

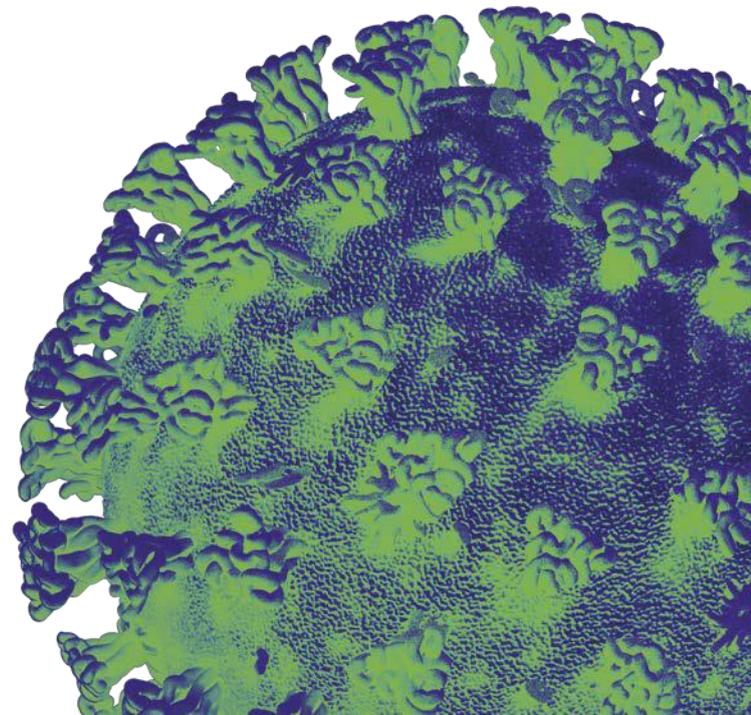
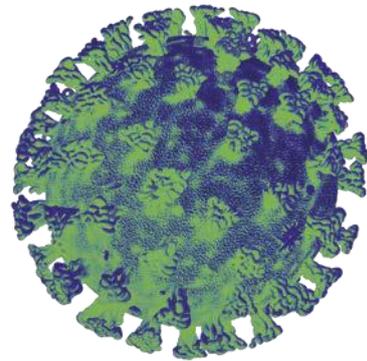
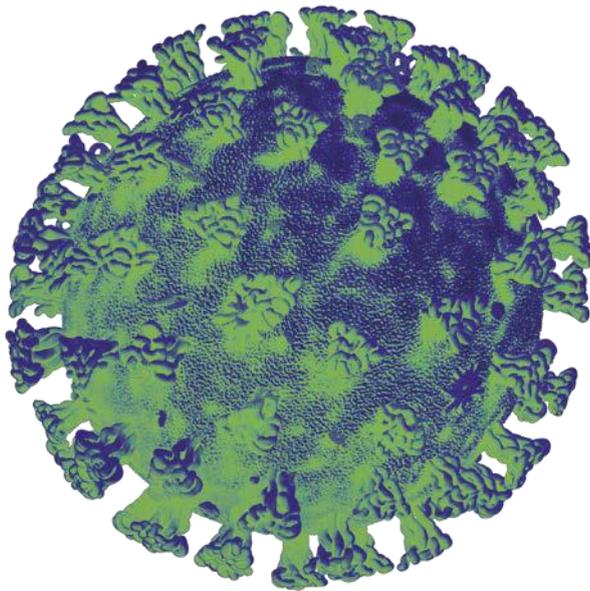


Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Technical Advisory Cell

Summary of Advice

23 April 2021



Technical Advisory Cell: Summary of Advice

23 April 2021

Top-line summary

- **Case numbers continue to decrease or remain stable at a low level across much of Wales**, with a 24% reduction to 13.6 cases per 100k population at a national level, bringing Wales into the lowest case threshold. Following the peak of the first wave, this level was seen shortly before Wales reached its lowest point during the pandemic of 3 cases per 100,000 population during the summer of 2020.
- Estimates of R_t and growth rates become more uncertain as hospitalisations and deaths reach low levels and clustered outbreaks start to make up a greater proportion of cases. At this time, it may be more useful to look at incidence and prevalence measures than R_t .
- The most recent estimate of the R_t for Wales from **SAGE** for the period ending 6 April is between **0.7 and 1.0** (90% confidence interval). As at 21 April, R_t estimated by **Public Health Wales (PHW)** which is less lagging but uses case data only, is **0.85** (95% confidence interval: 0.8 to 0.9).
- As reported by PHW, as at 23 April over **1.7 million first doses** of COVID-19 vaccine and over **0.6 million second doses** have been given in Wales. This means that just over 70% of the eligible population of Wales has now received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.
- For the week of 10 to 16 April 2021, the [COVID-19 infection survey](#) estimates that community Covid-19 infection rates in Wales have levelled off at around **1 in 840** (95% credible interval: 1 in 1,810 to 1 in 480).
- As at 23 April, the Variant of Concern "VOC-20DEC-01" (B.1.1.7, first identified in the UK) remains the dominant variant in Wales. There have been **37 genomically confirmed and probable cases of VOC-20DEC-02**, +2 since the previous report (B.1.351, the variant linked to South Africa) and **10 cases of the variant VUI-21FEB-03** (B.1.525, linked to Nigeria) (+0). **1 case of the variant VUI-21JAN-01** (P.1, first identified in Brazil via Japan) (+0) has been identified in Wales.
- The variant B.1.617.1, which has spread throughout India and parts of South Asia, has now been designated a Variant Under Investigation (VUI) by Public Health England. As at 23 April there have been **8** genomically confirmed and probable cases of this variant (**VUI-21APR-01**) identified in Wales.
- Mobility data has seen additional increases following the changes in guidelines from the 12 April, which include no travel restrictions, schools returning following Easter and non-essential retail re-opening. Mobility increased sharply in most categories in the week after the 12 April, although workplace, retail and recreation and public transport mobility are below baseline levels.

TAC/ SAGE papers published this week:

- [Technical Advisory Group: COVID-19 evidence associated with transmission and potential risks associated with religious activities and places of worship](#)
- [Technical Advisory Group: advice for 22 April restriction review](#)
- [SAGE 86 minutes: Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) response, 8 April 2021](#)
- [SAGE: Dynamic CO-CIN report to SAGE and NERVTAG \(recent cases\), 8 April 2021](#)
- [SAGE: EMG and DCMS: Science framework for opening up group events, 16 March 2021](#)
- [SAGE: EMG Transmission Group: COVID-19 transmission in prison settings, 25 March 2021](#)
- [SAGE: FCDO: Key international COVID-19 science issues for SAGE, 27 January 2021](#)
- [SAGE: JBC and Defra: A qualitative risk assessment to estimate the likelihood of SARS-CoV-2 infection of rodents from contact with the environment and onward exposure to humans, 8 April 2021](#)
- [SAGE: JBC and Defra: Current environmental monitoring cannot constrain the effect of vaccines on SARS-CoV-2 transmission, 8 April 2021](#)
- [SAGE: JBC and Defra: Wastewater monitoring of SARS-CoV-2 variants in England: demonstration case study for Bristol \(December 2020 to March 2021\), 8 April 2021](#)
- [SAGE: Masks for healthcare workers to mitigate airborne transmission of SARS-CoV-2, 25 March 2021](#)
- [SAGE: PHE: Investigation of novel SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern \(England\) - Technical briefing 8, 1 April 2021](#)
- [SAGE: PHE: Ready reckoners under vaccination based on POLYMOD contact surveys, 7 April 2021](#)
- [SAGE: SPI:B: COVID-19 vaccination uptake in those with severe mental illness, 11 March 2021](#)
- [SAGE: SPI-M-O: Consensus statement on COVID-19, 8 April 2021](#)
- [SAGE: SPI-M-O: Medium-term projections, 7 April 2021](#)
- [SAGE: University of Bristol and PHE: COVID-19 reckoners with vaccination - update, 6 April 2021](#)
- [Social contacts in the UK from the CoMix social contact survey Week 55](#)

