



COVID-19 Wales Situational Report

COVID-19 Intelligence Cell

COVID-19 Intelligence Cell: 08 April 2021
Health Protection Advisory Group: 09 April 2021

Data as at 12:00PM 07 April unless otherwise specified

COVID-19 Situation Report Summary

Key points to note

Wales is gradually transitioning to Alert Level 3 from Alert Level 4. Schools are currently closed following the end of the Spring school term.

Overall transmission is decreasing. The Reproduction number reported by PHW (which is more timely however based on cases only) is just below 1 at a Wales level. *Slide 3, Source: Public Health Wales (PHW)*

7-day cumulative incidence is decreasing across most of Wales, however there has been a small increase Cardiff and Wrexham. The percentage of people testing positive for COVID-19 has also decreased slightly. *Slide 3, Source: PHW*

Hospital occupancy in both critical care and non-critical care beds are generally continuing to decrease, but still remain at relatively high levels and above historical maximum capacity. As at 8 April 2021 there were 520 COVID-19 related patients (Suspected, Confirmed and Recovering) occupying a hospital bed. Of these, 95 were confirmed COVID-19 cases. *Slide 4, Source: NHS Wales Operational data*

VOC-20DEC-01 (first identified in Kent) remains the dominant variant in Wales. PHW analyse all suitable PCR samples and maintain an overview of VOCs including imported cases. There were 29 confirmed or probable cases of VOC-20DEC-02 (first identified in South Africa). *Source: PHW*

On vaccination, as at the week ending 28 March 2021, a total of 1.82 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine were given in Wales and recorded in the COVID-19 Welsh Immunisation System. Of the 1.82 million doses given nationally, 1.40 million were first doses and 0.42 million were second doses. Current coverage will not offer population level protection should restrictions be lifted. *Source: PHW*

Key indicators

Most key indicators continue to decrease, following a period of high transmission in December and January.

Please note that the arrows represent a change in comparison for the last week

	Current value (03/04/21)	Change since previous week (27/03/21 – 03/04/21 unless stated otherwise)		Change since reported figures for previous Alert Level review (25/03/21 – 03/04/21)	
		Percentage change	Value change	Percentage change	Value change
Confirmed case rate (rolling 7 day sum per 100k)	21	-40%	↓ (-14)	-44%	↓ (-16)
Confirmed case rate for over 60s (rolling 7 day sum per 100k)	12	-36%	↓ (-7)	-39%	↓ (-8)
Test positivity (7 day RA)	2.2%	-11%	↓ (-0.3 percentage points)	-18%	↓ (-0.5 percentage points)
Population estimated to have COVID-19 (prevalence) ¹	0.18%	-18%	↓ (-0.04 percentage points)	-22%	↓ (-0.22 percentage points)
Reproduction number (R _t) ²	0.7 to 0.9	-1%	↓ (-0.01)	5%	↑ (+0.05)
NHS capacity – Admissions ³	10	-15%	↓ (-2)	-11%	↓ (-1)

Footnotes

1. Latest Covid Infection Survey data is taken from the 21st to 27th March 2021.
2. Latest R_t value is as at 30th March 2021. Changes shown in table are based on the central estimate of R_t.
3. Seven day rolling average to the current date of confirmed COVID-19 patients – does not include COVID-19 suspected or recovering. The most recent date for the NHS capacity-admissions data is 1st April 2021 (rather than 3rd April) 2021. This is due to the PHW ICNet system being down over the Easter weekend.

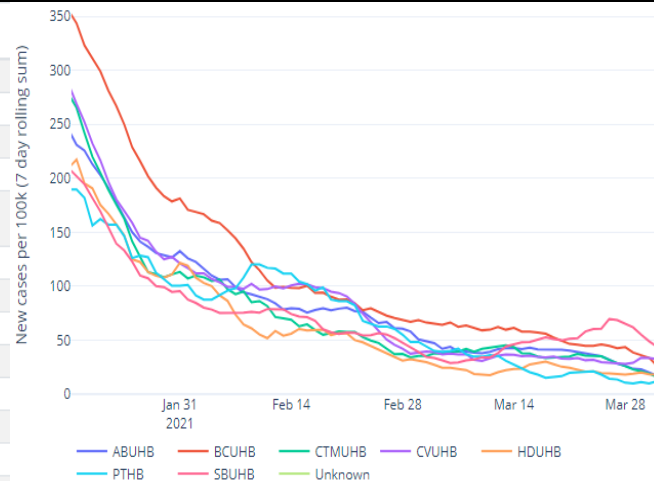
Data as at 12:00PM 07 April 2021 unless otherwise specified

What is the current status of the epidemic?

