



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

REPORT

COVID-19 Wales situational report: 15 July 2021

Update from the COVID-19 Intelligence Cell and Health
Protection Advisory Group.

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Contents

COVID-19 situation report summary

What is the current status of the epidemic?

What is the situation with the NHS and social care?

What is the situation with education, children and young adults?

What is the situation with arriving travellers

Mobility data, adherence and UK comparison

Vaccine and immunity status

What does the situation look like going forward?

Key risks and sources

COVID-19 situation report summary

Key points to note

Overall transmission of COVID-19 is rapidly increasing in all areas across Wales. The SAGE consensus estimate of the reproduction number for Wales is between 1.2 and 1.5, while PHW's estimate is between 1.25 and 1.3. Source: SAGE / PHW (14/7/21). Note that SAGE's estimate is typically lagged by 2 to 3 weeks while PHW, which uses a different methodology, is lagged by around 1 week. The case incidence and percentage of people testing positive for COVID-19 has also increased. Slide 3, Source: PHW.

Although invasive ventilated bed occupancy remains stable, hospital bed occupancy for COVID-19 patients is beginning to rise. Slide 4, Source: NHS Wales Operational data.

As at 13 July 2021, Wales has 5,601 confirmed cases of the more transmissible Delta variant (an increase of 1,935 from the previous week), making Delta the dominant variant of COVID-19 in Wales. Of the 5,601 cases detected to date, 45.4% of cases were in unvaccinated individuals, 34.0% received 1 dose and 20.6% had received 2 doses. Note that this data may include vaccinations that have not yet been given the 14 to 21 days necessary to provide maximum protection against COVID-19. Of the 5,601 cases, 64, or 1.1%, were hospitalised. Source: PHW.

On vaccination, as at 13 July 2021, a total of 4.14 (+0.11) million doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been given in Wales, of which 2.28 (+0.01) million were first doses and 1.86 million (+0.10) were second doses. Based on SAGE's estimate of an immunity coverage requirement of at least 80% for the delta variant, current coverage will not offer population level protection in the absence of other protective behaviours. Source: PHW, SPI-M-O.

	Current value (10/07/21)	Change since previous week (30/07/21 to 10/07/21 unless stated otherwise)	
		Percentage change	Value change
Confirmed case rate (rolling 7 day sum per 100k)	149	+27% ↑	(+32)
Confirmed case rate for over 60s (rolling 7 day sum per 100k)	37	+55% ↑	(+13)
Test positivity (7 day RA)	7.90%	+25% ↑	(+1.6 percentage points)
Population estimated to have COVID-19 (prevalence)¹	0.28%	-7% ↑	(-0.02 percentage points)
NHS COVID-19 Admissions²	9	+25% -	(+2)
ONS deaths (7 day sum)³	0	-100% -	(-2)
PHW deaths (7 day sum)	3	0% -	0

1. Latest COVIDInfection Survey data is taken from the 4 July 2021 to 10 July 2021.
2. Seven day rolling average to the current date of confirmed COVID-19 patients – does not include COVID-19 suspected or recovering.
3. Latest ONS deaths data is to 2 July 2021 (rather than 10 July 2021) for the current value. Data to 25 June 2021 is used for the change since previous

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week.

What is the current status of the epidemic?

Cases per 100,000 population (7 day period ending 9 July 2021)

Local Authority	Number	% of All Wales Total	Case Incidence per 100,000	Incidence threshold reached	Change from previous week
Wrexham	433	9.50%	318.5	50 or higher	25% ↑
Denbighshire	218	4.80%	227.8	50 or higher	39% ↑
Flintshire	346	7.60%	221.7	50 or higher	3% ↑
Conwy	226	4.90%	192.8	50 or higher	29% ↑
Torfaen	176	3.80%	187.3	50 or higher	83% ↑
Cardiff	638	13.90%	173.9	50 or higher	24% ↑
Bridgend	252	5.50%	171.4	50 or higher	119% ↑
Powys	209	4.60%	157.8	50 or higher	97% ↑
Newport	218	4.80%	140.9	50 or higher	102% ↑

Local Authority	Number	% of All Wales Total	Case Incidence per 100,000	Incidence threshold reached	Change from previous week
Rhondda Cynon Taf	338	7.40%	140.1	50 or higher	39% ↑
Monmouthshire	122	2.70%	129	50 or higher	23% ↑
Gwynedd	157	3.40%	126	50 or higher	5% ↑
Vale of Glamorgan	168	3.70%	125.8	50 or higher	26% ↑
Isle of Anglesey	87	1.90%	124.2	50 or higher	-6% ↓
Caerphilly	208	4.50%	114.9	50 or higher	1% ↑
Ceredigion	71	1.50%	97.7	50 or higher	129% ↑
Blaenau Gwent	63	1.40%	90.2	50 or higher	12% ↑
Carmarthenshire	169	3.70%	89.5	50 or higher	17% ↑
Merthyr Tydfil	54	1.20%	89.5	50 or higher	125% ↑
Neath Port Talbot	122	2.70%	85.1	50 or higher	49% ↑
Swansea	198	4.30%	80.2	50 or higher	20% ↑

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Local Authority	Number	% of All Wales Total	Case Incidence per 100,000	Incidence threshold reached	Change from previous week
Pembrokeshire	74	1.60%	58.8	50 or higher	16% ↑
Unknown	34	0.70%	-	-	31% ↑
Total	4581	100.00%	145.3	50 or higher	32% ↑

At a Wales level, on 2 July, the 7-day rolling incidence of COVID-19 cases and the percentage of people testing positive for COVID-19 have increased since last week (slide 2).

The SAGE/ SPI-M consensus estimate of Reproduction number (Rt) remains between 1.2 and 1.5 (as at 14 July 2021). When we look at reproduction numbers using PHW positive test data only (see second table below), a more timely estimate but limited by variation in testing, we see a reproduction number estimate of between 1.25 and 1.3 for Wales. PHW estimate a national doubling time of 12 days. The Rt number is highest for the Powys health board. Central estimates of doubling times at local authority level range from 5 to 18 days. Source: PHW.

7-day cumulative case incidence in Wales has increased by a third in the last week. Case incidence has risen to 145.3 per 100,000 population in Wales compared with 110.0 per 100,000 population last week.

Case incidence is increasing in almost all local authorities. All 22 local authorities have a case incidence above the 50 per 100,000 population threshold. Local authorities with the highest case incidences are in North Wales. Case incidence is highest for Wrexham and Denbighshire at 318.5 and 227.8 per 100,000 population, respectively.

Over the past week, case incidence is highest in those aged 10 to 19 and 20 to 29. Case incidence continued to increase throughout the week in these age groups, but their growth slowed at the end of the week. Case incidence is highest for the Betsi Cadwaladr health board.

The second table below provides estimates of doubling and halving times based on PHW COVID-19 positive test data. In this table, doubling times are positive, whilst halving times are negative. The 95% confidence intervals are showing in brackets after the central estimate. An asterisk (*) means that there are small numbers and estimates should be treated with caution. Local health board level estimates of Rt and halving times will be unstable when incidence is low.

Reproduction number and doubling time (PHW methodology) PHW data by Local Health Board

Local Health Board	Rt (cases)	Doubling time (days)
All Wales	1.3 (1.25 to 1.3)	12 (8 to 28)
Swansea Bay UHB	1.3 (1.2 to 1.4)	13 (7 to 74)
CTM UHB	1.65 (1.5 to 1.8)	8 (6 to 12)
Aneurin Bevan UHB	1.4 (1.3 to 1.5)	9 (5 to 23)
Cardiff & Vale UHB	1.2 (1.1 to 1.3)	13 (7 to 86)
Hywel Dda UHB*	1.3 (1.2 to 1.4)	12 (8 to 23)
Powys THB*	1.9 (1.7 to 2.1)	5 (3 to 9)

