

## YOUR HEALTHWATCH

### (1) SPECIAL REPORT

#### Dentistry: warnings of a dentistry crisis as public concerns continue

"We urge the Government to take urgent action to address issues with access to NHS dental care as we continue to hear from people about their poor experiences."

- Healthwatch England, February 2021

Healthwatch England have announced a dental crisis as a result of local Healthwatch, including Brighton and Hove, sharing concerns from local people trying to access dental services during the pandemic.



What action has Healthwatch taken locally?  
What are you telling us?

Every week, Healthwatch hears from members of the public about the problems they are facing finding NHS dental services. 17 people have contacted us since January and this quote from someone who recently contacted us summarises the issue:

"I've tried to call some NHS dentists but none of them is taking on new patients, and the NHS dental helpline couldn't do anything for me as it was not an emergency. I know the situation is very complicated at the moment, but I was wondering if you could help me?"

Since the first lockdown was announced people have found it increasingly difficult to find a dentist or get the treatment they need, sometimes leaving them in pain and discomfort.

At the same time, dental practices have been impacted by COVID restrictions on their ability to deliver treatment and advice. All dental practices were required to close for face-to-face care on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at the beginning of the first national lockdown. Urgent Dental Care Hubs were set up during April for those patients with the greatest urgent need. In Sussex there were three hubs located in Brighton, Crawley, and Haywards Heath. Dental services recommenced from 8<sup>th</sup> June 2020 and have remained open for face-to-face care during the current lockdown period. By 20<sup>th</sup> July, all practices were required to be open for face-to-face treatment.

But whilst services resumed last summer, people are still experiencing problems - locally and nationally.

## What have you told us, and what information exists?

Healthwatch Brighton and Hove recently spoke to local people about accessing dental services under COVID-19 and we were told:

- 60% found it difficult or very difficult to find an NHS dental service to help them.
- 25% never heard back from the dental service they contacted.
- 59% were dissatisfied with waiting times to see someone.

[Read the full findings from our 2020 survey.](#)

Healthwatch Brighton and Hove have raised these issues with NHS England who commission dental services, local MPs, and local NHS leaders. We have also provided findings to the Council's Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, asking NHS commissioners to improve access to dental services and clarify important issues for the public.

Healthwatch Brighton and Hove are currently reviewing dental practice websites and out of hours phone numbers to find out what local people are being advised and this is what we have found so far:

- 13 dental practices do not have any information on services being offered under the current lockdown.
- 8 dental practices are not clear as to whether they are offering NHS appointments (in addition to private appointments only)
- 15 dental practices do not mention prioritising patients according to urgency or for patients with previously cancelled appointments.
- none of the practice websites mention the NHS Dental helpline and only three refer patients to the Brighton & Hove Emergency Dental service (in the case of urgent need).

The full report will be made available in the coming weeks.

David Liley, CEO, Healthwatch Brighton and Hove, said "Based on local views, we are championing the cause for people in Brighton and Hove. It is great to see that our local findings have helped raise these important issues nationally, through Healthwatch England."

We are hearing that patients are being told that waiting times for routine or non-urgent NHS treatment can vary from between 2 to 6 months, with many dental practices advising they have no free NHS slots at present. If patients require emergency help for dental issues they are advised to contact a dentist and explain that they need to be seen as a matter of urgency. Patients can also try the emergency phone numbers which are contained in the Healthwatch guide which you can access by [clicking here](#).

You can read more about dentistry, the work of Healthwatch England and their findings on the next page.

Healthwatch England advised this week that it continues to hear concerns about dentistry, which were first highlighted in the ["Dentistry and the impact of COVID-19"](#) report which followed a 452% rise in calls and complaints to local Healthwatch.

### Report findings

In a follow-up review of people's feedback on dentistry, Healthwatch England looked at a further 1,129 people's experiences of accessing dental care, received between October and December 2020, and found:

- Access to dentistry remained difficult for more than seven in 10 people (72%).
- Some people who actively sought dental treatment were told they would have to wait anywhere between a few months to, in one case, two years for an appointment.
- Access to urgent NHS treatment was difficult for both people with painful teeth, with patients being told that dental pain was not considered an "emergency", and those who were prescribed multiple courses of antibiotics by NHS111 without being provided any further treatment.
- Some people said they had called over 40 practices to find an NHS dentist, and pulled their own teeth out when they couldn't bear the pain.
- When dentists couldn't offer an appointment, they advised people to buy dental repair kits to treat themselves. In one case, an individual was advised to use a nail file to deal with the sharp edges of a broken tooth.