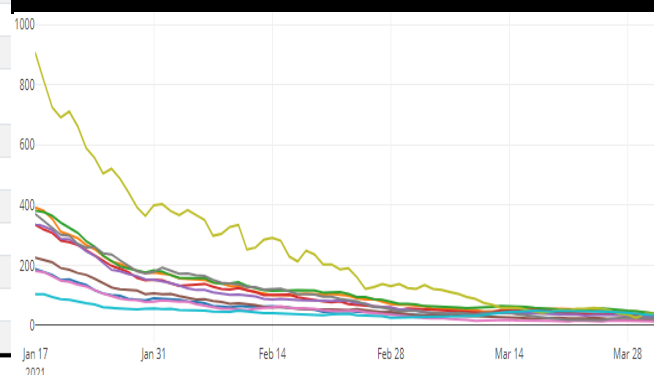
Cases per 100,000 population

Local Authority	Health Board	Number	% of All Wales Total	Case Incidence per 100,000	Incidence threshold reached	Change from previous week
Cardiff	CVUHB	137	19.7%	37.3	25 to < 50	19% ↑
Isle of Anglesey	BCUHB	25	3.6%	35.7	25 to < 50	-67% ↓
Gwynedd	BCUHB	43	6.2%	34.5	25 to < 50	-30% ↓
Swansea	SBUHB	83	11.9%	33.6	25 to < 50	-53% ↓
Neath Port Talbot	SBUHB	43	6.2%	30.0	25 to < 50	-54% ↓
Merthyr Tydfil	CTMUHB	17	2.4%	28.2	25 to < 50	-77% ↓
Wrexham	BCUHB	34	4.9%	25.0	25 to < 50	17% ↑
Flintshire	BCUHB	31	4.5%	19.9	15 to < 20	-47% ↓
Denbighshire	BCUHB	19	2.7%	19.9	15 to < 20	-49% ↓
Pembrokeshire	HDUHB	23	3.3%	18.3	15 to < 20	-21% ↓
Newport	ABUHB	28	4.0%	18.1	15 to < 20	-55% ↓
Blaenau Gwent	ABUHB	12	1.7%	17.2	15 to < 20	-52% ↓
Rhondda Cynon Taf	CTMUHB	41	5.9%	17.0	15 to < 20	-13% ↓
Carmarthenshire	HDUHB	32	4.6%	17.0	15 to < 20	-22% ↓
Caerphilly	ABUHB	27	3.9%	14.9	Under 15	-47% ↓
Vale of Glamorgan	CVUHB	19	2.7%	14.2	Under 15	-34% ↓
Torfaen	ABUHB	13	1.9%	13.8	Under 15	-48% ↓
Conwy	BCUHB	16	2.3%	13.7	Under 15	-68% ↓
Ceredigion	HDUHB	9	1.3%	12.4	Under 15	125% ↑
Monmouthshire	ABUHB	10	1.4%	10.6	Under 15	-60% ↓
Powys	PTHB	14	2.0%	10.6	Under 15	-26% ↓
Bridgend	CTMUHB	12	1.7%	8.2	Under 15	-43% ↓
Unknown	Unknown	7	1.0%	-		-36% ↓
Total	Total	695	100.0%	22.0	20 to < 25	-40% ↓

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



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



At a Wales level, on 2 April the 7 day rolling incidence of COVID-19 infections has decreased compared to last week. The percentage of people testing positive for COVID-19 has also decreased slightly.

The SAGE/ SPI-M consensus estimate of Reproduction number (R_t) is **0.7 - 0.9**. When we will look at 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 0.6 for Wales. At local health board level, there is considerable variation in the reproduction number (cases only) estimate. The reproduction number (cases only) is above 1 in the Cardiff & Vale Health Board, following an increase of positive COVID-19 tests in Cardiff.

The second table below also provides estimates of doubling and halving times based on COVID-19 positive test data. In this table, halving times are positive, whilst doubling times are negative. An asterisk (*) means that there are small numbers and estimates should be treated with caution. Local health board level estimates of R_t and halving times will be unstable when incidence is low.

7-day cumulative incidence is decreasing across most of Wales, with the exception of Cardiff and Wrexham.

Incidence varies by LA and by age. All Wales case incidence is currently at 22.0 per 100,000 population. This is a slight decrease compared to the previous situational report (37.6 per 100,000 population)

Reproduction number (based on positive tests only) PHW data by Local Health Board as at 7 April 2021

Local Health Board	All Wales	Swansea Bay UHB	CTM UHB	Aneurin Bevan UHB	Cardiff & Vale UHB	Hywel Dda UHB*	Powys THB*	Betsi Cadwaladr UHB
R_t (cases)	0.6 (0.6 to 0.7)	0.5 (0.4 to 0.6)	0.5 (0.4 to 0.6)	0.5 (0.4 to 0.6)	1.1 (0.9 to 1.2)	0.9 (0.7 to 1.1)	0.8 (0.5 to 1.1)	0.6 (0.5 to 0.6)
Halving time (days)	12 (7 to 28)	9 (6 to 27)	8 (5 to 19)	7 (5 to 12)	24 (9 to -36) (DOUBLING)	15 (6 to -26) (DOUBLING)	128 (7 to -8) (DOUBLING)	9 (5 to 31)

