

COVID-19 CASES

Over the past six weeks, the counts of deaths involving Covid-19 have continued to decrease

- over the past six weeks, the percentage of deaths involving Covid-19 has shown a declining trend, making up a third of all deaths (31.6%) in week 15 to a fifth of all deaths (21.1%) now in week 21. The absolute counts of death occurrences from Covid-19 in Leicestershire have also been decreasing by week, from 68 death occurrences in week 15 to 27 death occurrences in week 21.
- as of week 21 2020, there have been a total of 414 deaths in Leicestershire; this has increased by 27 deaths in Leicestershire compared to last week.

Weekly Covid-19 deaths in care homes are at a low in Leicestershire

- of these total deaths involving Covid-19 in Leicestershire, 256 (62%) were in hospital and 126 (30%) were in care homes.
- the number of care home deaths in Leicestershire dropped to 5 in the last week compared to 8 in the previous week. **This latest weekly Covid-19 death count is the lowest for the past seven weeks.**
- counts of deaths in care homes remain below the counts of deaths in local hospitals. In hospitals, there were 16 deaths in the past week, compared to 23 in the previous week.

The latest data show the weekly count of deaths involving Covid-19 (27) is less than half of the peak Easter week (68)

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Deaths (numbers) by local authority and cause of death, for deaths that occurred up to 22nd May but were registered up to 30th May:

	Care Home		Elsewhere		Home		Hospice		Hospital		Population	
	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate
Blaby	14	13.9	1	1.0	3	3.0	1	1.0	40	39.8	59	58.8
Charnwood	29	15.9	1	0.5	3	1.6	3	1.6	57	31.2	93	50.9
Harborough	17	18.4	0	0.0	2	2.2	1	1.1	32	34.6	52	56.2
H&B	29	25.8	0	0.0	3	2.7	4	3.6	44	39.1	80	71.2
Melton	11	21.5	0	0.0	2	3.9	0	0.0	13	25.4	26	50.9
NWLeics	14	13.7	0	0.0	5	4.9	1	1.0	36	35.3	56	54.8
O&W	12	21.0	2	3.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	34	59.6	48	84.1

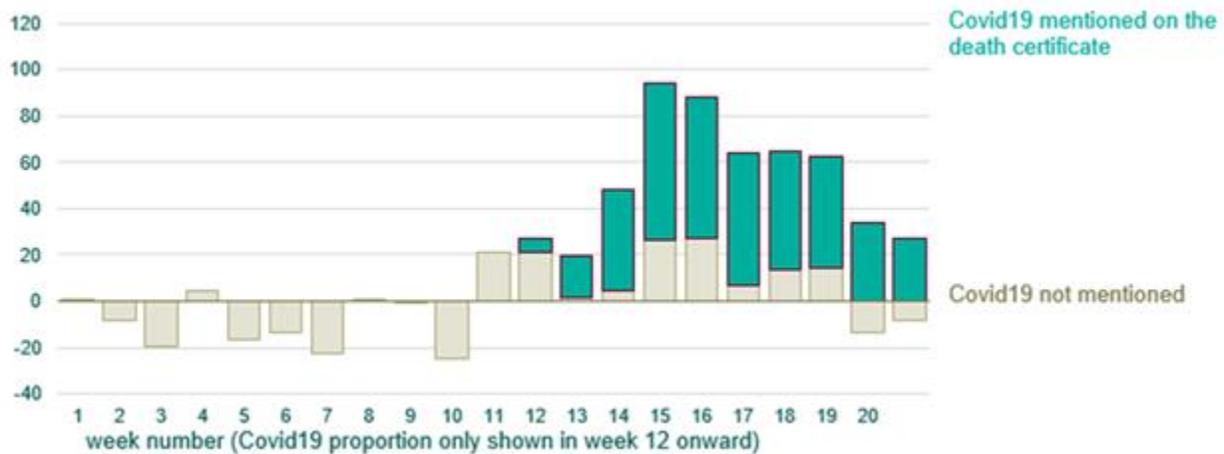
LEICESTERSHIRE	126	18.0	4	0.6	18	2.6	10	1.4	256	36.7	414	59.3
Rutland	3	7.6	0	0.0	2	5.0	2	5.0	9	22.7	16	40.3
Leicester City	51	14.4	9	2.5	6	1.7	1	0.3	166	46.7	233	65.6
LLR	180	16.5	13	1.2	26	2.4	13	1.2	431	39.4	663	60.6

