changing situation but do expect day opportunities to remain open even with limited capacity.
- Death registrations and funerals with up to 30 people, socially distanced, will continue. Weddings and civil partnership ceremonies will stop except for deathbed ceremonies.
- Household recycling centres will remain open with social distancing in place and all waste collections (black bin, recycling, food and garden) will continue. Bulky Waste collection will continue too, although face to face quotes will stop.
- Gyms and indoor leisure facilities will close.
- Libraries across Cambridgeshire will remain open - customers, will be able to use the 'Select and Collect' system for ordering books which will be kept in place.
- Through 'Select and Collect' customers can choose titles according to their preferences (e.g. genre, fiction, non-fiction, talking books, children's books, etc.) and then collect them from any of the open libraries.
- In keeping with national health and safety guidance, customers are required to maintain social distancing whilst in queues outside entrances and once inside buildings, must stick within guided floor markings and wear face coverings.
- Ordered books are handed over at designated collection points and customers cannot browse titles on the shelves.
- Public access IT facilities are available by appointment only, with a limit of one 45-minute appointment per day per customers.
- The council's mobile library service will continue to operate, with customers able to use Select and Collect.
- To order a book using Select and Collect visit [here](#) or call the Customer Service Centre on 0345 045 5225.
- For more information about library services visit <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/libraries-leisure-culture/libraries>

Schools

Schools continue to remain open for all children and young people as they have since the start of the autumn term for the duration of the national restrictions. Being at school is vital for children's education and for their wellbeing. Time spent out of school is detrimental for children's cognitive and academic development, particularly for disadvantaged children. This impact can affect both current levels of

education, and children's future ability to learn. It continues to be our aim that all pupils, in all year groups, remain in school full-time. The risk to children themselves of becoming severely ill from coronavirus (COVID-19) is very low and there are negative health impacts of being out of school. For the vast majority of children, the benefits of being back in the classroom far outweigh the low risk from coronavirus (COVID-19) and schools can take action to reduce risks still further.

The County Council published [actions for schools during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#) guidance to support schools to welcome back all children from the start of the autumn term. Schools should continue to undertake risk assessments and implement the system of controls set out in this guidance. These measures provide a framework for school leaders to put in place proportionate protective measures for pupils and staff. If schools follow the guidance and maximise control measures, they can be confident they are managing risk effectively.

We would expect schools to ensure any changes required in light of national restrictions are in place as soon as practically possible, and by Monday 9 November at the latest.

Home tutoring and elective home educating

Home tutoring and out-of-school activities to support elective home education can continue to operate provided that they are primarily used by home educating parents as part of their arrangements for their child to receive a suitable full-time education.

Music, dance and drama

Music, dance and drama can be undertaken in school so long as safety precautions are undertaken. Advice is provided in the [full opening guidance for schools](#).

Residential providers and boarding schools

Residential providers should support students to reduce travel between home and educational accommodation unless absolutely necessary. Where students normally travel between their boarding school and home during term time for the purpose of education, this is allowed.

Face coverings

In primary schools and education settings teaching Year 6 and below, there is no change to the existing position. It is not mandatory for staff and visitors to wear face coverings. In situations where social distancing between adults in settings is not possible (for example when moving around in corridors and communal areas), settings have the discretion to recommend the use of face coverings for adults on site, for both staff and visitors.

In schools where pupils in Year 7 and above are educated, face coverings should be worn by adults and pupils when moving around the premises, outside of classrooms, such as in corridors and communal areas where social distancing cannot easily be maintained. This was already the case for pupils in Year 7 and above, and staff and visitors for those schools that were in areas where local alert level 'high' and 'very high'.

Some individuals are exempt from wearing face coverings and we expect adults and pupils to be sensitive to those needs.

Face coverings should also be worn by pupils in Year 7 and above when travelling on dedicated school transport to secondary school or college.

Clinically extremely vulnerable children and staff

Children

More evidence has emerged that shows there is a very low risk of children becoming very unwell from coronavirus (COVID-19), even for children with existing health conditions. Most children originally identified as clinically extremely vulnerable no longer need to follow original shielding advice. Parents should be advised to speak to their child's GP or specialist clinician if they have not already done so, to understand whether their child should still be classed as clinically extremely vulnerable.

