

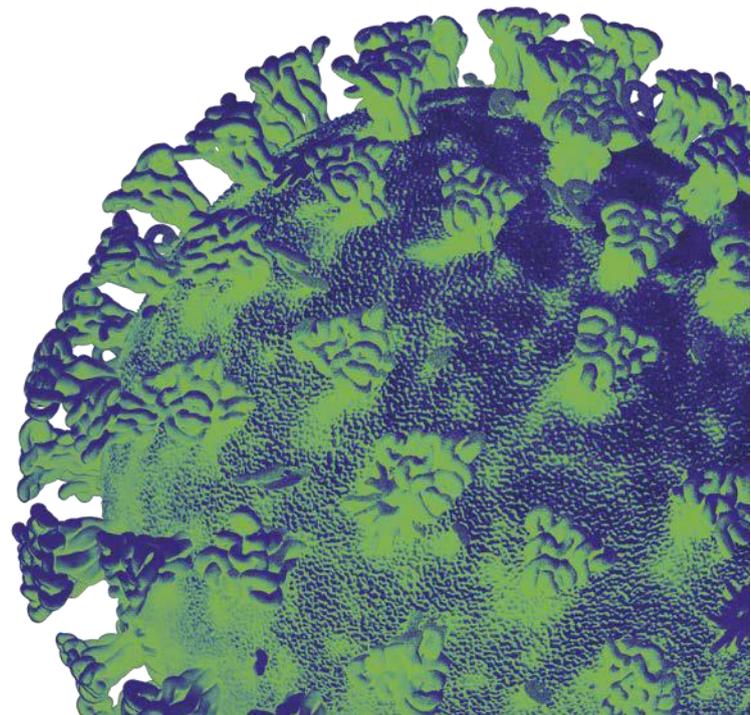
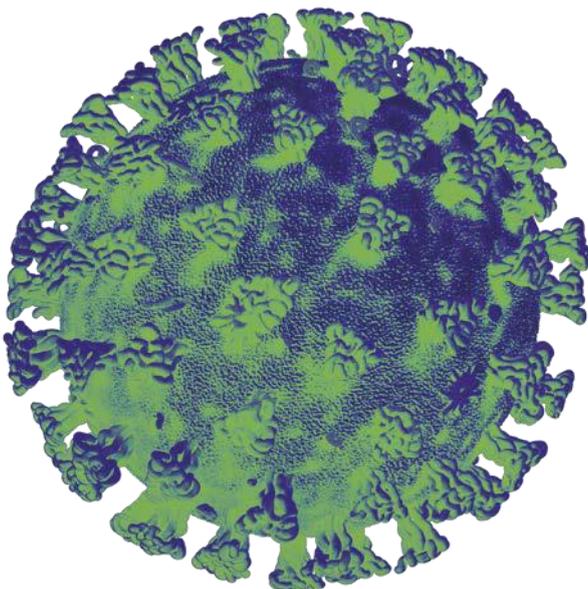
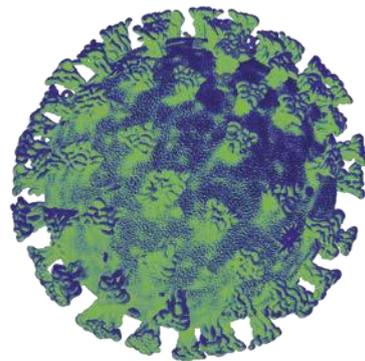


Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Technical Advisory Cell

Summary of advice

26th March 2021



Technical Advisory Cell: Internal Summary Brief

26 March 2021

Top-line Summary

- The number of new cases in Wales has **decreased by 11%** at a national level this week to **38 cases per 100,000**, after seeing a small increase last week.
- The majority of Local Authorities are seeing reductions in cases, however incidence remains higher in Merthyr Tydfil and Isle of Anglesey, with both areas seeing slightly increasing and stable case incidence respectively partly as a result of increased targeted testing.
- The most recent estimate of the reproduction number (R_t) from SAGE is between **0.7 to 0.9** for Wales, resulting in the growth rate of the virus **shrinking by 6 to 2%**.
- PHW, which calculates R_t based on the number of positive cases, estimates an R_t of **1.0**, resulting in a **growth rate of 0.3% per day**. However cases in those aged 60+ appears to be **shrinking at a rate of 2.8% per day**.
- **COVID-19 deaths reported by PHW continue to decrease** with a **34% reduction** for the 7 day period ending on 23 March, however there were **21 deaths** from Covid-19 during this time. There is evidence that vaccination rollout is beginning to reduce the correlation between hospitalisations/ deaths and case rates (high confidence).
- The ONS has reported that for the week ending 12 March the total number of deaths registered was lower than the five-year average for the second consecutive week. In Wales, the number of deaths registered involving COVID-19 decreased from **103 to 68**, accounting for **9.9% of all deaths**.
- Importation of new variants remains a considerable concern and reducing the risk of transmission and importation of cases at the border continues to be the most effective way to reduce the risk of new variants emerging in the UK (high confidence). Co-infection leading to new recombinant strains is also more likely when prevalence is higher and so keeping cases low will continue to be important to reduce this risk.
- Whilst numbers will be higher due to ongoing data entry, as at 26 March **1,387,583 (+128,814) first doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been given in Wales and 412,663 (+155,265) people have been given their second dose**.
- **Mobility data continues to show an increase following the move from stay at home to stay local on the 13 March**. For the most recent period, Facebook users' movement was 20% higher than the previous week but 14% below the baseline, whilst workplace mobility remained essentially stable at 31% below the baseline and retail and recreation increased to 41% below baseline (from Google).
- As at 26 March for the most recent 7 day Covid-19 confirmed **hospital occupancy has continued to decrease** to a weekly average of **168 beds occupied**, a **31% reduction**. **COVID-19 ICU occupancy has also continued to decrease**, with a weekly average of **23 ICU beds occupied** (in contrast, a

weekly average of 20-30 beds were occupied at the beginning of the pandemic), a **21% reduction** from the previous 7 day period.

TAG Modelling of the Welsh Test, Trace Protect system has been published [here](#). This estimates that during winter high transmission and prevalence (outside of firebreak), TTP reduced R_t from approximately 1.7 to 1.3. Using recent R values and improvements to case ascertainment and test and trace times, the effect may be a reduction from approximately 1.3 to 0.8.

- Published papers from SAGE considered by the Technical Advisory Cell are available [here](#).

TAG/TAC papers published this week:

- [Technical Advisory Group: modelling the current Welsh Test, Trace, Protect system 24 March 2021](#)
- [Technical Advisory Group: examining deaths in Wales associated with COVID-19 24 March 2021](#)

SAGE papers published this week:

- [Vaccine Updates Group: Considerations on when and how to update SARS-CoV-2 vaccines, 11 March 2021](#)
- [PHE: Investigation of novel SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern \(England\) - technical briefing 7, 11 March 2021](#)
- [Dynamic CO-CIN report to SAGE and NERVTAG \(recent cases\), 11 March 2021](#)
- [Welsh Government TAG: Modelling the current Welsh TTP \(Test, Trace, Protect\) system, 1 February 2021](#)
- [SAGE 83 minutes: Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) response, 11 March 2021](#)
- [ISARIC4C: Hospitalised vaccinated patients during the second wave, 11 March 2021](#)
- [SPI-M-O: Consensus statement on COVID-19, 10 March 2021](#)
- [SPI-M-O: Medium-term projections, 10 March 2021](#)
- [Welsh Government TAG: Policy modelling update, 18 December 2020](#)

Reproduction number and Growth Rate

SAGE estimate

- The Reproduction number (R_t) is the average number of secondary infections produced by a single infected individual. R_t is an average value over time, geographies, and communities. This should be considered when interpreting the R_t estimate for the UK given the differences in policies across the four nations. The estimate of R_t is shown as a range (90 or 95% confidence intervals) without a central estimate and is a **lagging indicator**.