Reproduction number and Growth Rate

- Estimates of R and growth rates become more uncertain as hospitalisations and deaths reach low levels and clustered outbreaks start to make up a greater proportion of cases. Both R and growth rates are average measures and smooth over outbreaks at small spatial scales or over short periods of time. They should not be treated as robust enough to inform policy decisions alone. At this time, it may be more useful to look at incidence and prevalence measures than R_t .

SAGE estimate

- **The most recent estimate of the R_t for Wales from SAGE on 21 April (for the period ending 6 April) is between 0.7 and 1.0 (90% confidence interval).**
- The most recent daily growth rate for Wales from SAGE estimates that the infection rate in Wales is changing by between **-4% and +1%** per day (90% confidence interval) for the period ending **6 April**.
- 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 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.
- More information on the models that are used to create the SPI-M/ SAGE consensus on R, as well as the R number for the other UK nations, is available on the [UK Government website](#).
- SAGE's R_t is an indicator that lags by two to three weeks and, therefore, the impact of behavioural changes that have happened since easing of restrictions on 12 April will not be reflected and nor will the return of schools after the Easter holidays.
- No UK estimates for R_t or growth rate are available. This is because as restrictions are lifted independently across the 4 nations SPI-M advises that R_t and growth rates for the four nations and NHS England regions are more robust and useful metrics than those for the whole of the UK.

Public Health Wales (PHW) estimate

- PHW also estimate R_t for Wales using data on the number of positive Covid-19 testing episodes for the last 7 day rolling period. 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.
- Halving times have also 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 21 April, PHW estimates R_t in Wales to be 0.85** (95% CI: 0.8 to 0.9). The growth rate is estimated to be **halving every 64 days** (95% CI: 14.6 to -26.7).

Case numbers

- The figure below shows weekly COVID-19 cases per 100k population (7 day rolling sum). The most recent data up to **19 April** shows a decrease in cases to **13.6 cases per 100k population**, a **24% decrease** from the previous 7 day period.

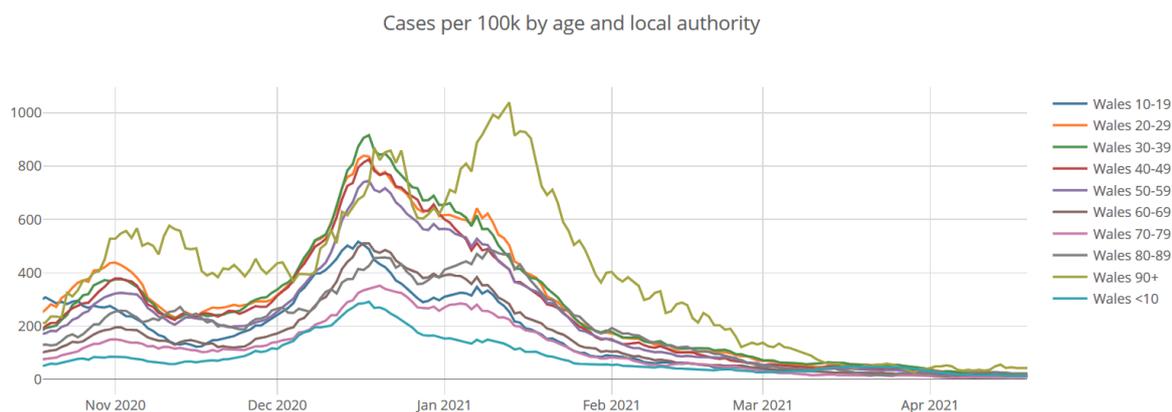
Cases per 100k (PHW Data) (7 day rolling sum)



Source: Data from [PHW](#)

Age profile

- The Figure below shows the number of weekly cases per 100,000 population, by age group and local authority up to **19 April**. Incidence has **decreased or remained stable in the majority of age groups**, with the exception of 90+ which has increased during the most recent period, although this group has a comparatively smaller population and so is more susceptible to weekly changes.



Source: Data from [PHW](#)

Wales Local Authority Update

- At low incidence changes between weeks will be more variable, as a result of the impact of outbreak clusters against a background of low cases.
- Recent surveillance data for Wales for the 7 day period ending **12 April** suggests that COVID-19 case incidence across Wales **continues to decrease or remain stable**. Case numbers remain low in absolute terms, although in Torfaen and Monmouthshire there have been large **relative** increases in case numbers for the most recent period (see below table).
- Case incidence per 100,000 population for the whole of Wales during this period was **13.6**, a reduction from the previous period. Cases for all-Wales are now in the 'Under 15' threshold for the first time since the start of September, first observed in mid-June following the first wave.
- Test positivity for COVID-19 for the whole of Wales was **1.8%** for the most recent rolling 7 period, a **10% reduction** from the previous period.

Source: Data from [PHW](#)