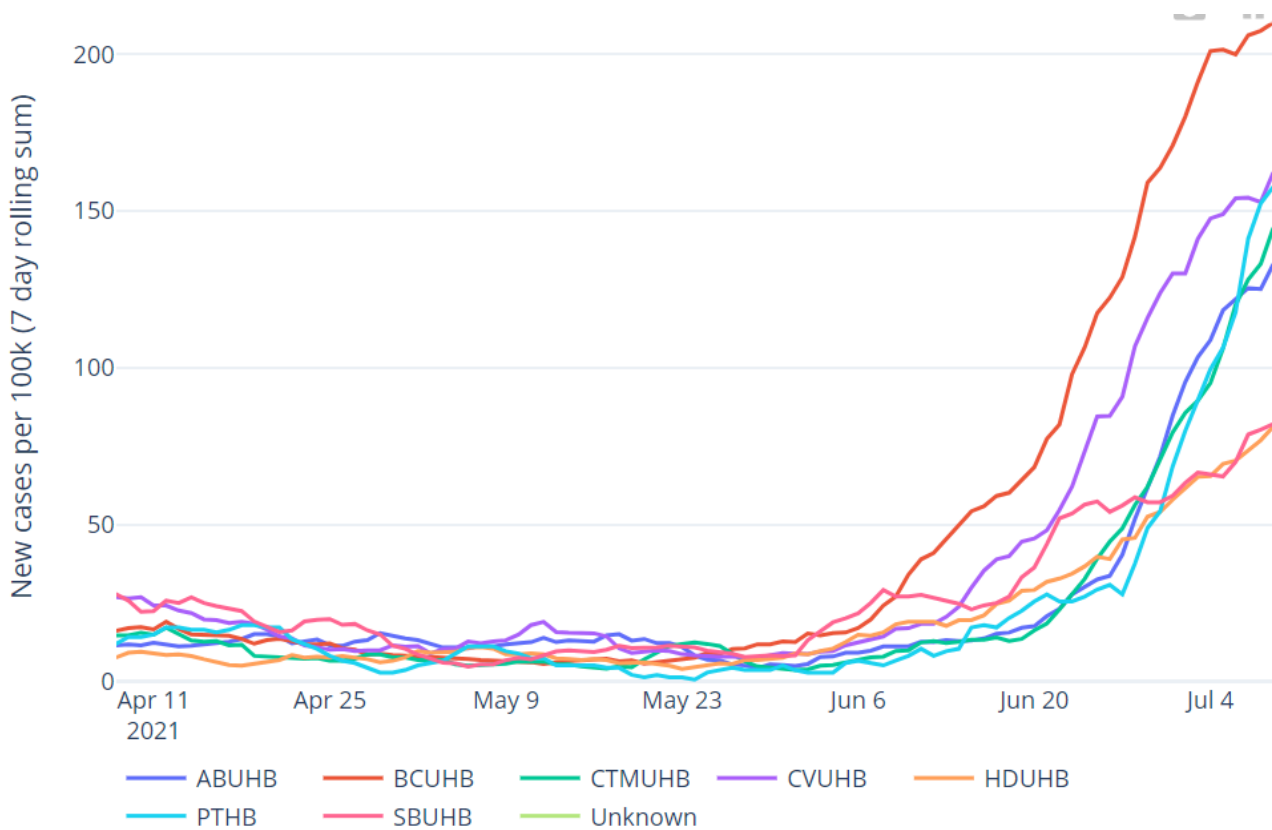
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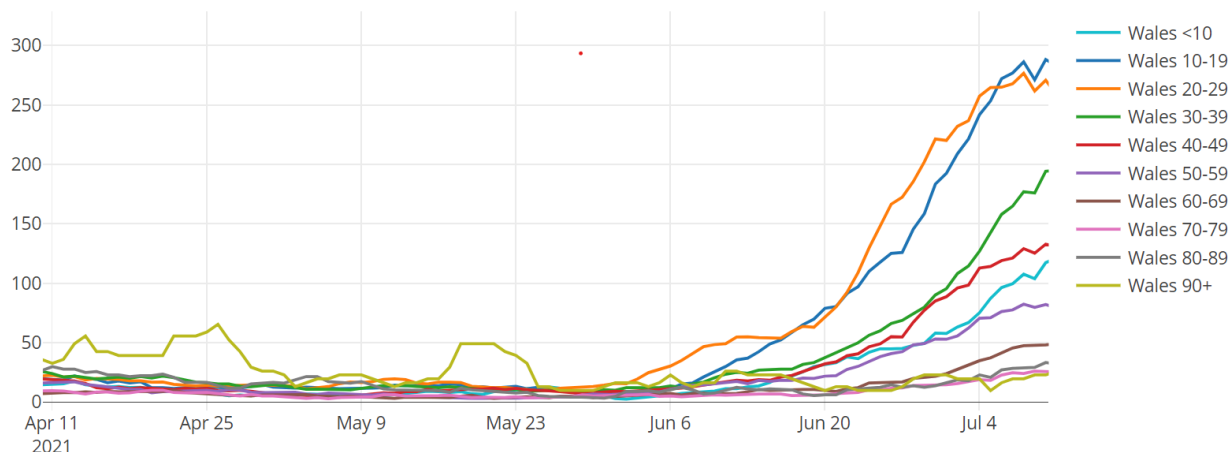
Local Health Board	Rt (cases)	Doubling time (days)
Betsi Cadwaladr UHB	1.1 (1.1 to 1.2)	18 (19 to 93)

Cases per 100k (PHW Data) (7 day rolling sum)



Cases per 100k by age (PHW Data) (7 day rolling sum)

Cases per 100k by age and local authority



Data as at 12:00PM 14 July 2021 unless otherwise specified.

What is the situation with the NHS and social care?

COVID-19 pressure on the NHS has remained relatively stable. The number of new daily admissions with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 remains close to the lowest levels since reporting began, however there has been a steady increase in the number of beds occupied with COVID-19 related patients over recent weeks.

As at 14 July 2021, there were 150 COVID-19 related patients (Suspected, Confirmed and Recovering) occupying a hospital bed. This compares to 124 (26 more occupied beds) on 7 July 2021. Confirmed patients accounted for 79 of the total occupied beds, and are at similar levels to mid-April 2021.

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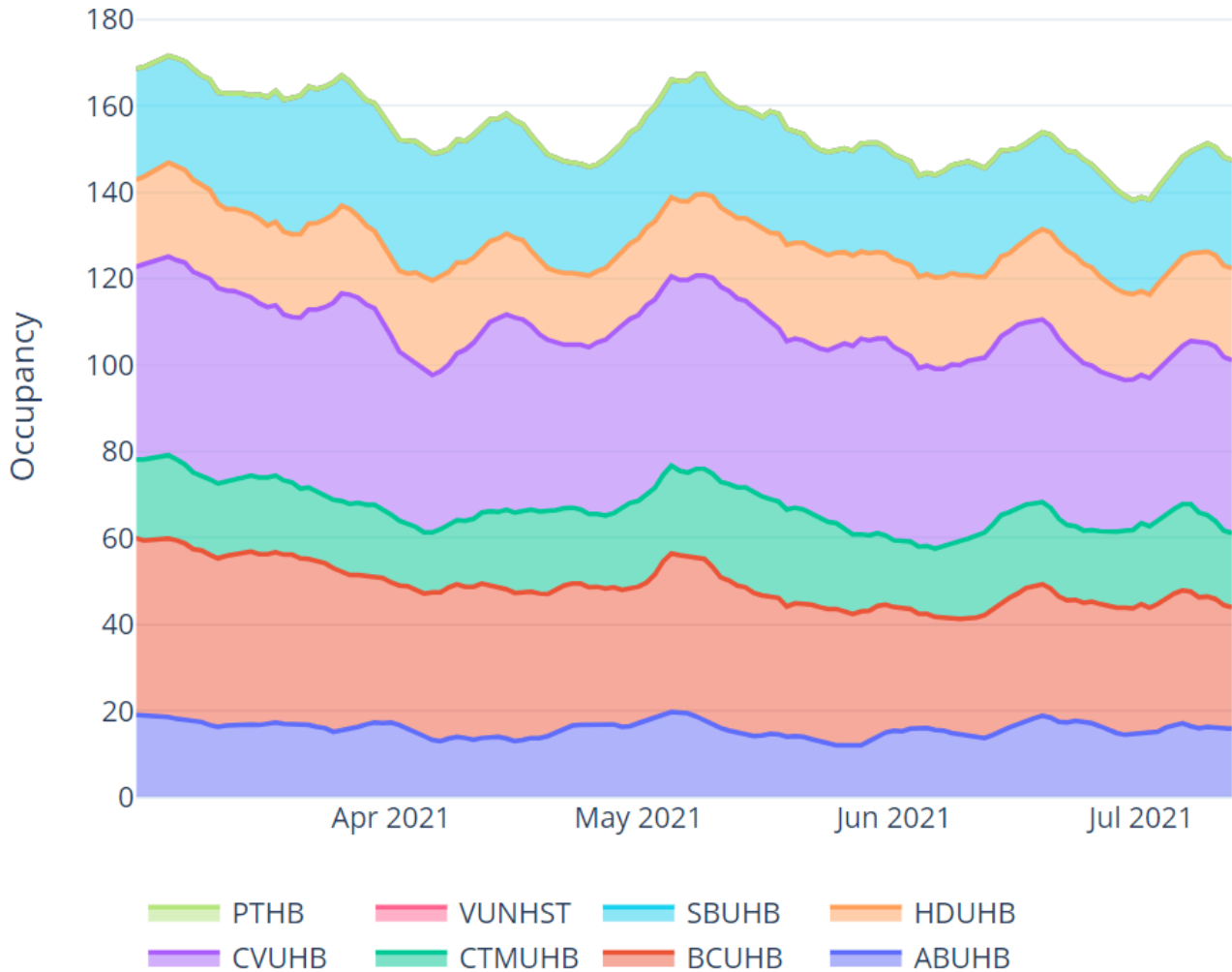
There are 9 patients with Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19 in critical care beds in Wales. This is 155 lower than the maximum COVID-19 position of approximately 164. The total number of patients in critical care for both COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 stands at 156, 4 more than the historic maximum critical care capacity of approximately 152.