For the second week running, all excess deaths in Leicestershire were due to Covid-19

- counts of excess deaths in Leicestershire have shown a declining trend over the past six weeks. The latest figures from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) show that 128 deaths occurred in Leicestershire for week 21 of 2020, of which 18 were excess deaths (compared to the five-year average for this week of the year). This has decreased from 20 excess deaths reported from the previous week.
- the latest week's data show there were 27 deaths that mentioned Covid-19 on the death certificate. **This means for the second week running all excess deaths were due to Covid-19 in Leicestershire (based on death occurrences).**

Weekly provisional figures on deaths occurring, minus the weekly average (2015 to 2019) plus death counts where coronavirus (COVID-19) was mentioned on the death certificate

Leicestershire



Covid-19 - Weekly occurrences

Based on a chart by David Spiegelhalter

Counts of cases are declining daily following a small peak on 22nd May

- as of 31st May, the 7-day average of daily cases shows there have been two peaks of cases in Leicestershire. The first was on 7th April (29.5 daily cases) and the second on 21st April (28.1 daily cases). A third smaller peak of 16.1 daily cases was witnessed on 22nd May. The average number of daily cases has declined each day following. This pattern is witnessed for Blaby, Charnwood and Harborough.

District Level Summary

Oadby & Wigston continues to have the highest rate of Covid-19 cases and deaths in the county, however the rolling 7-day average of daily cases has been declining since the middle of May. These high rates may be due to the high ethnic mix as a quarter (28.1%) of all residents are from ethnic minorities. This is four times higher than the county average. There is also the second highest rate of care home beds per population aged 75+. However, only a quarter (25%) of all Covid-19 deaths in Oadby & Wigston have been in care homes. In Leicestershire, the average currently stands at a third (30.5%). The counts of death occurrences from Covid-19 have been decreasing over the last four weeks in Oadby & Wigston.

Hinckley & Bosworth has the second highest rate of Covid-19 cases and deaths in the county. The rolling 7-day average of daily cases peaked on 11th and 21st April and since then has been a steady decline (with a few fluctuations). The counts of death occurrences increased each week between week 12 and week 18, however weeks 19 and 20 have shown declines in deaths from Covid-19. The latest week's data show only 6 deaths from Covid-19, slightly higher than the previous week's total of 4. It is worth noting over a third (36%) of all deaths from Covid-19 in Hinckley & Bosworth have been in care homes. This is the second highest percentage in the county.

Blaby has the third highest rate of Covid-19 cases in the county. The rolling 7-day average of daily cases has shown two peaks in April, one around the 9th April and one around 23rd April. A third smaller peak has been witnessed around 19th May. The average number of cases has been declining since this peak. Blaby has the lowest rate of care home beds per population aged 75+ in the county. Just under a quarter (24%) of deaths in Blaby have been in care homes compared to over two-thirds (68%) of deaths in hospital. The last four weeks of deaths' data show the counts have remained rather stable, with 6 deaths in weeks 18 and 19, 8 deaths in week 20 and 7 deaths in week 21.

Harborough has the fourth highest rate of Covid-19 deaths in the county. The rolling 7-day average of daily cases has shown two peaks in April, one around 8th April and one around 27th April. A third smaller peak was witnessed around 26th May but has since been declining. A third (33%) of deaths from Covid-19 occurred in care homes and just under two-thirds (62%) in hospital, a pattern witnessed at county level. Over the last four weeks the counts of death occurrences from Covid-19 have shown a decreasing trend, from 13 in week 17 to 0 in week 21.