Healthwatch England highlighted similar issues in their report published last December, which examined what people had told local Healthwatch across England from July to September 2020 about accessing dental care. [Read the report](#)

The findings come after some MPs and [the British Dental Association called on the Government to scrap its new targets for NHS dentists](#), which require them to deliver 45% of their pre-pandemic levels of dental activity. There are concerns this is likely to push practices into prioritising appointments such as check-ups over emergency or more complex treatments.

Healthwatch England has previously called for more emphasis to be placed on solving structural issues within NHS dental services and warns dental care is facing an immediate crisis without the Government stepping up to the plate.

**Sir Robert Francis QC, Chair of Healthwatch England, said:**

**"Our findings show that access to dental care is currently neither equal nor inclusive, leading to traumatic experiences for many people.**

**"This provides yet more evidence that the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the human impact of years of structural issues in NHS dentistry and is now pushing it to crisis point. We are hugely concerned that this will have detrimental effects to the nation's health for years to come.**

“Although we have to grapple with the pandemic, all efforts should be made to treat those in need of urgent care and provide more accurate and up-to-date information to help people find and access NHS dental care.

“In the longer term, the Department of Health and Social Care must prioritise the importance of oral health and commit to improving access to dentistry for everyone who needs it.”

### The impact on people

The Healthwatch England findings also suggest that people are being told that although NHS appointments are not available, they can be treated privately. This creates a real barrier for everyone, particularly for people on low incomes, to receive vital treatment.

## (2) REMINDER! Shielding advice for Clinically Extremely Vulnerable People



Webinars for Care Home Relatives: Impact of separation and what should the system be doing to support relatives and carers?



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

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

**Wednesday February 24<sup>th</sup>, 3 - 4 pm**

**Impact of long-term restricted visiting/separation from loved ones.**

We will explore how this affecting families and health and social care partners will be on hand to support the conversation.

**Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> 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.

*Both webinars are 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 both webinars (via Eventbrite). Please register for each webinar separately:

<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](mailto:elizabeth.mackie@healthwatcheastSussex.co.uk)

Any media enquiries please contact: [enquiries@healthwatcheastSussex.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@healthwatcheastSussex.co.uk)

### (3) REMINDER! Young Healthwatch survey



Are you 16-25 years old and living in the Sussex area?

Do you want the chance to win one of 5 X £20 Amazon vouchers?

Do you want to have your say on how to make phone and video mental health appointments more accessible for young people?

Do you have more ideas to share about digital mental health appointments?

Do you want to take part in a 30-minute zoom interview and receive a £5 Amazon voucher?

Email [lucy.chadburn@ymcadlg.org](mailto:lucy.chadburn@ymcadlg.org) or [elena.gelibter@ymcadlg.org](mailto:elena.gelibter@ymcadlg.org) to hear more!

Then complete our quick survey and share your views <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/RSCfocusgroup>

**READY SET CONNECT!**

Mental Health appointments for young people are currently being delivered via **phone** or **video** calls

How can we make these calls more **accessible** to young people?  
**Have your say!**

Aged 16-25?  
Answer the survey and enter prize draw for one of 5 x £20 amazon vouchers!  
<https://tinyurl.com/rsc-ymca>





## HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE UPDATES

### (1) Ageing Well Support Directory

The latest Ageing Well Support Directory and Help Accessing Food Directory is available by clicking this link <http://ageingwellbh.org/coronavirus/>

The aim of the Ageing Well Support Directories is to produce an up-to-date list of useful information about support available both locally and nationally. Although Ageing Well's work is with people aged over 50, many of the services listed are useful to all ages. Do take a look.

### (2) FREE support for men to help them lose weight

Albion in the Community are offering men living in Lancing, Shoreham, Southwick and Sompting support to lose weight and keep it off.

