

County Councillor report June 2020

Virus update

Confirmed Covid-19 cases – overall and in care homes

- There were 11 lab-confirmed Covid-19 cases detected in Cambridgeshire (2) and Peterborough (9) in the latest reporting period (15-21 June 2020). Making a total of 1,243 for Cambridgeshire and 465 for Peterborough.
- The rates of lab-confirmed Covid-19 cases have shown reduced increases per week in the latest reporting week than previously for each area.
- For Cambridgeshire and Peterborough combined, the numbers of all cause and Covid-19 deaths have declined in week 24 (98 all cause deaths and 9 Covid deaths compared to 112 and 22 deaths in week 23 respectively).
- The trend in all cause deaths since the Covid-19 initial peak in deaths is down overall in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and all of the Cambridgeshire districts.
- While numbers are quite small and based on relatively few weeks of data, trends in Covid-19 deaths since the peak are declining across all areas in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

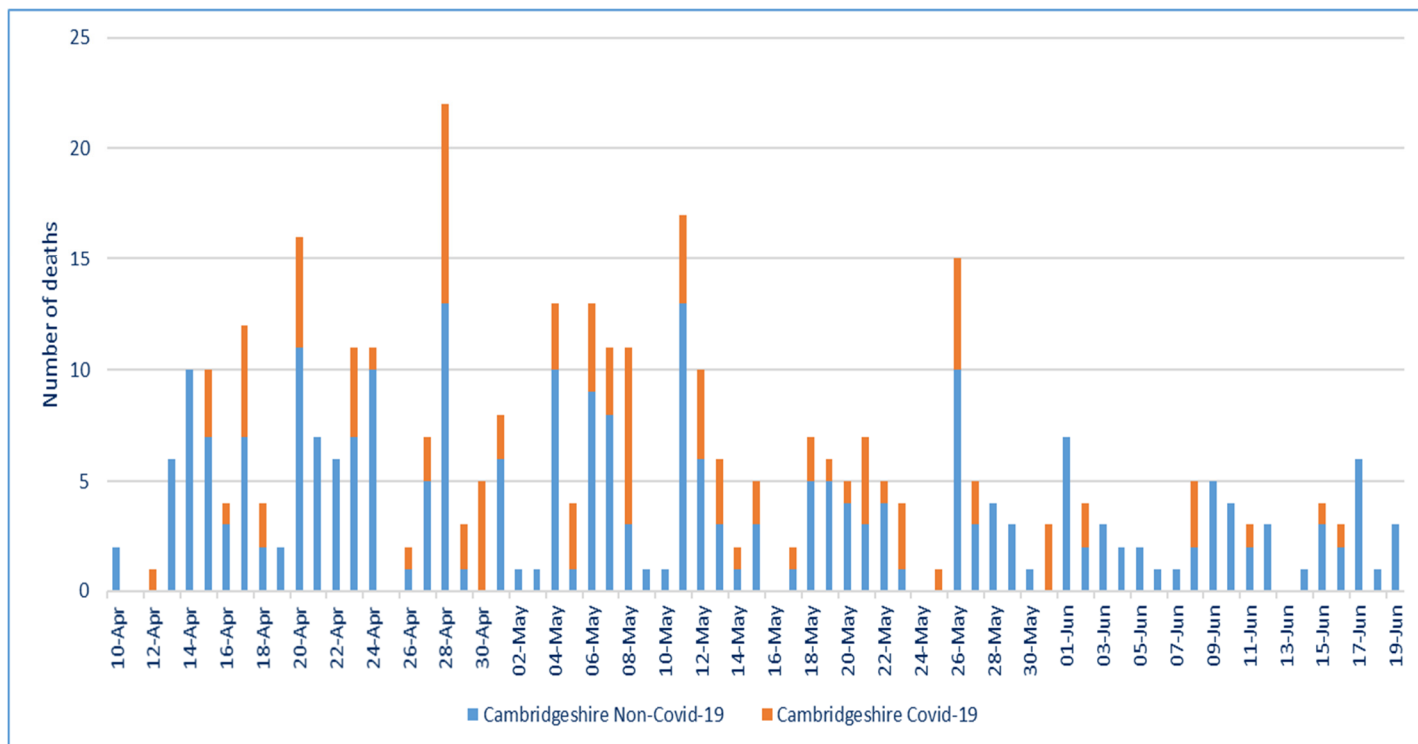
Weekly confirmed positive Covid-19 cases of pillar 1 testing, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, at 15 June 2020

