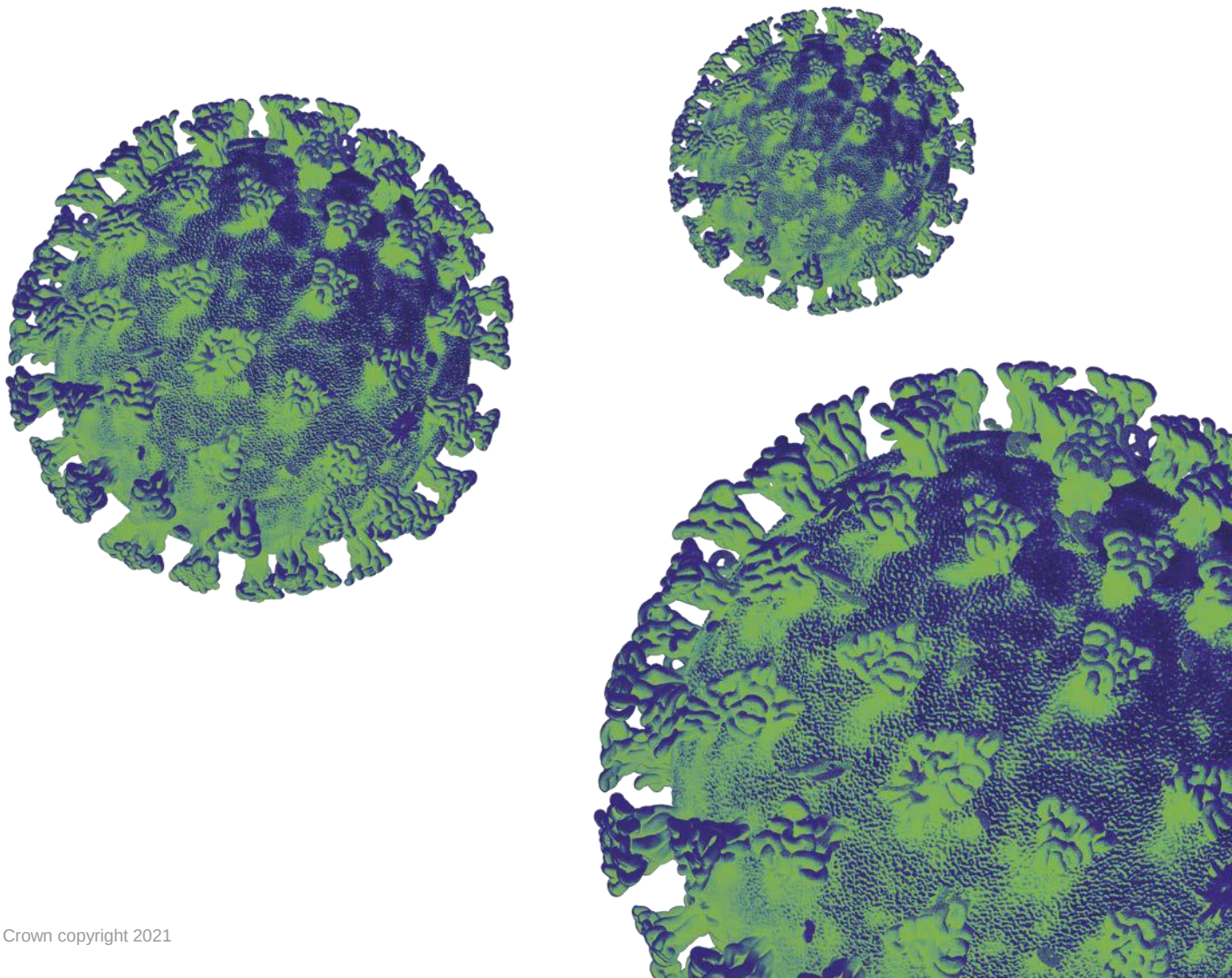
Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Technical Advisory Cell

Summary of Advice

7 May 2021



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Technical Advisory Cell: Summary of Advice

7 May 2021

Top-line summary

- **Case numbers continue to decrease at a national level** with a 15% reduction to 9.7 cases per 100k population, keeping Wales in the lowest official case threshold. There is considerable variation at a regional level in terms of weekly change, although this is at a low level of incidence.
- The most recent estimate of the R_t for Wales from **SAGE** is between **0.7 and 1.0** (90% confidence interval), while the growth rate is between -5% and 0%. R and growth rate estimates by SAGE represent the transmission of COVID-19 2 to 3 weeks ago rather than today.
- As at 5 May, R_t estimated by **Public Health Wales** (PHW) is between **0.8 and 0.9** (95% confidence interval). This estimate is less lagged than SAGE, representing transmission from around 1 week ago; however it is based only on positive SARS-Cov-2 testing episodes.
- 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. At this time, it may be more useful to look at changes in incidence and prevalence measures than R_t.
- As reported by PHW, as at 22:00 on 7 May nearly **1.9 million first doses** of COVID-19 vaccine and over **0.8 million second doses** have been given in Wales.
- For the week of 26 April to 2 May 2021, the COVID-19 infection survey estimates that community Covid-19 infection rates in Wales have significantly to around **1 person in 2,070** (95% credible interval: 1 in 400 to 1 in 3,400), or 1,500 people during this period.
- As at 7 May, The Variant of Concern "VOC-20DEC-01" (B.1.1.7, first identified in Kent) remains the dominant variant in Wales, with **12,879** (+1,275 since last report) genomically probable or confirmed cases have been identified. **Note that this substantial increase is due to a change in methodology, including probable cases as of 5th May.**
- For other VOCs and VUIs, there have been **12 (+4)** genomically confirmed and probable cases of the variant **VUI-21APR-01** (B.1.617, first identified in India) and **5 (+5)** genomically confirmed and probable cases of the variant **VOC-21APR-02** (B.1.617.2, first identified in India) identified in Wales.
- The most recent mobility data has seen reductions in most categories over the May 3 bank holiday, with more people staying at or near their home.
- Globally, for the second successive week, the number of COVID-19 cases remains at the highest levels since the beginning of the pandemic with over 5.7 million new weekly cases, following nine consecutive weeks of increases, driven largely by trends in South-East Asia caused by variants of concern.

TAC/ SAGE papers published this week:

- SAGE: SPI-M-O: Medium-term projections, 21 April 2021
- SAGE: SPI-B: Behavioural considerations for vaccine uptake in Phase 2 and beyond, 9 March 2021
- SAGE: Cross organisation study: Risk factors associated with places of enduring prevalence and potential approaches to monitor changes in this local prevalence, 22 April 2021
- SAGE: SPI-M spatial variation subgroup: Defining 'enduring prevalence', 21 April 2021
- SAGE: SPI-M-O: Consensus statement on COVID-19, 21 April 2021
- SAGE: JUNIPER and LSHTM: The population attributable fraction (PAF) of cases due to gatherings with relevance to COVID-19 mitigation strategies, 22 April 2021

External papers of Interest:

- Public attitudes to COVID-19 vaccines: A qualitative study

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 4 May 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 was **-5 to +0%** per day (90% confidence interval)
- 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, representing the transmission of COVID-19 2 to 3 weeks ago rather than today, due to the time delay between someone being infected, developing symptoms, and needing healthcare.
- 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.

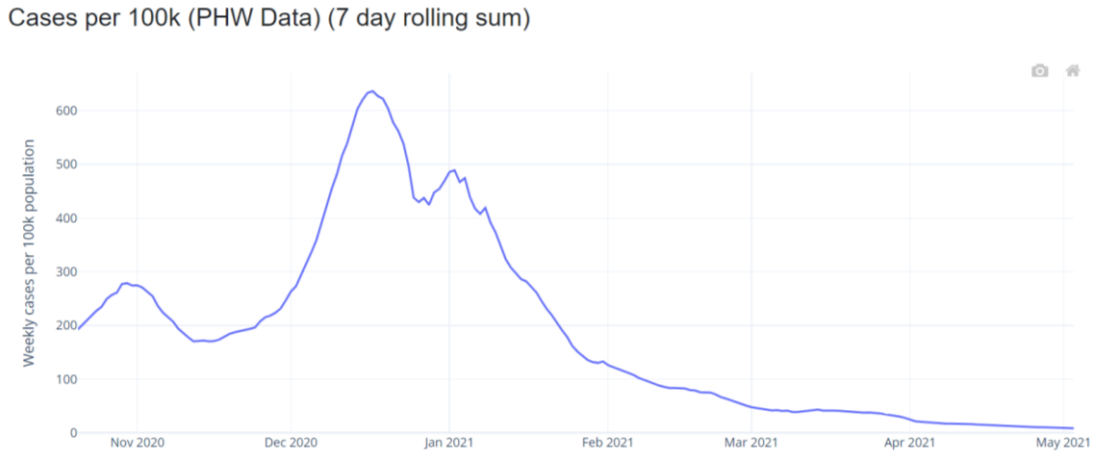
- Care should be taken when interpreting R_t and growth rate estimates for the UK, due to their inherently lagged nature, their correlation with testing incidence and that national estimates can mask regional variation in the number of infections and rates of transmission.
- For more information on the models that are used to create the SAGE consensus on R, please see the UK Government website.