In the 7 days up to 30 June 2021, 20 (1.9%) adult care homes in Wales notified CIW of one or more confirmed cases of COVID-19, in staff or residents. This is 5 more notifications compared to the last 7 days up to 23 June 2021 and compares to 4 notifications on 2 June 2021, which was the lowest number of notifications since reporting began on 16 December 2020.

Confirmed hospital occupancy (7 day rolling average)



Overall invasive ventilated bed occupancy (7 day rolling average)

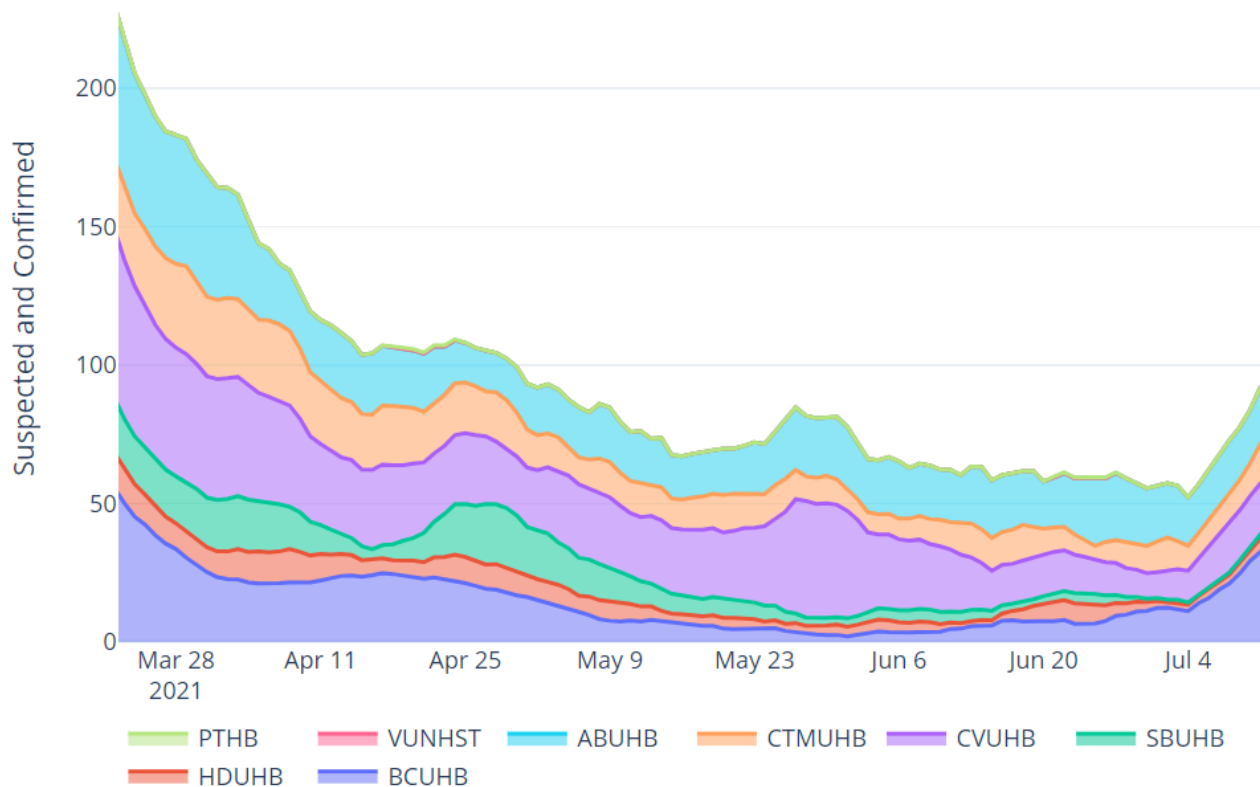


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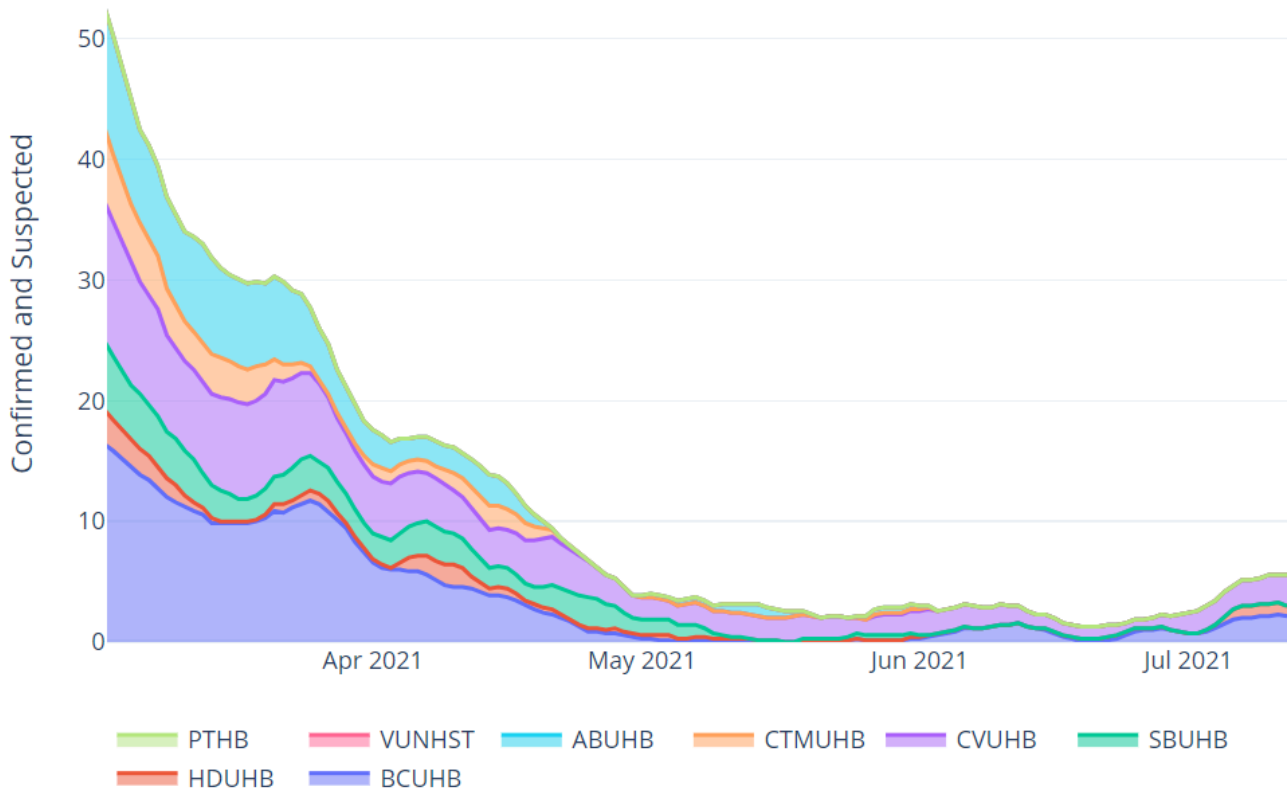
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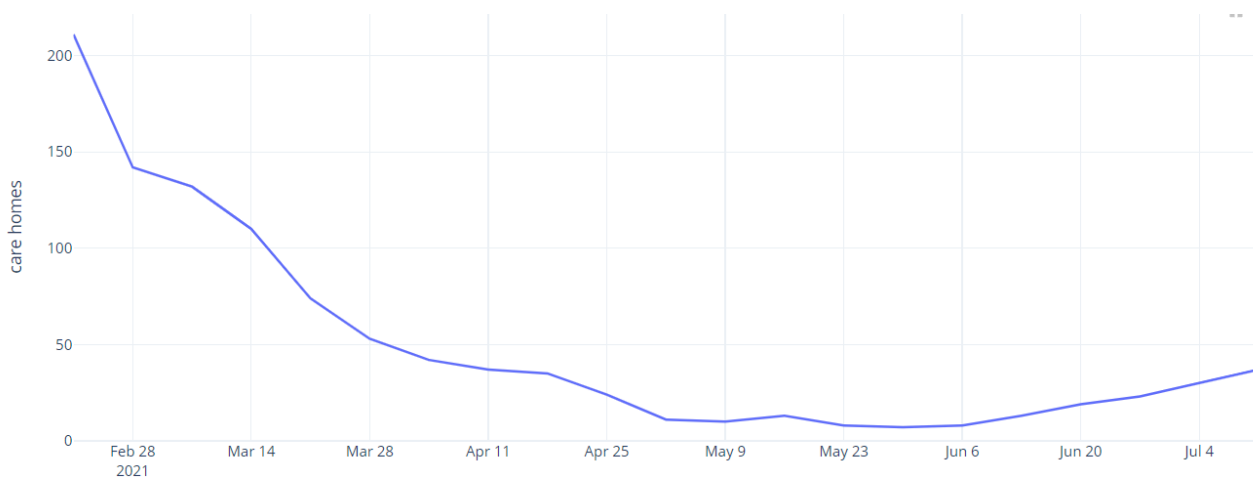
Hospital bed occupancy for suspected and confirmed COVID-19 positive patients (7 day rolling average)



Invasive ventilated bed occupancy for suspected and confirmed COVID-19 positive patients (7 day rolling average)



Number of adult care homes reported an ongoing outbreak/incident (last 7 days)



What is the situation with education, children and young adults?

