

Covid-19 epidemiology in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

The following table gives the **average weekly Covid -19 case rate per 100,000 population**, for tests carried out in the week ending 28th December. This is the latest reliable data that we have - because of the time taken to process tests in the laboratory and then ensure that all results from that date are entered into national systems. It is updated on a daily basis, usually at about 4pm, so new information will be available then.

The table provides information on Covid-19 rates in Cambridgeshire, Peterborough and compares this with the England average and with our East of England (regional) average. In addition, rates are provided for the three areas where some or all local authorities have been asked to keep primary schools closed - London, Essex and Kent.

Information is provided on case rates for all ages (the best reflection of community transmission in the area), and for 5-9 year olds, 10-14 year olds, and 15-19 year olds. This information is all available on the national Covid-19 dashboard <https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/>

Table: Average weekly Covid-19 case rates per 100,000 population, week ending 28th December

Geographical area	Average weekly case rate per 100000 population	Percentage change from the previous week	Average weekly case rate per 100000 population: age band 5-9	Average weekly case rate per 100000 population: age band 10-14	Average weekly case rate per 100000 population: age band 15-19
Cambridgeshire	297	39%	138	246	298
Peterborough	384	-9%	81	217	322
England	422	11%	175	277	410
East of England	584	9%	262	417	616
London	831	8%	342	531	818
Essex	871	1%	413	587	975
Kent	640	-15%	303	408	610

In summary, what the table shows is that:

- At this point in time average Covid-19 weekly case rates for Cambridgeshire and for Peterborough are below both the England and the East of England averages for all ages, for 5-9 year olds, for 10-14 year olds and for 15-19 year olds.
- Overall case rates are higher in Peterborough than Cambridgeshire. However case rates in Cambridgeshire are rising more quickly than Peterborough (percentage change from the previous week). This may reflect that Peterborough went into Tier 4 before Christmas, whereas the impact of Cambridgeshire moving into Tier 4 on Boxing day will not yet be seen in the data.
- Rates in Cambridgeshire are also rising more quickly than regional and national averages, although from a lower base.
- Weekly case rates per 100,000 population in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough for the week ending 28th December are well below the rates in London, Essex and Kent where the national contingency framework was applied to some local authority areas, and primary schools required to remain closed.

Local area rates

Covid-19 case rates in local areas will vary so that some are higher and some lower than the county-wide or district average. This may reflect one large outbreak, or wider community transmission rates. Rates by MSOA (middle super output area) are available on an interactive map on <https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/details/interactive-map>, which is updated daily.

The current Covid-19 situation will be monitored on a bi-weekly basis, at local area level. If we determine that there is a high and increasing trend in infection levels in a local area, equivalent to that in other areas where there has been national direction to close schools, we will seek support from the Department for Education to close the school to all but vulnerable and key worker children. This information will be shared with schools to inform their risk assessments.