- Growth rate reflects how quickly the numbers of infections are changing day by day. It is an approximation of the percentage change in the number of infections each day. Growth rate is also a lagging indicator and shown as a range (90 or 95% confidence intervals) without a central estimate. Figures are shown as either **doubling** if R_t is above 1, or **halving** if R_t is below 1.
- Care should be taken when interpreting R_t and growth rate estimates for the UK, due to their inherently lagged nature, their correlation with testing incidence and that national estimates can mask regional variation in the number of infections and rates of transmission.
- **The most recent estimate of the R_t for Wales from SAGE on 25 March is predicted to be between 0.7 and 0.9 (90% confidence interval).**
- The most recent daily growth rate for Wales from SAGE estimates that the infection rate in Wales is shrinking by between **-6% and -2%** per day (90% confidence interval).
- The table below shows the Growth rate and R_t estimated by SAGE on 25 March across the 4 UK Nations.

Nation	R_t (90% CI)	Growth rate per day (90% CI)
Wales	0.7 to 0.9	-6% to -2%
UK	0.7 to 0.9	-6% to -3%

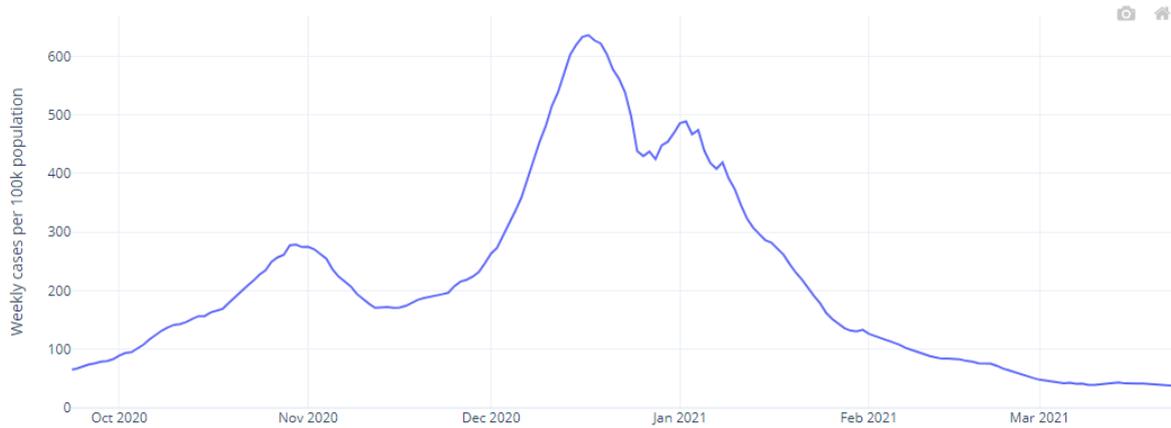
PHW estimate

- PHW also estimate R_t for Wales using data on the number of positive cases only. Like the SAGE estimate these figures should be interpreted with caution as the number of positive cases detected can be a reflection of the amount of testing. It is assumed there is no change in testing patterns for the duration of these estimates.
- Doubling times have been calculated using 14 days of rolling data. The most recent 3 days of data were excluded to account for testing and reporting lag. Predictions were then extended. The R package "Incidence" was used to calculate doubling times. <https://www.repidemicsconsortium.org/incidence>
- As at 23 March, using data from 6-19 March, **R_t in Wales is estimated to be 1.00 (95% CI: 0.94 to 1.03), and the growth rate is doubling every 231 days (95% CI: 27 to -35) or growing by 0.3% per day.** PHW has also calculated the growth rate for cases aged 60+ and this has a **halving time of 25 days (95% CI 10.7 to -76.6) or shrinking by 1.2% per day.**

Area	Halving time in days (95% CI)	R_t (95% CI)
All Wales	231 (27 to -35) DOUBLING	0.96 (0.92 to 1.01)
All Wales, aged 60+	57 (14 to -27)	-

Case numbers

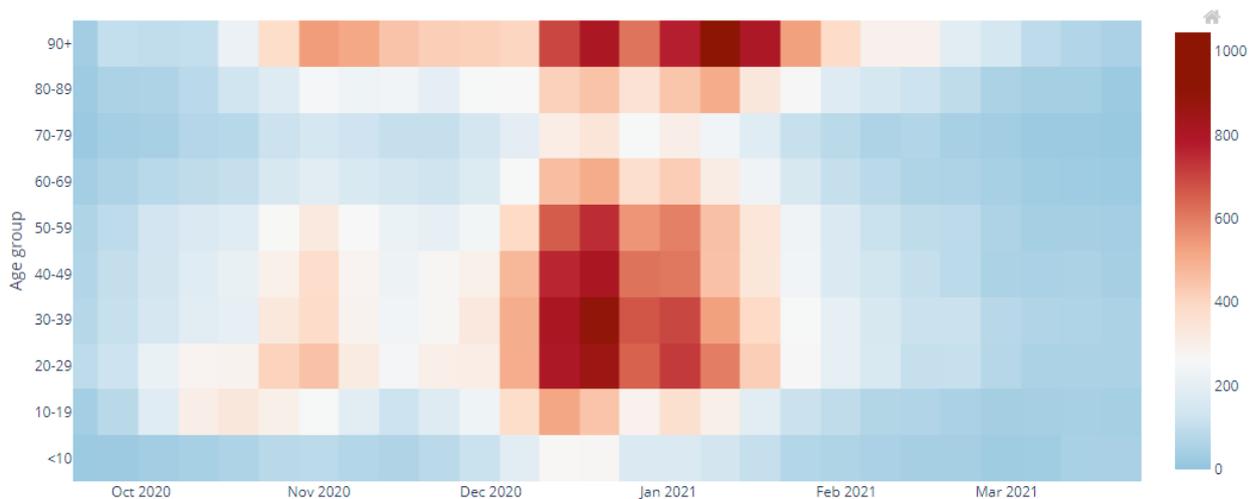
- The figure below shows weekly COVID-19 cases per 100k population (7 day rolling sum). The most recent data up to 23 March shows **38 cases per 100k** population, a **decrease** from the previous 7 day period.



Source: Data from [PHW](#)

Age profile

- The Figure below shows the number of weekly cases per 100,000 population, by age group up to the week ending 21 March. The darker red indicates an increased number of weekly cases. The **20-29 age group** has been a substantial increase this week, **more than doubling**. All other age groups have decreased.



Age	Week 10 (w/e 14 Mar)	Week 11 (w/e 21 Mar)	% change from previous week
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90+	65.5	49.2	-24.89%
80-89	39.7	18.8	-52.64%
70-79	18.9	14.7	-22.22%
60-69	26.9	22.9	-14.87%
50-59	42	37.2	-11.43%
40-49	53.7	42	-21.79%
30-39	61.9	53.5	-13.57%
20-29	52.4	53.8	2.60%
10-19	44.2	39.6	-10.41%
<10	46.7	46.9	0.43%

- Source: Data from [PHW](#)

Wales Local Authority update

- Recent surveillance data for Wales for the 7 day period ending 21 March suggests that COVID-19 case incidence across Wales is variable, although the majority of regions have reduced since the previous week (see below table). At low incidence changes between weeks will be more variable, as a result of the impact of localised outbreaks against a background of low cases.
- Case incidence per 100,000 population for the whole of Wales during this period was **37.8**, a **11% decrease** from the previous period. Swansea, Neath Port Talbot, and Monmouthshire have seen moderate increases from the previous period, although overall case incidence in these areas is relatively low.
- Test positivity for COVID-19 for the whole of Wales was 2.8% for the most recent rolling 7 period, a 22% reduction from the previous period.
- The only area substantially above the 5% positivity threshold is Merthyr Tydfil, although this has reduced slightly since the previous period.