Childcare settings

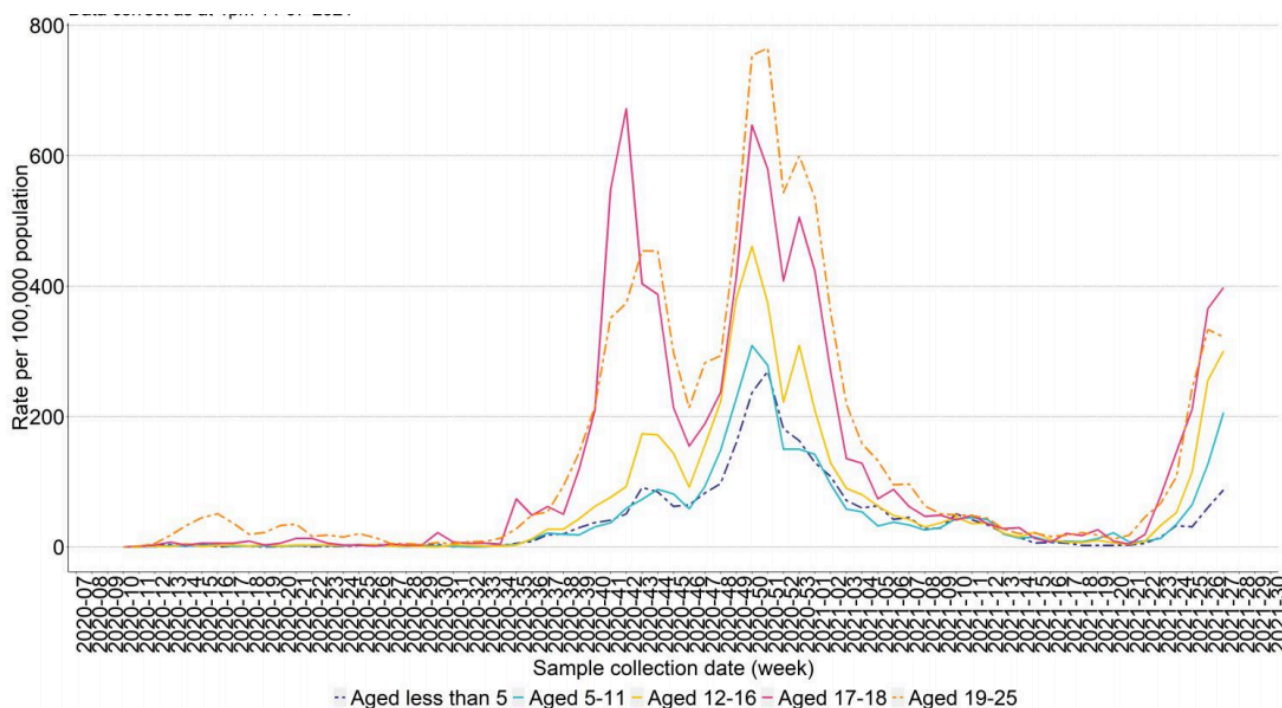
The latest National Situation Background Assessment Recommendation (SBAR) report covering the week of 5 July to 12 July reported that the incidence of clusters in child care settings remains low.

3 new clusters were reported last week compared to 1 new cluster reported the previous week.

Schools

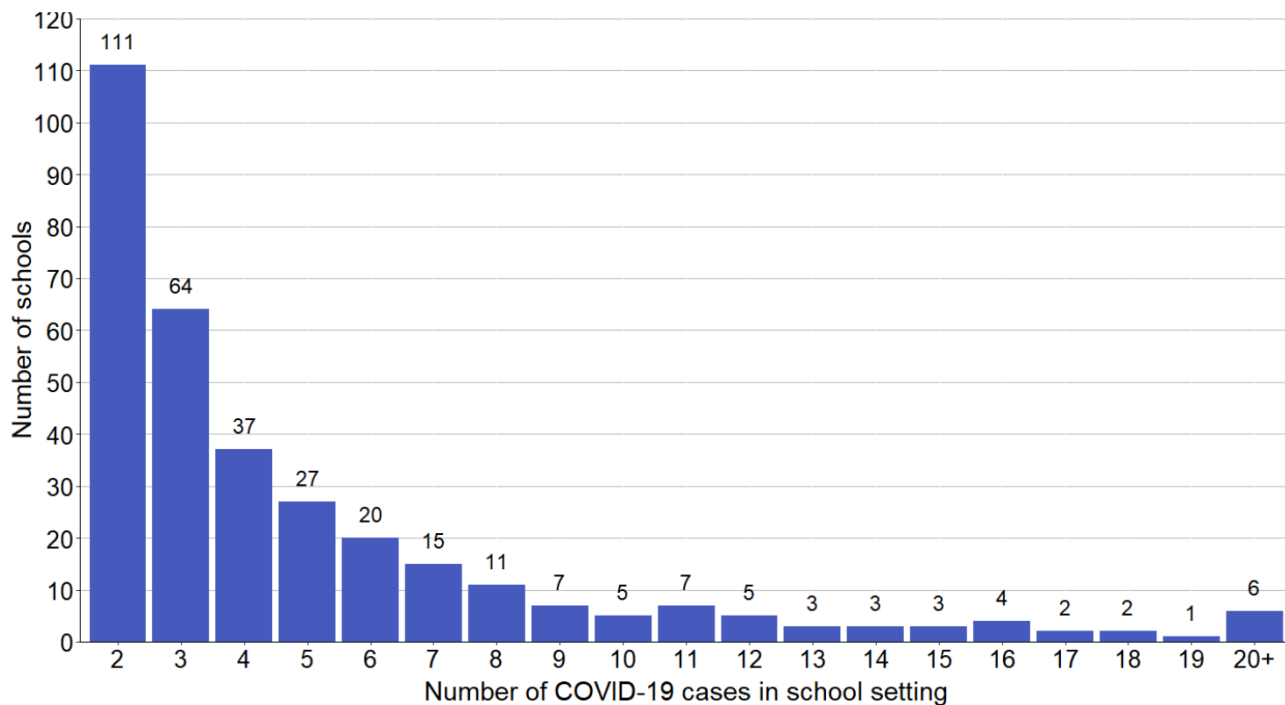
There were 59 new clusters and 108 ongoing clusters associated with schools reported by IMTs last week. 37* are attributed to school settings and 75* to household, social or extra-curricular activities. Source: National SBAR *Figures do not include Gwynedd data

Weekly COVID-19 per 100,000 population for school age children and young adults incidence in Wales (data as at 1pm 14 July 2021)



Schools with more than one COVID-19 case identified within the last 21 days, excluding 306 schools with 1