Data as at 12:00PM 8 April 2021 unless otherwise specified

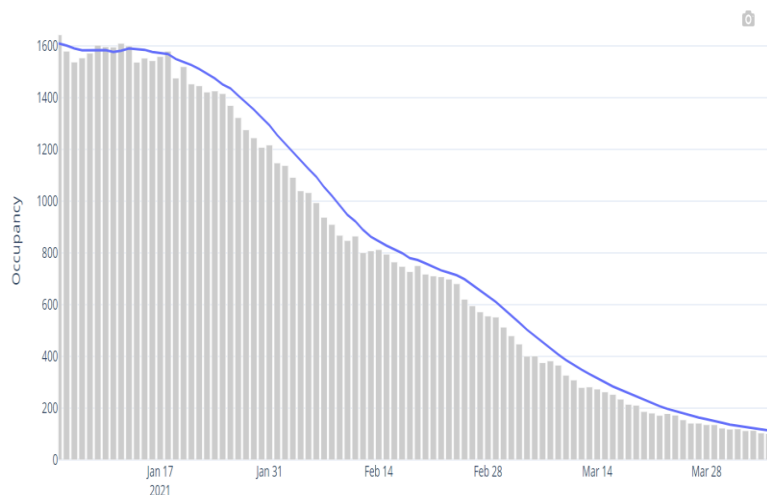
What is the pressure on the NHS?

COVID-19 pressure on the NHS is improving. As at 8 April 2021 there were 520 COVID-19 related patients (Suspected, Confirmed and Recovering) occupying a hospital bed. Confirmed cases constitute 95 of the total. This is now the lowest number occupying a hospital bed since 22 September 2020, when there were 89 patients.

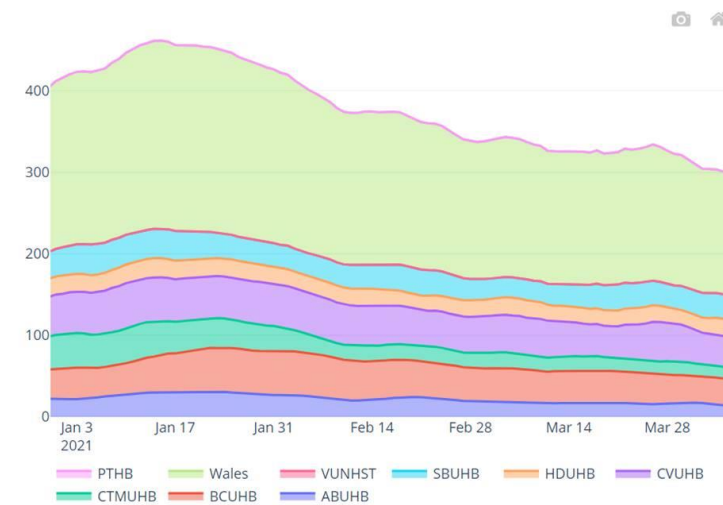
COVID-19 patients in critical care beds is currently at 16, this is 148 lower than the maximum COVID-19 position of approximately 164. The total number of patients in critical care for COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 stands at 154, just above the historic maximum critical care capacity of approximately 152.

31 (3.0%) adult care homes in Wales notified Care Inspectorate Wales of one or more confirmed cases of COVID-19, in staff or residents, in the 7 days up to 26 March 2021; this is a decrease compared to 33 (3.1%) in the 7 days up to 12 March 2021.

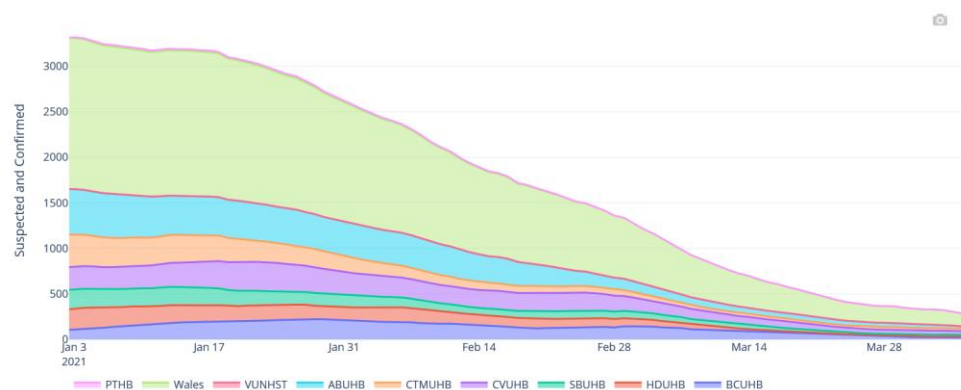
Confirmed Hospital occupancy (7 day average)



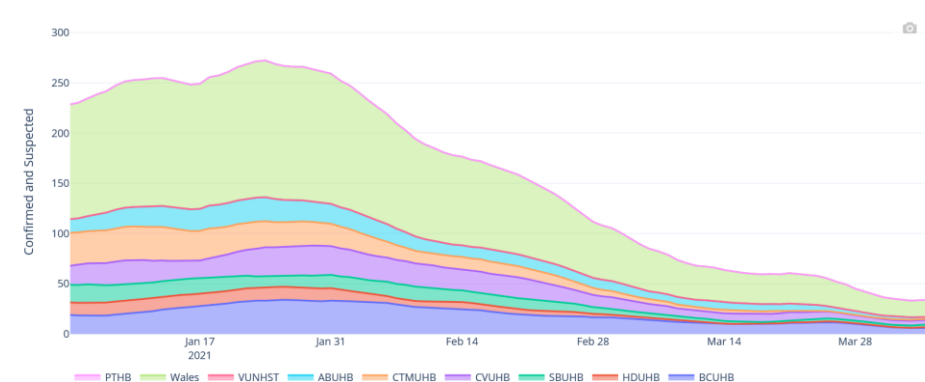
Overall ICU occupancy (7 day average)



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



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



Data as at 12:00PM 6 April 2021 unless otherwise specified

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

The Spring term for schools and further education in Wales finished on 26 March 2021.

