**COVID-19 daily deaths:**

This section contains information on deaths of patients who have died in hospitals in England and had tested positive for COVID-19 at time of death. All deaths are recorded against the date of death rather than the date the deaths were announced. Interpretation of the figures should take into account the fact that totals by date of death, particularly for recent prior days, are likely to be updated in future releases. For example, as deaths are confirmed as testing positive for Covid-19, as more post-mortem tests are processed and data from them are validated. Any changes are made clear in the daily files.

 These figures will be updated at 2pm each day and include confirmed cases reported at 5pm the previous day. Confirmation of COVID-19 diagnosis, death notification and reporting in central figures can take up to several days and the hospitals providing the data are under significant operational pressure. This means that the totals reported at 5pm on each day may not include all deaths that occurred on that day or on recent prior days.

These figures do not include deaths outside hospital, such as those in care homes. This approach makes it possible to compile deaths data on a daily basis using up to date figures.

In addition to our data, the Office for National Statistics are now publishing weekly counts of deaths in which COVID-19 was mentioned on the death certificate. This publication is to be issued every Tuesday, starting on 31st March. It will include cases outside hospital and will also include some cases where COVID-19 is suspected, but no formal diagnostic test has taken place. ONS data will initially cover England and Wales only and will report on registered deaths up to 11 days before the date of publication.

Disclosure risk for this publication has been reviewed, considering [GSS/GSR policy](https://gss.civilservice.gov.uk/policy-store/gssgsr-disclosure-control-guidance-for-tables-produced-from-administrative-sources/) and [ONS disclosure policy for births and deaths statistics](https://www.ons.gov.uk/methodology/methodologytopicsandstatisticalconcepts/disclosurecontrol/policyonprotectingconfidentialityintablesofbirthanddeathstatistics). It has been concluded that the data is suitable for release in the published form as the data contain limited information, with age breakdowns only provided at a national level and within broad age brackets. Individuals or their attributes cannot be identified from the counts of the numbers of COVID deaths by trust by day. The risk that this data could be combined with other information to infer that a particular patient who had died in hospital had tested positive for COVID-19 has also been considered.

This guidance was developed with advice from the Office for Statistics Regulation in UKSA.