Cases and Tests - All confirmed episodes - For the 7 day period ending 23-03-2021										
Local Authority	Health Board	Num	% of All Wales Total	Case Incidence per 100k	Incidence threshold reached	Change from previous week	Proportion of tests positive (%)	Positivity threshold reached	Change from previous week	Test Incidence per 100k
Merthyr Tydfil	CTMUHB	81	6.8%	134.3	50 or higher	4% ↑	7.3%	5% or higher	6% ↓	1849.9
Isle of Anglesey	BCUHB	80	6.7%	114.2	50 or higher	0% →	3.7%	2.5 to < 5%	55% ↓	3066.7
Swansea	SBUHB	154	12.9%	62.3	50 or higher	20% ↑	4.6%	2.5 to < 5%	10% ↑	1348.6
Flintshire	BCUHB	90	7.6%	57.7	50 or higher	-15% ↓	5.0%	5% or higher	25% ↓	1152.5
Blaenau Gwent	ABUHB	38	3.2%	54.4	50 or higher	-16% ↓	3.9%	2.5 to < 5%	20% ↓	1412.8
Neath Port Talbot	SBUHB	72	6.0%	50.2	50 or higher	20% ↑	3.8%	2.5 to < 5%	9% ↑	1309.0
Newport	ABUHB	76	6.4%	49.1	25 to < 50	-7% ↓	3.4%	2.5 to < 5%	8% ↓	1437.2
Conwy	BCUHB	49	4.1%	41.8	25 to < 50	-39% ↓	3.2%	2.5 to < 5%	43% ↓	1286.7
Caerphilly	ABUHB	67	5.6%	37.0	25 to < 50	-25% ↓	2.4%	Under 2.5%	46% ↓	1514.3
Gwynedd	BCUHB	42	3.5%	33.7	25 to < 50	-34% ↓	2.8%	2.5 to < 5%	49% ↓	1188.2
Cardiff	CVUHB	118	9.9%	32.2	25 to < 50	2% ↑	2.2%	Under 2.5%	8% ↓	1466.6
Vale of Glamorgan	CVUHB	38	3.2%	28.4	25 to < 50	-38% ↓	1.3%	Under 2.5%	57% ↓	2146.9

Cases and Tests - All confirmed episodes - For the 7 day period ending 23-03-2021										
Local Authority	Health Board	Num	% of All Wales Total	Case Incidence per 100k	Incidence threshold reached	Change from previous week	Proportion of tests positive (%)	Positivity threshold reached	Change from previous week	Test Incidence per 100k
Carmarthenshire	HDUHB	48	4.0%	25.4	25 to < 50	-29% ↓	2.4%	Under 2.5%	31% ↓	1078.6
Wrexham	BCUHB	32	2.7%	23.5	20 to < 25	-24% ↓	2.2%	Under 2.5%	33% ↓	1073.1
Pembrokeshire	HDUHB	29	2.4%	23.0	20 to < 25	-3% ↓	2.2%	Under 2.5%	18.5% ↓	1046.8
Monmouthshire	ABUHB	20	1.7%	21.1	20 to < 25	18% ↑	2.2%	Under 2.5%	10% ↑	969.4
Rhondda Cynon Taf	CTMUHB	50	4.2%	20.7	20 to < 25	-21% ↓	1.5%	Under 2.5%	28.6% ↓	1343.8
Powys	PTHB	27	2.3%	20.4	20 to < 25	0% →	2.5%	2.5 to < 5%	0% →	807.2
Torfaen	ABUHB	19	1.6%	20.2	20 to < 25	-14% ↓	1.8%	Under 2.5%	10% ↓	1153.7
Denbighshire	BCUHB	19	1.6%	19.9	15 to < 20	-42% ↓	1.8%	Under 2.5%	31% ↓	1116.0
Bridgend	CTMUHB	26	2.2%	17.7	15 to < 20	0% →	1.8%	Under 2.5%	0% →	1002.4
Ceredigion	HDUHB	3	0.3%	4.1	Under 15	-62% ↓	0.5%	Under 2.5%	64% ↓	891.4
Unknown	Unknown	14	1.2%	-	-	-	-	-	-	--
Total	Total	1192	100.0%	37.8	25 to < 50	-11% ↓	2.8%	2.5 to < 5%	22% ↓	1341.3

Source: Data from [PHW](#)

Deaths

- The figure below shows the 7 day rolling sum of COVID-19 deaths reported by PHW rapid mortality surveillance up to 23 March, with 21 deaths for the preceding 7 day period; a 34% reduction from the previous 7 day period, and a cumulative total of 5,502 deaths.
- It is important to note that PHW death data is limited to reports of deaths of hospitalised patients in Welsh hospitals or care homes where COVID-19 has been confirmed with a positive laboratory test and the clinician suspects COVID-19 was a causative factor. It does not include patients who may have died from COVID-19 but who were not confirmed by laboratory testing, those who died in other settings, or Welsh residents who died outside of Wales as a result the true number of deaths will be higher.



Source: Data from [PHW](#)

ONS: Deaths registered weekly in England and Wales

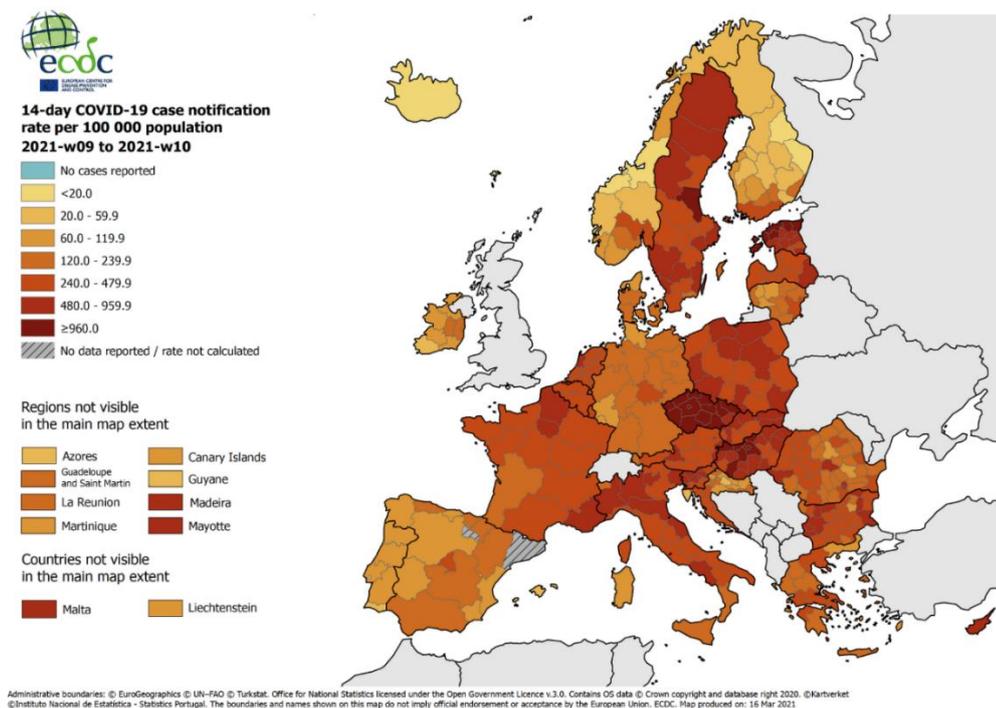
- The Office for National Statistics (ONS) reports on both suspected and confirmed COVID-19 deaths using data available on completion of the death registration process and is more complete, albeit subject to a greater time lag. Figures are based on the date the death was registered, not when it occurred. There is usually a delay of at least five days between occurrence and registration.
- In Wales, for the week ending 12 March the number of weekly registered deaths decreased from 689 the previous week to 685; this was lower than the five-year average for the second consecutive week (720 deaths).
- In Wales, the number of weekly registered deaths involving COVID-19 decreased from 103 to 68, accounting for 9.9% of all deaths compared with 14.9% the previous week.

Source: [ONS: Deaths registered weekly in England and Wales, provisional: week ending 12 March 2021](#)

International update

Global trends

- Globally, COVID-19 confirmed cases continued to rise for a fourth consecutive week, with just under 3.3 million new cases reported in the last week. At the same time, the number of new deaths reported plateaued after a six week decrease, with just over 60 000 new deaths reported. Marked increases in the number of new cases were reported from the South-East Asia, Western Pacific, European and Eastern Mediterranean regions, all of which have been on an upward trajectory in recent weeks.



