

Highest ever number of new COVID-19 cases in Cumbria

Cumbria has experienced its worst week so far for new COVID-19 infections, with 3,489 people testing positive in the week ending 8 January – a 39% rise on the previous week.

Infection rates are high across the county, especially in Carlisle where the infection rate was 1,151 per 100,000 population.

Hospitals remain under intense pressure, particularly in the north of the county where there has been a 63% increase in the number of COVID-19 patients since last week. There are now around 270 people being treated in north Cumbrian hospitals.

Sadly, a further 59 people have died from COVID-19 in the seven days to 12 January. This brings the total number of COVID-19 deaths in Cumbria since the start of the pandemic to 833.

The full weekly COVID-19 situation report can be found at www.cumbria.gov.uk/stopthespread

Colin Cox, Cumbria's Director of Public Health, said:

“We remain in an extremely serious situation. In the very latest provisional data, there are some early signs that the rate of increase in new infections may be slowing, but the infection rate is still very high.

“Even if that trend continues, we can expect the very high numbers of people requiring hospital care, and increasing deaths, to continue for some weeks. This is putting our local NHS system under intense pressure.

“I cannot stress strongly enough how important it is that we all follow the lockdown rules. The virus spreads when people come into contact, we must do everything we can to stop unnecessary contact with other people. Where being in contact with others is unavoidable, keep your distance, wear a mask, wash your hands – it does make a difference.”

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