Kick Off The Weight is a new opportunity in partnership with Adur and Worthing Wellbeing.

This 12-week course will start on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March from 6.30 to 8 pm. Each participant will get a starter kit including exercise mat, resistance band and tape measure to record progress. Fun interactive sessions - part healthy eating advice and part physical activity.

Anyone who is interested should call 01273 878269 or email [neighbourhoodhealth@albioninthecommunity.org.uk](mailto:neighbourhoodhealth@albioninthecommunity.org.uk).

**KICK OFF THE WEIGHT**

**FREE!**

**MEN'S 12-WEEK WEIGHT MANAGEMENT COURSE**  
SHOREHAM / LANCING / SOMPTING / SOUTHWICK

**STARTS MONDAY 1 MARCH 6.30-8PM**

**EXPERT ADVICE ON LOSING WEIGHT AND KEEPING IT OFF** | For more information, call us on: **01273 878269** or email: [neighbourhoodhealth@albioninthecommunity.org.uk](mailto:neighbourhoodhealth@albioninthecommunity.org.uk)

**Albion in the Community** In partnership with **adur & worthing wellbeing**

Icons: Person in wheelchair, Person lifting weights, Person running, Person walking, Person on bicycle

### (3) Healthy Lifestyle during COVID-19

There has never been a better time to look after your health.

What steps can you take to improve your health right now?

We have attached as a separate document a useful resource which covers the following areas:

- ✓ **Be smoke free**
- ✓ **Move more**
- ✓ **Lose weight**
- ✓ **Drink less**
- ✓ **Improve your wellbeing**
- ✓ **Get support**

For information and local services to support you to lose weight, get more active, stop smoking and drink less alcohol please visit:

[www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/healthylifestyles](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/healthylifestyles)  
[www.nhs.uk/better-health](http://www.nhs.uk/better-health)

The Healthy Lifestyles Team will help you to find and access free support to make the changes that are important to you.

Our support includes online group activities and one to one support (online or by telephone). Interpreters are also available if needed.

For a free, confidential conversation about the changes you want to make visit:

[www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/healthy-lifestyle-referrals](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/healthy-lifestyle-referrals)  
or call 01273 294589.

### (4) Suicide bereavement support services

The enhanced suicide bereavement support service is now up and running.

#### **Sussex Suicide Bereavement Support Service**

Is a service for anyone in Sussex who has been affected by a suicide or possible suicide however long ago. The service offers a single point of contact which can signpost you to a range of different support.

Call or email any time

**07376 616628**

[sussexbereavedbysuicide@cruse.org.uk](mailto:sussexbereavedbysuicide@cruse.org.uk)

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



#### COVID-19

I am pleased to tell you that the number of confirmed cases of Covid-19 in Brighton & Hove is continuing to fall as lockdown drives down infection rates. In the past week fewer people need treatment for COVID-19 in our local hospitals, although a high number of patients still need critical care.

As an example of how effective lockdown has been, in January the daily total of cases fell from just over 330 a day at the beginning of the month to less than 60 a day by 31 January.

The NHS vaccination programme is also progressing well. Across Sussex more than 350,000 people have been vaccinated. Last weekend alone, more than 10,000 people got their jabs in vaccination centres, local vaccination services, pharmacies, and hospital hubs. People who are housebound are being contacted by local teams to arrange a home visit.

From this week, anyone aged over 70 or who is clinically extremely vulnerable who has not been vaccinated yet can now book directly with the NHS [online](#) or call 119 free of charge between 7am to 11pm.

If you are not in one of these groups, please be patient - the NHS will contact you when it is your turn. More information about the Sussex NHS Covid-19 vaccination programme is available on the [Sussex Health and Care website](#).

To maintain this excellent progress, it's important we all continue to follow the [government's directive to stay home](#) and to stay within our local area when we do go out for essential reasons - especially during half term next week. This applies to everyone - even if you have been vaccinated

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.**

NHS services are currently extremely busy, and demand continues to rise due to higher rates of COVID-19 in our communities. For urgent medical help, contact 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.