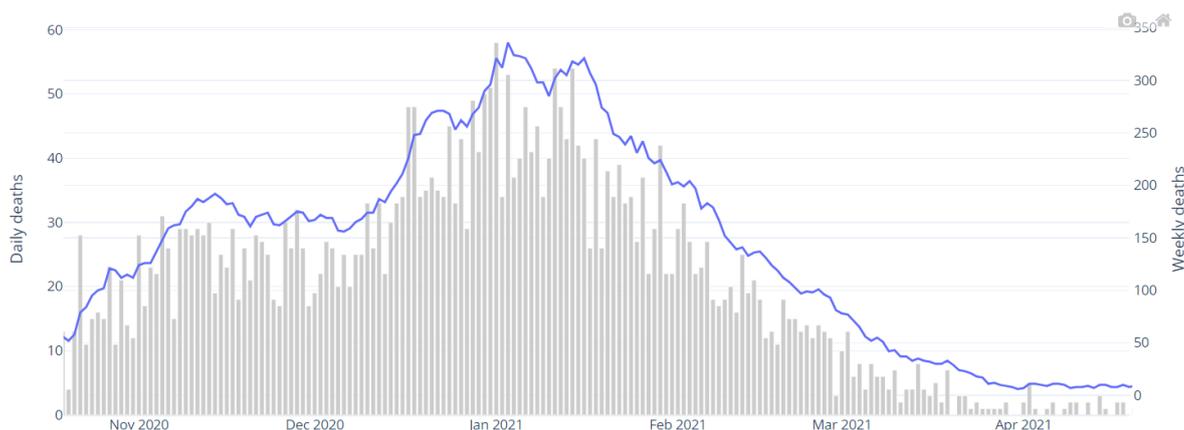
Cases and Tests - All confirmed episodes - For the 7 day period ending 19-04-2021									
Local Authority	Health Board	Number of cases	% of All Wales Total	Case Incidence per 100,000	Incidence threshold reached	Change from previous week	Test positivity (%)	Positivity threshold reached	Test Incidence per 100,000
Gwynedd	BCUHB	35	8.10%	28.1	25 to < 50	-8% ↓	3.5%	2.5 to <5%	792.4
Newport	ABUHB	42	9.80%	27.2	25 to < 50	-7% ↓	2.7%	2.5 to <5%	1002.1
Cardiff	CVUHB	79	18.40%	21.5	20 to < 25	-23% ↓	2.5%	2.5 to <5%	854.2
Swansea	SBUHB	50	11.60%	20.2	20 to < 25	-33% ↓	2.2%	Under 2.5%	940.1
Torfaen	ABUHB	19	4.40%	20.2	20 to < 25	533% ↑	2.00%	Under 2.5%	1036.6
Powys	PTHB	24	5.60%	18.1	15 to < 20	4% ↑	2.90%	2.5 to <5%	615.4

Neath Port Talbot	SBUHB	25	5.80%	17.4	15 to < 20	-4% ↓	1.7%	Under 2.5%	1029.2
Flintshire	BCUHB	19	4.40%	12.2	Under 15	-46% ↓	1.5%	Under 2.5%	801.4
Wrexham	BCUHB	16	3.70%	11.8	Under 15	-38% ↓	1.2%	Under 2.5%	1001.8
Isle of Anglesey	BCUHB	8	1.90%	11.4	Under 15	-47% ↓	1.4%	Under 2.5%	793.8
Caerphilly	ABUHB	20	4.70%	11	Under 15	43% ↑	1.30%	Under 2.5%	872.6
Bridgend	CTMUHB	16	3.70%	10.9	Under 15	-16% ↓	1.2%	Under 2.5%	888.8
Vale of Glamorgan	CVUHB	11	2.60%	8.2	Under 15	-39% ↓	1.0%	Under 2.5%	845.1
Rhondda Cynon Taf	CTMUHB	18	4.20%	7.5	Under 15	-65% ↓	0.9%	Under 2.5%	821.9
Carmarthenshire	HDUHB	14	3.30%	7.4	Under 15	-26% ↓	0.9%	Under 2.5%	851.3
Monmouthshire	ABUHB	7	1.60%	7.4	Under 15	600% ↑	0.80%	Under 2.5%	872.2
Ceredigion	HDUHB	5	1.20%	6.9	Under 15	25% ↑	0.90%	Under 2.5%	760.7
Merthyr Tydfil	CTMUHB	3	0.70%	5	Under 15	-57% ↓	0.6%	Under 2.5%	853.7
Blaenau Gwent	ABUHB	3	0.70%	4.3	Under 15	-57% ↓	0.5%	Under 2.5%	871.7
Conwy	BCUHB	5	1.20%	4.3	Under 15	-58% ↓	0.5%	Under 2.5%	892.5
Pembrokeshire	HDUHB	3	0.70%	2.4	Under 15	-70% ↓	0.3%	Under 2.5%	794.8
Denbighshire	BCUHB	2	0.50%	2.1	Under 15	-75% ↓	0.2%	Under 2.5%	994.8
Total	Total	430	100.00%	13.6	Under 15	-24% ↓	1.5%	Under 2.5%	885.3

Deaths

- The figure below shows the 7 day rolling sum of COVID-19 deaths reported by PHW rapid mortality surveillance up to **19 April**, with **8 deaths** for the most recent 7 day period, a **decrease of 11%** from the previous period.
- 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.

COVID-19 Deaths (7 day rolling sum)



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, the total number of deaths registered **increased to 576** in the week ending 9 April, from **483** in the previous week. The total number of deaths remains below the five-year average for Wales for the sixth consecutive week (13.6% below the five year average).
- In Wales, the number of weekly registered deaths involving COVID-19 **increased by 27% to 19** compared to 15 the previous week, accounting for **4.2%** of all deaths compared to 3.1% the previous week.

Source: [ONS, Deaths registered weekly in England and Wales, provisional: week ending 9 April 2021](#)

Variant Update

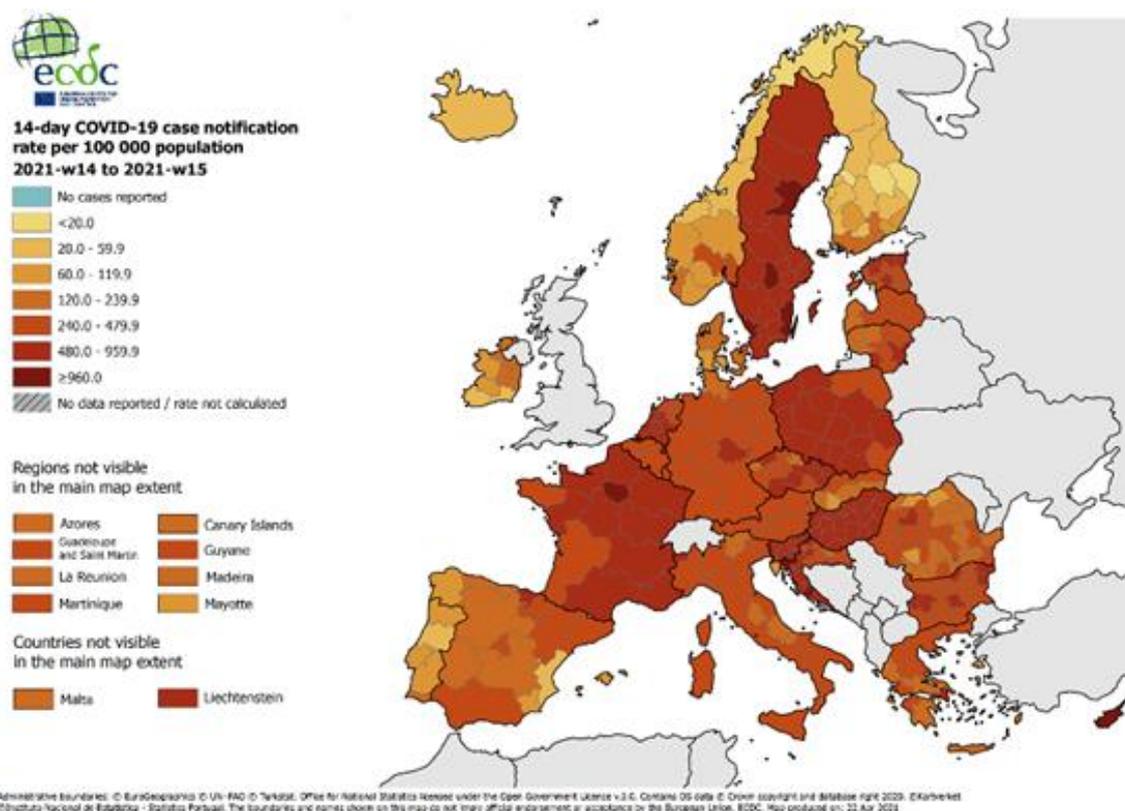
- **VOC 202012/01** (B.1.1.7, first identified in Kent) has been detected in all parts of Wales and continues to grow; **11,418** (+292 since last report) genomically probable or confirmed cases have been identified as at 23 April.
- There have been **37** (+2) genomically confirmed and probable cases of **VOC-20DEC-02** (B.1.351, first identified in South Africa) in Wales as at 16 April, an **increase of 6 cases** since the previous report.