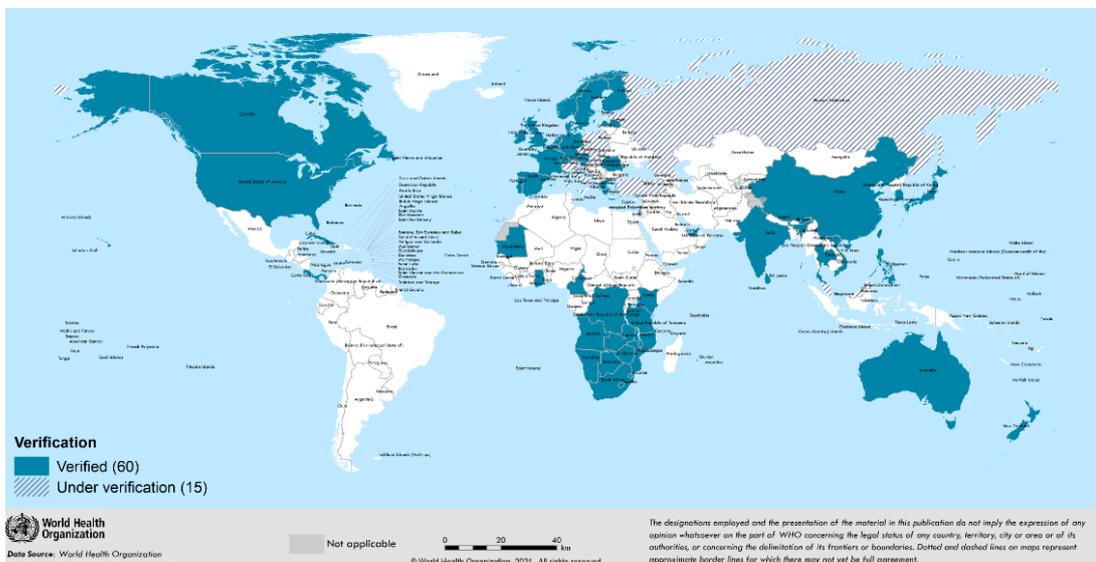
- The majority of European comparators (12 of 16) recording a rise in new cases over the past two weeks. Switzerland transitions from stable to rising cases. Death

trajectories deteriorate across comparators. Six countries see mortality rise since two weeks ago, with more likely to follow in the next fortnight.

- Increases in more transmissible variants is the most frequently cited driver of Europe's rising cases. Case increases confound plans for NPI easing in numerous comparators.
- Countries, territories and areas reporting SARS-CoV-2 VOC 202012/01 (B.1.1.7), first identified in Kent: as of 23 March this week it has been detected in seven additional countries, a total of 125 countries across all six WHO regions have reported cases of this variant



- Countries, territories and areas reporting SARS-CoV-2 501Y.V2 (VOC-202012/02 first identified in South Africa) as of 23 March 2021: as of this week reported in 75 countries across all six WHO regions In several areas within the African Region, variant 501Y.V2 has been reported to comprise a high proportion of sequenced samples



- VUI-202101/01 (P.1, first identified in Brazil) has been reported in three additional countries. As of 23 March, this variant is reported in 41 countries across all six WHO regions



- A [recent study](#) analysed the national health surveillance data of hospitalizations and frequency of VOC-202101/02 in Manaus city, in Amazonas State, Brazil where this variant was first detected and has widely spread. Based on the preliminary findings, it is found to be 2.5 times more transmissible (95% CI:2.3-2.8) compared to the previously circulating variant while the reinfection probability was found to be low i.e. 6.4% (CI:5.7–7.1%).
- Italy has recorded the highest number of sequenced cases of P.1 outside Brazil, with community transmitted cases more than tripling in the past 14 days.
- A new variant strain (B.1.526 recently identified in New York), is reportedly spreading faster than VOC-202012/01. The first sequenced cases of B.1.526 have been reported in Europe.

Vaccine roll out

- Israel's vaccine rollout slows as widespread coverage achieved. Chile, USA and Morocco accelerate delivery, while the UK remains stable and Denmark falters.
- Following EMA (European Medicines Agency) announcement, suspensions of the AstraZeneca vaccine begin to end across Europe. It is highly likely the suspensions have driven up vaccine hesitancy.

Covid-19 Infection Survey results (Office for National Statistics)

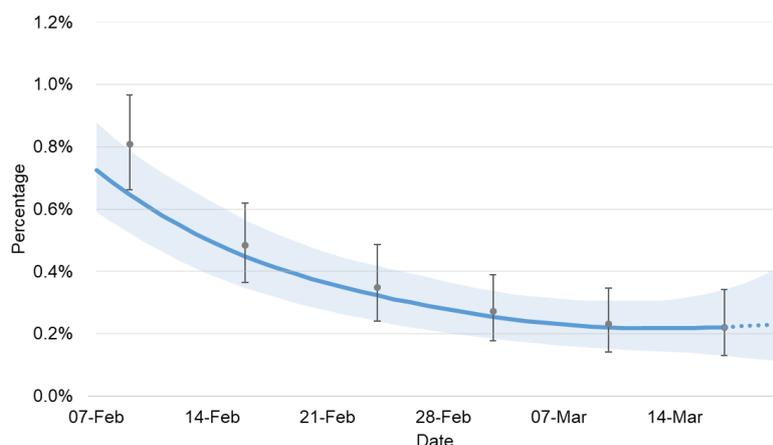
- The latest estimates for Wales from the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Infection Survey (CIS) for the period ending 20 March 2021 have been published on the [Welsh Government Covid-19 statistics and research webpage](#) and the [Office for National Statistics website](#).
- The ONS Covid-19 Infection Survey (CIS) aims to estimate:
 - how many people in the community have the infection over a given time;
 - how many new cases in the community occur over a given period; and

- how many people in the community are likely to have been infected at some point.
- Because the number of positive cases detected is low compared with the total survey sample there is uncertainty with the estimates. The figures are provided with 95% credible or confidence intervals to indicate the range within which we may be confident the true figure lies.
- Estimates are provided for the 'community population', i.e. private households only; residents in care homes, communal establishments and hospitals are not included.
- Please note that there is a greater lag in data from the infection survey than from other sources such as Public Health Wales.
- It is important to stress the uncertainty around these figures. Since the survey picks up relatively few positive tests overall, the results can be sensitive to small changes in the number of these positive tests.

Latest estimates and recent trends for Wales:

- For the week ending 20 March 2021, ONS estimates **0.22%** of the **community population** had COVID-19 (95% credible interval: 0.13% to 0.34%).
- This equates to approximately **1 person in every 450** (95% credible interval: 1 in 780 to 1 in 290), **or 6,700 people** during this time (95% credible interval: 3,900 to 10,400).
- The positivity rate appeared unchanging during this period, although there is high uncertainty due to low sample size.
- In the most recent week, the trend is uncertain in Wales for people testing positive for strains **compatible with the new UK variant** and **not compatible with the new variant**.
- **Source:** [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Infection Survey, ONS](#)

Wales, estimated % testing positive for Covid 19 since 7 February

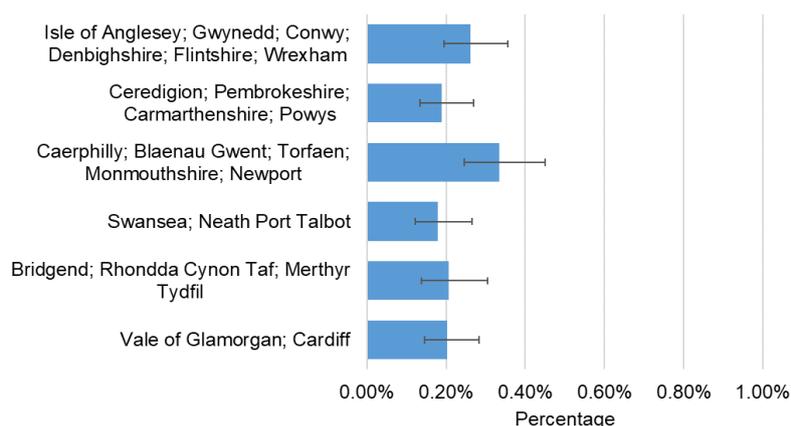


Regional analysis:

Regional modelled estimates are now available for Wales. Estimates are provided for the seven days up to 13 March 2021 based on modelling the entire seven-day period.

- Rates remain highest in the region including Caerphilly, Blaenau Gwent, Torfaen, Monmouthshire and Newport. Though differences between the regions are small.
- Rates appear lowest in the regions covering Swansea and Neath Port Talbot, and Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire and Powys.
- Due to smaller sample sizes, there is a higher degree of uncertainty in estimates for individual regions, as indicated by larger credible intervals.