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 5 May, R_t estimated by **Public Health Wales** (PHW) is between **0.8 and 0.9** (95% confidence interval). This estimate is less lagged than SAGE, representing transmission from around 1 week ago; however it is based only on positive SARS-Cov-2 testing episodes.
- The growth rate is estimated by PHW to be **halving every 43.6 days** (95% CI: 13.4 to -34.8).

Case numbers

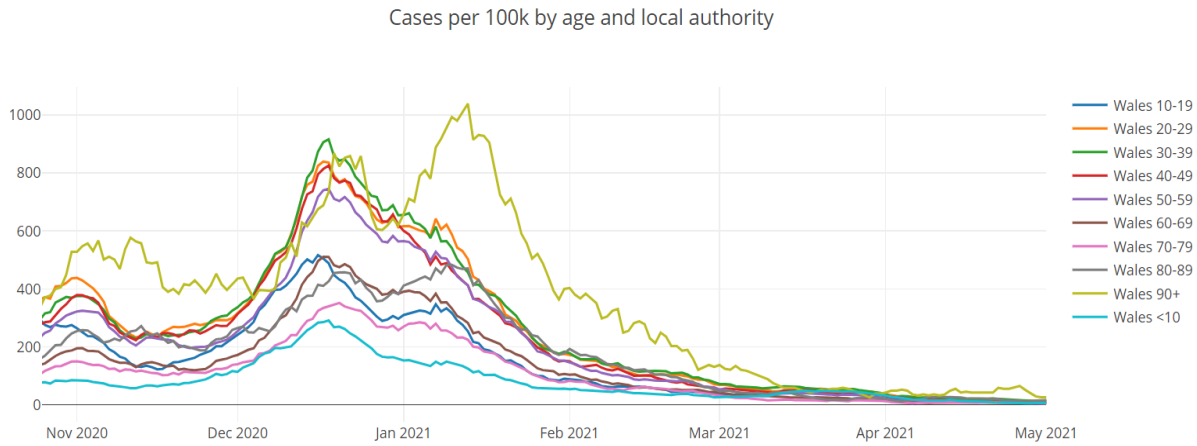
- The figure below shows weekly COVID-19 cases per 100k population (7 day rolling sum). The most recent data up to **2 May** shows a continued reduction in cases to **9.7 cases per 100k** population, a **15.7% decrease** from the previous 7 day period.



Source: Data from PHW

Age profile

- The Figure below shows the number of confirmed COVID-19 episodes per 100,000 population, by week of sample collection and age group.
- It should be noted that the 90+ age group is significantly affected by small increases in case numbers, as a result of the smaller denominator size in comparison to other age groups.
- According to Public Health Wales, as at 1 May, incidence has shown a decrease in all age groups; the highest incidence was seen in those aged 20-39 and those aged 80 years and older, although this remains at low levels.



Source: Data from PHW

Wales Local Authority Update

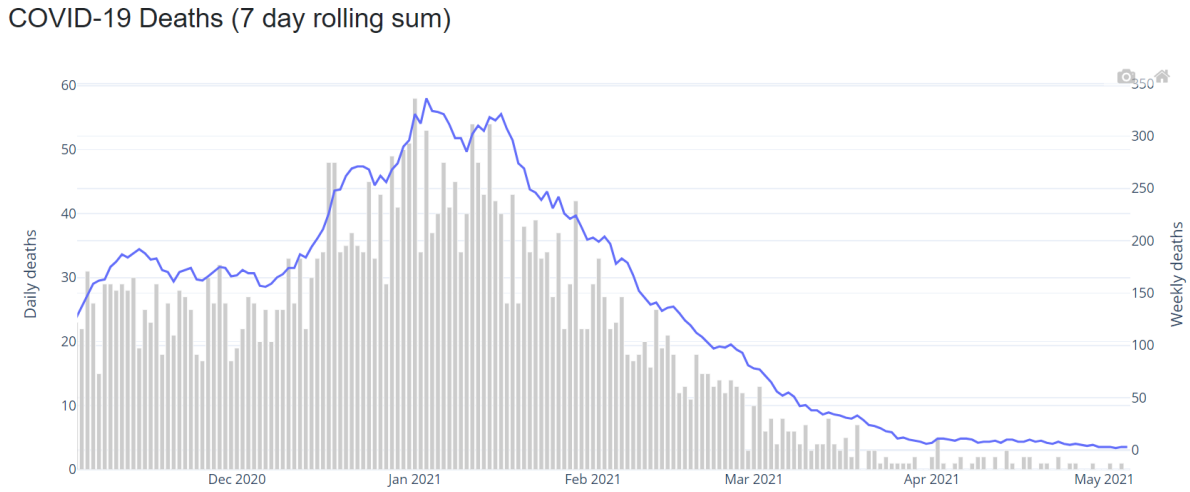
- At low incidence regional changes between weeks will be more variable, as a result of the impact of outbreak clusters against a background of low prevalence.
- Case incidence per 100,000 population for the whole of Wales during this period was **9.7**, a **15% reduction** from the previous 7 day period. Cases for all-Wales remain in the 'Under 15' threshold for the third consecutive week.
- Recent PHW surveillance data for Wales for the 7 day period ending **2 May** suggests that COVID-19 weekly changes in case incidence across Wales is **variable,** although at a **low level** in absolute case numbers. The majority of Wales is now in the lowest case incidence and test positivity thresholds.
- Test positivity for COVID-19 for the whole of Wales was **1.0%** for the most recent rolling 7 period, a **16.7% reduction** from the previous period.

Source: Data from PHW

Cases and Tests - All confirmed episodes - For the 7 day period ending 02-05-2021									
Local Authority	**Health Board**	**Number**	**% of All Wales Total**	**Cases per 100,000**	**Incidence threshold reached**	**Weekly change**	**Test positivity (%)**	**Positivity threshold reached**	**Tests per 100,000**
Newport	ABUHB	36	11.80%	23.3	20 to < 25	-8% ↓	2.2%	Under 2.5%	1065.5
Wrexham	BCUHB	20	6.60%	14.7	Under 15	-33% ↓	1.6%	Under 2.5%	918.7
Pembrokeshire	HDUHB	18	5.90%	14.3	Under 15	157% ↑	2.00%	Under 2.5%	732.8
Cardiff	CVUHB	48	15.70%	13.1	Under 15	20% ↑	1.40%	Under 2.5%	952.6
Torfaen	ABUHB	12	3.90%	12.8	Under 15	100% ↑	1.40%	Under 2.5%	937.6
Caerphilly	ABUHB	22	7.20%	12.1	Under 15	38% ↑	1.30%	Under 2.5%	969.2
Gwynedd	BCUHB	13	4.30%	10.4	Under 15	-46% ↓	1.3%	Under 2.5%	786
Flintshire	BCUHB	15	4.90%	9.6	Under 15	0% →	1.30%	Under 2.5%	717.5
Swansea	SBUHB	23	7.50%	9.3	Under 15	-58% ↓	1.0%	Under 2.5%	931.6
Carmarthenshire	HDUHB	16	5.20%	8.5	Under 15	-16% ↓	1.0%	Under 2.5%	838.6
Rhondda Cynon Taf	CTMUHB	19	6.20%	7.9	Under 15	19% ↑	0.70%	Under 2.5%	1090.5
Neath Port Talbot	SBUHB	11	3.60%	7.7	Under 15	-52% ↓	0.8%	Under 2.5%	935
Monmouthshire	ABUHB	7	2.30%	7.4	Under 15	250% ↑	0.90%	Under 2.5%	786.6
Vale of Glamorgan	CVUHB	9	3.00%	6.7	Under 15	-18% ↓	0.7%	Under 2.5%	973.9
Merthyr Tydfil	CTMUHB	4	1.30%	6.6	Under 15	0% →	0.50%	Under 2.5%	1228.3
Bridgend	CTMUHB	8	2.60%	5.4	Under 15	-20% ↓	0.6%	Under 2.5%	967.7
Powys	PTHB	7	2.30%	5.3	Under 15	-36% ↓	0.9%	Under 2.5%	612.4
Conwy	BCUHB	6	2.00%	5.1	Under 15	-14% ↓	0.5%	Under 2.5%	966.7
Isle of Anglesey	BCUHB	3	1.00%	4.3	Under 15	-50% ↓	0.5%	Under 2.5%	852.3
Ceredigion	HDUHB	3	1.00%	4.1	Under 15	-25% ↓	0.6%	Under 2.5%	718.1
Blaenau Gwent	ABUHB	2	0.70%	2.9	Under 15	-67% ↓	0.3%	Under 2.5%	1120.8
Denbighshire	BCUHB	0	0.00%	0	Under 15	-100% ↓	0.0%	Under 2.5%	999
Total	**Total**	**305**	**100.00%**	**9.7**	Under 15	-15% ↓	**1.0%**	**Under 2.5%**	**928.6**