Charnwood has the third lowest rate of Covid-19 cases in the county. It is noted that Charnwood has the smallest percentage of the population aged 65+ out of all seven district councils but the second highest percentage of ethnic minorities. The pattern of cases replicates what is seen in Blaby, with two peaks in April and a third smaller peak near the end of May. Charnwood has the highest rate of care home beds per population aged 75+, however the percentage of Covid-19 deaths (31%) in care homes is similar to the Leicestershire figure (31%). The latest week's death data show only 3 deaths were seen in Charnwood (with no deaths seen in care homes), this is the lowest count for eight weeks.

North West Leicestershire has the second lowest rate of Covid-19 cases and third lowest rate of deaths in the county. NW Leicestershire is the most deprived district and has the second lowest percentages of 65+ population and ethnic minorities. The rolling 7-day average of daily cases has shown one peak in the middle of April which has since declined. A small increase in cases was seen in the last few days of May, but this is already showing signs of declining. The

death occurrence counts from Covid-19 in NW Leicestershire replicate the pattern of cases, with one peak witnessed for the week ending 10th April, and is since declining. Four deaths were seen in the latest week's death counts compared to zero in the previous week. These counts will be monitored due to small numbers.

Melton has the lowest rate of Covid-19 cases and deaths in the county. This is of interest as Melton has the highest percentage of the population aged 65+ in Leicestershire. The rural nature or compliance with social distancing may help to explain these low rates. The rolling 7-day average of daily cases has shown one peak at the beginning of April. The average number of daily cases has since stabilised since the middle of April. In Melton, five Covid-19 deaths were seen in the latest weekly death counts. This is the highest number of deaths in Melton for the past six weeks. These deaths were witnessed in both hospital (3), care homes (1) and other establishments (1).

Hopefully, information in this new format will be helpful and of interest to members. However, it will not be possible for the Director of Public Health to present it in the all-member briefing on Tuesday afternoon given that ONS weekly figures are not published until earlier on Tuesdays.

From next week the Director will make a shorter verbal presentation highlighting any immediate 'stand out' figures and his first reaction, which can be clarified in the Update later in the week. Questions from members can be followed up in the next briefing or pursued through normal channels. As always, it is helpful to receive (by e-mail) advance notice of questions for the all-member briefing.

'TEST AND TRACE' – LOCAL OUTBREAK CONTROL PLANS

As one of the 11 'beacon' sites or places (Update 19) there is increasing work ongoing between the 11 and with the Department of Health and Social Care and the new Joint Biosecurity Centre which is being established. Currently most attention is being paid to the importance of quality data to inform the local plans. In media interviews, this has been highlighted by the Leader of the County Council.

SHIELDING AND PROTECTING VULNERABLE PEOPLE

Increasing concerns about changes to the Shielding List were mentioned in Update 20. Data management continues to be challenging with people being put on and taken off the list. We observed a large fluctuation in last Monday's data from MHCLG but on Tuesday and Wednesday the figures were back in line with previous weeks. We have repeatedly pressed MHCLG for a list of people who have received a text message to say that they have been removed from the Shielding List, so far unsuccessfully.

In comparison with previously notified figures:

- 24,954 Leicestershire residents identified as requiring shielding as at 2nd June; this figure shows a slight increase since last week.
- 14,247 people on the Shielding List are currently registered for support, of whom 5,087 are registered for support obtaining essential supplies and 1,118 registered with basic care needs.
- the County Council has made over 10,300 calls to people who have registered and district councils have contacted an additional 7,500 people of those responding to say that they had existing food networks, and no identified care needs.
- 5,200 people have received a Government food parcel, with over 260 County Council emergency food parcels delivered. Some people who received food parcels have subsequently said they no longer wish to receive them and de-registered, but we are aware of a small number of people who say that their food parcels have stopped for no reason.
- 45 volunteers engaged by Voluntary Action LeicesterShire (VAL) are undertaking activities including 'safe and well checks'.
- the Department for Work and Pensions continue to attempt to contact people on the Shielded List who have not registered on the Government website. We receive daily updates on unanswered and inconclusive calls and we are following up all records, but the data quality remains very poor.