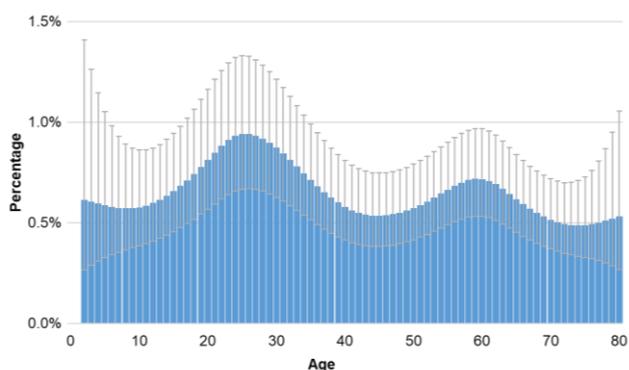
Estimates of the percentage of the population in Wales testing positive for the coronavirus (COVID-19) by region 14 to 20 March



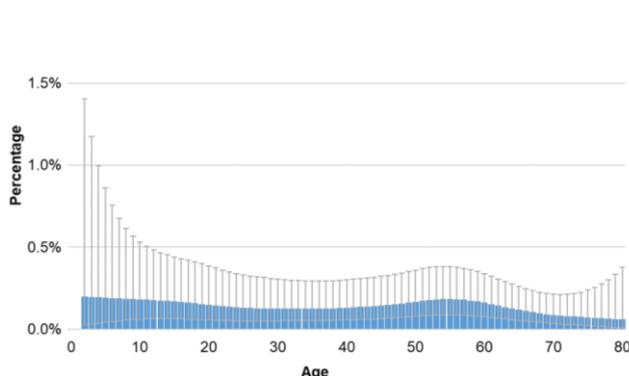
Age analysis:

- Rates of positive cases vary by age, but appear to have decreased in all age groups in recent weeks.
- In the data used to produce these estimates, the number of people sampled in the different ages who tested positive for COVID-19 was lower relative to Wales overall. This means there is a higher degree of uncertainty in estimates for individual age groups over this period, as indicated by larger credible intervals.

The percentage testing positive by age on 9 February 2021



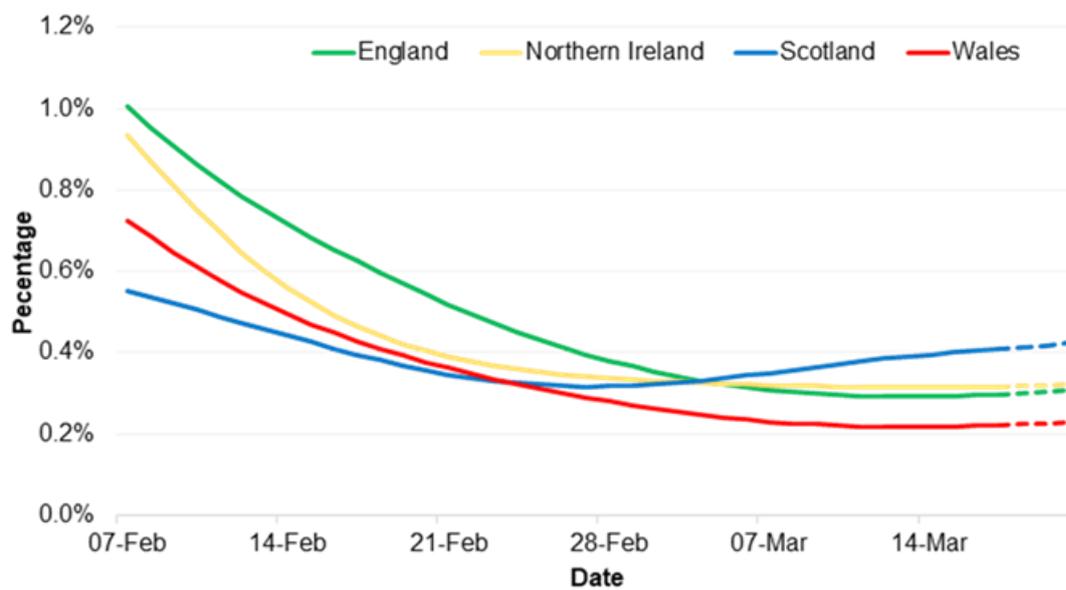
The percentage testing positive by age on 17 March 2021



Latest estimates for the UK countries

- At the midpoint of the most recent week (14 to 20 March 2021) the highest estimated percentages of the community population with COVID-19 among the nations of the UK was in Scotland (0.41%) whilst Wales appeared to have the lowest. In the most recent week, rates were level in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Over the last two weeks rates increased in Scotland.

Positivity rates (%) across UK countries since 7 February 2021



Incidence

To account for the increasing proportion of survey participants providing monthly (rather than weekly) swabs, the survey is using a new method for estimating the incidence of positive cases, based on the positivity estimate.

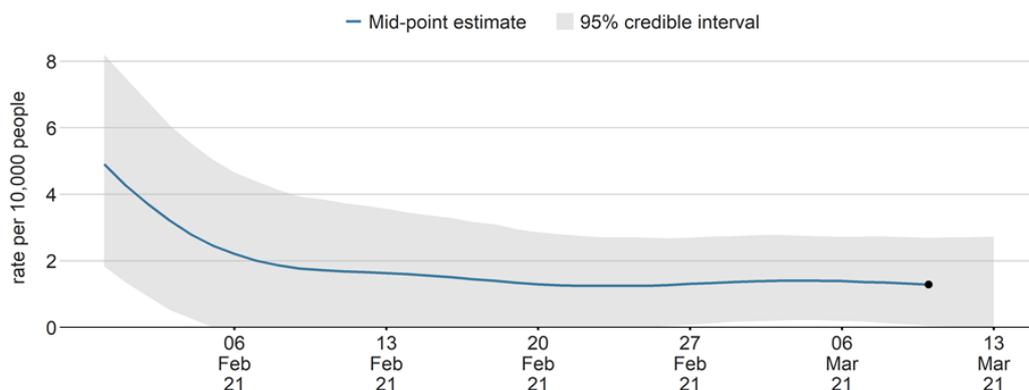
The new method estimates how long people test positive for and uses this alongside the positivity model to estimate when new positive infections occurred.

The reference date used for the official estimates of incidence of positive cases is 10 days prior to the end of the positivity reference week, due to later dates being more likely to change.

- In Wales, during the week ending 13 March 2021, we estimate that there were 1.29 new PCR-positive coronavirus (COVID19) cases per 10,000 people per day (95% credible interval: 0.05 to 2.70).
- This equates to 390 new positive cases in Wales per day (95% credible interval: 20 to 820).
- Incidence appears to have been level in recent weeks, although credible intervals are wide due to the smaller sample size, and care should be taken in interpreting results.

Incidence rate per 10,000 people per day in Wales

Modelled daily estimates



The area to the right of the mid-point estimate has a lower level of certainty
Data from 31 January 2021 to 13 March 2021

- Across the UK, the incidence rate seems to be level in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and to have increased in the most recent week in Scotland.
- Credible intervals can be wide due to relatively small sample sizes, and care should be taken in interpreting results. When prevalence is very low it may not be possible to produce an estimate.

Vaccination in Wales

- Whilst numbers will be higher due to ongoing data entry, as at 26 March 2021 **1,387,583 first doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been given in Wales and 412,663 people have been given their second dose.**
- The below table uses data from the Welsh Immunisation System at 22:00 on 26 March to provide a provisional snapshot of vaccination coverage. The data is de-duplicated so that people should not be 'double-counted', even if they appear in multiple priority groups.

	Group size (n)	Received 1st dose (n)	Received 2nd dose (n)	1st dose uptake (%)	2nd dose uptake (%)
Care home residents	12,747	12,264	8,197	96.20%	64.30%
Care home workers	37,918	33,442	26,512	88.20%	69.90%
Health care workers	142,488	130,017	111,523	91.20%	78.30%
Social care worker	-	43,205	35,313	-	-
80 years and older	175,403	166,456	41,597	94.90%	23.70%
Aged 75-79 years	133,343	127,326	54,998	95.50%	41.20%
Aged 70-74 years	183,718	174,418	81,940	94.90%	44.60%
Clinically extremely vulnerable aged 16-69 years	81,593	74,590	17,018	91.40%	20.90%
Aged 65-69	180,377	167,329	33,250	92.80%	18.40%

Clinical risk groups aged 16-64 years	350,204	272,089	10,438	77.70%	3.00%
Aged 60-64 ears	205,481	180,431	23,798	87.80%	11.60%
Aged 55-59 years	233,290	167,331	29,334	71.70%	12.60%
Aged 50-54 years	227,700	106,300	28,237	46.70%	12.40%

- **Source:** [PHW Covid-19 Rapid Surveillance Dashboard](#)

Vaccine equity

- Due to a technical issue that is currently being resolved, the weekly PHW vaccination report has been delayed.

