

# 1 in 1,000 infected with coronavirus in England: study

June 5 2020

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Image of the ultrastructural morphology exhibited by the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV). Credit: CDC

About 53,000 people in England had the coronavirus in the last two weeks of May but less than a third of those who tested positive had symptoms, a study showed Friday.

The survey of almost 20,000 people in private homes found that 21 people had the disease, the Office for National Statistics said.

"At any given time between 17 May and 30 May 2020, we estimated that an average of 0.1 percent of the community population had COVID-19," it said.

"This equates to an average of 53,000 people in England."

Only 29 percent of those who returned positive tests reported feeling symptoms at any time, the data showed.

England's population is just under 56 million.

Britain has now recorded around 40,000 official deaths from the virus, making it the hardest-hit country in Europe and second only to the United States.

The country locked down on March 23, and has only recently started loosening restrictions, with some young children returning to school.

The ONS found that only four in 10 adults felt safe or very safe when outside of their [home](#), while almost two in three parents in England said they were not confident about sending their children back to school.

The study showed a decrease of positive tests in recent weeks but higher rates of infection for frontline health staff and those unable to work

from home.

Some 1.9 percent of participants who worked in patient-facing healthcare or [social care](#) tested positive, compared with 0.3 percent for the general working-age population.

An estimated 0.7 percent of those working outside of the home returned positive tests, compared with 0.2 percent for those working at home.

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