ADULT SOCIAL CARE

Demand and Capacity

- demand from hospitals has more recently been rising, with 90 new requests received in the last week [Monday 25th to Sunday 31st May) and available beds reducing to more normal capacity.
- similarly, demand from community referrals is also increasing, with 48 new requests for packages [Monday 18th to Friday 22 May].
- the adult social care workforce remains stable with remote working in place and assessments and reviews continuing with regards to social distancing, PPE and video conferencing.
- Overall, the number of people in receipt of services has increased slightly since the start of April.
- service trends show a 10 % increase in the number of people receiving domiciliary care and a 60 % increase in people receiving short term residential care, although permanent residential care has reduced by 10%.
- plans continue to be made to reopen Council operated short break services and this will be followed by day services where social distancing and IPC measures can be arranged.

- recruitment support for the independent sector and in-house is continuing. Shortlisting and interviews are in progress. 131 people are awaiting placement; 16 are in taster sessions and shift shadowing; and 20 new workers have been placed in roles.

Home Care

There continues to be capacity in the home care sector:

- a daily survey is conducted with home care providers across the county.
- this week less than 4% of providers (last week all providers) contacted are able to pick up new packages of care and all providers state that capacity will stay the same or improve over the next few days.
- no providers report themselves to be in a critical position with one provider stating they have less than 7 days supply of PPE.
- although there are now many more suppliers of PPE, procurement officers and Trading Standards officers are discovering a number who are not compliant with standards and regulations, and supply of reasonably-priced, quality PPE can be challenging. The County Council continues to support providers in sourcing PPE, including on an emergency basis.

Residential Care Homes

- there is currently sufficient capacity within the sector for Covid-19 positive and other people. Care homes report over 700 beds available.
- this indicates an overall occupancy level of 85% across the sector, although this will be higher or lower in individual care homes.
- infection rates appear to be reducing: 36% of care homes have reported outbreaks since March, although only around 20% state they have current symptomatic or isolating residents.
- currently 6% of care home staff are reported to be absent/in isolation, although as testing is rolled out across care homes, there is a risk that staff absence will increase.
- the County Council has developed a priority list of care homes for both testing of staff and residents and the ability to manage Covid-19 positive residents and admissions. A risk rating will be used to undertake proactive work with the homes to reduce their risk.

Local Care Home Support Planning and Adult Social Care Infection Control Fund

- as mentioned in Update 19, the County Council has written to the Care Minister to outline our support for care homes. This is a new national requirement and all upper tier local authorities are required to publish their response on their website. The pack for Leicestershire can be found at <https://resources.leicestershire.gov.uk/adult-social-care-and-health/working-with-you-during-coronavirus/infection-control-fund>

- care homes have been asked to complete a national submission of key data.
- data submitted by care homes show:
 - 99% of care homes are able to access PPE, and 93% have had training to use it
 - 95% of care homes can isolate residents
 - 93% of care homes believe they can restrict staff movement
 - 78% of care homes stated that testing is in place on discharge from hospital, and that they could register for care home testing, but only 32% believed they could access test kits for all residents and staff
 - 58% of providers stated they had a named clinical lead
- all care homes wishing to benefit from the Leicestershire allocation of the £6.7m Infection Control Fund (Update 19) are now required, from 1st June, to complete this data return.
- the first of two payments to care home providers will be made on 10th June 2020. Each care home will be entitled to £962 per bed.

SCHOOLS

Schools and Early Years Settings

- last week was half term and there were around 150 schools open over the week, with around 1100 children attending, of whom 170 were vulnerable children.
- on Thursday 28th May the Prime Minister confirmed schools could re-open from 1st June for Reception and years 1 and 6. Early Years providers could open for all ages from 1st June.
- during this week there has been a trend of increasing uptake of provision in each of the year groups with wider opening. Based on the returns we have from schools (updated since the all member briefing last Tuesday) there are around 34% of eligible Reception children attending, 37% of Year 1 pupils and 46% of Year 6 attending. There has also been a significant increase in the number of vulnerable pupils attending schools across the county.
- secondary schools are now being asked to plan for providing extra face to face provision to year 10's and year 12's from 15th June. This can be delivered on a flexible basis, including through the use of rotas.
- the Department for Education have asked that no more than ¼ of year 10 and year 12 pupils are on site at any one time.