- There have been **10 (+0)** genomically confirmed and probable cases of the variant **VUI-21FEB-03** (B.1.525, first identified in Nigeria) in Wales, an **increase of 4 cases** since the previous report.
- There has been **1 (+0)** genomically confirmed and probable cases of the variant **VUI-21JAN-01** (P.1, first identified in Brazil via Japan) has been identified in Wales.
- There have been **8 (+8)** genomically confirmed and probable cases of the variant **VUI-21APR-01** (B.1.617, first identified in India) has been identified in Wales.

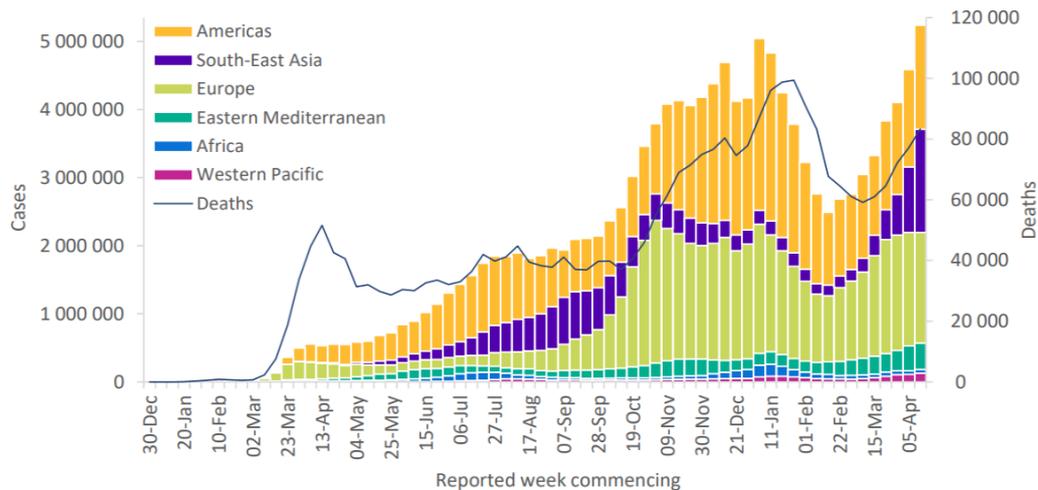
International update

14 day case notification rate per 100,000 in EU

- By the end of week 15 (week ending Sunday 18 April 2021), 10 countries in the European Union/European Economic Area (EU/EEA) had reported increasing case notification rates and/or test positivity. Overall Europe has shown a small drop in cases and deaths.

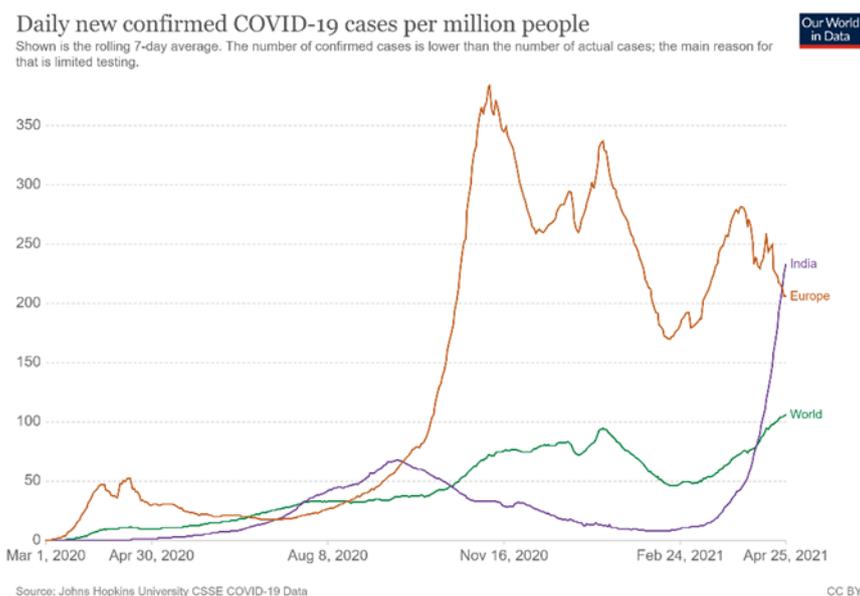


- The recent global increase in both cases and deaths (see below figure) can be largely attributed to South East (SE) Asia and India. There was a 49% increase in the last 7 days in deaths in SE Asia and a corresponding increase of 57% in cases over the same period.



Source: [WHO COVID-19 Weekly Epidemiological Update 20th April.](#)

- Current data on India (as at 25 April) shows a significant increase of 350K new cases, 17.3M in total and 2812 deaths, 195K in total.



Source: [Our World in Data - 7 day average case rate per 1M for COVID-19](#)

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

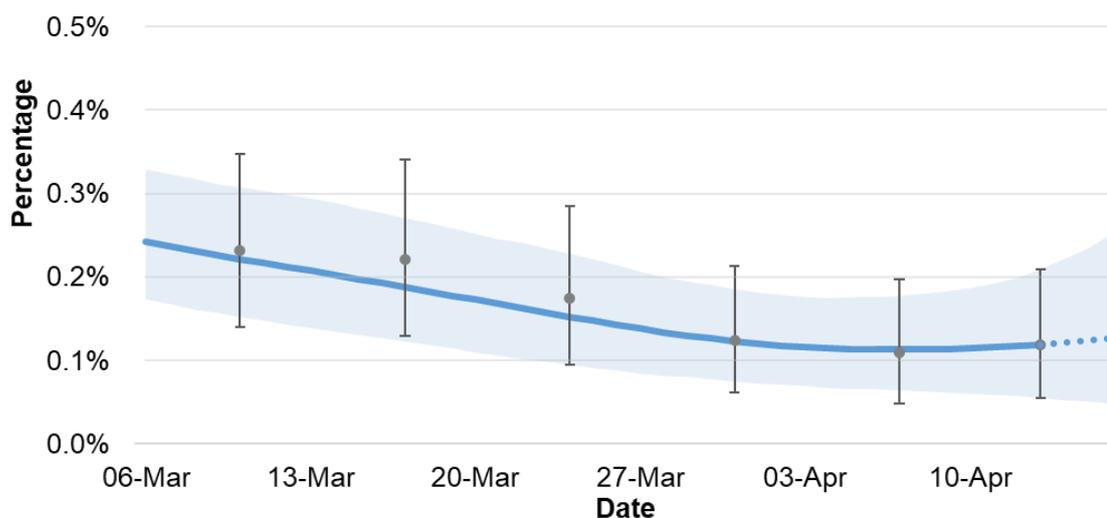
- The latest estimates for Wales from the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Infection Survey (CIS) have been published on the [Welsh Government statistics and research web pages](#) and the [Office for National Statistics website](#). The results include estimates for the number and proportion of people in Wales that had COVID-19 in the latest week, 10 to 16 April 2021.