Generally, there was a slight increase in case rates among children during March 2021. Trends in confirmed case rates among children, and other indicators, will continue to be closely monitored. Confirmed case incidence remained stable in those aged under 18 years old in the most recent week ending 28 March.

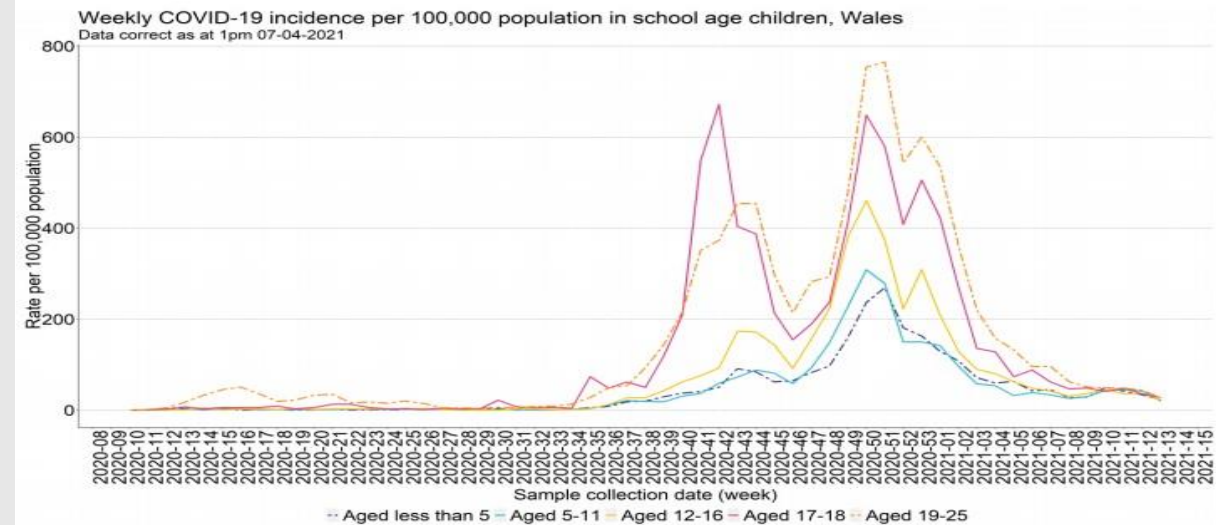
Childcare clusters are being closely monitored. The latest national SBAR covering the week of 29 March to 4 April reported that the incidence of clusters associated with childcare settings remains low. 3 new clusters were reported compared to 4 the previous week and 6 the week before that. There were 10 active clusters reported compared with 7 the week before and 12 the week before that.

Learners in school and Further Education (FE) have been receiving remote learning since early 2021, with face-to-face learning since early January for vulnerable learners, those attending for assessments, and children of critical workers only. From 22 February, children in the Foundation Phase (aged between three and seven) also began a phased return face-to-face learning along with Further Education vocational learners in priority sectors. From 15 March the remaining primary school aged children returned to face-to-face learning along with qualification years in secondary schools and some flexibility for other learners. The last day of the spring term was 26 March. After the Easter holiday, all school and college learners will return to on-site learning from 12 April. An average of 275,232 pupils (74% of all pupils) were present in school over the week of 22 to 26 March. (This information will be revised on 14 April).

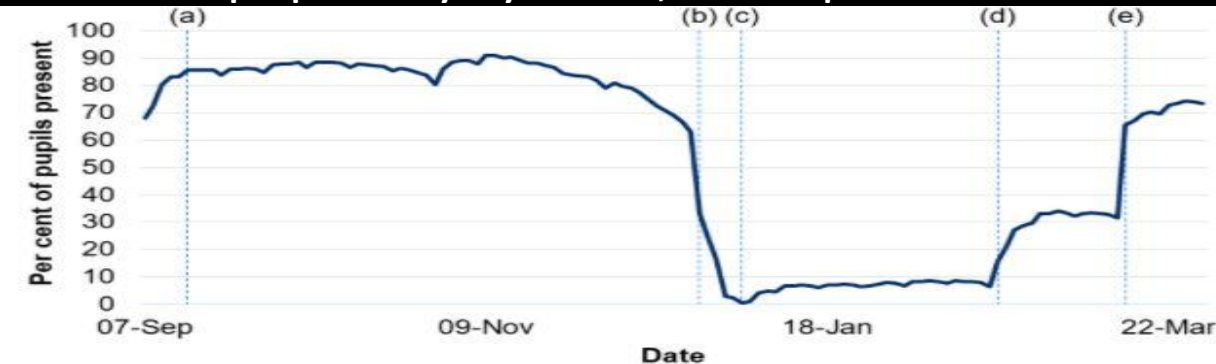
Voluntary LFD testing of childcare, school and FE staff and of FE students and older secondary school aged pupils has started. Detailed information on LFD test outcomes is not yet available.