Deaths

- The figure below shows the 7 day rolling sum of COVID-19 deaths reported by PHW rapid mortality surveillance up to **5 May**, with **3 deaths** for the most recent 7 day period, a **decrease of 40%** 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.



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 number of weekly registered deaths involving COVID-19 **decreased by 50%** from 14 to **7**, accounting for **1.2% of all deaths** compared to 2.2% the previous week.
- The **total number of deaths** registered in Wales **decreased** from 616 to **582** in the week ending 30 April. This remains below the five-year average for Wales (12.1% below the five year average, 80 deaths fewer).

Source: Deaths registered weekly in England and Wales, provisional: week ending 30 April 2021

Variant Update

- As at 5 May in Wales:
- **VOC 202012/01** (B.1.1.7, first identified in Kent) has been detected in all parts of Wales and continues to grow; **12,879** (+1,275 since last report) genomically probable or confirmed cases have been identified. **Note that this substantial increase is due to the inclusion of 'probable' cases from 5th May.**
- There have been **37** (+0) genomically confirmed and probable cases of **VOC-20DEC-02** (B.1.351, first identified in South Africa).
- There have been **10** (+0) genomically confirmed and probable cases of the variant **VUI-21FEB-03** (B.1.525, first identified in Nigeria)**.**
- There has been **1** (+0) genomically confirmed and probable cases of the variant **VUI-21JAN-01** (P.1, first identified in Brazil via Japan).
- There have been **12 (+4)** genomically confirmed and probable cases of the variant **VUI-21APR-01** (B.1.617, first identified in India).
- There have been **5 (+5)** genomically confirmed and probable cases of the variant **VOC-21APR-02** (B.1.617.2, first identified in India).

VOC-21APR-02

- The most recent Public Health England variants of concern and variants under investigation briefing has been published.
    - As of 6 May VUI-21APR-02 (B.1.617.2) has been escalated to a variant of concern (VOC-21APR-02). It is assessed as having at least equivalent transmissibility to B.1.1.7 based on available data (moderate confidence). There are insufficient data currently to assess the potential for immune escape.
    - There has been a steep recent increase in the number of cases identified (N=509 genomically confirmed) of this variant of concern in the UK, which includes both imported (n=157 confirmed after travel) and domestically-acquired cases. Postcodes of residence are most frequently identified as London and the North West.
    - The S-gene target in a specific three-target assay used in some Lighthouse Laboratories fails in B.1.1.7, previously predominant, but is detected in VUI-21APR-01, VOC-21APR-02 and VUI-21APR-03 variants as well as VOC-20DEC02 (B.1.351) and some others.
    - As shown in the graphs below, the number and proportion of s-gene positive samples has increased in recent weeks in the UK. Data suggests this is likely a result of an increase in variant cases. Trends in S-gene detection

indicate that in the second half of April 2021 67.2% of variants under investigation or of concern were confirmed as VOC-21APR-02. It is possible that variant cases are currently over-represented as a result of targeted sequencing, for instance of contacts of variant cases.

Figure 15. Distribution of variants among sequenced S gene positive SARS-CoV-2 specimens, by half-months as of 3 May 2021. Specimen dates between 1/1/2021 and 26/04/2021 (latest period incomplete. Find accessible data used in this graph in underlying data).

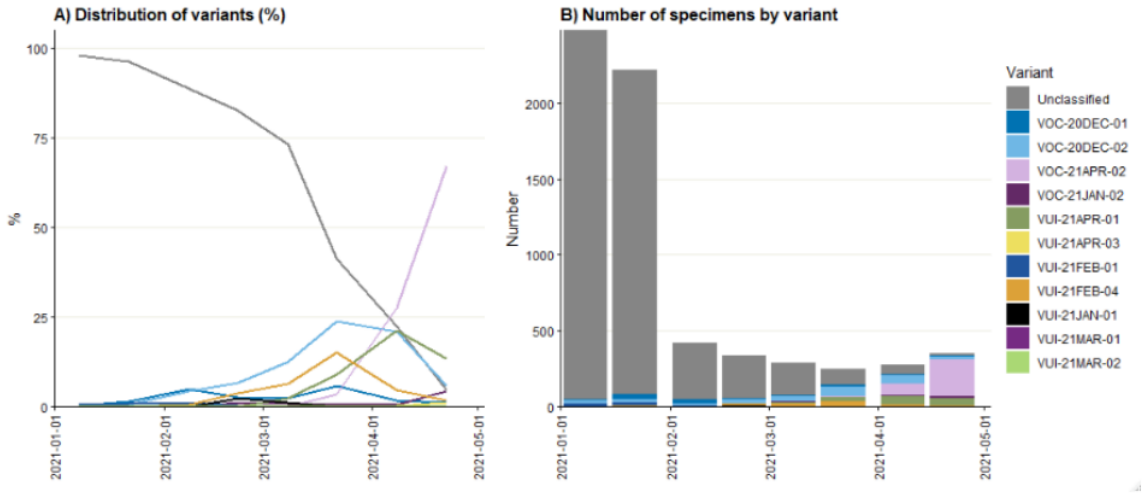
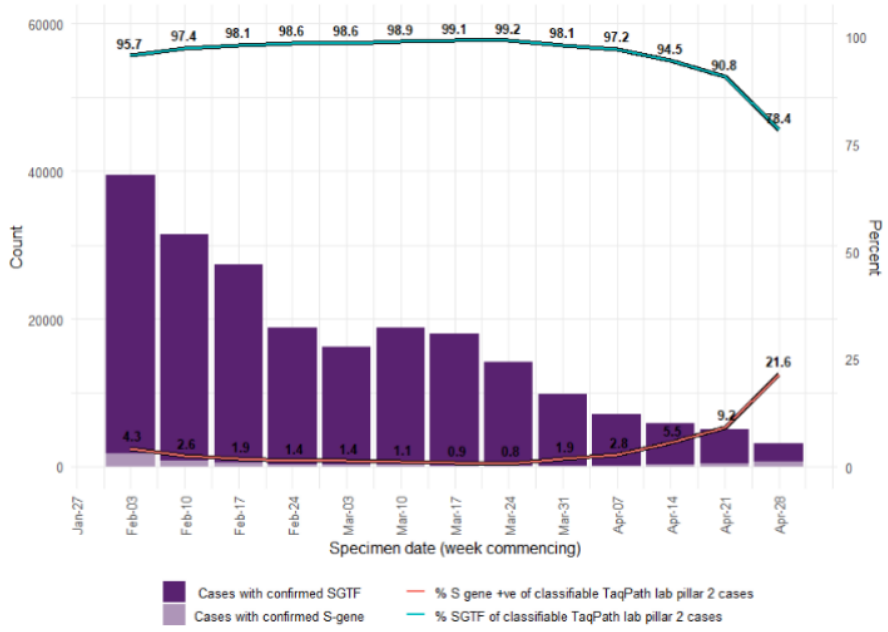


Figure 16. Weekly number and proportion of England Pillar 2 COVID-19 cases with detectable S gene or SGTF among those tested with the TaqPath assay and with S gene detection results (3 February 2021 to 4 May 2021)
Confirmed SGTF:Non-detectable S gene and <=30 Ct values for N and ORF 1ab genes. Confirmed S gene: <=20 Ct values for S,N and ORF 1ab genes. TaqPath labs: Alderly Park, Milton Keynes, and Glasgow Lighthouse Labs which use TaqPath COVID-19 RT-PCR. Data source: SGSS. Cases deduplicated to one positive test per person per week, prioritising SGTF tests.