New SARS-CoV2 variants

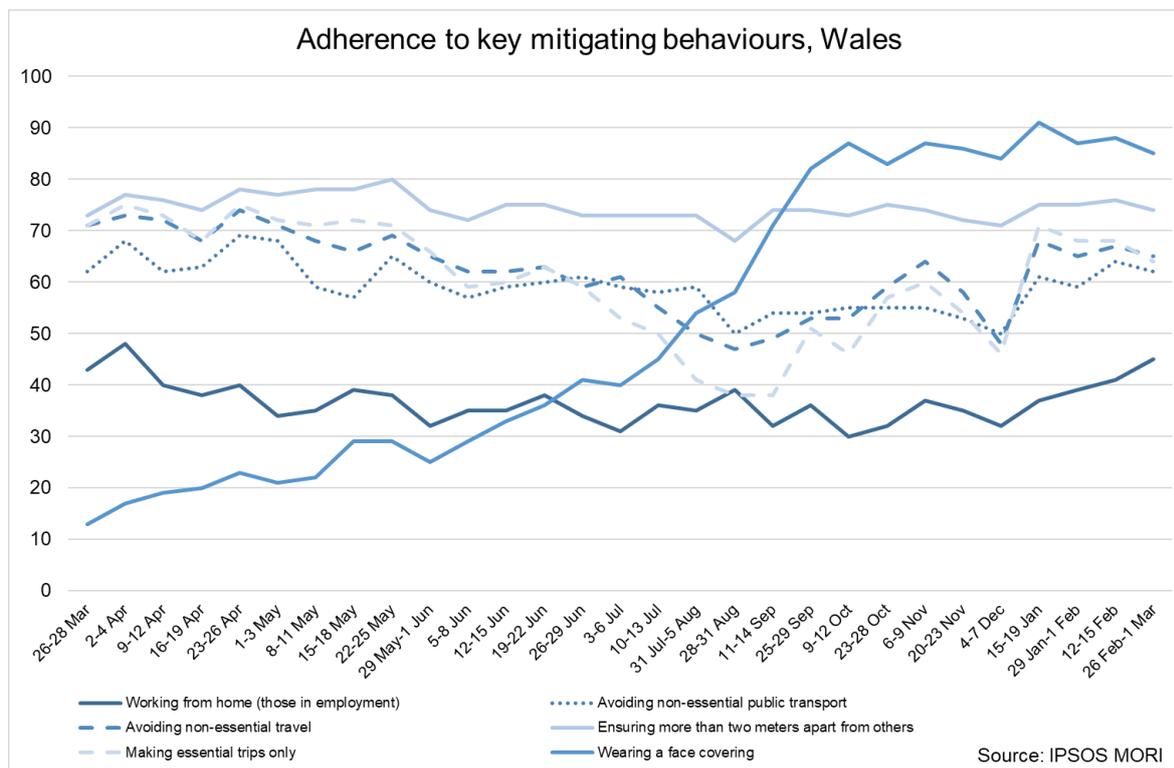
- VOC 202012/01 (VOC1, identified in Kent) has been detected in all parts of Wales. Although overall confirmed case incidence is declining, the proportion accounted for by VOC1 has increased to between 33% and 100% (identified by the proxy indicator SGTF) across Health Boards. 6,365 genomically probable or confirmed cases have been identified as of 24 March.
- There have been 26 genomically confirmed and probable cases of VOC 202012/02 (the variant linked to South Africa) in Wales. (+1)
- There have been 6 cases of the variant VUI 202102/03 linked to Nigeria identified in Wales. (+3)
- One case of the variant VUI-202101/01 linked to Brazil has now been identified in Wales. (0)
- No cases of the variant VoC-20210102, or P1, linked to travellers in Japan from Brazil, have been detected in Wales. (0)

Source: [Gov.UK - Variants of concern or under investigation: data up to 24 March 2021](#)

Adherence and understanding of current measures

- The results from IPSOS MORI and Public Health Wales are the same as last week.
- The most recent [IPSOS MORI data](#) for the period 26 February – 1 March for Wales shows a similar picture to the last survey wave which was 2 weeks prior (12 - 15 February). It should be noted that this is self-reported adherence and will be affected by individuals understanding of the rules and the circumstances that apply to them.
- The figure below represents data collected online by IPSOS MORI as part of a multi-country survey on the Global Advisor platform. Each of the waves has

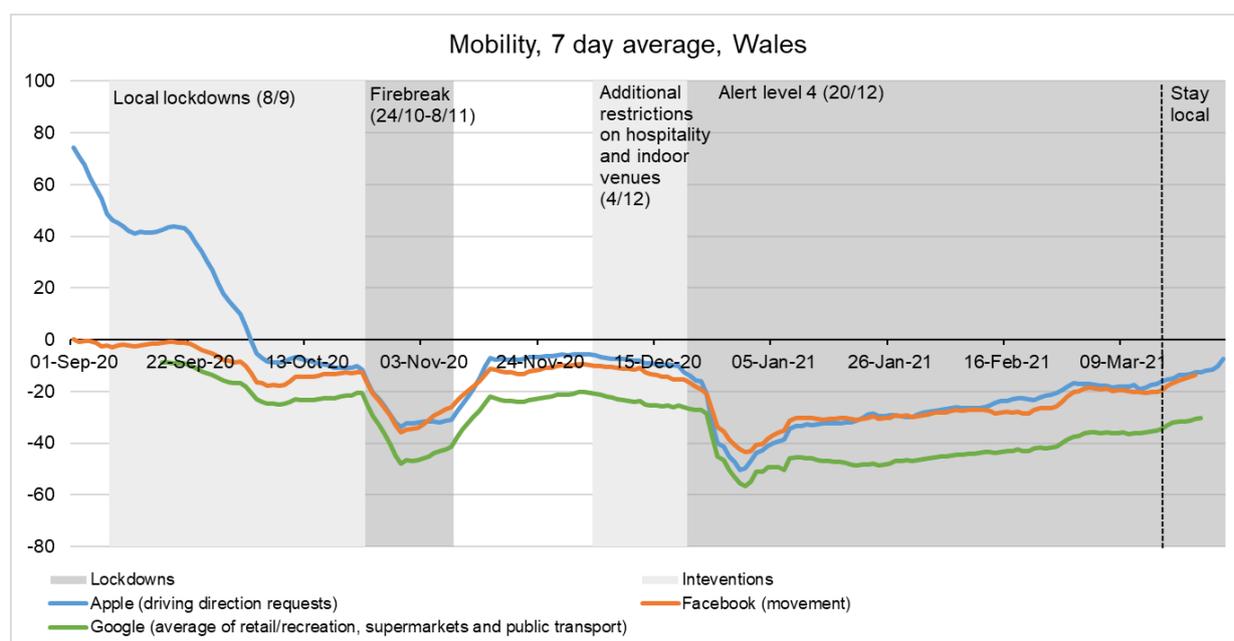
included c.500 respondents in Wales. The sample is broadly representative of the adult population aged 16-74. Data is weighted to reflect the age and gender profile of the Welsh population aged 16-74. All samples have a margin of error around them. For a sample of around 500, this is +/- 4.8 percentage points.