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. However feedback from local health protection officers will be taken into account in future updates.

Weekly COVID-19 incidence per 100,000 population for school age children in Wales (data as at 1pm 7/4/21)



Pupils present by day in Wales, from 7 September 2020



Source: Schools in Wales

(a) Schools open to all pupils from 14 September.

(b) All secondary schools in Wales moved to online remote learning for the last week of term before Christmas. Many primary schools also closed during the last week of term before Christmas (14 to 18 December).

(c) Schools closed to most pupils from 4 January.

(d) A phased return of Foundation Phase pupils began on 22 February.

(e) From 15 March, all remaining primary school children and children in qualification years were able to return to learning on site.

What is the situation with education, children and young adults? (cont.)

Schools clusters are being closely monitored. At the time of writing for the national SBAR to 4 April, 31 new clusters were reported last week compared to 33 the previous week. 68 on-going clusters reported last week compared to 43 the previous week. IMTs continue to report that the majority of cases and clusters associated with schools are the result of transmission outside the school setting, this includes known family, household and social transmission. In the seven days to 4 April, 285 new confirmed cases associated with schools were reported by PHW to Welsh Government: 215 among pupils and 70 among staff.

Higher education institutions (HEI's) in Wales have since January been prioritising a return to in-person blended learning and/or access to facilities for those students where it is necessary to complete learning outcomes. Cases associated with HEI's and reported to HEI's are being monitored. From 1 February 2021 most HEI's have changed the way in which they report data, with positive cases referring only to students attending campus or returning to the local area for study (with the exception of University of Wales Trinity St David's who are unable to split cases on this basis). Over the week to 4 April 2021, the 7 day rolling average has been less than 1 positive COVID-19 case reported to HEI's for all HEI's.

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. However feedback from local health protection officers will be taken into account in future updates.

Overlay line is the all Wales daily case numbers for the same time period. Please note different scales.

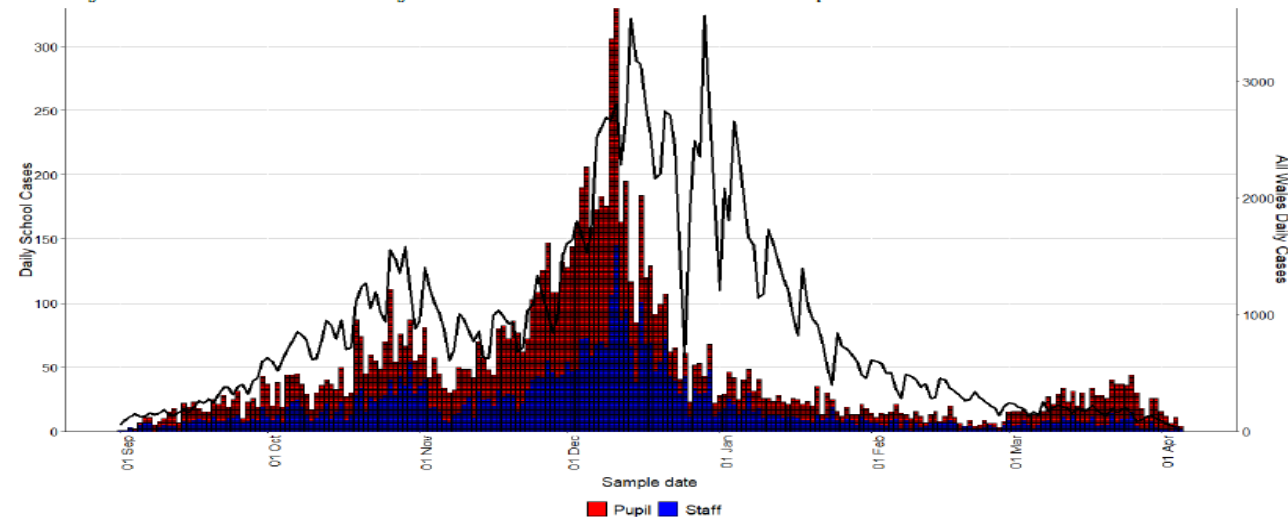
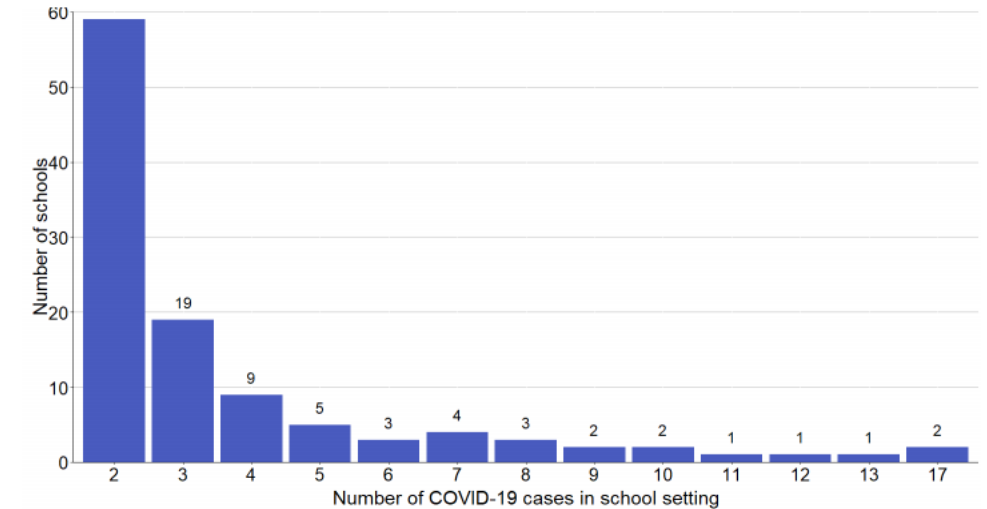
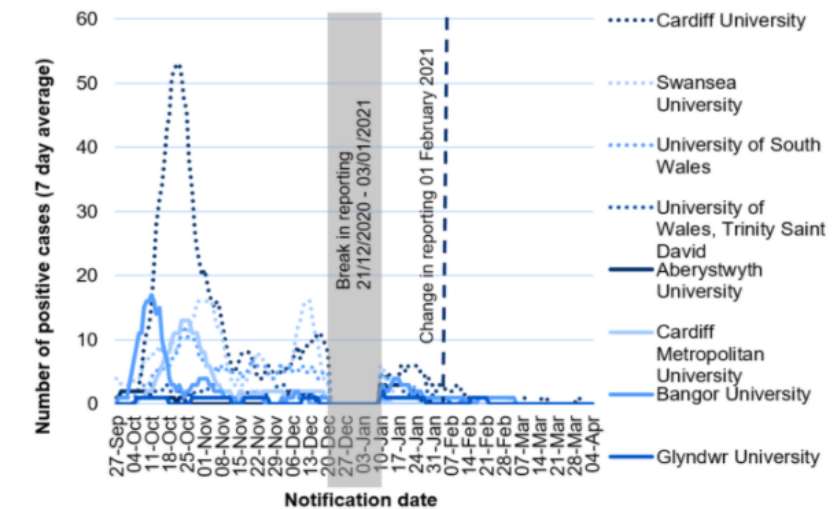