- 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 the week 10 and 16 April 2021, an average of **0.12%** of the community population had COVID-19 (95% credible interval: 0.06% to 0.21%).
- This equates to approximately **1 person in every 840** (95% credible interval: 1 in 1,810 to 1 in 480), **or 3,600 people** during this time (95% credible interval: 1,700 to 6,400).
- The trend in the percentage of people testing positive in Wales appears to have levelled off in the most recent week. Due to lower positivity rates, caution should be taken in over-interpreting small movements in the latest trends.
- In the most recent week, there are possible early signs of an increase of cases **compatible with the UK variant**. The trend is uncertain for people testing positive for strains **not compatible with the UK variant** and cases where the **virus is too low for the variant to be identifiable**.
- 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.

Wales, estimated % testing positive for Covid 19 since 6 March



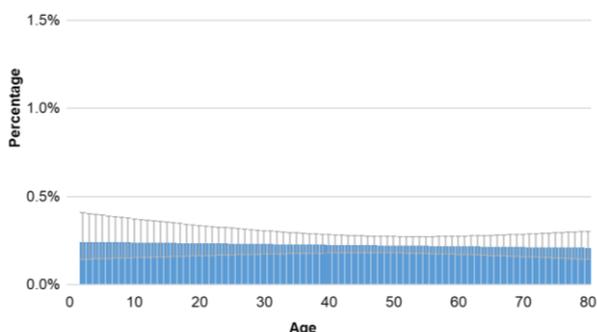
Source: Coronavirus (COVID-19) Infection Survey, ONS, 21/04/21

The blue line and shading represents the modelled trend and credible intervals based on the latest data. The point estimates and error bars are the official estimates published at the time. Reference points for the estimates are changeable. This reflects data processing schedules and events such as bank holidays.

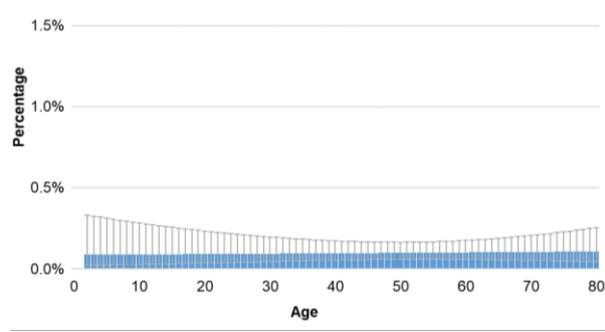
Age analysis:

- Rates of positive cases remain low across all ages and appear to have decreased further 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. Caution should be taken in over-interpreting any small movements in the latest trend, particularly where confidence intervals are large.

The percentage testing positive by age on 10 March 2021



The percentage testing positive by age on 13 April 2021



Source: Coronavirus (COVID-19) Infection Survey, ONS, 21/04/21

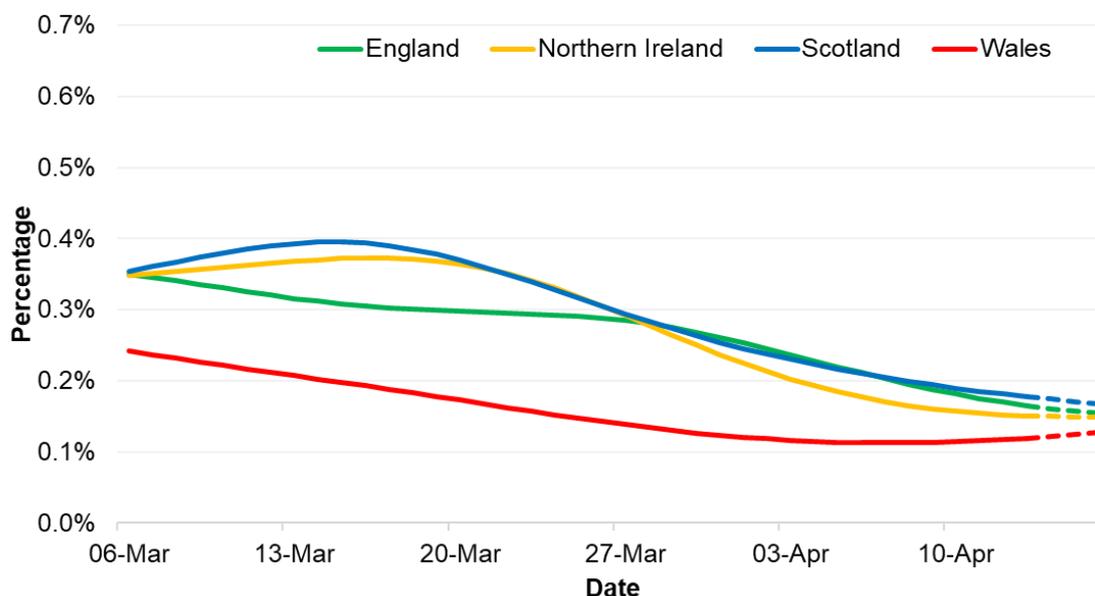
The blue bars give point estimates and the vertical lines indicate the 95% confidence intervals.

Modelled estimates shown for single years of age (aged 2 – 80) on 13 April 2021.

Latest estimates for the UK countries

- At the midpoint of the most recent week (10 and 16 April 2021) rates were low across all four countries. The highest estimated percentages of the community population with COVID-19 among the nations of the UK were in Scotland (0.18%) and England (0.17%) whilst Wales appeared to have the lowest.
- In the most recent week, the positivity rate appears to have levelled off in Wales whilst rates have decreased in England and Scotland. Northern Ireland has seen a decrease in recent weeks, but the trend is uncertain for the most recent week.

Positivity rates (%) across UK countries since 6 March 2021



Source: Coronavirus (COVID-19) Infection Survey, ONS, 21/04/21

Incidence

- In Wales, during the week ending 9 April 2021, we estimate that there were 0.82 new PCR-positive coronavirus (COVID19) cases per 10,000 people per day (95% credible interval: 0.13 to 1.82).
- This equates to 250 new positive cases in Wales per day (95% credible interval: 40 to 550).
- Incidence of new positive cases 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.

