



COVID-19 Wales Situational Report

COVID-19 Intelligence Cell

COVID-19 Intelligence Cell: 15 April 2021

Health Protection Advisory Group: 16 April 2021

Data as at 12:00PM 14 April unless otherwise specified

Slide 2. COVID-19 Situation Report Summary

Key points to note

Wales is gradually transitioning to Alert Level 3 from Alert Level 4. Learners have returned to schools, Further Education and Higher Education following the commencement of the Summer term.

Overall transmission and number of deaths are generally decreasing. The Reproduction number reported by PHW (which is more timely however based on cases only) is 0.8 at a Wales level. *Slide 3, Source: Public Health Wales (PHW)*

Number of COVID-19 cases are generally decreasing across most of Wales. The percentage of people testing positive for COVID-19 has also decreased slightly. *Slide 3, Source: PHW*

Overall COVID-19 hospital admissions and deaths continue to fall. These numbers now comparable to those observed in September 2020. *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 35 confirmed or probable cases of VOC-20DEC-02 (first identified in South Africa). *Source: PHW*

On vaccination, as at the week ending 04/04/2021, a total of 1.96 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine were given in Wales and recorded in the COVID-19 Welsh Immunisation System. Of the 1.96 doses given nationally, 1.49 million were first doses and 0.47 million were second doses. Current coverage will not offer population level protection in the absence of other protective behaviours. *Source: PHW*

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

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 (10/04/21)	Change since previous week (03/04/21 – 10/04/21 unless stated otherwise)		Change since reported figures for previous Alert Level review (25/03/21 – 10/04/21)	
		Percentage change	Value change	Percentage change	Value change
Confirmed case rate (rolling 7 day sum per 100k)	17	-19%	↓ (-4)	-54%	↓ (-20)
Confirmed case rate for over 60s (rolling 7 day sum per 100k)	12	4%	↑ (0)	-38%	↓ (-7)
Test positivity (7 day RA)	1.9%	-13%	↓ (-0.3 percentage points)	-29%	↓ (-0.8 percentage points)
Population estimated to have COVID-19 (prevalence) ¹	0.12%	-33%	↓ (-0.06 percentage points)	-48%	↓ (-0.11 percentage points)
Reproduction number (R _t) ²	0.6 to 0.9	0%	▬ (0)	5%	↑ (+0.04)
NHS capacity – Admissions ³	7	-35%	↓ (-4)	-48%	↓ (-6)
ONS deaths ⁴ (7 day sum)	10	-57%	↓ (-13)	-83%	↓ (-48)
PHW deaths ⁵ (7 day sum)	11	0%	▬ (0)	-70%	↓ (-26)

Footnotes

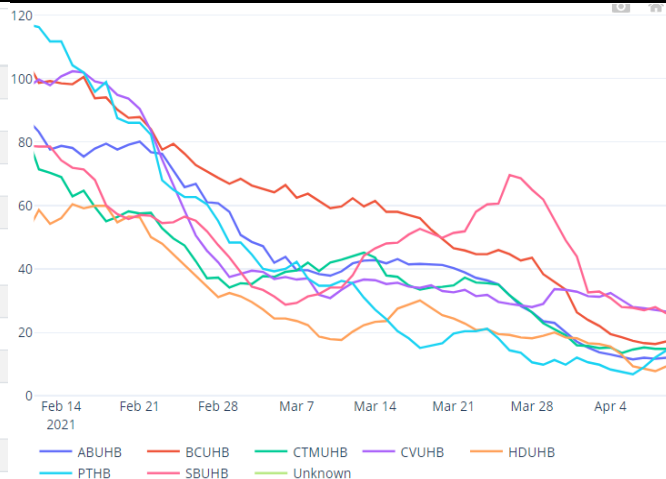
1. Latest Covid Infection Survey data is taken from the 28 March 2021 to 3 April 2021.
2. Latest Rt value is as at 6 April 2021. Changes shown in table are based on the central estimate of Rt.
3. Seven day rolling average to the current date of confirmed COVID-19 patients – does not include COVID-19 suspected or recovering.
4. Latest ONS deaths data is to 2 April 2021 for the current value. Data to 26 March 2021 is used for the change since previous week and data to 12 March 2021 is used for the change since last Alert Level review.
5. For comparison, PHW deaths measures use the same dates as ONS deaths.