Figure 3 - Number of schools with more than one COVID-19 case identified within the last 21 days

- Excluding 193 schools that have had only 1 case.



7 day rolling average of positive cases in Welsh universities, 27 September 2020 to 4 April 2021



Source: Higher Education Providers, Wales

What does the situation look like going forward?

Based on the current rates observed with current restrictions:

- **Cases (right)** –the probability of incidence greater than 100 per 100,000 is relatively low for all local authorities. The figure illustrates the probability (between 0 – 100%) of incidence being greater than 100 per 100,000. *Source: Imperial College London*
- **Deaths per day (bottom left)** – **continue to see small** towards the beginning of May. *Source: SAGE, 1 April 2021*
- **Hospitalisations per day (bottom right)** - **continue to decrease** to 1 per day towards the beginning of May. *Source: SAGE, 1 April 2021*

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

Time period: 11 April – 17 April

Time period: 18 April – 24 April

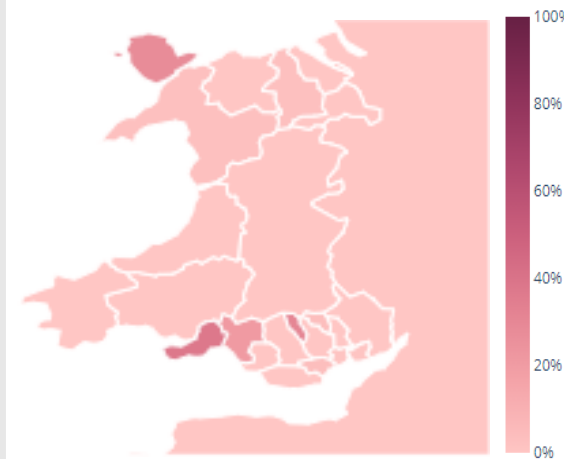


Figure 23 - Imperial College London 4th Apr 2021

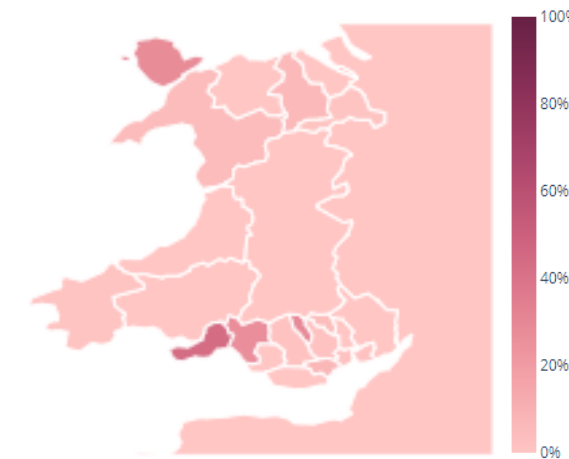
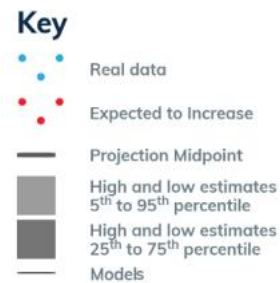
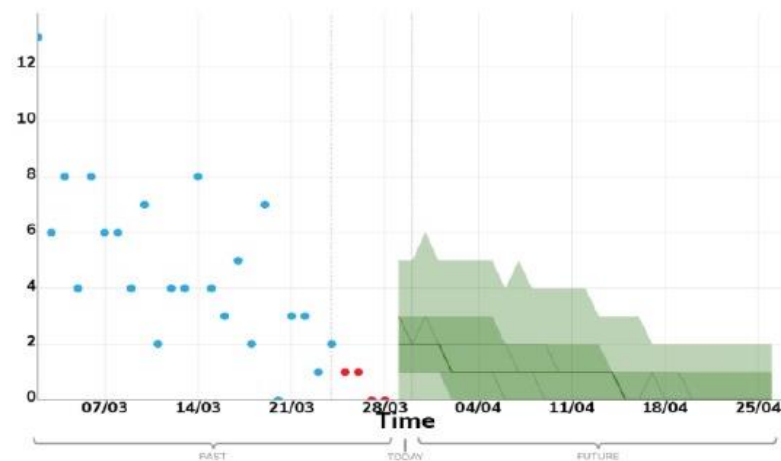
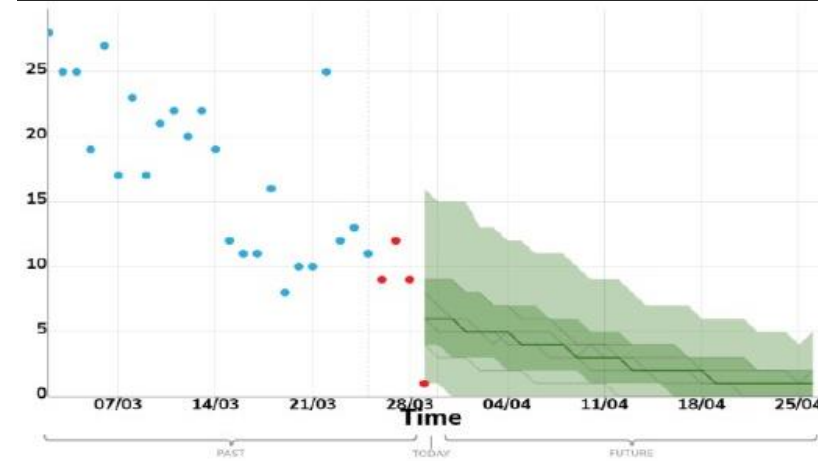


Figure 24 - Imperial College London 4th Apr 2021

Number of deaths per day, Wales

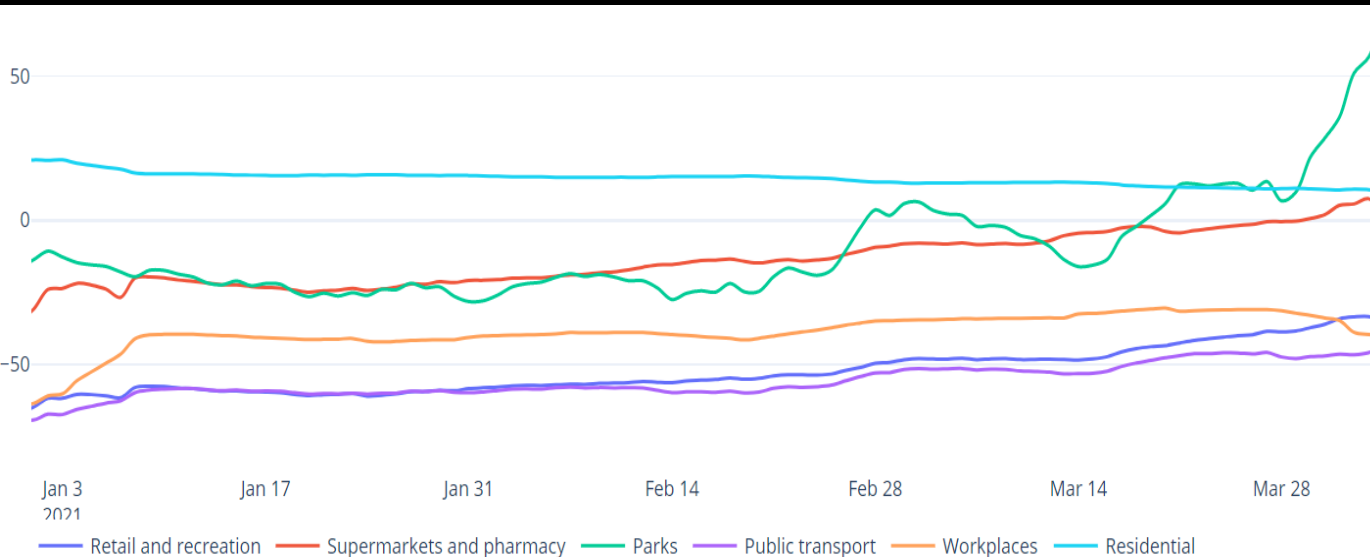


Hospitalisations per day, Wales



Mobility data and UK Comparison

Mobility data by location of trip



Mobility

There is a slight increase in mobility generally across the board, potentially due to ease of restrictions, improvements in weather, as well as the Easter holidays. There are steady increases in mobility to workplaces, supermarkets and retail and recreation.

