**COVID-19 daily deaths:**

(Last updated 09/12/2020)

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 or where COVID-19 was mentioned on the death certificate. All deaths are recorded against the date of death rather than the date the deaths were announced.

**The Daily file contains only deaths from the latest reporting period, 4pm 2 days prior to publication until 4pm the day before publication. The Total file contains all reported deaths.**

From Tuesday 28 April, NHS England and NHS Improvement started to report the number of patient deaths where there has been no COVID-19 positive test result, but where COVID-19 is documented as a direct or underlying cause of death on part 1 or part 2 of the death certification process.   This change has been introduced for deaths that occurred on 24th April and subsequently and is shown separately in the region data table only. When making comparisons over time these figures should not be included.

From Friday 19th June, only records where there was less than 28 days between a positive COVID-19 test and the date of death or where COVID-19 is cited in part 1 or part 2 of the death certificate are included in this data. Data which do not meet these criteria is not collected. This change does not impact on records reported to NHS England and Improvement prior to the 19th June.

Interpretation of the figures should take into account the fact that totals by date of death are likely to be updated in future releases for more recent dates. For example, a positive result for COVID-19 may occur days after confirmation of death. Cases are only included in the data when the positive COVID-19 test result is received, or death certificate confirmed with COVID-19 mentioned. This results in a lag between a given date of death and exhaustive daily death figures for that day.

These figures will be updated at 2pm each day and include confirmed death cases reported at 4pm the previous day. Confirmation of COVID-19 diagnosis, death notification, death certificates 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 4pm 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.

**Other data sources**

In addition to our data, Public Health England and the Office for National Statistics (ONS) publish data on COVID-19 deaths.

Public Health England produces a dashboard with information on testing, cases, healthcare and deaths. This is available here: <https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/>

The Office of National Statistics publishes weekly counts of deaths in which COVID-19 was mentioned on the death certificate. This is available here: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/conditionsanddiseases>

Information on the different methodologies used to report on COVID-19 deaths by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and the Office for National Statistics (ONS) has been made available by the ONS here: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/news/statementsandletters/thedifferentusesoffiguresondeathsfromcovid19publishedbydhscandtheons>

**Risk of disclosure**

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.

**Updates to data:**

As part of a continual process to improve the quality and accuracy of the dataset recording COVID-19 -related deaths in English hospitals, revisions may be made to historic data included in each day’s publication. As a result, the data available is improved. An example of a revision may be where a death is reported to NHS England where no positive COVID-19 test result is recorded by the hospital trust, but where COVID-19 is later recorded on the death certificate. In this type of circumstance, a positive COVID-19 test result may be received subsequently, and the record would therefore be revised.

Historic changes to data:

9th December 2020:

Following the merger of RD3 Poole Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and RDZ Th Royal Bournemouth & Christchurch Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, all data for these organisations is reported against the new organisation R0D University Hospitals Dorset NHS Foundation Trust

24th November 2020:

Correction to one record originally reported as not having a positive swab, now updated to show a positive test result

10th November 2020:

One additional record was removed due to being incorrectly submitted.

8th July 2020:

12 records which had been reported twice in error were removed and an additional record was removed due to being incorrectly submitted.

3 records updated to include a positive test result.

18th June 2020:

25 records which had been reported twice in error were removed.

6th May 2020:

32 records which had been reported twice in error were removed. Additionally, the date of death was corrected for 2 records.