

Report title: Written Partner Update: Public Health	
Report to: Essex Health and Wellbeing Board	
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County Divisions affected: All Essex	

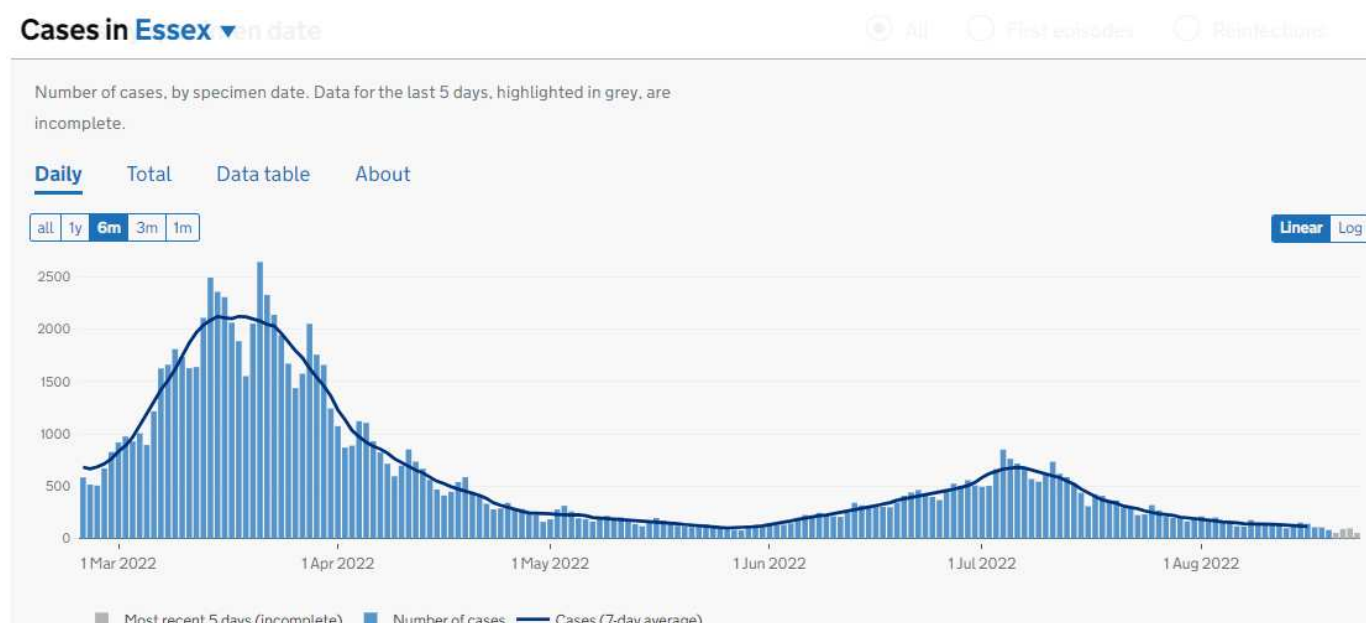
1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This briefing summarises the current position with regards to COVID-19 infections in Essex, and what is known about future COVID-19 immunisation plans, to inform the Health and Wellbeing Board.

2 COVID-19 infections in Essex

- 2.1 As of the 24th August, when data was accessed, recorded cases of COVID-19 infections in Essex have been decreasing since early July which was the third wave of infections this year. There are now approximately 100 recorded cases a day in Essex. This picture mirrors infections in England as a whole.

Fig. 1 Recorded COVID-19 infections in Essex



Taken from <https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/> on 24th August

- 2.2 We know that only a fraction of cases are recorded. Despite this we can have confidence in the decreasing trend of infections as the numbers of people

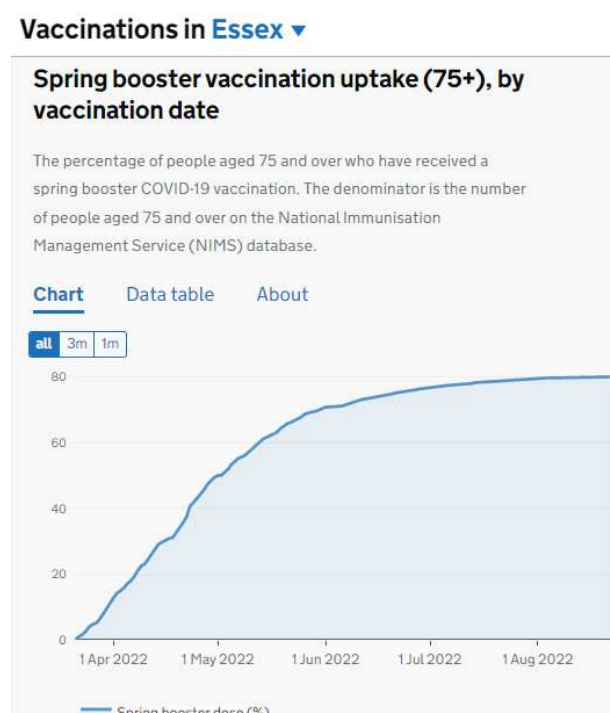
admitted to hospital who test positive for the virus that causes COVID-19 has also decrease since early July. All patients admitted to hospital are routinely tested for COVID-19.

- 2.3 Though numbers of patients admitted to hospital with clinically apparent COVID-19 has fluctuated, high levels of community infections are no longer translating into high numbers of people being admitted to hospital. The protective effect of COVID-19 vaccination is continuing to hold.
- 2.4 There will be further waves of COVID-19 infection. When they will occur and how large they will be is uncertain. Even if vaccine effectiveness continues to hold, as seems likely, a future wave of infection may place pressure on health and social care services if it coincides with a time of low resilience in those services.

3 Plans for further COVID-19 immunisations

- 3.1 As with England as a whole, Essex has a high rate of COVID-19 immunisation. The percentage of those over 75 years who have had their spring booster is 80% in Essex.

Fig. 2 Vaccination coverage in Essex



Taken from <https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/> on 24th August

- 3.2 The NHS will be rolling out another round of COVID-19 vaccinations this winter. It will start with the most vulnerable and work down the list of vulnerable groups to cover the following.
- Residents and staff in a care home for older adults
 - Frontline health and social care workers
 - All adults aged 50 years and over
 - Persons aged 5 to 49 years in a clinical risk group
 - Persons aged 5 to 49 years who are household contacts of people with immunosuppression
 - Persons aged 16 to 49 years who are carers
- 3.3 High uptake of the winter COVID-19 vaccine offer will be crucial to preventing large numbers of people being seriously ill with COVID. In addition, efforts to encourage those under-vaccinated or unvaccinated to come forward will need to continue.