Source: Google

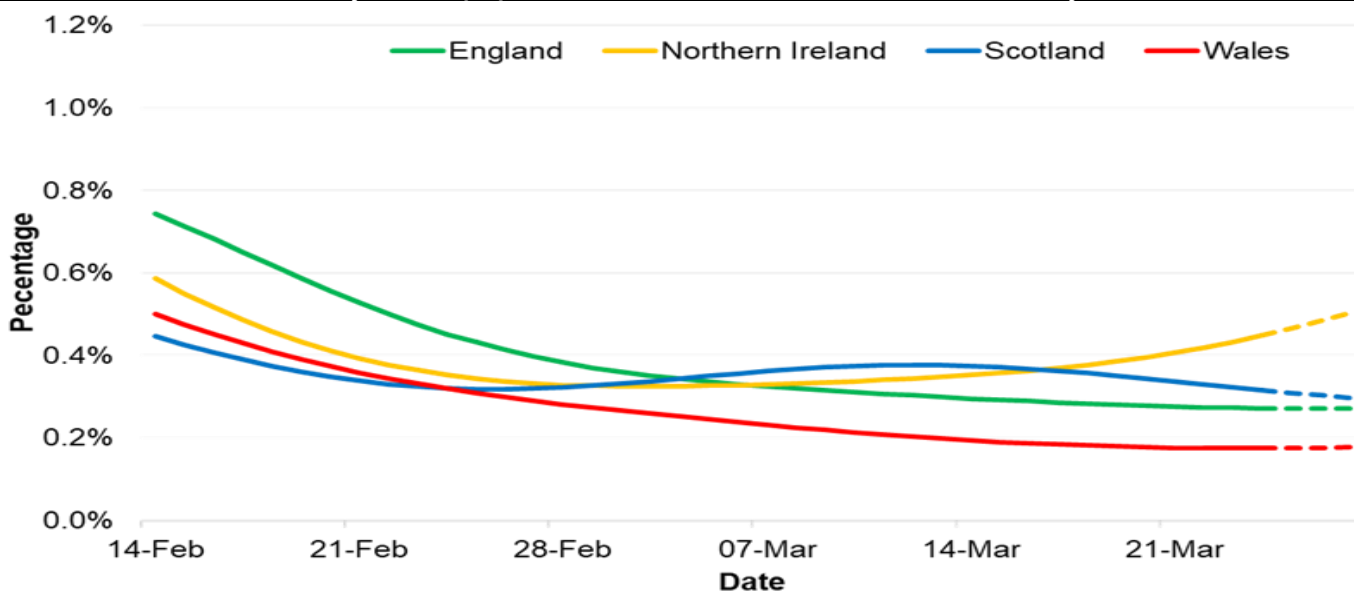
UK comparison

The test positivity rate in Wales has continued to decrease in the most recent week.

In Wales, the trend in the percentage of people testing positive is uncertain in the week ending 27 March 2021; we estimate that 5,300 people in Wales had COVID-19 (95% credible interval: 2,900 to 8,700), equating to around 1 in 570 people. This compares to around 1 in 370 people in England, around 1 in 320 people in Scotland, and around 1 in 220 people in Northern Ireland.

Source: Office for National Statistics COVID-19 Infection Survey

Positivity rates (%) across UK countries since 24 January 2021



Key risks and sources

Key risks	
Area	Assessment
Transmission, incidence and prevalence	All local authorities have a case rate of less than 50 per 100,000 people, most are continuing to decrease when compared to previous week.
NHS Capacity	COVID-19 pressure on the NHS is decreasing, however critical care capacity is just above the historic maximum critical care capacity of approximately 152.
Mortality	Generally continuing to decrease.
Variants	VOC-20DEC-01 (the Kent variant) is the dominant variant in Wales.
Immunity and Vaccines	1.82 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine were given in Wales. Of the 1.82 million doses given nationally, 1.40 million were first doses and 0.42 million were second doses.

Key Sources for this update

- COVID Infection Survey results: <https://gov.wales/coronavirus-covid-19-infection-survey-13-19-february-2021-html>
- Public Health Wales: <https://public.tableau.com/profile/public.health.wales.health.protection#!/vizhome/RapidCOVID-19virology-Public/Headlinesummary>
- Hospital occupancy: <https://gov.wales/nhs-beds-admissions-and-hospitalisations-during-coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic>
- Higher Education <https://gov.wales/positive-coronavirus-cases-reported-higher-education-institutions-wales-27-september-2020-onwards>
- School attendance <https://gov.wales/pupils-present-maintained-schools-7-september-2020-26-february-2021>