

East Cornwall residents urged to stick to COVID-19 rules amid rise in cases

People in East Cornwall are being urged to follow the government's 'hands, face and space' public health guidance to keep COVID-19 at bay as cases continue to rise in the area.

Cornwall Council's public health team is asking residents in towns such as Liskeard, Launceston, Saltash and Torpoint to stick to the rules and be especially mindful of how easily the virus can spread.

Data analysis by Cornwall Council's public health specialists shows cases in the east of the county are higher on average than in other areas.

People can check out where the hotspots are on the government's interactive map here <https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/details/interactive-map>

Cllr Sally Hawken, Cornwall Council's Portfolio Holder for Children, Wellbeing and Public Health, who represents Liskeard East, said: "We're seeing cases continue to rise in East Cornwall and it's vital that we put the brakes on this. These are cases that are being transmitted within groups of families and friends, allowing the virus to easily move from household to household. In the past the virus has been linked to workplace outbreaks which are easier for us to contain, but this change in pattern of spread shows us that we all really need to be careful.

"Even though we're currently in lockdown, people need to remember the basic guidance – wash your hands regularly, use a face covering when social distancing is not possible and try to keep your distance from those not in your household.

"Following these simple steps could make a significant difference in reducing the transmission of COVID-19 and help protect you and your friends, colleagues and family from the virus."

Rachel Wigglesworth, Director of Public Health for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, said: "While cases remain relatively low in Cornwall compared to the rest of the country and the announcement of a possible vaccine is great news, we can't afford to be complacent.

"Cases continue to climb across Cornwall - especially in East Cornwall along the border where we urge people more than ever to follow the rules and be mindful of how easily the virus can be spread."

If you have any of the three main Covid-19 symptoms – a new continuous cough, a high temperature and a loss of taste or smell, you must self-isolate and your household must continue to self-isolate while waiting for a test. You also must continue to isolate until you get your test results.

Anyone who tests positive must self-isolate, along with all members of their household, whether they have symptoms or not.

For more information on the rules and guidance visit www.gov.uk or www.cornwall.gov.uk