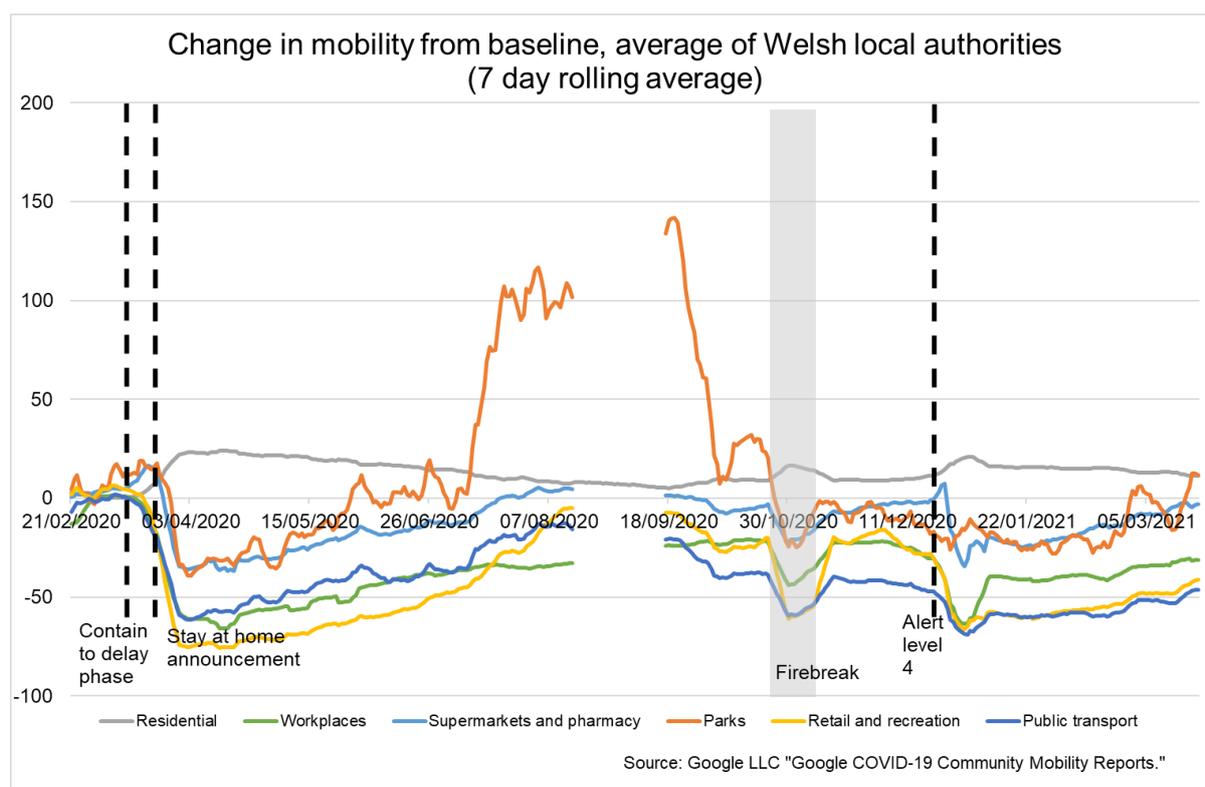
- The latest results from the [Public Engagement Survey on Health and Wellbeing during Coronavirus Measures](#) for the period 1 March – 7 March show that 59% of people say they understand the current restrictions in Wales ‘very well’. A further 33% reported understanding the restrictions ‘fairly well’. The survey also shows that 49% of people said they were following coronavirus restrictions ‘completely’ and a further 45% reported majority compliance. 22% reported having people outside their household/permitted extended household come into their house, whilst 14% reported going into others people’s houses. These results have been broadly the same since alert level 4 started.

Mobility

- Following the change in guidance from stay at home to stay local on the 13 March, mobility has increased across all sources.



- Mobility of [Facebook users](#) in Wales shows movement was 14% below the baseline for the week to the 22 March. This is higher than the week before (20%). The percentage of users staying put (near to home) was 27%, lower than the week before (30%). The baseline is the average value, for the corresponding day of the week, during the 4-week period 2 February – 29 February 2020.
- [Apple data](#) for the week to the 27 March shows that requests for driving directions in Wales were higher than the previous week at 93% of the baseline (up from 86%). Requests for walking directions and requests for public transport directions also increased compared to the previous week relative to the baseline. The baseline is the 13th of January 2020.
- The [Google mobility data](#) to the week of the 23 March for residential (i.e people spending time at home) were lower than the week before at 11% above the baseline (down from 13%). Workplaces were up (at 31% below the baseline, up from 32%). Retail & recreation mobility was up from last week (41% below the baseline, up from 47%) and supermarkets & pharmacy increased (3% below the baseline, up from 4%). Public transport mobility and parks increased over the week relative to the baseline.
- The figure below shows the change in mobility in Wales using Google mobility data. The figures are based on the average of the local authorities that have data. The baseline is the median value, for the corresponding day of the week, during the 5-week period Jan 3–Feb 6, 2020. The data for several categories is not available for August 16th – September 10th due to the data not meeting quality thresholds.



- Anonymised and aggregated mobile phone data from O2 for the week to the 19 March shows an increase in trips compared to the week before. Trips starting in Wales rose by 5 percentage points to 66% of the baseline. The baseline for the O2 data is the same day of the week in the first week of March.

Research

- There are currently 17,088 Welsh patients recruited to COVID-19 public health studies, an increase of 367 since last report.

COVID-19 weekly surveillance and epidemiological summary from PHW

Trends

- The proportion of calls to NHS 111 and NHS Direct related to possible COVID-19 symptoms has decreased compared to the previous week.
- Overall GP consultations for any Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI) have increased in the most recent week, whilst suspected COVID consultations remains stable.
- The overall number of ambulance calls have increased in the most recent week, but calls possibly related to COVID-19 remained stable.
- The all-Wales number of lab confirmed COVID-19 episodes has increased slightly in the most recent week. Sample positivity for testing episodes was 3.9% in week 10.

- During week 10, incidence remained stable in most age groups, with the exception of those aged under 18. Incidence was highest in those aged 26-44y and those aged 85+.
- Confirmed case incidence has decreased or remained stable in most regions of Wales, with the exception of Swansea Bay UHB, where incidence increased. Testing episode positivity continues to decrease nationally.
- At a national level, confirmed case admissions to hospitals and confirmed cases who are inpatients in hospital decreased compared to the previous week. In the most recent week, admissions to critical care wards increased compared to the previous week

Areas of recent activity

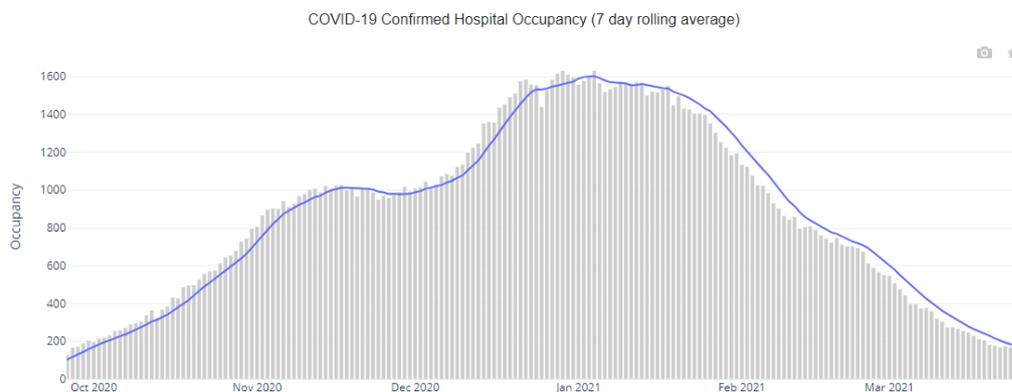
- The proportion of calls to NHS 111 and NHS Direct related to possible COVID-19 symptoms has remained stable compared to the previous week.
- Overall GP consultations for any Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI) have increased in the most recent week, whilst suspected COVID consultations has decreased.
- The overall number of ambulance calls have increased in the most recent week, but calls possibly related to COVID-19 have remained stable.
- The all-Wales number of lab confirmed COVID-19 episodes has decreased in the most recent week. Sample positivity for testing episodes was 3.9% in week 10.
- Confirmed case incidence has decreased or remained stable in most regions of Wales, with the exception of Swansea Bay UHB, where incidence increased. Testing episode positivity continues to decrease nationally.
- During week 11, incidence decreased or remained stable in all age groups, with the 85+ showing the biggest decrease. Incidence was highest in those aged 26-44.
- At a national level, confirmed case admissions to hospitals and confirmed cases who are inpatients in hospital decreased compared to the previous week. In the most recent week, admissions to critical care wards also decreased compared to the previous week.
- Recent surveillance data suggest that COVID-19 infections in Wales are decreasing in most regions of Wales. Cases remain geographically widespread, however the majority of local authority (LA) areas are seeing decreasing overall trends in confirmed case incidence in the most recent week.
- Although the distribution of cases at MSOA level in the most recent week still suggests geographically wide-spread activity, the number of MSOAs with confirmed cases and the number of cases per MSOA are stable. The median number of cases per MSOA is stable compared to 2021 week 10. There has been a decrease in the range of case numbers per MSOA.
- There was an increase in the number of incidents logged in Tarian in the most recent week.
- From 22nd February, children aged three to seven began to return to school in a phased manner. According to Welsh Government guidance, from 15th March, all remaining primary school children were able to return to learning onsite, along with