In the event that 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 10<sup>th</sup> February 2021, the total number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 (recorded since February 2020) in Brighton and Hove stood at 13,593. In the 7 days up to 7<sup>th</sup> February, there were 319 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 6<sup>th</sup> February (based on data published on 10<sup>th</sup> February) we had 319 confirmed new COVID-19 cases in Brighton & Hove.

- This is around 40% less than the previous week.
- This is equivalent to a weekly rate of new cases of 109.7 per 100,000 residents (calculated as follows:  $319 / 290,885 \times 100,000 = 109.7$ )
- The rate for Brighton and Hove has decreased from 184.3 as published in our last Healthwatch bulletin issued on 5<sup>th</sup> February
- For comparison, the current weekly rate for Brighton and Hove is now only slightly higher than it was as of 16<sup>th</sup> 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 194.6 per 100,000 and the South East which was 156.1 per 100,000 as of 11<sup>th</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup> February, the total number of confirmed cases across the city stood at 13,593.

- This is equivalent to a rate of 4,673 per 100,000 residents (calculated as follows  $13,593 / 290,885 \times 100,000 = 4,673$ )

- This is lower than the rate for England, which was 6,224.7 per 100,000 and the South East which was 5,461.6 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 6<sup>th</sup> February stood at 8,000. The percentage of individuals who tested positive in the same time period was 4.4% which is lower than last week.

### Death rates

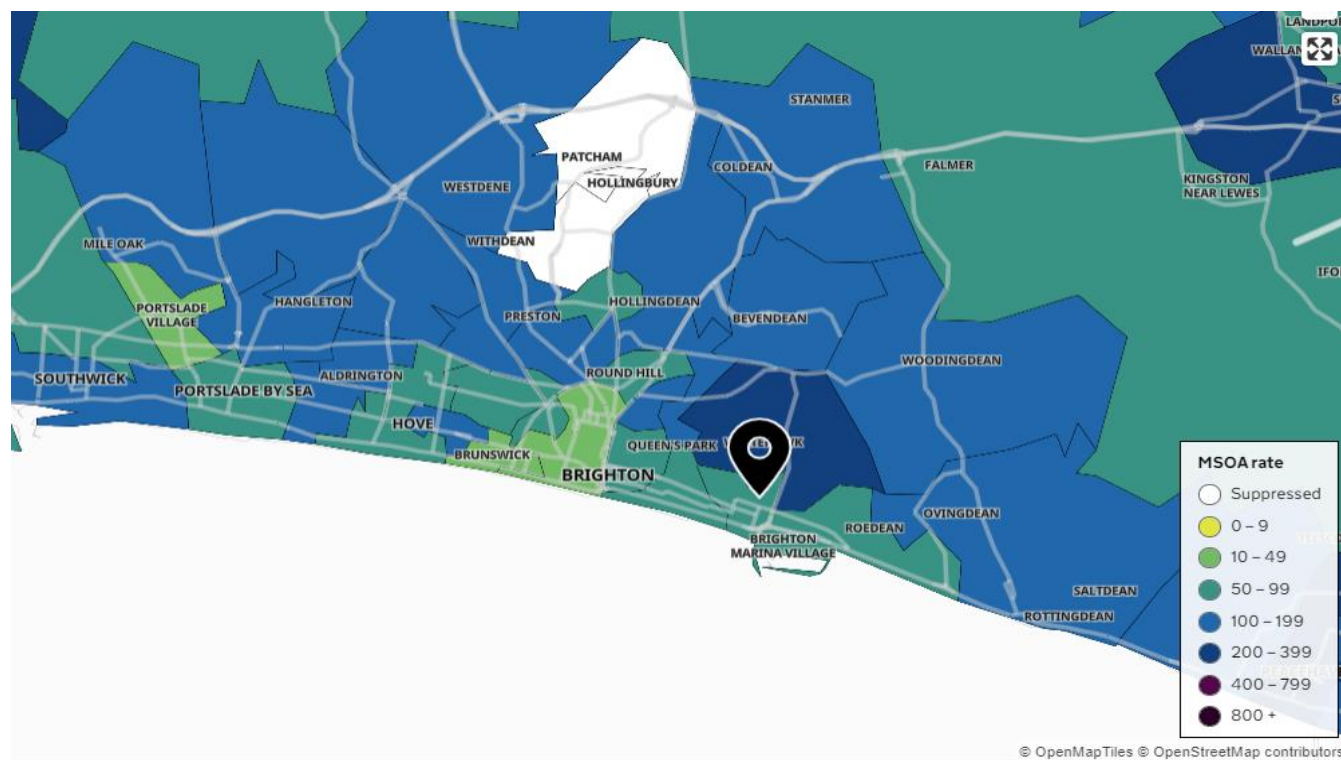
The total [number of deaths](#) recorded up to 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021 with mention of COVID-19 on the death certificate stood at 363. In the week up to 29<sup>th</sup> January there were 36 recorded deaths.