Source: PHE, SARS-CoV-2 Variants of Concern and Variants under Investigation in England, Technical Briefing 10

Test, Trace, Protect (Contact tracing for COVID-19)

- Welsh Government publish a weekly summary of contact tracing activity in Wales during the COVID-19 pandemic. The data in this release is management information collected as part of the contact tracing process. The figures reflect the data recorded in the contact tracing system and not any contact tracing activity that may have taken place outside of the typical tracing process.
- It may not be possible to trace all individuals referred to the contact tracing service. For various reasons contact details will not have been provided for some individuals and others may not have responded to calls, texts or emails from tracing teams. The proportion of positive cases that were eligible for follow-up and that were reached only include those cases that were successfully reached but does not include those cases where local tracers have made an attempt, but failed, to contact.
- For cases in halls of residence, students may have been contacted by text or by their university to advise them to isolate and not by the local contact tracing team. Also, school “bubble” contacts aren’t subject to formal contact tracing process as they are contacted directly by their school and provided the necessary public health and isolation guidance. For this reason, these types of activity are not captured in the contact tracing data.
- In the week **25 April to 1 May 2021**:
  - Of the 365 positive cases that were eligible for follow-up, **362 (99.2%)** were reached and asked to provide details of their recent contacts
  - Of the 1,093 close contacts that were eligible for follow-up, **1,088 (99.5%)** were successfully contacted and advised accordingly, or had their case otherwise resolved
- In total, since 21 June 2020:
  - Of the 175,473 positive cases that were eligible for follow-up, **174,959 (99.7%)** were reached and asked to provide details of their recent contacts
  - Of the 403,301 close contacts that were eligible for follow-up, **383,655 (95.1%)** were successfully contacted and advised accordingly, or had their case otherwise resolved
- The charts below show the daily positive cases and daily close contacts eligible for follow-up by local contact tracing teams, up to 1 May 2021 (Source: Digital Health and Care Wales).

Chart 3: Daily positive cases eligible for follow-up by local contact tracing teams, up to 1 May 2021

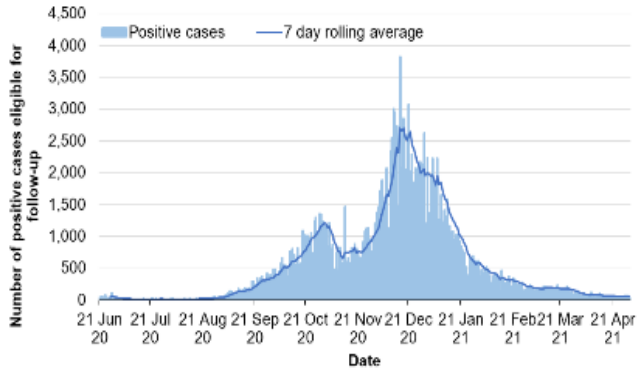
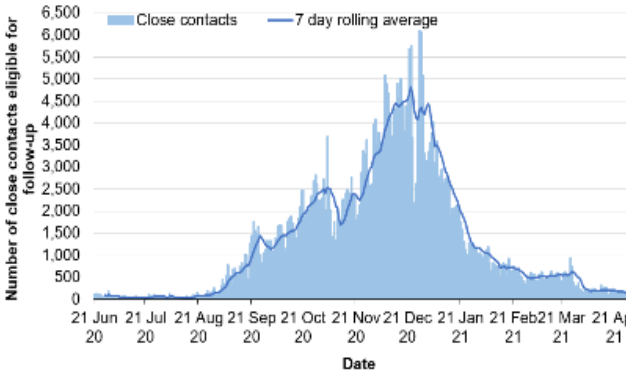


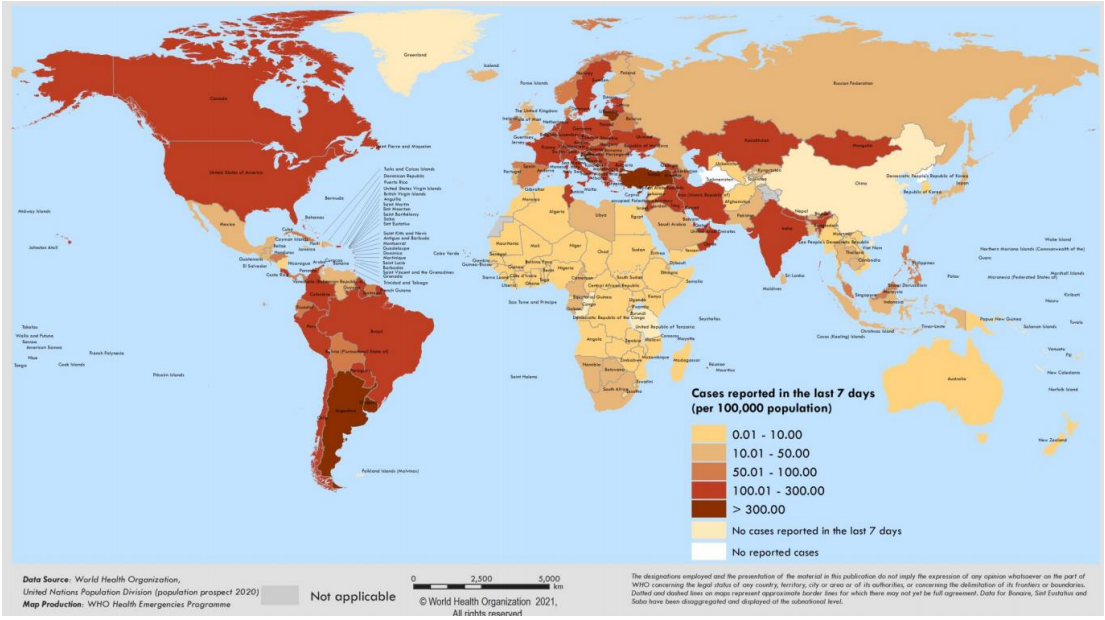
Chart 4: Daily close contacts eligible for follow-up by local contact tracing teams, up to 1 May 2021



Source: [Test, Trace, Protect (contact tracing for coronavirus (COVID-19)): up to 1 May 2021]

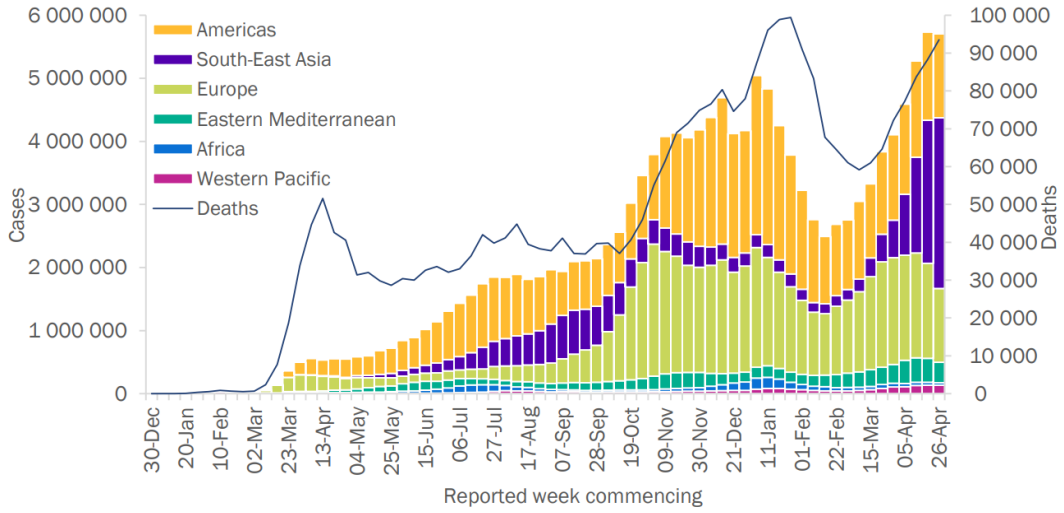
International update

- For the second successive week, the number of COVID-19 cases globally remains at the highest levels since the beginning of the pandemic with over 5.7 million new weekly cases, following nine consecutive weeks of increases (Figure 1). New deaths continue to increase for the seventh consecutive week, with over 93 000 deaths.
- The South-East Asia Region continues to report marked increases in both case and death incidences. India accounts for over 90% of both cases and deaths in this region, as well as 46% of global cases and 25% of global deaths reported in the past week. Case incidence in the regions of Europe, Eastern Mediterranean, Africa and the Americas decreased, while rates in the Western Pacific Region were comparable to the previous week. The number of deaths decreased in Europe, Africa and the Western Pacific region, while slight increases were reported in the Americas and Eastern Mediterranean regions