Those children whose doctors have confirmed they are still clinically extremely vulnerable are advised not to attend education whilst the national restrictions are in place. Schools will need to make appropriate

arrangements to enable them to continue their education at home. Children who live with someone who is clinically extremely vulnerable, but who are not clinically extremely vulnerable themselves, should still attend education.

Parents of clinically extremely vulnerable children will be receiving a letter shortly confirming this advice.

Staff

Those individuals who are clinically extremely vulnerable are advised to work from home and not to go into work. Individuals in this group will have been identified through a letter from the NHS or from their GP, and may have been advised to shield in the past. Staff should talk to their employers about how they will be supported, including to work from home where possible, during the period of national restrictions.

All other staff should continue to attend work, including those living in a household with someone who is clinically extremely vulnerable.

Clinically vulnerable staff and children

Staff and children who are clinically vulnerable or have underlying health conditions but are not clinically extremely vulnerable, may continue to attend school in line with current guidance.

Transport

The transport guidance sets out a framework for local authorities and schools to follow when arranging transport to and from schools from the autumn term. We are clear that there cannot be a 'one size fits all' approach where the system of controls describes every scenario, but it provides a set of principles to support informed local decision making and risk assessment. Children and young people aged 11 and over must wear a face covering on public transport. Face coverings should also be worn by pupils in Year 7 and above when travelling on dedicated school transport to secondary school or college. This does not apply to those who are [exempt](#).

Travel in or out of local areas should be avoided, and parents, carers and staff should look to reduce the number of journeys they make - but travelling to deliver and access education is still permitted.

Staff, children and their parents and carers are encouraged to walk or cycle when travelling to and from school where this is possible, and to plan ahead and avoid busy times and routes on public transport. This will allow social distancing to be practised.

Sport and physical education

It is important that children continue to remain fit and active and, wherever possible, have the 60 active minutes of daily physical activity recommended by the Chief Medical Officers. Schools have the flexibility to decide how physical education, sport and physical activity will be provided whilst following the measures in their system of controls.

Sports whose national governing bodies have developed guidance under the principles of the government's guidance on team sport and been approved by the government are permitted. Schools must only provide team sports listed on the [return to recreational team sport framework](#). Competition between different schools should not take place, in line with the wider restrictions on grassroots sport. Pupils should be kept in consistent groups and sports equipment thoroughly cleaned between each use by different individual groups.

Outdoor sports should be prioritised where possible, and large indoor spaces used where it is not, maximising natural ventilation flows (through opening windows and doors or using air conditioning systems wherever possible), distancing between pupils and paying scrupulous attention to cleaning and hygiene. This is particularly important in a sports setting because of the way in which people breathe during exercise. External facilities can also be used in line with government guidance for the use of, and travel to and from, those facilities.

Schools are able to work with external coaches, clubs and organisations for curricular activities where they are satisfied that it is safe to do so. Where schools are offering extra-curricular activities (that is, before and after school clubs) they should only do so where it is reasonably necessary to support parents to work, search for work, or undertake training or education, or where the provision is being used for the purposes of respite care.

Schools should consider carefully how such arrangements can operate within their wider protective measures.

Activities such as active miles, making break times and lessons active and encouraging active travel help to enable pupils to be physically active while encouraging physical distancing.

Addenbrooke's ready to fight winter pressures and Covid

Addenbrooke's are gearing up for winter with plans for managing infectious diseases like Covid, flu and norovirus alongside the many other patients requiring care. Winter is always a tough time for hospitals, but the need to keep patients socially distanced will reduce the number of beds they have available, placing more strain on their services this year.

To tackle this they have devised a winter bed plan designed to balance the need to provide safe, responsive care for planned and unplanned patients, with and without Covid-19.

It sets out which wards will change to amber and red as cases of Covid-19 increase in coming months, and gives them some certainty to the sequence of steps that will be taken, even if they can't be entirely certain about levels of demand.

Peter Hudson
County Councillor
Longstanton, Northstowe, Oakington, Westwick, and Over