### Number of patients in hospital

On 11<sup>th</sup> February there were [68 inpatients](#) with confirmed COVID-19 across the Royal Sussex County and Royal Alexandra Children’s Hospital sites which is lower than last week. 23 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 seen a decrease in their rates of confirmed cases (shown in blue, green, and white). Whitehawk has a slightly higher rate of 200 cases and over.



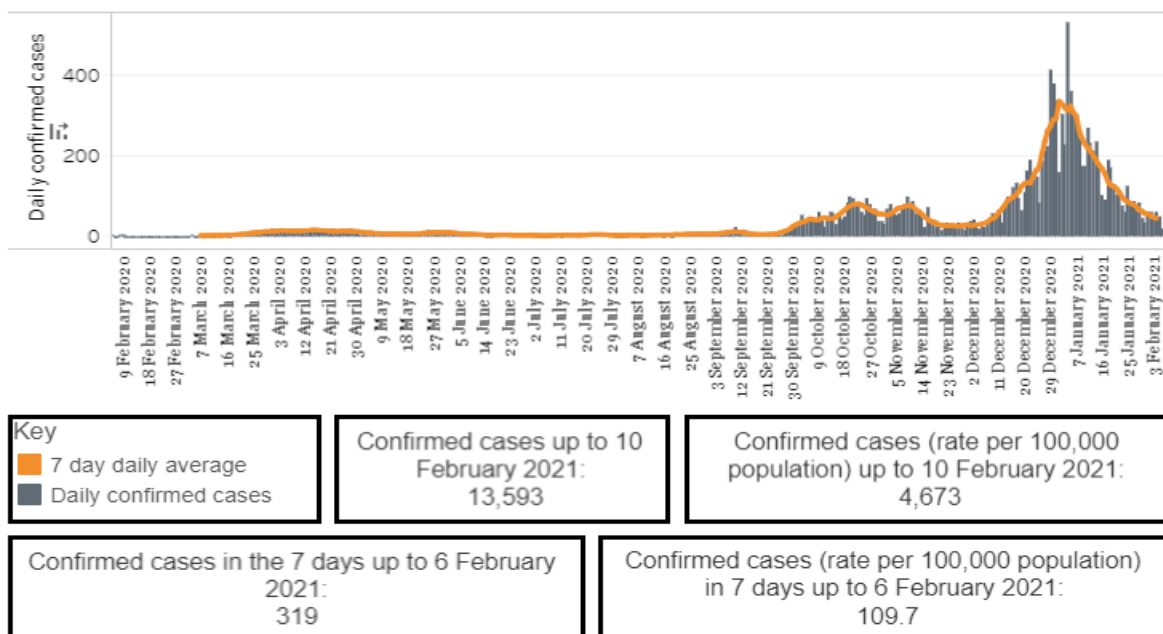
Government data shows the numbers of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Brighton and Hove by date:

| Date    | No of confirmed cases | Total number of confirmed cases |
|---------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| 10.2.21 | 3                     | 13,593                          |
| 9.2.21  | 18                    | 13,590                          |
| 8.2.21  | 41                    | 13,572                          |
| 7.2.21  | 17                    | 13,531                          |
| 6.2.21  | 17                    | 13,514                          |
| 5.2.21  | 49                    | 13,497                          |
| 4.2.21  | 58                    | 13,448                          |
| 3.2.21  | 42                    | 13,390                          |
| 2.2.21  | 61                    | 13,348                          |
| 1.2.21  | 58                    | 13,287                          |

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



Most recent days subject to reporting delay. Last available data: 10 February 2021