Cases reported in last 7 days per 100,000 population. Source: World Health Organisation

Figure 1. COVID-19 cases reported weekly by WHO Region, and global deaths, as of 2 May 2021**



Source: WHO COVID-19 Weekly Epidemiological Update

- The highest numbers of new cases were reported from India (2 597 285 new cases; 20% increase), Brazil (421 933 new cases; 4% increase), the United States of America (345 692 new cases; 15% decrease), Turkey (257 992 new cases; 32% decrease), and France (163 666 new cases; 23% decrease).
- There remains concerns that In India many deaths and cases relating to covid-19 are un-reported and the true case numbers may be considerably higher than the official figure of 400,000 a day.
- There are multiple variants of concern in circulation in India with reports of some being more transmissible or increased mortality and with a health service unable to cope with demand.

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, 26 April to 2 May 2021.
- The CIS aims to estimate:

➢ how many people have the infection over a given time;

➢ how many new cases occur over a given period; and

➢ how many people are likely to have been infected at some point.

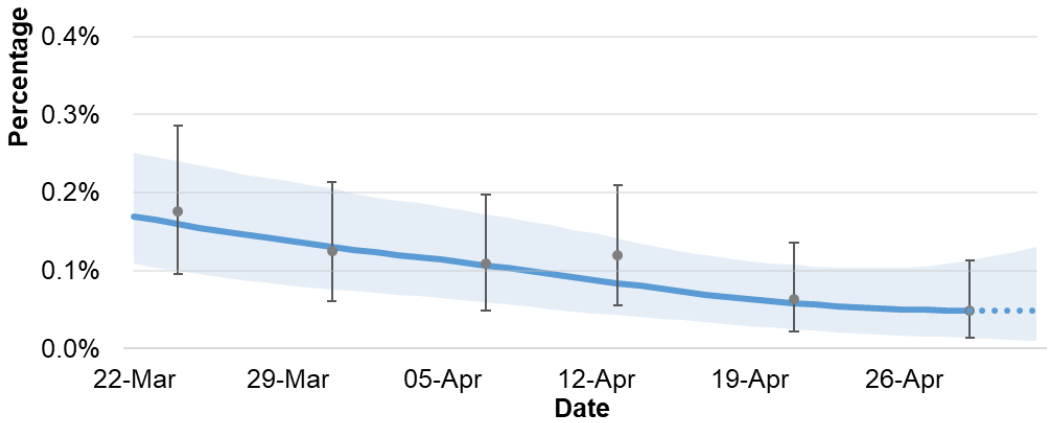
- Estimates are provided for the 'community population', i.e. private households only; residents in care homes, communal establishments and hospitals are not included.
- Please note that there is a greater lag in data from the infection survey than from other sources such as Public Health Wales. It is 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 26 April to 2 May 2021, it is estimated that **0.05%** of the community population had COVID-19 (95% credible interval: 0.01% to 0.11%).
- This equates to approximately **1 person in every 2,070** (95% credible interval: 1 in 7,540 to 1 in 890)**, or 1,500 people** during this time (95% credible interval: 400 to 3,400).
- The percentage of people testing positive appears to have decreased in Wales in the most recent two weeks, with the rate now similar to levels seen last summer. Due to lower positivity rates, caution should be taken in over-interpreting small movements in the latest trends.

- 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 22 March

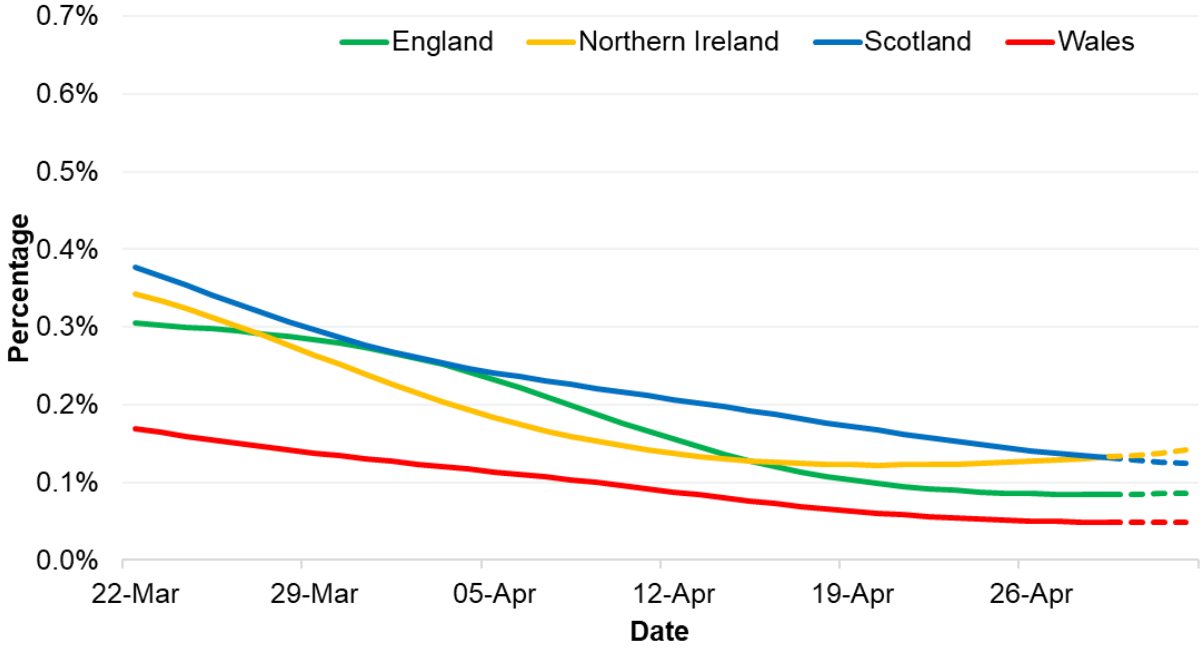


Source: Coronavirus (COVID-19) Infection Survey, ONS, 05/05/21

1. Latest estimates for the UK countries

- At the midpoint of the most recent week (26 April to 2 May 2021) rates were low across all four countries. The highest estimated percentage of the community population with COVID-19 among the nations of the UK was seen in Northern Ireland and Scotland (both 0.13%), whilst Wales appeared to have the lowest.
- In the most recent week, the positivity rate appears to have decreased in England and Scotland. In Wales, the percentage of people testing positive has decreased in the most recent two weeks, however the trend is less certain over the most recent week. The trend has remained level in Northern Ireland.