COVID-19 case

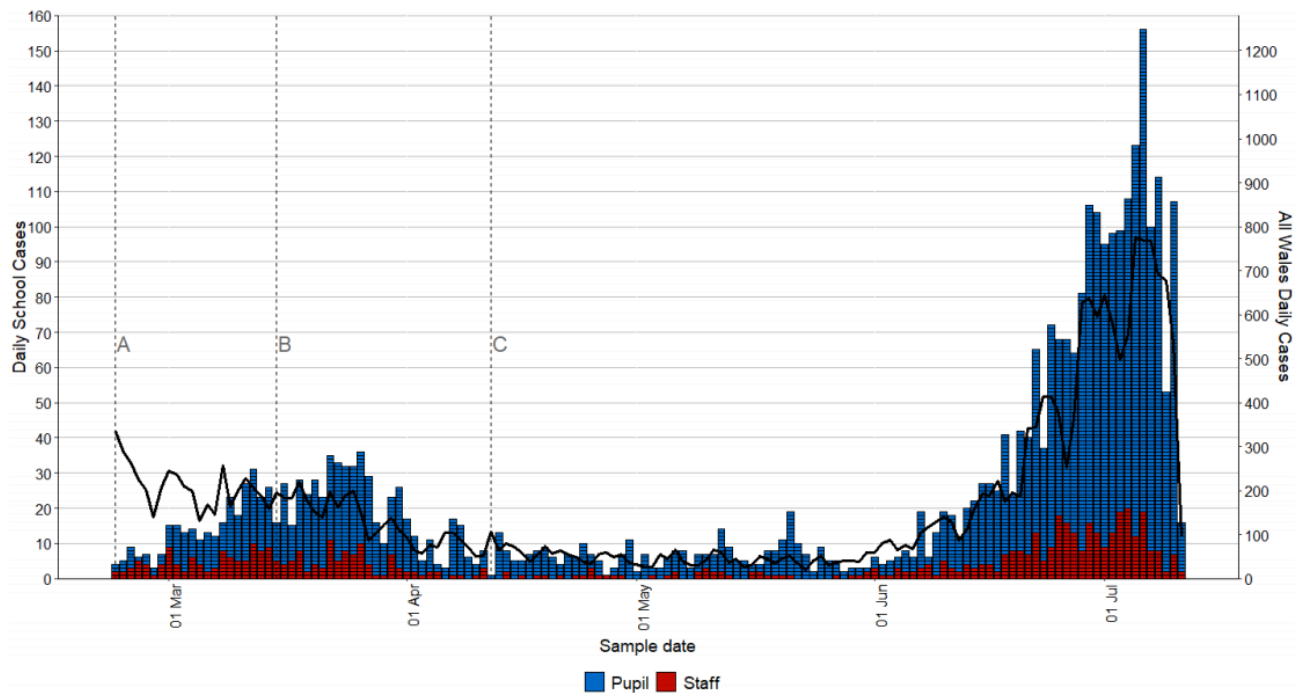


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Epidemiological curve of cases in all staff and pupils linked to a school between 22 February 2021 and 12 July 2021 for all Wales maintained schools



School Attendance

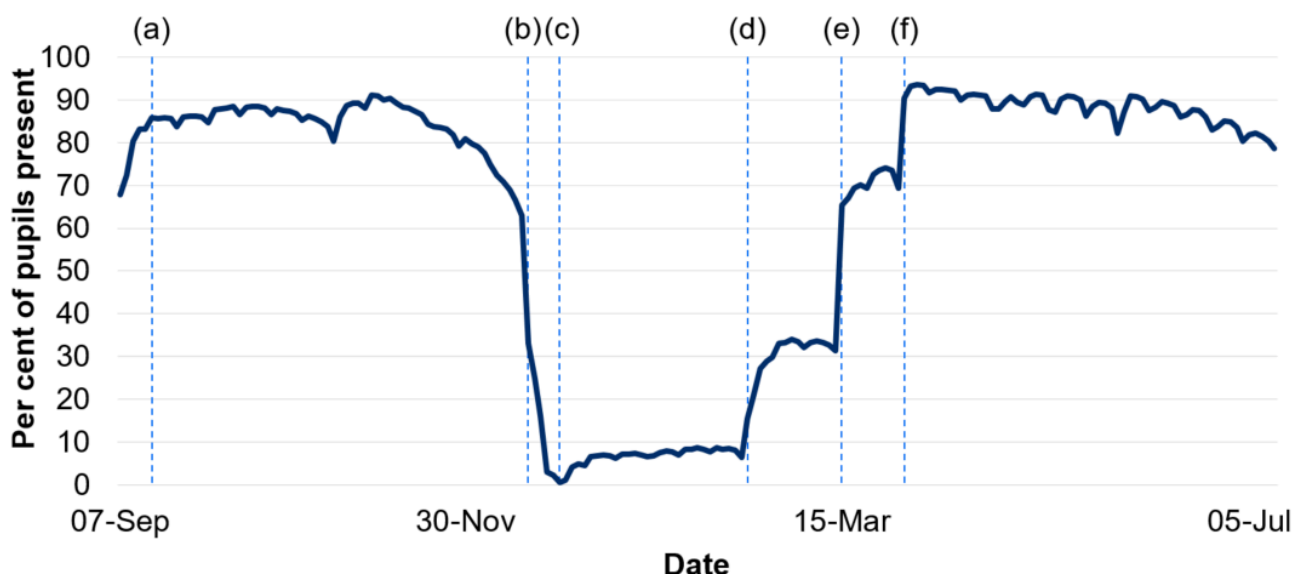
An average of 81% of all pupils were present in school over the week of 5 July to 9 July Source: Stats Wales

Absence due to COVID

Absence due to a COVID-19 related reason was similar between primary and secondary age pupils up until mid-June where absences in secondary schools started to increase at a faster rate. The latest data shows that in early July the

percentage of pupils absent in secondary schools is two to three times that in primary schools. *Source: Stats Wales*

Pupils present by day in Wales, from 7 September 2020



Further Education (FE)

The latest National SBAR reported no new clusters associated with FE settings last week. *Source: National SBAR.*

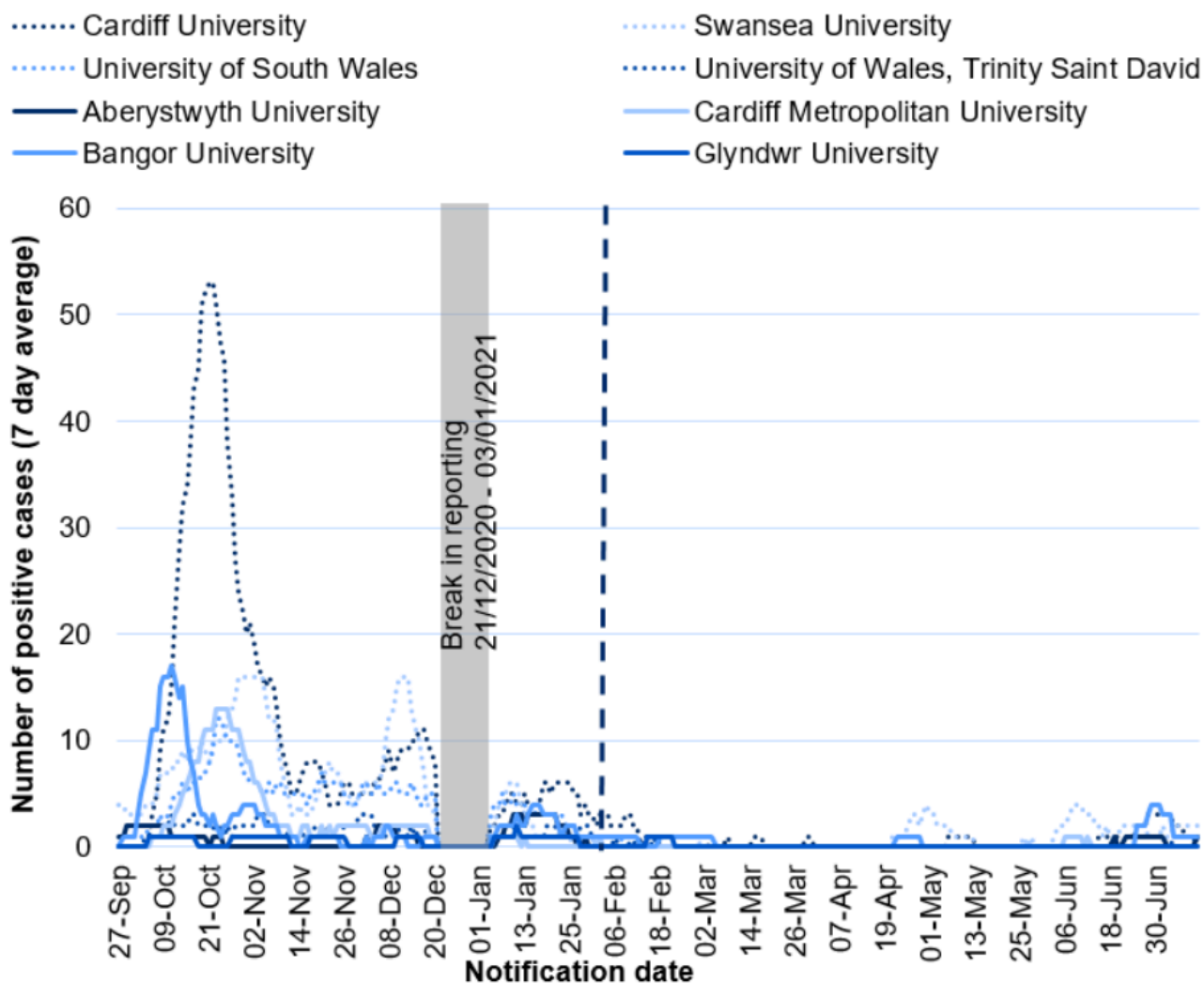
Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)

HEIs report cases notified to them by students and staff. Over the past week, the 7-day rolling average has been less than 3 positive COVID-19 cases for all HEI's. *Source: Stats Wales.*

In addition, according to the National SBAR, local IMTs reported there were 3

new clusters associated with HE settings last week. Source National SBAR

7 day rolling average of positive cases in Welsh universities 27 September to 11 July 2021



Please note: Due to accuracy & timeliness limitations with the capability of our surveillance systems, distinguishing exact case associations between children over 19, school staff and/or family members is currently not possible. We are