Vaccination in Wales

- Whilst numbers will be higher due to ongoing data entry, as at 23 April 2021 **1,742,273 first doses** and **653,537 second doses** of Covid-19 vaccine have been given in Wales and recorded in the Covid-19 Welsh Immunisation System.
- These numbers have been de-duplicated so that people should not be 'double-counted' and are a daily cumulative snapshot of vaccinations given. As a result the number of people vaccinated will be higher than these totals.
- In the below table of total vaccine uptake by priority group and age, groups are not mutually exclusive, so individuals appear in every group that describes them, and can be counted in more than one group.

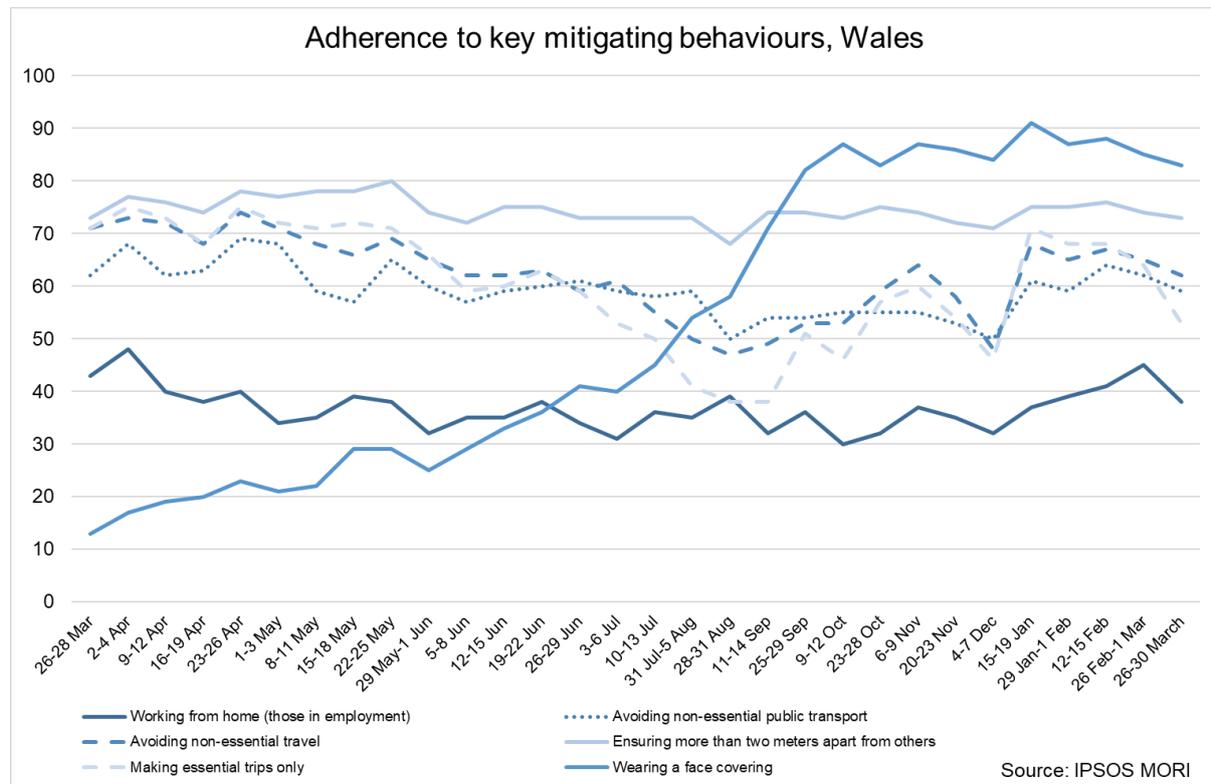
Group	Group size (n)	Received 1st dose (n)	Received 2nd dose (n)	1st dose uptake (%)	2nd dose uptake (%)
Care home residents	15,377	15,011	13,494	97.6%	87.8%
Care home worker	38,129	34,457	29,449	90.4%	77.2%
80 years and older	174,244	166,366	146,802	95.5%	84.3%
Health care worker	142,802	134,281	117,355	94.0%	82.2%
Social care worker		45,187	37,877		
Aged 75-79 years	133,063	127,934	107,708	96.1%	80.9%
Aged 70-74 years	183,561	175,265	126,462	95.5%	68.9%
Clinically extremely vulnerable aged 16-69 years	81,403	75,646	44,402	92.9%	54.5%
Aged 65-69 years	180,382	168,893	55,457	93.6%	30.7%
Clinical risk groups aged 16-64 years	353,231	299,364	18,389	84.8%	5.2%
Aged 60-64 years	205,684	187,669	35,092	91.2%	17.1%
Aged 55-59 years	233,745	207,445	37,493	88.7%	16.0%
Aged 50-54 years	228,003	196,615	34,674	86.2%	15.2%
Aged 40-49 years	392,103	268,562	51,577	68.5%	13.2%
Aged 30-39 years	420,449	148,498	44,403	35.3%	10.6%
Aged 18-29 years	464,961	95,648	36,435	20.6%	7.8%

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

Adherence and understanding of current measures

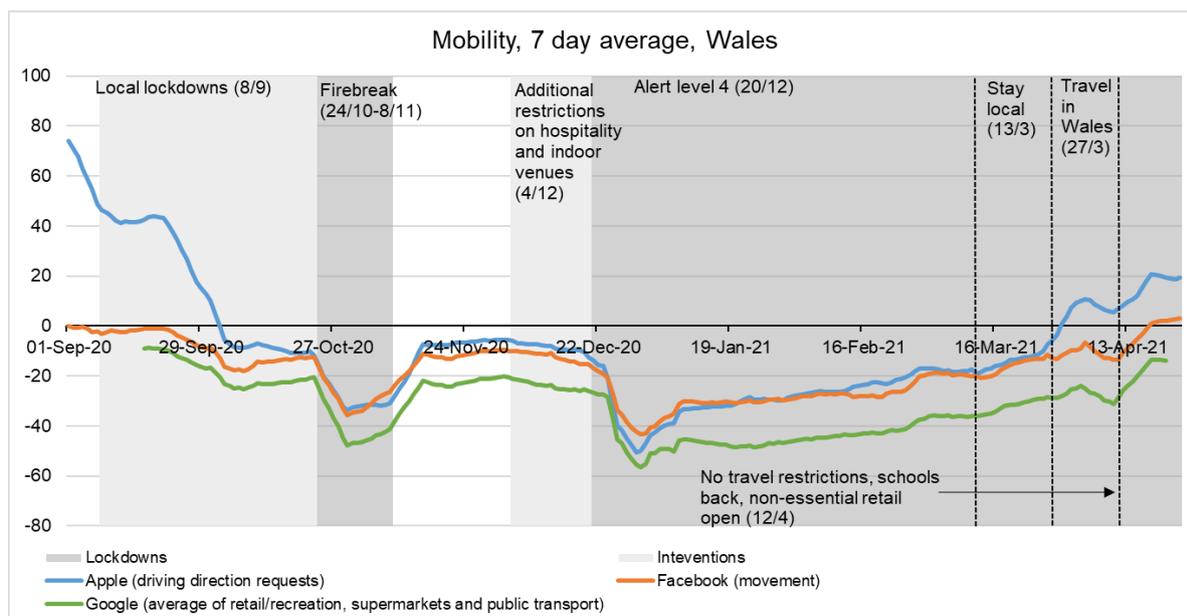
- The data from IPSIS MORI is the same as last week.
- The most recent IPSOS MORI data for the period 26 – 30 March for Wales shows reductions in some categories compared to the last survey wave which was 4 weeks prior (26 February - 1 March). Most notably a reduction in those making essential trips only – this follows the change in guidance from stay at home in the last survey to being able to travel within Wales/staying local. 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. Some restrictions were lifted on 27 March, during the data collection period, as a result of the 12 March review cycle (e.g. stay local requirement and first phased reopening of the tourist sector).
- 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.