Positivity rates (%) across UK countries since 22 March 2021



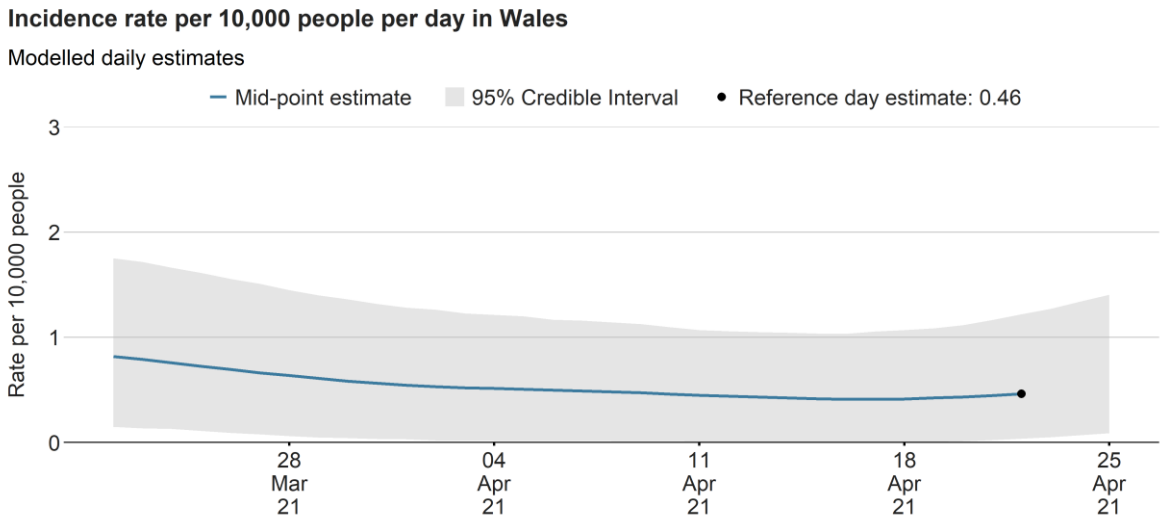
Source: Coronavirus (COVID-19) Infection Survey, ONS, 05/05/21

- In Wales, England and Scotland the trend is uncertain for strains compatible with the UK variant and not compatible with the UK variant, whilst cases where the virus is too low for the variant to be identifiable have likely decreased in the most recent week.
- In Northern Ireland, the trend is uncertain for strains compatible with the UK variant and cases where the virus is too low for the variant to be identifiable in the most recent week. Rates have decreased for cases not compatible with the UK variant in the most recent week.

Incidence

- In Wales, during the week ending 25 April 2021, it is estimated that there were 0.46 new PCR-positive coronavirus (COVID19) cases per 10,000 people per day (95% credible interval: 0.03 to 1.22).
- This equates to 140 new positive cases in Wales per day (95% credible interval: 10 to 370).

- 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.
- When prevalence is very low it may not be possible to produce a reliable estimate.



Source: Coronavirus (COVID-19) Infection Survey, ONS, 05/05/21

- For more information on the survey visit the ONS website.

Vaccination in Wales

- Whilst numbers will be higher due to ongoing data entry, as at 7 May 2021 1,895,99 **first doses** (+65,034 since previous week) and **815,043 second doses** (+66, since previous week) 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.

Uptake by priority group and age, counting individuals in all groups in which they belong (not de-duplicated)

Uptake by priority group and age, counting individuals in all groups in which they belong

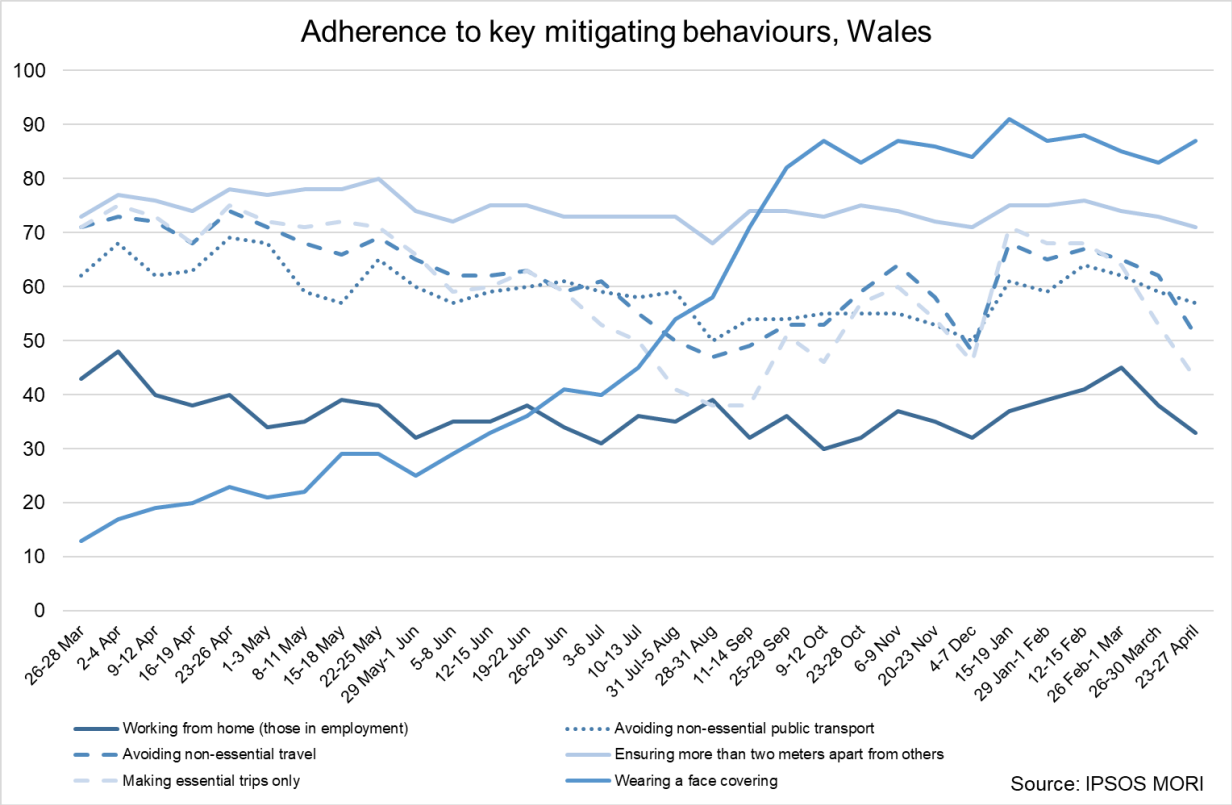
In this table groups are not mutually exclusive, so individuals appear in every group that describes them, and can be counted in more than one group. This is a 'public health' view, showing the total numbers in each priority group.

Group	Group size (n)	Received 1st dose (n)	Received 2nd dose (n)	1st dose uptake (%)	2nd dose uptake (%)
Care home residents	15,252	14,906	13,708	97.7%	89.9%
Care home worker	38,074	34,551	29,988	90.7%	78.8%
80 years and older	173,776	166,119	155,964	95.6%	89.8%
Health care worker	142,628	134,957	119,062	94.6%	83.5%
Social care worker		45,273	38,476		
Aged 75-79 years	132,934	128,024	120,360	96.3%	90.5%
Aged 70-74 years	183,479	175,515	162,415	95.7%	88.5%
Clinically extremely vulnerable aged 16-69 years	81,383	75,840	61,825	93.2%	76.0%
Aged 65-69 years	180,376	169,462	88,255	93.9%	48.9%
Clinical risk groups aged 16-64 years	353,837	302,314	31,631	85.4%	8.9%
Aged 60-64 years	205,719	188,207	46,408	91.5%	22.6%
Aged 55-59 years	233,806	208,363	44,482	89.1%	19.0%
Aged 50-54 years	228,107	198,050	39,811	86.8%	17.5%
Aged 40-49 years	392,527	296,091	57,306	75.4%	14.6%
Aged 30-39 years	420,885	200,543	48,111	47.6%	11.4%
Aged 18-29 years	466,761	137,643	39,061	29.5%	8.4%

