

The i

Follow

37.7K Followers

# Covid hospitalisations rise by more than a fifth in a week as new variant spreads

Story by Tom Bawden • 1d • 2 min read

-25%

PRICE DROP

-28%

Quick Buy on Temu  
Temu

Ad



Cupids  
Discover Why Women Are Attracted to Men Who Know This Hidden Trick.

Ad

Search the web

10°C



Sign in

children going back to school and the new variant.

Feedback

New infections typically take a week or two to hospitalise a patient as their health deteriorates.

On a more positive note, the UKHSA figures also showed that new Covid infections were stable in the same week, after rising for several weeks – although they remain at relatively high levels.

Rhinovirus infections – the main cause of the common cold – were also stable, again after sharp increases.

Flu cases, meanwhile, remain low.

The new figures show the number of people with respiratory symptoms testing positive for Covid in hospitals was 13.4 per cent in the week to last Sunday – compared to 13.3 per cent the previous week.

Meanwhile, the so-called positivity rate for rhinovirus was 17.1 per cent.

Positivity rates among hospital patients with symptoms are typically much higher than infection rates in the general population – figures which are not available for the UK outside of winter. But scientists say they give a good indication of trends.

## Read Next



[New Covid XEC variant to become dominant strain and will fuel winter wave](#)

[Health](#)

## New Covid XEC variant to become dominant strain and will fuel winter wave

[Read More](#)

The new XEC variant is spreading so fast it looks set to become the UK's dominant Covid strain this week, fuelling the current wave of the virus, experts predict.

XEC is thought to be significantly more contagious than the other variants and quickly grew to account for 21 per cent of UK infections on Saturday 28 September, according to the GISAID Covid database.

---

▶ **Related video:** New COVID-19 variant (WNCN Raleigh)

---

---

As such, it is contributing to a double-whammy of colds and Covid infections and Australian data scientist, Mike Honey, has predicted XEC would be responsible for more than 50 per cent of new UK Covid cases by the end of this week, making it the country's new dominant variant.

Dr Jamie Lopez Bernal, Consultant Epidemiologist at UKHSA, said: "Covid is continuing to circulate, with a slight increase in hospitalisations over the past two weeks. As winter approaches, we expect flu and RSV to increasingly circulate too, so if you're eligible to get vaccinated against the three main winter threats – COVID-19, flu and RSV – now is the time to take them up and get winter strong.