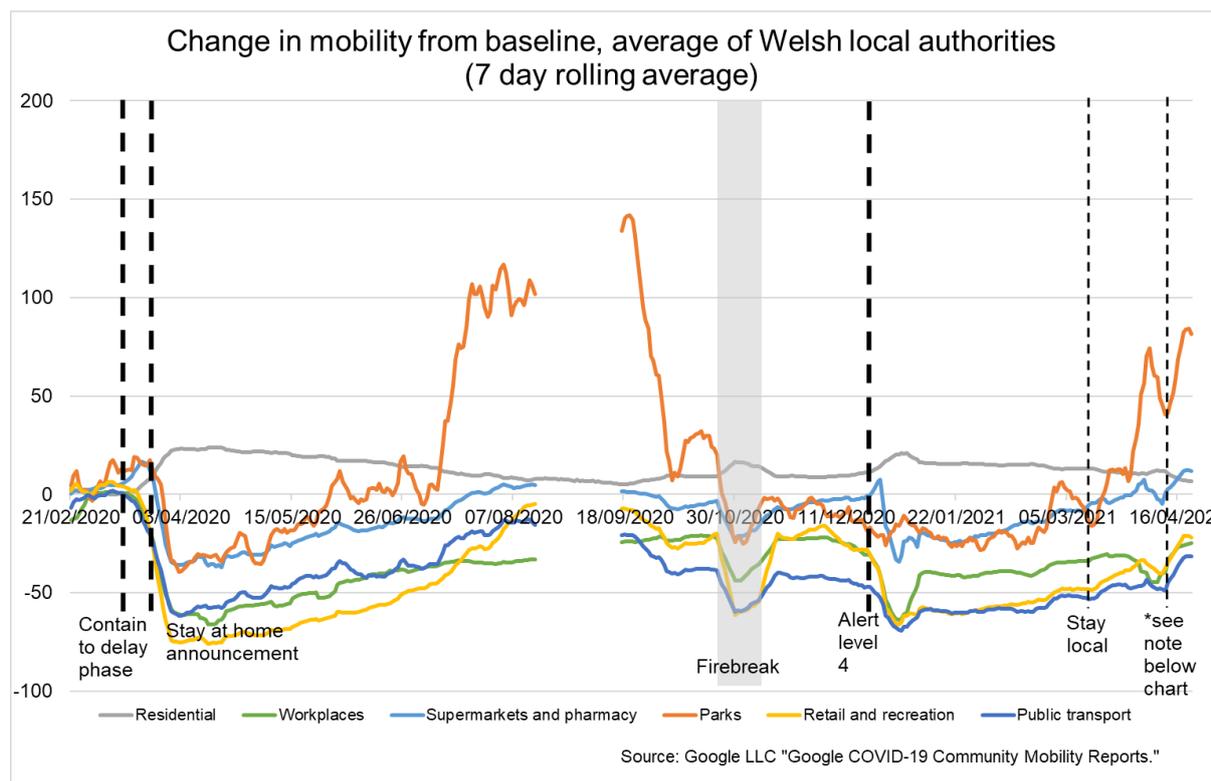


Mobility

- The most recent mobility data shows some further increases following the changes in guidelines from the 12 April, which include no travel restrictions, schools returning following Easter and non-essential retail re-opening. Mobility increased sharply in most categories in the week after the 12 April, but has increased more slowly in some categories since the 19 April, with some showing no/little change.



- Mobility of [Facebook users](#) in Wales shows movement was 3% above the baseline for the week to the 24 April. This is higher than the week before (1% above the baseline). The percentage of users staying put (near to home) was 22%, down from the week before (24%). 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 14 April shows that requests for driving directions in Wales were higher than the previous week at 20% above the baseline (up from 18% above the baseline). 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 21 April for residential (i.e people spending time at home) were lower than the week before at 7% above the baseline (down from 9%). Workplaces rose relative to the baseline by 5 percentage points (at 25% below the baseline). Retail & recreation mobility was up from the previous week (22% below the baseline, up from 30% below) and supermarkets & pharmacy also rose (at 12% above the baseline, up from 5% above). Public transport and parks mobility 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.



*Changes include no travel restrictions, schools returning and non-essential retail re-opening.

- Anonymised and aggregated mobile phone data from O2 for the week to the 16 April shows an increase in trips compared to the week before. Trips starting in Wales rose by 10 percentage points to 79% of the baseline. The baseline for the O2 data is the same day of the week in the first week of March.

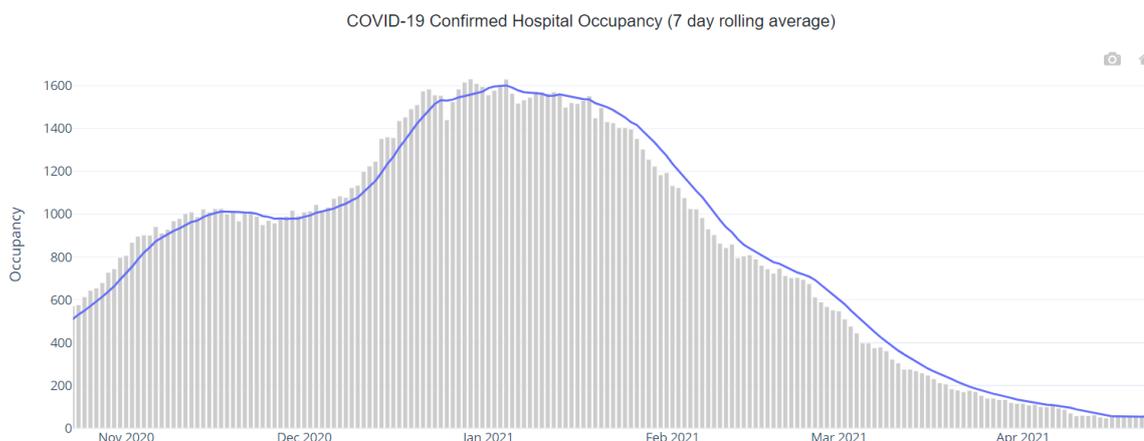
COVID-19 weekly surveillance and epidemiological summary from Public Health Wales (as at 22 April)

- The proportion of calls to NHS 111 and NHS Direct related to possible COVID-19 symptoms have slightly increased compared to the previous week.
- Overall GP consultations for any Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI) have remained stable in the most recent week and suspected COVID consultations have decreased.
- The overall number of ambulance calls and the number of calls possibly related to COVID- have increased slightly in the most recent week.
- The all-Wales number of lab confirmed COVID-19 episodes has slightly decreased in the most recent week. Sample positivity for testing episodes was 1.6% in week 15.
- Confirmed case incidence has decreased or remained stable in most health board areas. Testing episode positivity continues to decrease nationally.