Source: PHW Covid-19 Rapid Surveillance Dashboard

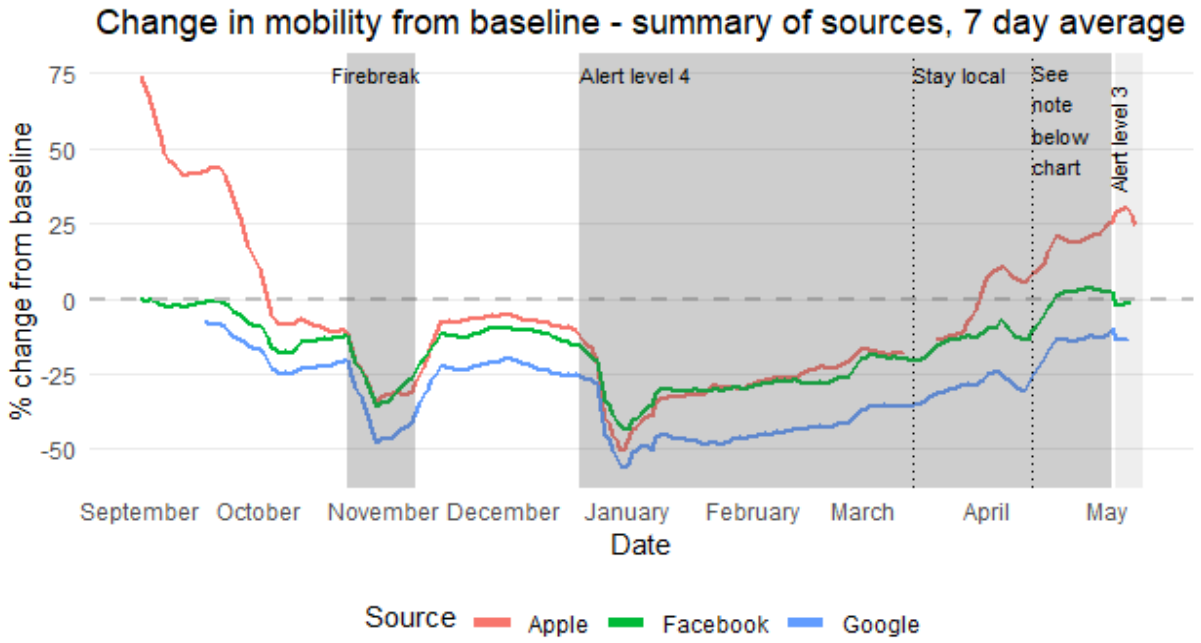
Adherence and understanding of current measures

- The data from IPSIS MORI the same as last week.
- The most recent IPSOS MORI data for the period 23 – 27 April for Wales shows reductions in some categories compared to the last survey wave which was 4 weeks prior (26 – 30 March). Most notably a reduction in those making essential trips only – this follows the change in guidance from staying local/within Wales in the last survey to being able to travel within the UK and further easing such as re-opening of non-essential retail. 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.



Mobility

- The most recent mobility data shows reductions. As the data are based on a 7 day average it includes the bank holiday on the 3 May, where mobility was lower (as seen in the reductions in workplace mobility for example).



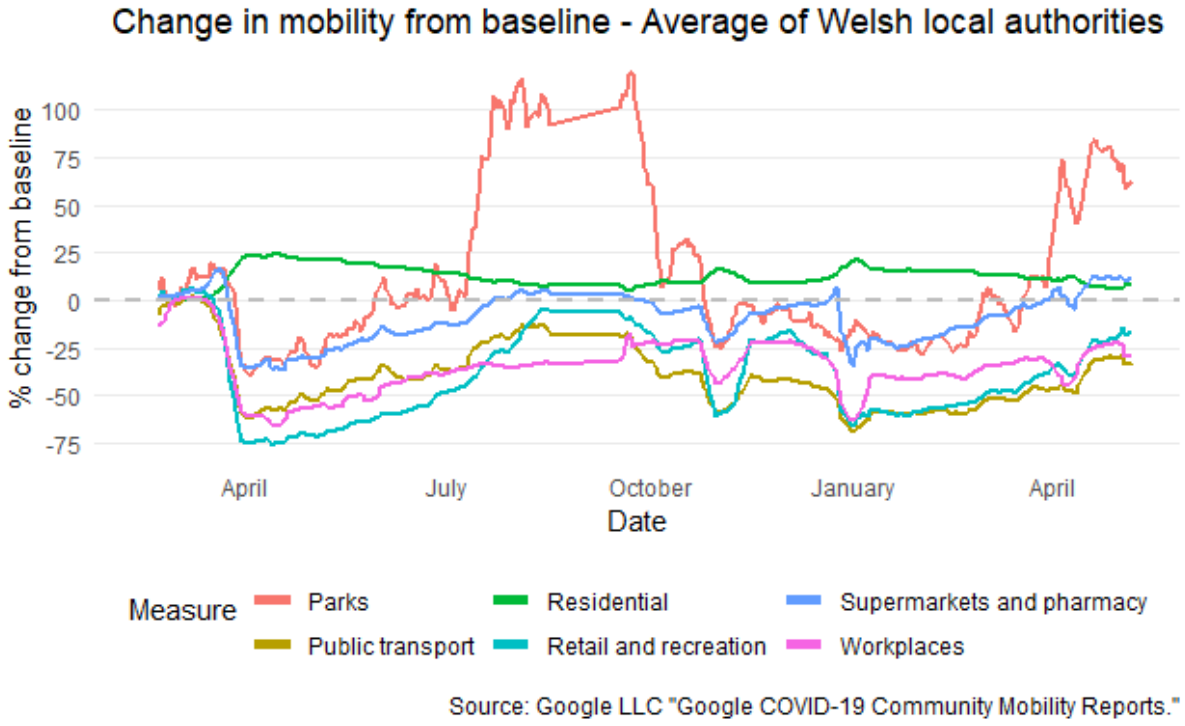
- Mobility of Facebook users in Wales shows movement was 1% below the baseline for the week to the 07 May. This is lower than the week before (2%

above the baseline). The percentage of users staying put (near to home) was 24%, up from the week before (23%). 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 08 May shows that requests for driving directions in Wales were the same as the previous week at 25% above the baseline Requests for walking directions fell whilst requests for public transport directions 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 06 May for residential (i.e people spending time at home) were higher than the week before at 8% above the baseline (up from 6%). Workplaces fell relative to the baseline by 6 percentage points (at 29% below the baseline). Retail & recreation mobility was up from the previous week (17% below the baseline, up from 20% below) and supermarkets & pharmacy were unchanged (at 11% above the baseline). Public transport and parks mobility decreased 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.



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

- Anonymised and aggregated mobile phone data from O2 for the week to the 30 April shows a small increase in trips compared to the week before. Trips starting

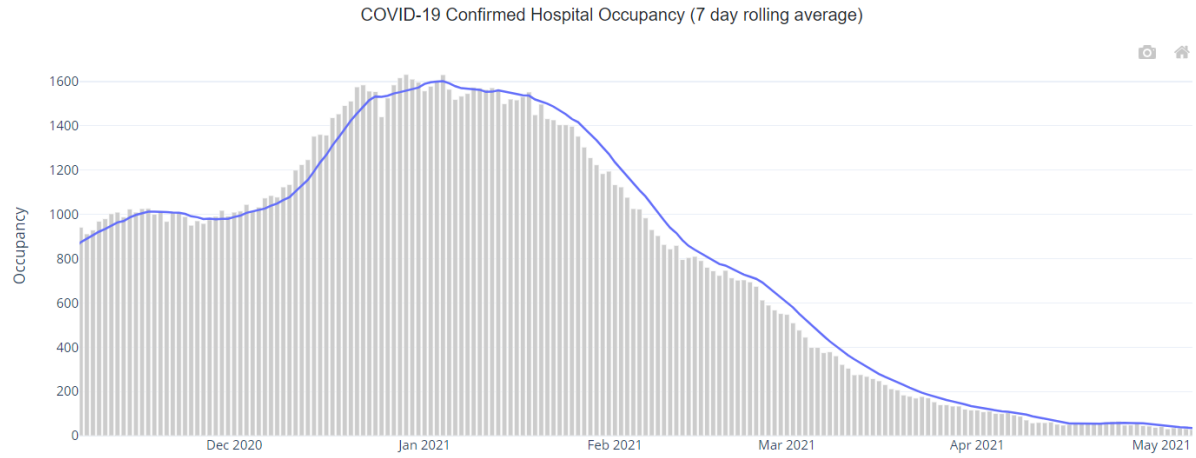
in Wales rose by 1 percentage point to 83% of the baseline. The baseline for the O2 data is the same day of the week in the first week of March.