learners in qualifications years, and more learners in colleges and training. Children of critical workers remain able to receive face to face learning on school sites. There have been 10,097 cases in staff or students across 1,262 schools (80% of all schools in Wales) recorded in the TTP system since 1st September 2020, (as at 24th March). In the previous 21 days (as at 24th March) there were between 1 and 52 total cases (staff and students) in most local authorities, with the exception of Cardiff and Conwy with 70 and 55 cases respectively. Confirmed case incidence remained stable in those aged <18y in the most recent week.

- Influenza is not currently circulating in Wales.

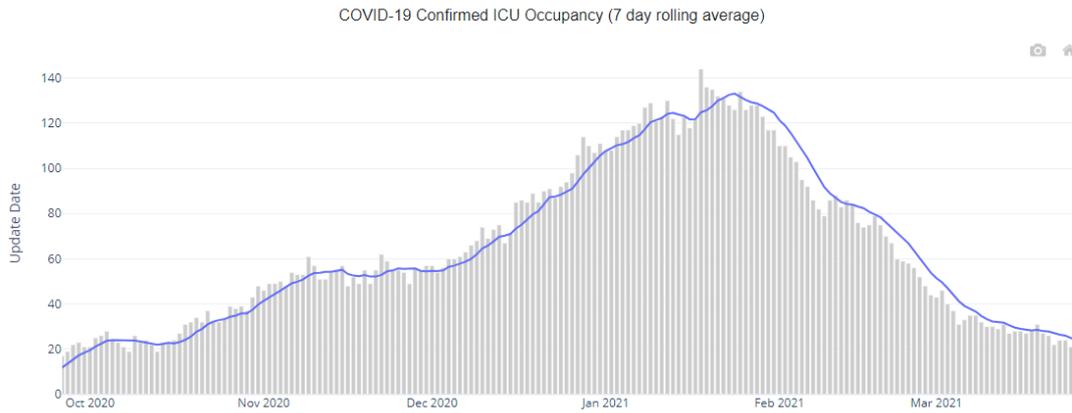
Hospital bed and ICU occupancy

- The figure below shows the hospital occupancy of suspected and confirmed Covid-19 positive patients over the first and second wave of the pandemic (7 day rolling average, as at 26 March).
- For the most recent 7 day period the average hospital occupancy was 168, a 31% reduction from the previous period.



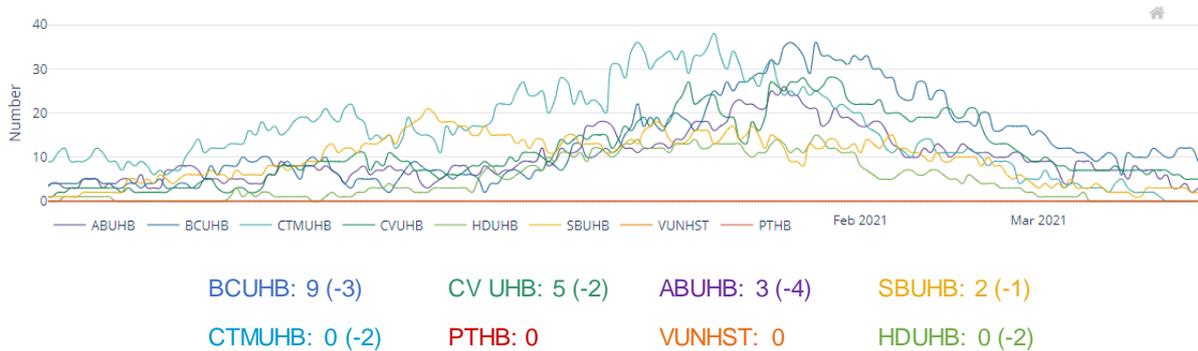
- The Figure below shows the **intensive care unit (ICU) occupancy** of suspected and confirmed Covid-19 positive patients over the first and second wave of the pandemic (7 day rolling average, as at 26 March).
- For the most recent 7 day period the average ICU occupancy was 23, a 21% reduction from the previous period.

COVID-19 Confirmed ICU Occupancy (7 day rolling average)



- The Figure below shows the total number of Covid-19 positive patients in ICU in hospitals by healthboard. As at 26 March all healthboards have seen a reduction or remain at 0.

Daily L3 ICU Confirmed COVID19 Patients as at 26 March



- The Figure below shows the number of **people admitted** to hospital who are either suspected or confirmed as having Covid-19 (COV+). The purple line represents the total number over a rolling 7 day average, whilst the fainter grey lines show the actual figures at that time.
- The 7 day average as at 26 March was **33**, a **25% reduction** from the previous period.

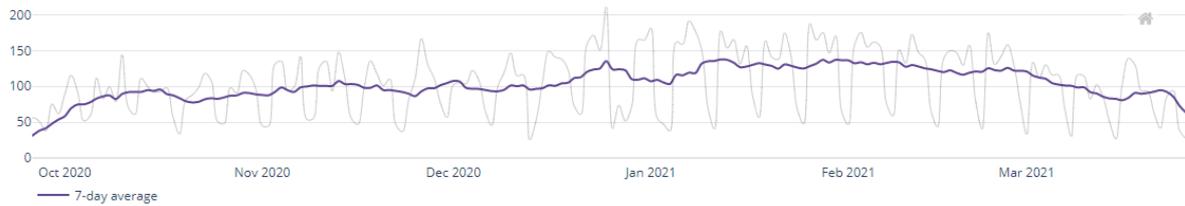
Daily COV+/SUS Hospital Admissions



- The Figure below shows the number of **hospital discharges** of people who are either suspected (SUS) or confirmed as having Covid-19 (COV+). The purple line represents the total number over a rolling 7 day average, whilst the fainter grey lines show the actual figures at that time.

- The 7 day daily average as at **26 March** was **63**, a 30% reduction from the previous period.

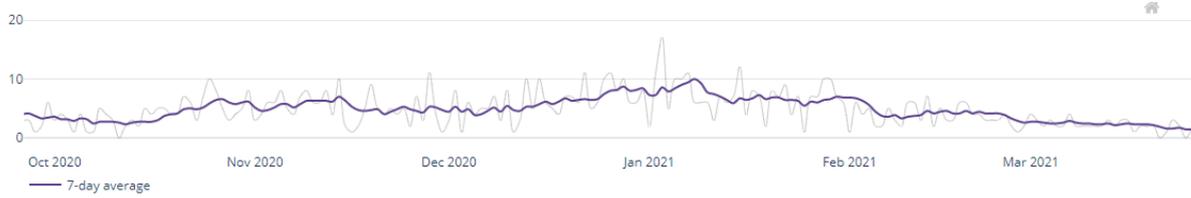
Daily COV+/SUS Hospital Discharges



- The Figure below shows **patients admitted to Level 3 ICU** and are either suspected (SUS) or confirmed as having Covid-19 (COV+). The purple line represents the total number over a rolling 7 day average, whilst the fainter grey lines show the actual figures at that time.

The 7 day daily average as at 18 March was **1.4**, a **39%** reduction from the previous period.

Daily COV+/SUS L3 ICU Admissions



The number of people **recovering** from COVID-19 continues to decrease and is at **469** as at 19 March, a **15% reduction** from the previous 7 day period.

Source: Data from [StatsWales](https://www.statswales.gov.wales/)

Professional Head of Intelligence Assessment (PHIA) probability yardstick

- Where appropriate, TAC advice will express Likelihood or confidence in the advice provided using the PHIA probability yardstick to ensure consistency across the different elements of advice.