- During week 15, incidence remained stable in the majority of age groups but there was a small increase in those aged 85+. Incidence was highest in those aged 85+.
- 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 areas 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 decreased slightly. In the majority of MSOA with confirmed COVID19 cases, numbers are now at low levels.
- There was a decrease in the number of incidents logged in the most recent week.
- Influenza is not currently circulating in Wales and RSV has not circulated over the 2020-21 winter period.

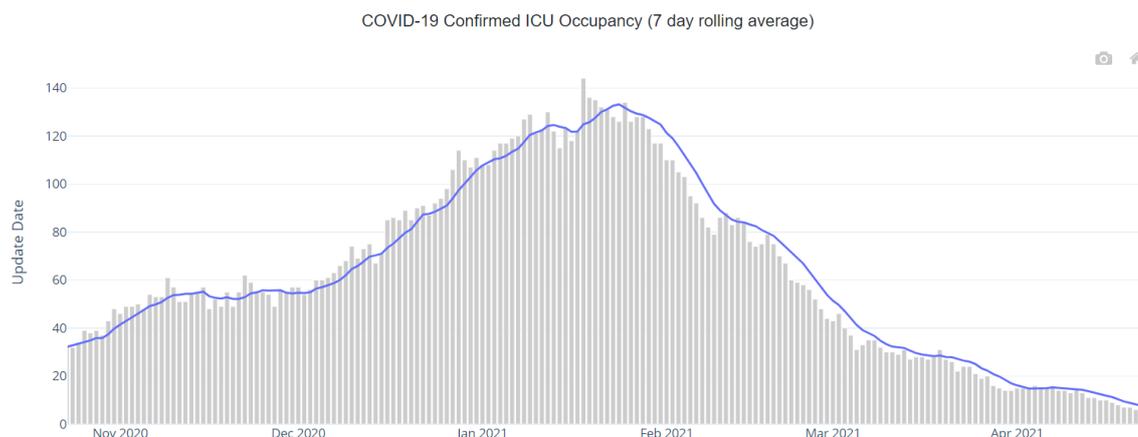
Hospital occupancy

- 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 25 April).
- For the most recent 7 day period ending 23 April the average weekly Covid-19 confirmed hospital occupancy was **58**, a **4% increase** from the previous period.

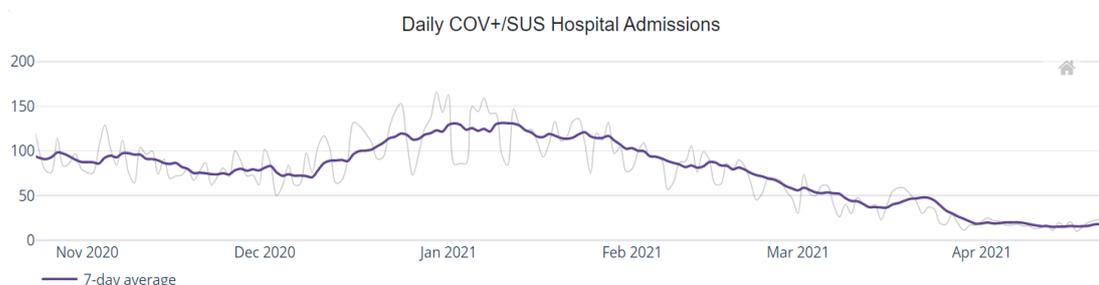


- The Figure below shows the invasive ventilated bed occupancy (ICU) of confirmed COVID-19 positive patients (7 day rolling average, as at 25 April).

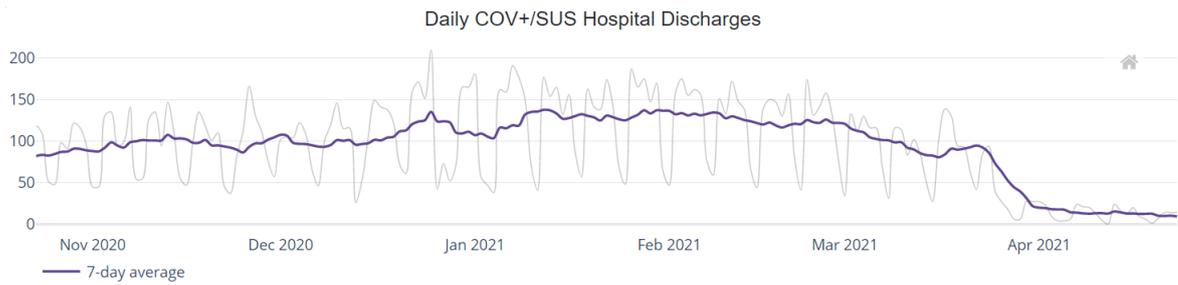
- For the most recent 7 day period ending 23 April the average Covid-19 confirmed ICU occupancy was **7**, a **42% reduction** from the previous period.



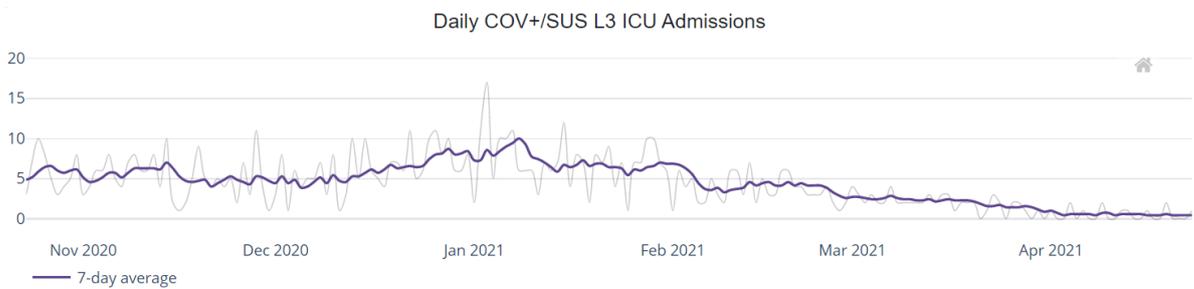
- The number of people in hospital **recovering** from COVID-19 also continues to decrease overall and is at **165** as at 21 April, a **29% reduction** from the previous 7 day period.
- The Figure below shows the number of people admitted to hospital who are either suspected or confirmed as having Covid-19 (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 for daily Covid-19 confirmed and suspected hospital admissions as at 23 April was **16**, **remaining stable** with the previous period.



- 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 hospital discharges as at 23 April was **9**, a **31% reduction** from the previous 7 day period.



- The Figure below shows **admissions** 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 23 April was **0.4**, remaining **stable** with the previous 7 day period.



Source: Data from [StatsWales](#)

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.