Area	Date, week starting								Total*
	27-Apr	04-May	11-May	18-May	25-May	01-Jun	08-Jun	15-Jun	
Cambridge	21	21	14	5	3	7	1	0	236
East Cambridgeshire	12	15	8	2	1	2	0	1	116
Fenland	28	20	12	11	4	1	1	0	193
Huntingdonshire	73	41	60	57	26	22	1	1	480
South Cambridgeshire	13	18	6	2	3	6	2	0	218
Cambridgeshire	147	115	100	77	37	38	5	2	1,243
Peterborough	56	64	36	37	16	7	16	9	465

Key points:

- In the last eight recording weeks numbers of confirmed Covid-19 cases have continued to decline in Cambridgeshire.
- There were only 2 confirmed positive Covid-19 cases in Cambridgeshire in the latest recording week.

All cause and Covid-19 related deaths occurring in care home residents, 10 April to 19 June 2020, Care Quality Commission (CQC) dataset, Cambridgeshire



Key points:

- The CQC were notified of 371 deaths from all causes in Cambridgeshire care homes between 10 April and 19 June 2020. 110 (30%) of these deaths were Covid-19 related.
- The highest daily number of notifications of care home deaths in Cambridgeshire to the CQC was on 28 April. There were 22 notifications of deaths, and 9 (41%) were Covid-19 related.
- Recently, 26 May also had a fairly high number of notifications; 15 deaths, of these 5 (33%) were Covid-19 related.
- There have been 2 Covid-19 related death notification in care homes in Cambridgeshire since 11 June.
- Notifications of death are typically provided within 2-3 days of death, with low levels of reporting at the weekend and high levels on the first working day of the week.

Countywide Hub marks first 100-days



The Countywide Co-ordination Hub marked its 100-day anniversary in June.

The hub launched in March to support residents identified as shielding and being of the highest risk to coronavirus. Currently there are more than 30,000 people across Cambridgeshire who are shielding, with 19,058 of them registered with the Hub. 7,653 of these people are receiving regular help.

Since its launch the Countywide Hub has:

- Delivered food packages to 2,782 residents. This includes 914 specialist food parcels
- Made contact, either on the telephone or on home visits, with 3,732 people who the NHS believes should be shielding who the Government could not reach
- Referred 762 people to the Red Cross for befriending services
- Responded to 5,915 calls from residents
- Responded to 4,791 emails asking for help
- Delivered PPE to GP surgeries, pharmacies, care homes and elsewhere
- Launched a website specifically for residents who are shielding to allow them to learn new skills and keep busy whilst isolating
- Launched a service which supports residents with everyday tasks such as gardening and essential DIY
- Trained volunteers to work in places such as care homes where staff are in short supply
- Supported hundreds of carers across the county

The Countywide Hub was created from scratch at incredible pace, to be able to provide the support that so many of our residents needed at that time and still do. What has been achieved in such a short space of time is truly remarkable.

The pandemic left hundreds of people across our county feeling worried, alone and without help within a very short space of time. It has, and continues to be, an incredibly difficult time for so many residents, but the network of support hubs has lightened the load for so many people. The work from council staff, and local volunteers who continue to show the most fantastic community spirit, supporting people in their communities who need help at this time has been phenomenal.

PPE Hub delivers over 2.4 million items through partnership working

The Cambridgeshire PPE Hub, has now delivered over 2.4 million PPE items to care homes, GPs, pharmacies, hospices, prisons as well as many others working on the frontline.

The County PPE Hub is a collaborative effort including volunteer organisations, the military, and other partners in the regional health and social care system, delivering around 40,000 items of PPE each day. After an initial seven-day operation schedule, the team now works five days a week to provide PPE and offers both urgent same-day delivery and next-day delivery. To comply with social distancing rules, staff across the hub are split into two teams reducing risk to staff and ensuring that the PPE delivery service is as resilient as possible.

Schools step up plans to welcome back all year groups in September

Education Leads across Cambridgeshire County Council are continuing their work with primary and secondary schools and academy trusts, following the government's announcement that all year groups should be set to return in September.