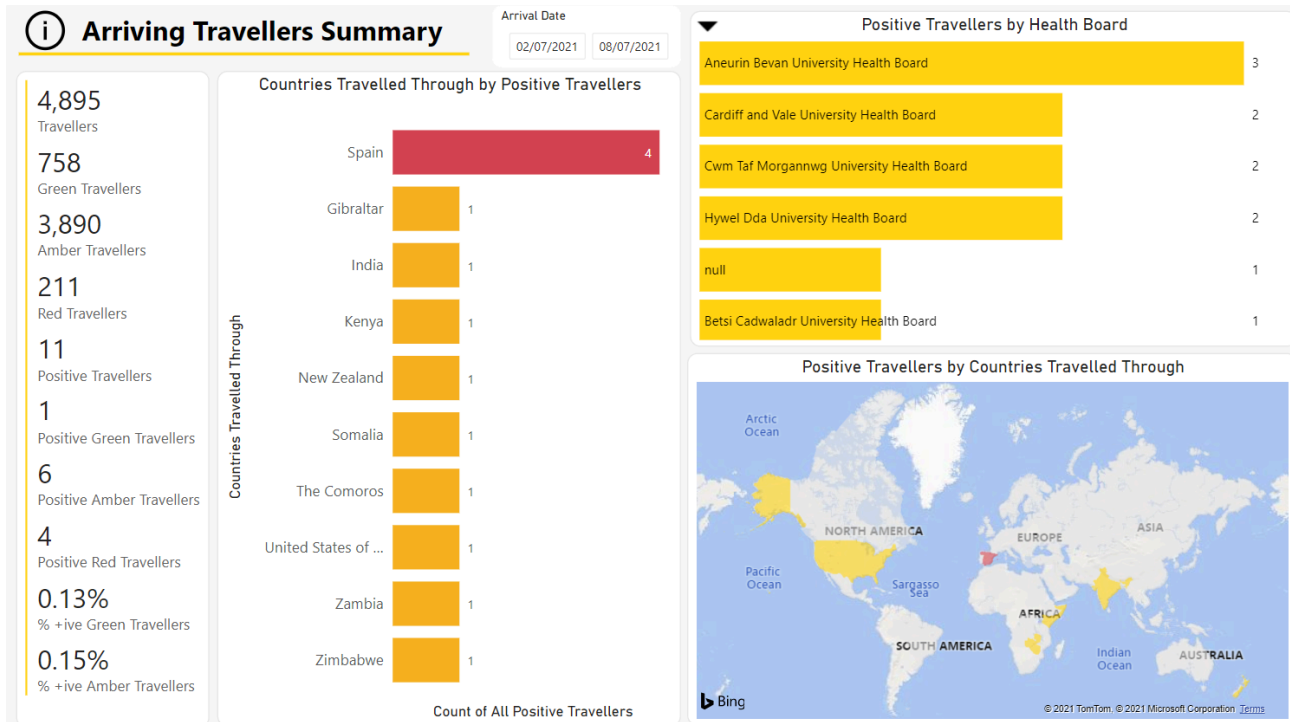
looking to develop this with local health protection officers.

What is the situation with arriving travellers

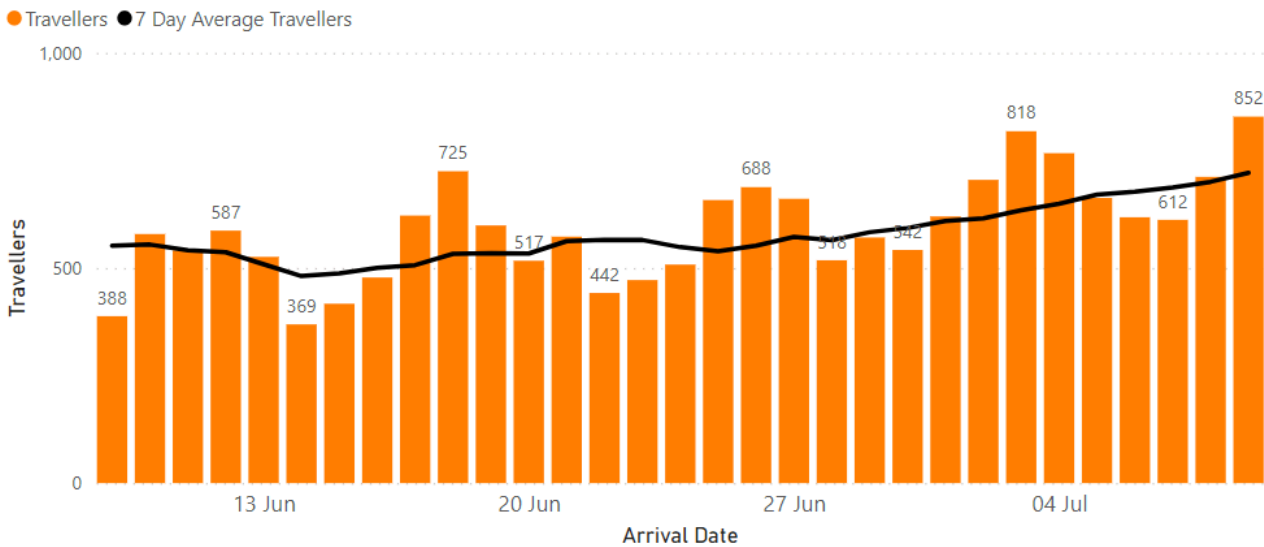
There is an increase since last week in overall arrivals (approximately 15%). Red list positive cases are 0.22% whilst amber and green remain low at 0.15% and 0.14%, respectively.

Due to increasing traveller volumes, increasing community cases and limited staff capacity, the Arriving Travel Team (ATT) in Wales are prioritising travellers from highest risk countries who have been contacted by phone.

- 4,895 total for this week (4,258 last week)
 - Amber: 3,890 (3,772 last week)
 - Red: 211 (159 last week)
 - Green: 758 (296 for last week)
- There were 11 positive arrivals (0.2%)
- In the same period 465 (524 last week) of 4,895 travellers marked themselves as exempt (9.5%)



Travellers by Arrival Date



Source: Home Office, as at 8 July 2021

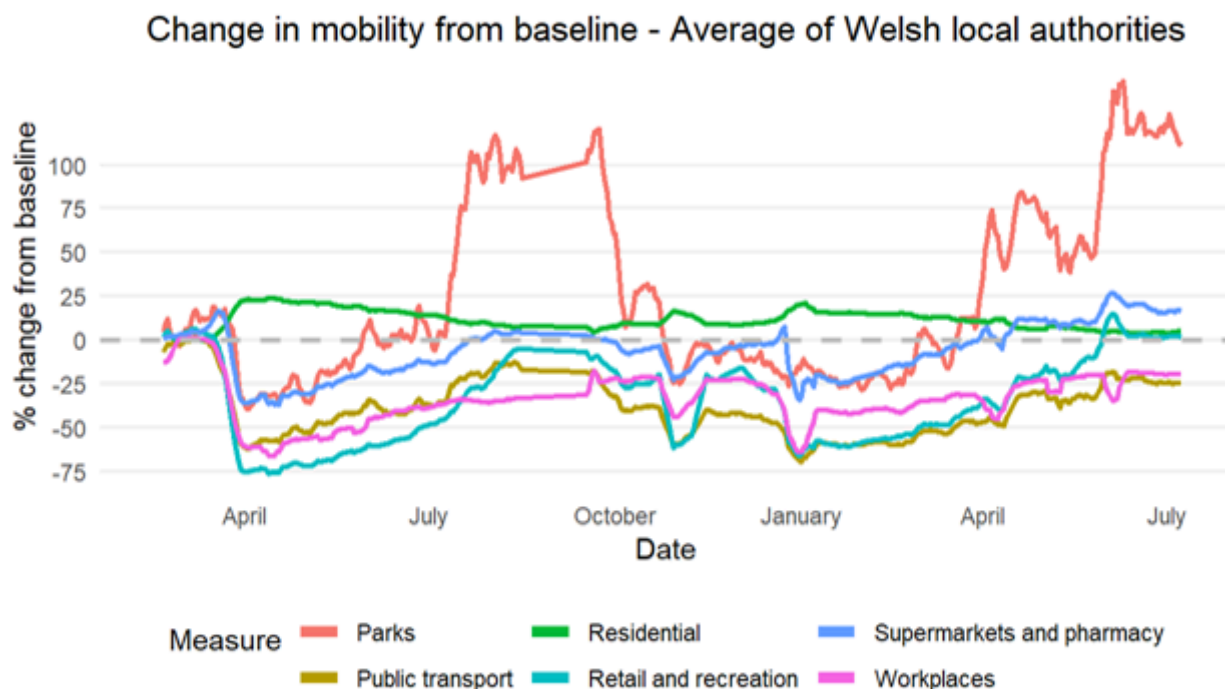
Please note that the data provided by the Home Office is derived from

Passenger Locator Forms (PLF) which are self-completed by travellers. As such, data may contain inaccuracies. Due to the limitations associated with data capture and legislation, some minor discrepancies may be present in the data.