COVID-19 weekly surveillance and epidemiological summary from Public Health Wales (as at 6 May)

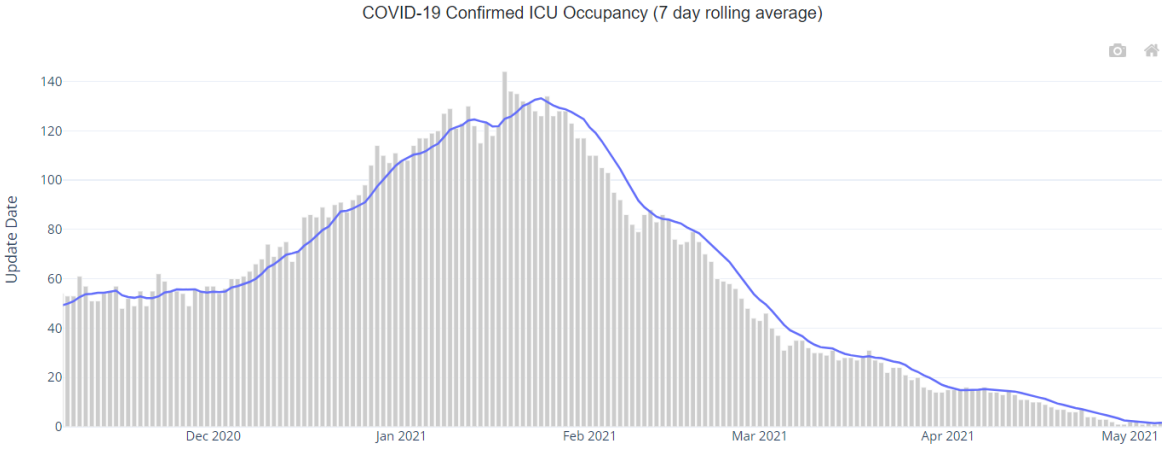
- The proportion of calls to NHS 111 and NHS Direct related to possible COVID-19 symptoms have slightly increased compared to the previous week.
- Overall GP consultations for any Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI) have increased in the most recent week whereas suspected COVID consultations have remained stable.
- The overall number of ambulance calls increased and the number of calls possibly related to COVID-19 decreased slightly in the most recent week.
- The all-Wales number of lab confirmed COVID-19 episodes has decreased slightly in the most recent week. Sample positivity for testing episodes was 1.0% in week 17.
- Confirmed case incidence has decreased or remained stable in all health board areas. Testing episode positivity continues to decrease nationally.
- During week 17, incidence remained stable in the majority of age groups but there was a small decrease in those aged 85+. Incidence was also highest in those aged 85+.
- At a national level, confirmed case admissions to hospitals and confirmed cases who are inpatients in hospital remained stable compared to the previous week. In the most recent week, admissions to critical care wards slightly increased compared to the previous week.
- Recent surveillance data suggest that COVID-19 infections in Wales are decreasing slightly 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 MSOAs with confirmed COVID19 cases, numbers are now at low levels.
- There was an increase in the number of incidents logged in Tarian 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 6 May.
- For the most recent 7 day period ending 6 May the average weekly Covid-19 confirmed hospital occupancy was **35**, a **34% decrease** from the previous period.

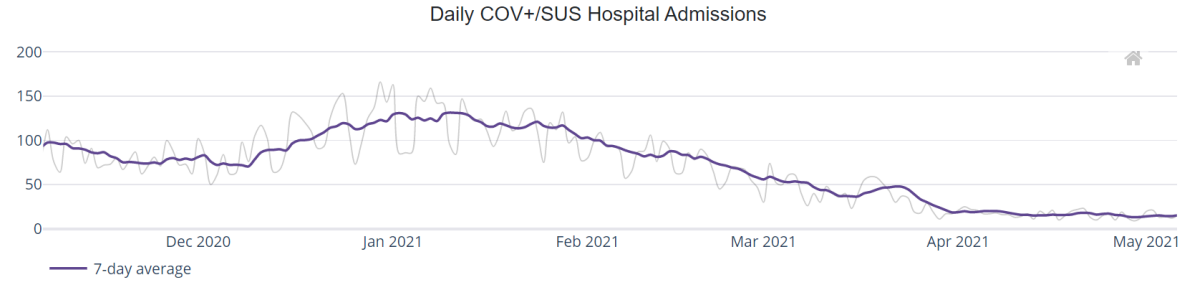


- The Figure below shows the invasive ventilated bed occupancy (ICU) of confirmed COVID-19 positive patients (7 day rolling average, as at 6 May).
- For the most recent 7 day period ending 6 May the average Covid-19 confirmed ICU occupancy was **2**, a **33% reduction** from the previous period.

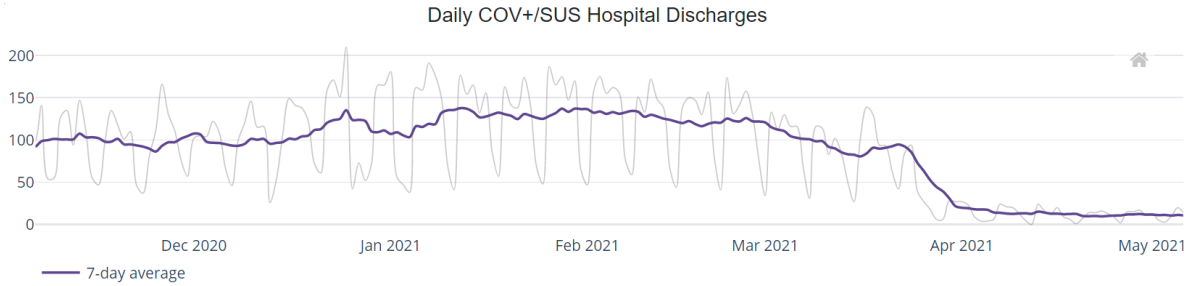


- The number of people in hospital **recovering** from COVID-19 also continues to decrease overall and is at **113** as at 6 May, a **25% reduction** from the previous 7 day period.
- The Figure below shows the number of people admitted to hospital who are either suspected or confirmed as having Covid-19 (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.

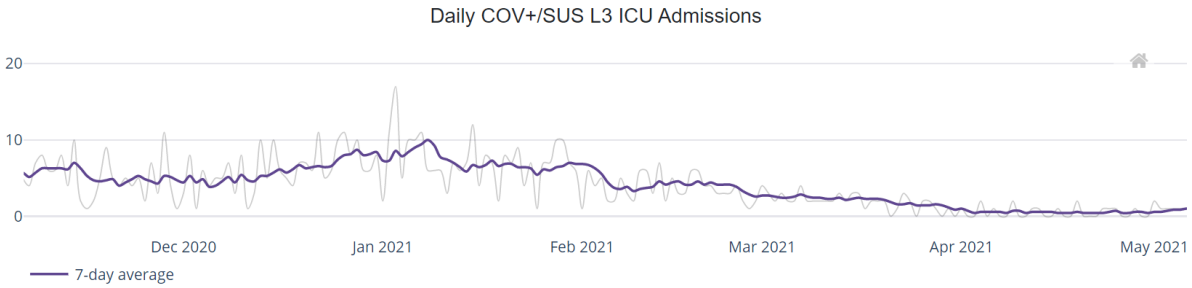
- The 7 day average for daily Covid-19 confirmed and suspected hospital admissions as at 6 May was **15.2**, a **5% increase** from the previous period.



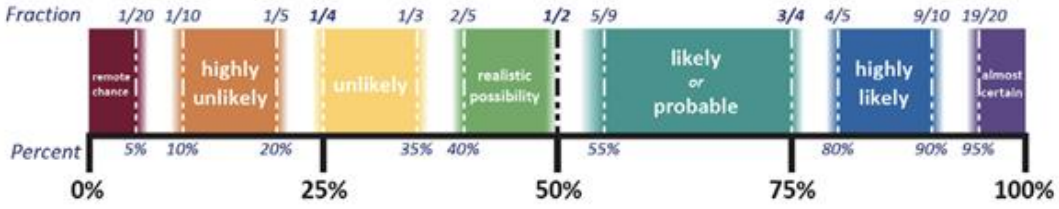
- The Figure below shows the number of **hospital discharges** of people who are either suspected (SUS) or confirmed as having Covid-19 (COV+). The purple line represents the total number over a rolling 7 day average, whilst the fainter grey lines show the actual figures at that time.
- The 7 day daily average hospital discharges as at 6 May was **10.9**, a **12% decrease** 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 6 May was **1**, a 75% increase from 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.