Following the discontinuation of universal free testing as part of the national Living With Covid plan, we have removed the sections based on cases and rates for Wigan and its wards as they no longer accurately reflect the incidence of Covid-19 in our communities.

Summary

- ONS survey data suggests percentage of people testing positive for COVID-19 remained high and increased in the North West, along with several other regions.
- As at 11th April, there were 71 COVID-positive patients in Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh hospitals, an increase from this time last week.
- There have been 3 COVID–19 related deaths registered in Wigan so far in the latest week (w/e 1st April), an increase on the previous week.

For more information and the latest guidance, please see Coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance and support - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Coronavirus COVID-19 Infection Survey

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) publish the results from a weekly survey delivered in partnership with University of Oxford, University of Manchester, UK Health Security Agency and Wellcome Trust. This study is jointly led by the ONS and the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) working with the University of Oxford and Lighthouse laboratory to collect and test samples.

The publication refers to the number of current COVID-19 infections within the population living in private residential households. Those in hospitals, care homes and/or other communal establishments are excluded (where rates of COVID-19 infection are likely to be different).

Results for report from 8th April 2022:

England
- In the week ending 2nd April 2022, the ONS estimate that around 1 in 13 people in England had COVID-19
- The Omicron BA.2 variant remained the dominant variant in England and infection rates remained high
- The percentage of people testing positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) in England increased in those in School Year 12 to those aged 34 years and in those aged 70 years and over. For
those aged 50 to 69 years, the percentage of people testing positive increased in the two weeks up to 2 April 2022, however the trend was uncertain in the most recent week.

Regions

- In the week ending 2nd April 2022, the percentage of people testing positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) varied across regions in England. The percentage of people testing positive increased in the East Midlands, North East, North West and Yorkshire and The Humber.

- The rate for the North West was 7.6% (in the previous week it was 7.0%)

Data note from ONS: In the data used to produce these estimates, the number of people sampled in each region who tested positive for COVID-19 was low relative to England overall. This means there is a higher degree of uncertainty in the regional estimates for this period.


Further information available at Coronavirus (COVID-19) latest insights - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

Regional ‘R’ Data and Growth Rate (published 01/04/2022)

Please note – the R data is now published every two weeks; the next update will be in next week’s tracker.

What is the R number?

R represents the average number of onward infections that will be generated by a single infectious individual. R tells us if the epidemic is getting bigger (>1) or smaller (<1) but not how large it is, and therefore should not be used as a sole indicator of the current threat posed by an epidemic. It cannot be measured directly so there is always some uncertainty around its exact value.

What is a growth rate?

The growth rate reflects how quickly the number of infections are changing day by day. It is an approximation of the change of number infections each day. If the growth rate is greater than zero (+ positive), then the disease will grow. If the growth rate is less than zero (- negative) then the disease will shrink.

Both the R number and Growth rate are published at Regional level.

Please see the table below for the latest regional and national figures.
Latest figures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>R</th>
<th>Growth Rate (% per day)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>England</td>
<td>1.1 to 1.2</td>
<td>+1 to +4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East of England</td>
<td>1.0 to 1.3</td>
<td>+1 to +4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>London</td>
<td>1.0 to 1.2</td>
<td>+1 to +4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midlands</td>
<td>1.1 to 1.3</td>
<td>+2 to +5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North East and Yorkshire</td>
<td>1.1 to 1.3</td>
<td>+2 to +5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North West</td>
<td>1.1 to 1.3</td>
<td>+1 to +5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South East</td>
<td>1.0 to 1.2</td>
<td>+0 to +3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South West</td>
<td>1.0 to 1.3</td>
<td>+1 to +4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

North West Overview

The latest range for R for the North West is 1.0 to 1.3 which is lower than the previous week (1.1 to 1.4). The growth rate range (+1 to +4) is also lower than the previous week's range (+2 to +6).

Data source: GOV.UK – R Number

Covid-positive inpatients in Hospital

As at 11th April, there were 71 COVID-positive patients in Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh (WWL) hospitals. The chart below shows the daily count of confirmed COVID-19 patients admitted to WWL.

Source: Government’s Coronavirus data page
Weekly Death Registrations (latest data published covers up to w/e 1st April 2022)

As at 1st April, there have been 1240 deaths registered for Wigan residents that mention COVID-19, with 3 registrations in the latest week, an increase of 3 from the previous week.

There were 62 deaths from all causes registered in the latest week, a decrease of 1 from the previous week.

82% of all COVID-related deaths occurred in hospital, 12% in care homes and 4% at home.

Further information available on Office for National Statistics death registrations page.

Schools

Due to changes in national testing policy, cases within schools are no longer published within this report.