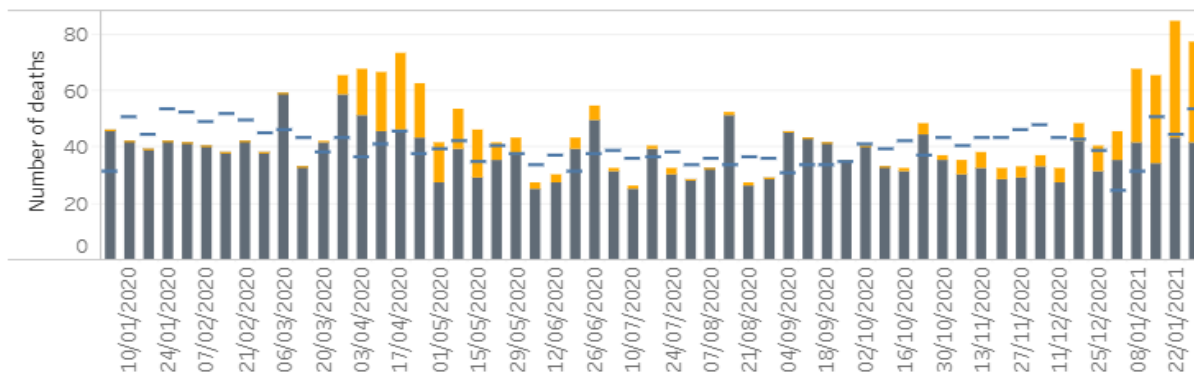
**Deaths related to COVID-19 in the city.**

The total number of deaths recorded up to 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021 (registered as of 6<sup>th</sup> February) with mention of COVID-19 on the death certificate stood at 363. In the last 7 days up to 29<sup>th</sup> January, there were 36 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                                |                          |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <span style="color: yellow;">■</span> | Covid deaths in week     |
| <span style="color: grey;">■</span>   | Non-Covid deaths in week |
| <span style="color: blue;">■</span>   | 5-Year Average (2015-19) |

Number of deaths recorded in 2020-2021, up to 29 January 2021, with mention of COVID-19 on the death certificate:  
363

Number of deaths recorded in the week up to 29 January 2021, with mention of COVID-19 on the death certificate:  
36

Deaths shown occurred up to 29 January 2021 and were registered up to 06 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 11 February 2021](#)

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

- Brighton and Sussex University NHS Trust ..... 416 (previously 397)
- East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust ..... 612 (569)
- Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust .....585 (5342)
- Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust ..... 50 (47)
- Western Sussex Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust .....426 (398)

## (2) Data on COVID in care homes

For Brighton and Hove the number of deaths in care homes linked to COVID-19, as of 9<sup>th</sup> February, stood at 122. This is against a total of 363 COVID-related deaths in the city which had occurred up to 29<sup>th</sup> January and registered up to 6<sup>th</sup> February 2021 [This data is available via a link on the Brighton and Hove website.](#)

## NATIONAL COVID NEWS

The government has published data on the number of identified cases of COVID variants of concern and variants under investigation. This can be found here.

### [COVID-19 variants: genomically confirmed case numbers](#)

|                       |                         |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Kent variant          | - 59,079 probable cases |
| South African variant | - 202 probably cases    |
| Brazil                | - 28 probable cases     |
| Others                | - 88 probable cases     |

### [Thousands more NHS patients to get lifesaving COVID-19 treatment](#)

Thousands more NHS patients who are hospitalised due to COVID-19 will be able to receive the life-saving treatment tocilizumab, the government has announced.

- COVID-19 patients are to receive second life-saving treatment for hospitalised patients outside of intensive care.
- Thousands more lives could be saved as UK clinical trials show tocilizumab reduced the risk of death by 14% for patients on oxygen on top of benefits from dexamethasone.
- Treatment will help reduce pressures on hospitals and improve outcomes for patients.

The drug reduced the relative risk of death by 14% and reduced the time spent in hospital by 5 days when used for patients on oxygen and in addition to the corticosteroid dexamethasone.