The county's schools, the majority of which are currently open to selected year groups having successfully implemented their social 'bubbles', will need to adapt their plans to cater for more children, now that social distancing has been downgraded from a safe distance of two metres to a minimum of one. Guidance from the Department of Education is expected with the next few weeks, but schools are already making plans and working through detailed risk assessments, ensuring pupils can return to environments where every aspect of their safety and wellbeing has been fully considered.

Throughout the whole lockdown period Cambridgeshire has consistently had more schools open for vulnerable and keyworker children than the national average, and are currently catering for as many Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children as can be safely managed.

Schools invited to join safety improvement scheme

Schools in Cambridgeshire are being invited to join a new initiative aimed at creating a safe space outside their gates which encourages pupils to use active transport and maintain social distancing.

Following government guidelines aimed at encouraging cycling and walking, Cambridgeshire County Council have written to all schools inviting them to take part in the 'School Streets' scheme.

By creating a school street, schools can temporarily close a road outside their entrance, enabling it to become a pedestrian and cycle/scoot zone during the school's opening and closing times.

This will also help to implement social distancing and encourage active travel, with the added benefit of reducing congestion and pollution at the school gates and improving safety for children on their way to and from school.

If adopted, the County Council will work to support school street schemes under a temporary traffic regulation order for up to 18 months.

Once a school street is in place, cones and signs will be put across the road to prevent vehicle accessing the area during school drop-off and pick-up time periods. The closure will need to be put up and taken down on a daily basis and will not apply at weekends and during school holidays. Access will be maintained for emergency vehicles.

Schools will need to put forward volunteers to help run the scheme and the County Council will provide full training and resources free of charge. The scheme will then be owned and operated by the school community, with support from the County Council.

Library services to re-open in Cambridgeshire

Book lovers can now order titles and collect them from libraries in Cambridgeshire. Following government guidance, Cambridgeshire County Council is starting a phased re-opening of library services from Monday 6 July, in line with the latest health and safety guidelines. The council's nine major libraries; Cambridge Central, Huntingdon, St Ives, St Neots, Bar Hill, Cambourne, Ely, March, Wisbech will be re-opening from that date - for opening times visit <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/libraries-leisure-culture/libraries/library-news> . In order to maintain a safe environment, a number of service changes have been made. Customers will be required to maintain social distancing outside library entrances and once inside the buildings, will not be able to browse titles.

To help people access the books they want, the County Council is introducing a new service called '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 libraries. To order a book using Select and Collect visit the above link or call the Customer Service Centre on 0345 045 5225. Customers will be notified when their books are ready to collect. Reservations will be reintroduced to allow customers to request individual titles. The County Council plans opening all remaining libraries from 3 August for two days per week and will continue to review the situation. Library meeting rooms will remain closed and events and activities will not resume until it is safe to do so. Mobile library services will also remain closed until further notice. Public access IT facilities will be available by appointment only, with a limit of one 45 minute appointment per day per customers.

For more information about library services visit: <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/libraries-leisure-culture/libraries>

The County Council's archives service is also re-opening, more details here: <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/libraries-leisure-culture/archives>

Cambridgeshire County council assists in preparations to get pubs, bars and restaurants ready to welcome back visitors

The highways team at Cambridgeshire County Council has been working closely with its partners to ensure towns, cities and villages have enough pedestrian and cycle space to allow social distancing and to protect people's safety. The team has been working with city and district councils across Cambridgeshire to make temporary changes to the highway to make areas Covid-19 secure – including putting down floor stencils, removing planters and other street furniture to create more space, widening footpaths and installing temporary barriers. These will guide visitors and ensure enough space to keep a 2m gap (or 1m plus, where this is not possible) from each other when pubs, bars and restaurants start to re-open from Saturday (4 July).

Wedding ceremonies update

The government has announced that wedding ceremonies can take place from July 4 onwards in England. Many people in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough want to get married or have a civil partnership and the County Council registration staff are working to contact couples who had previously arranged ceremonies. The County Council Registration Services team are prioritising couples who were due to have their ceremony during lockdown, between 24 March and July 3. These couples have already been contacted by the team via email.

For more details, visit the Cambridgeshire County Council registration services webpage <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/births-deaths-and-marriages>

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