Mobility data, adherence and UK comparison

The latest mobility data shows a similar pattern to the previous week. In some cases mobility remains above the baseline, but mobility has decreased overall from half term week (end of May/early June). The baseline for much of the data is during January to February 2020 and changes are relative to that period. It is not possible to determine if mobility is higher/lower than would have been expected prior to the pandemic as data for 2019 or earlier years is not published.

Mobility data by location of trip



Source: Google LLC "Google COVID-19 Community Mobility Reports."

Adherence

The **most recent IPSOS MORI data** for the period 2 – 5 July for Wales shows that those who reported making essential trips only was the lowest since the survey began in March 2020. Other measures are similar to the last survey wave. It should be noted that this is self-reported adherence and will be affected by individuals' understanding of the rules and circumstances that apply to them.

The latest results from the **Public Engagement Survey on Health and Wellbeing during Coronavirus Measures** is the same as last week, showing that 85% of people said they understand current restrictions in Wales 'very well'

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or 'fairly well' and that 90% of people said they were following coronavirus restrictions 'completely' or with 'majority compliance'.

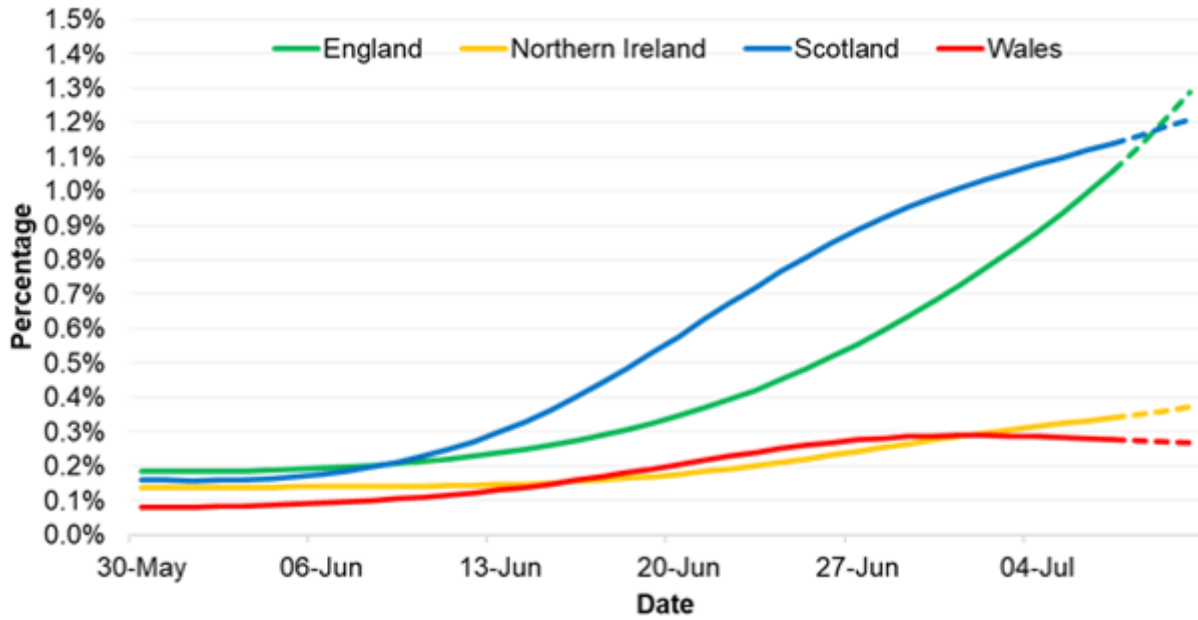
Results from the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Infection Survey, 4 July to 10 July

The percentage of people testing positive has continued to increase in England, Scotland and Ireland. The trend is uncertain in Wales. The positivity rate is highest for Scotland and lowest for Wales.

It is estimated that an average of 8,400 people in Wales had COVID-19 (95% credible interval: 5,000 to 12,900), equating to around 1 in 360 people or 0.28% of the community population. This compares to around 1 in 95 people in England, around 1 in 90 people in Scotland, and around 1 in 290 people in Northern Ireland.

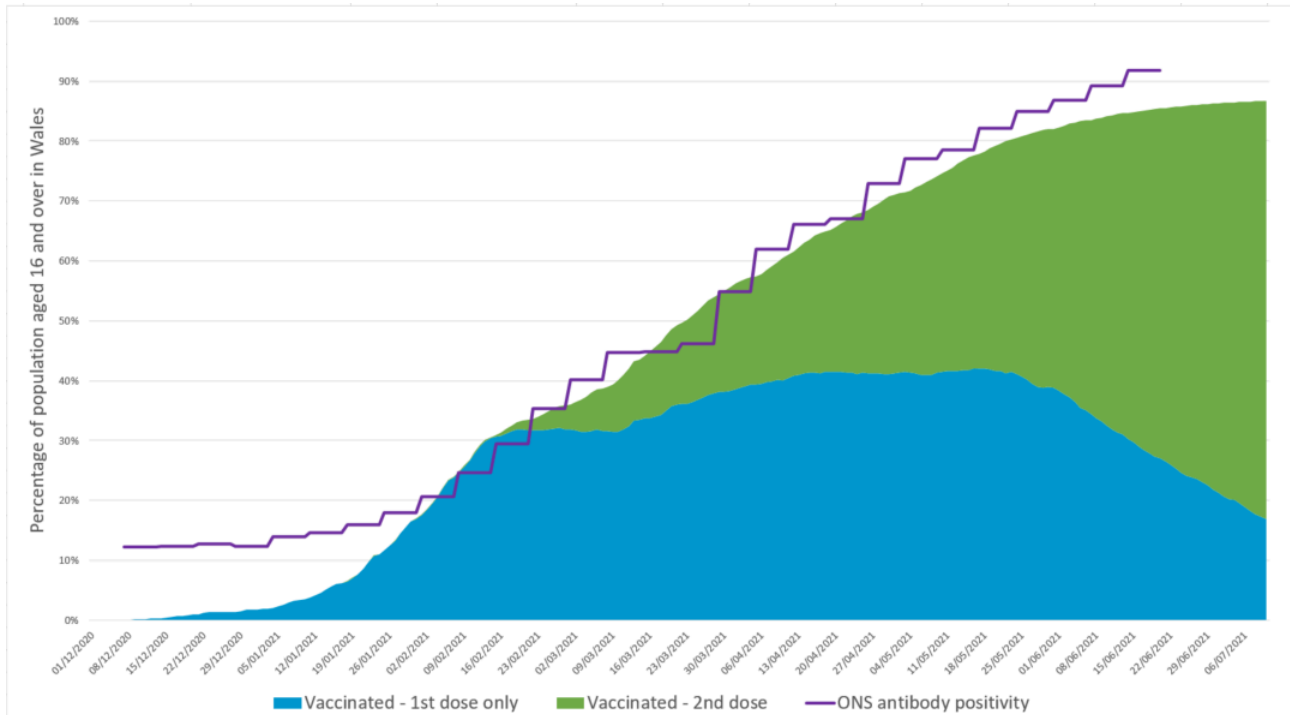
Source: [Office for National Statistics COVID-19 Infection Survey](#)