## (1) 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.

### [Updated estimates of coronavirus \(COVID-19\) related deaths by disability status, England: 24 January to 20 November 2020](#)

Estimates of differences in COVID-19 mortality risk by self-reported disability status and diagnosed learning disability status for deaths occurring up to 20 November 2020, using linked data from the 2011 Census, death registrations, and primary care and hospital records.

### [Coronavirus and the social impact on Great Britain: Exploring behaviours during the different lockdown periods](#)

Indicators from the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey to understand the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on people, households, and communities in Great Britain over time. This article allows for comparison of how the social impacts on people have changed when compared with earlier in the pandemic, with reference to other data sources.



## [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Infection Survey: characteristics of people testing positive for COVID-19 in England, 9 February 2021](#)

This release provides data about the characteristics of people testing positive for COVID-19 from the COVID-19 Infection Survey. This survey is being delivered in partnership with the University of Oxford, the University of Manchester, and Public Health England.

## [Coronavirus and the latest indicators for the UK economy and society: 11 February 2021](#)

Early experimental data on the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) on the UK economy and society. These faster indicators are created using rapid response surveys, novel data sources and experimental methods.

## [Wider impacts of COVID-19 on health monitoring tool](#)

National monitoring tool that brings together metrics to assess the wider impacts of coronavirus (COVID-19) on health.

## 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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 115,529.

In the South East, the total number of deaths stood at 15,757 cases.

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

#### (b) Infection levels

The data reveals that as of 11<sup>th</sup> February 2021:

- Across the whole of the UK, the total number of lab-confirmed UK cases of COVID-19 since February 2020, stood at 3,998,655. 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 501,385. There were 14,326 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 12th February 2021](#)

**Latest R range for the UK 0.7 to 0.9**

**Latest growth rate range for the UK -5% to -2% per day**

An R value between 0.7 and 0.9 means that, on average, every 10 people infected will infect between 7 and 9 other people.

A growth rate of between -5% and -2% means that the number of new infections is shrinking by between 2% and 5% 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: 28 January to 3 February 2021](#)

148,809 people tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) at least once in England between 28<sup>th</sup> January and 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2021, **a 24% decrease compared to the previous week**. This continues the decrease in positive cases observed in the previous three weeks.

3,064,494 people were tested at least once between 28 January and 3 February 2021 for COVID-19, a 7% increase 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.

### [Prime Minister's statement on coronavirus \(COVID-19\): 10 February 2021](#)

### [Slides and datasets to accompany coronavirus press conference: 10 February 2021](#)

### [Vaccine rollout and variant mitigation](#)

Vaccine Deployment Minister Nadhim Zahawi explains why the current vaccine rollout is vitally important for protecting the healthcare system.

### [Government to introduce tougher measures and enforcement rules for quarantined passengers](#)

Tough new enforcement measures - from fixed penalty notices to imprisonment - will come into force on Monday 15 February.

### [Government confirms mandatory hotel quarantine to be introduced from 15 February](#)

From 15 February anyone travelling to the UK from a country on the UK's travel ban list will be required to quarantine in a government-approved facility for 10 days.

### [How to quarantine when you arrive in England](#)

What to do before and after you arrive in England, including staying at home and ordering coronavirus (COVID-19) tests.

### [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) testing before you travel to England](#)

You must have proof of a negative COVID-19 test to travel to England from abroad.

### [Travel advice: coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

Guidance for British people travelling overseas during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic if they are legally permitted to travel internationally.

### [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): jobs that qualify for travel exemptions](#)

### [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Test to Release for international travel](#)

Pay for a COVID-19 test to find out if you can reduce your self-isolation period after international travel.

### [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): travel corridors](#)

All travel corridors for people arriving in England are suspended.

### [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): travel bans to the UK](#)

### [Government boost to rapid workplace testing](#)

New government drive to increase workplace testing in sectors open during lockdown, to detect coronavirus (COVID-19) in people who are not showing symptoms.

### [British manufacturer SureScreen Diagnostics to supply 20 million rapid lateral flow](#)

New contract secured with Derby-based manufacturer for validated lateral flow antigen tests, ensuring supply for UK over coming months.

## Healthwatch Brighton and Hove information and advice

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

- [Vaccinations for COVID-19](#)
- [COVID-19 information and advice webpage](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccination 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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