School Transport

- parents of eligible children are being offered a mileage allowance or, where that is not feasible, transport will be arranged. For the three year groups now attending school we have received to date only a very small number of requests for transport.
- while transport for SEND pupils has continued throughout lockdown, we have seen a substantial increase in demand over the past two weeks and are currently working through a backlog of requests.

IMPACT TEAM

- IMPACT was stood down at the beginning of the pandemic, but has been stepped back up to undertake street-based youth work from the 1st June. IMPACT will be deployed into areas based on our own intelligence, intelligence from partners, including the Police, on live ASB data and other issues.
- There will now be two strands to the work: time limited street-based intervention around safety, behaviour and onward referral; and online sessions on a young person-friendly platform with informal learning opportunities. As always, any local intelligence from members or member concerns can be reported to the Children & Family Services Department and are welcome.

ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT

Recycling and Household Waste Sites

- the seven sites which are open are operating well under the current booking system. As things settle down we find most have available capacity on weekdays.
- traffic management (TM) has been removed from all RHWSs with the exception of weekday TM at Whetstone and weekend TM at Lount.
- work is being undertaken to assess if and how we can safely cater for more waste streams/open further sites over the coming weeks and months within staffing and social distancing constraints.

Grass Cutting

- the first urban cut across the county will be completed by Wednesday, 10th June with the second cut commencing immediately following.
- due to a major IT issue affecting the County Council overnight Thursday and into Friday, 5th June, the interactive map showing 'live' grass cutting data will not be available on the County Council's website until next week.

Concessionary Travel

- as of Monday, 8th June, concessionary passes will no longer be accepted before 9.30 a.m. on local buses.

LEGAL MATTERS AND REGULATORY SERVICES

Registration Service

Confirmation was received on 1st June from the General Registrar that face to face birth registrations may commence with immediate effect. Adaptations are being made to conference rooms at Anstey Frith House to allow this to be managed whilst still complying with social distancing measures and relevant health and safety requirements. Other registration offices will be reviewed to enable a planned roll out of this service across the county.

Trading Standards

As a preventative measure and to raise awareness around the increase in consumer fraud, discussions are underway with voluntary sector, including food bank providers, with a view to distributing alert leaflets on the latest scams.

Restrictions on movement

The regulations^[1] which imposed the 'lockdown' have been revised to reflect the well-publicised gradual easing of restrictions. The revised regulations:

- a. change the intervals at which the Secretary of State must review the need for restrictions from every 21 days to every 28 days;
- b. allow fitness facilities to open for elite athletes;
- c. allow places of worship and community centres to be used for the provision of registered early years childcare;
- d. remove the restrictions on movement and replace these with a restriction on staying overnight at any place other than the place at which a person is living unless that person has a 'reasonable excuse'. There is a non-exhaustive list of 'reasonable excuses' including
 - to attend the funeral of a member of the household or close family member or a friend if no family members/ members of the household are attending
 - for training /competition purposes for elite athletes
 - for the purposes of moving to a new house
 - where it is 'reasonably necessary' for the purposes of work, to provide voluntary or charitable services, to provide care or assistance to a vulnerable person, to provide emergency assistance, to avoid injury or illness or to escape the risk of harm and to obtain medical assistance;
 - to fulfil a legal obligation to participate in legal proceedings;
 - to allow a child to have contact with a non-resident parent;

- where a person cannot return to their usual home because it is not safe, or they are subject to a legal restriction preventing them staying there or the place is not available for any other reason.
- e. amend the requirements on 'gatherings' so that groups of up to six persons from different households may meet outdoors. There are exceptions which allow larger gatherings broadly following the list in (d) above but also including attendance at an educational facility for the purposes of education;
 - f. add to the list of businesses which are to stay closed to include theme parks/adventure parks etc, social clubs, model villages, aquariums, zoos and safari parks, farm parks and indoor attractions at botanical gardens, heritage sites and landmarks;