Positivity rates (%) across UK countries up to 10 July 2021

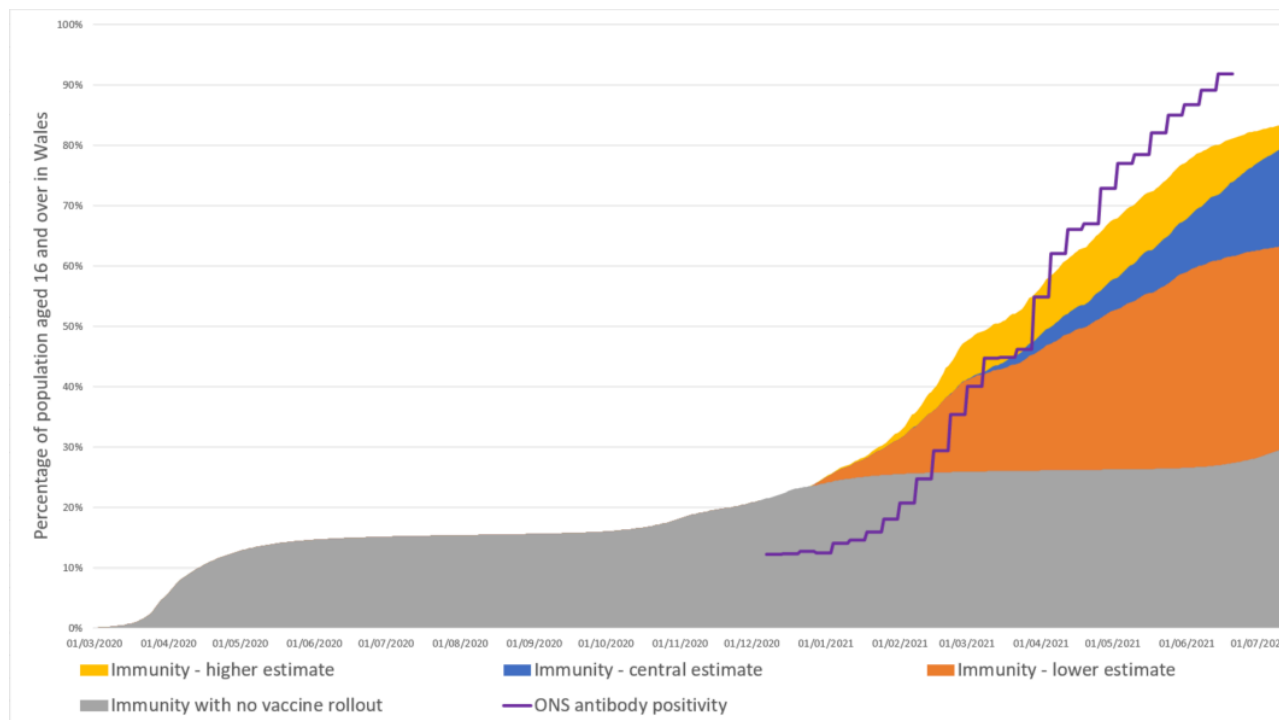


Vaccine and immunity status

Vaccination and antibody status of individuals aged 16 and over in Wales



Immunity estimates and antibody status of individuals aged 16 and over in Wales



The COVID-19 vaccination rollout continues to progress well in Wales. As at 10 July 2021, 87% of people aged 16 and over had received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose in Wales. 17% of people aged 16 and over had exactly one vaccine dose and 70% were fully vaccinated. Uptake of first doses has slowed since the final priority group was reached.

Between 14 and 20 June 2021, the ONS COVID-19 Infection Survey estimated that 91.8% of the community population aged 16 and over in Wales tested positive for COVID-19 antibodies.

As at 10 July 2021, it was estimated that 79% of people aged 16 and over in Wales had some immunity against COVID-19 infection. The lower and higher

estimates of immunity are 63% and 83% of people aged 16 and over in Wales. If no vaccines had been administered, it is estimated that 30% of people aged 16 and over would be immune. These estimates assume 84% of natural infections lead to immunity, but do not account for waning immunity ([SIREN study paper](#)).

It is currently estimated that over 80% (may be closer to 90%) of the population, spread evenly across Wales, must be immune to COVID-19 before population immunity effects would be observed (TAG advice on the Delta variant, published 18 June 2021). Note that the immunity estimate of 79% is for individuals aged 16 and over, not the total Wales population, and varies across age groups.

Differences between antibody presence and immunity estimates include:

- ONS antibody estimates are based on study participants who have volunteered for the study and estimates are extrapolated.
- ONS estimates are based on the 16+ community population, which excludes people in care homes or hospitals. Immunity estimates are based on the whole 16+ Wales population.
- While antibody protection doesn't equal immunity from infection, it does give a useful indication of the level of protection from infection in the Welsh population.
- Antibody estimates use 2019 mid-year population estimates while we use 2020 estimates.

Source: [ONS COVID-19 Infection Survey](#), [PHW](#), [SPI-M](#), Swansea University modelling

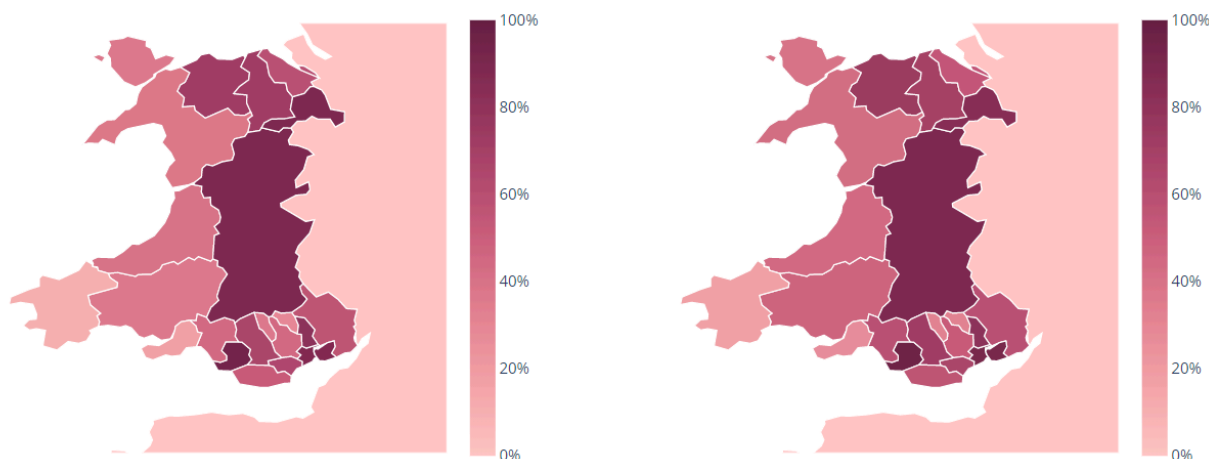
What does the situation look like going forward?

Based on the current rates observed with current restrictions:

Cases

The probability of incidence greater than 200 per 100,000 between 25 July and 31 July is above 80% for 5 local authorities. The figure illustrates the probability (between 0 – 100%) of incidence being greater than 200 per 100,000. Source: Imperial College London

Probability of greater than 100 per 100,000 cases by local authority



18 to 24 July and 25 to 31 July

Deaths per day

SPI-M's consensus view is that the number of deaths in Wales will remain low over the next four weeks. Source: Modelled medium term projections, SAGE/SPI-M, 13 July.

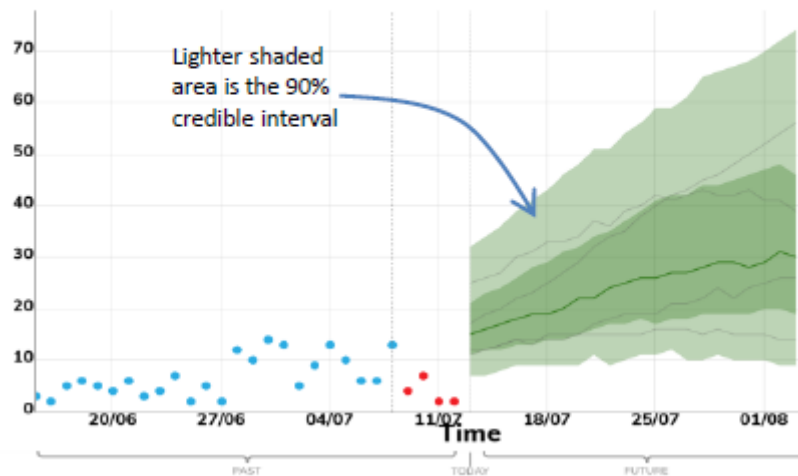
Number of deaths per day, Wales

The number of deaths have fallen to very low levels in the Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and NHS regions of England. Projecting forwards is difficult when numbers fall to very low levels, therefore SPI M O have decided to pause producing medium term projections where this is the case. SPI M's consensus view is that the number of deaths in Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and all NHS England regions will remain low over the next four weeks.

Hospitalisations per day

Projected to increase to around 30 per day over the next four weeks before levelling off. Source: Modelled medium term projections, SAGE/SPI-M, 13 July.

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These projections are based on current trends and will not fully reflect the impact of policy or behavioural changes over the past two to three weeks. The projections include the impact of vaccines, but cannot capture any future increases in transmission resulting from new variants. They are not forecasts or predictions.

Key risks and sources

Key risks

Transmissions, incidence and prevalence

Overall transmission, percentage of people testing positive is rapidly increasing since last week.

Trends vary across health boards and local authorities.

NHS Capacity

Invasive ventilated bed occupancy remains low and stable. However there has been a steady increase in hospital bed occupancy for COVID-19 related patients in recent weeks.

Mortality

Low numbers of deaths in the most recent week.

Variants

Wales has 5,601 confirmed cases of the more transmissible Delta variant (an increase of 1,935 from the previous week) making Delta the dominant variant of COVID-19 in Wales.

Immunity and vaccines

4.14 million (+0.11 million) doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been given in Wales, of which 2.28 (+0.01) million were first doses and 1.86 million (+0.10) were second doses. Around 79% of people aged 16 and over have some immunity in Wales.

International

There is an increase in travellers numbers this week, however positive rates continue to remain low.

Key sources for this update

[Technical Advisory Cell brief](#)

[COVID infection survey results](#)

[Public Health Wales](#)

[Hospital occupancy](#)

[Higher Education](#)

[School attendance](#)

[Public Health England VoC Technical Briefing](#)

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