Slide 3. What is the current status of the epidemic?

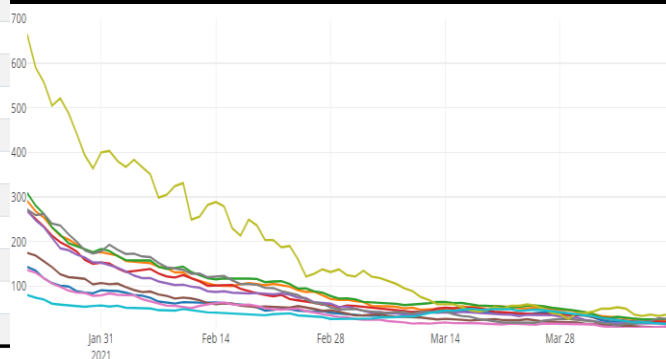
Cases per 100,000 population

Local Authority	Health Board	Number	% of All Wales Total	Case Incidence per 100,000	Incidence threshold reached	Change from previous week
Swansea	SBUHB	80	14.4%	32.4	25 to < 50	-5% ↓
Cardiff	CVUHB	115	20.7%	31.3	25 to < 50	-16% ↓
Isle of Anglesey	BCUHB	20	3.6%	28.6	25 to < 50	-20% ↓
Gwynedd	BCUHB	35	6.3%	28.1	25 to < 50	-19% ↓
Blaenau Gwent	ABUHB	14	2.5%	20.0	20 to < 25	17% ↑
Rhondda Cynon Taf	CTMUHB	44	7.9%	18.2	15 to < 20	7% ↑
Newport	ABUHB	27	4.9%	17.5	15 to < 20	-4% ↓
Wrexham	BCUHB	21	3.8%	15.4	15 to < 20	-38% ↓
Flintshire	BCUHB	23	4.1%	14.7	Under 15	-26% ↓
Neath Port Talbot	SBUHB	21	3.8%	14.7	Under 15	-51% ↓
Powys	PTHB	19	3.4%	14.3	Under 15	36% ↑
Vale of Glamorgan	CVUHB	17	3.1%	12.7	Under 15	-11% ↓
Conwy	BCUHB	14	2.5%	11.9	Under 15	-12% ↓
Pembrokeshire	HDUHB	14	2.5%	11.1	Under 15	-39% ↓
Bridgend	CTMUHB	16	2.9%	10.9	Under 15	33% ↑
Torfaen	ABUHB	10	1.8%	10.6	Under 15	-23% ↓
Caerphilly	ABUHB	19	3.4%	10.5	Under 15	-30% ↓
Merthyr Tydfil	CTMUHB	6	1.1%	9.9	Under 15	-65% ↓
Carmarthenshire	HDUHB	18	3.2%	9.5	Under 15	-44% ↓
Denbighshire	BCUHB	7	1.3%	7.3	Under 15	-61% ↓
Ceredigion	HDUHB	4	0.7%	5.5	Under 15	-56% ↓
Monmouthshire	ABUHB	1	0.2%	1.1	Under 15	-90% ↓
Unknown	Unknown	11	2.0%	-	-	57% ↑
Total	Total	556	100.0%	17.6	15 to < 20	-20% ↓

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



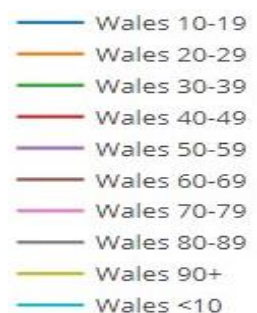
Cases per 100k by age (PHW Data) (7 day rolling sum)



Reproduction number (based on positive tests only)

PHW data by Local Health Board as at 14 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
Rt (cases)	0.8 (0.7 to 0.9)	0.7 (0.6 to 0.8)	0.9 (0.8 to 1.1)	0.8 (0.6 to 1.0)	0.9 (0.7 to 1.0)	0.6 (0.4 to 0.8)	1.5 (1.0 to 2.0)	0.7 (0.6 to 0.8)
Halving time (days)	32 (12 to -52 DOUBLING)	16 (8 to 148)	127 (13 to -16 DOUBLING)	31 (9 to -24 DOUBLING)	533 (14 to -15 DOUBLING)	12 (5 to -25 DOUBLING)	20 (5 to -12 DOUBLING)	19 (7 to -30 DOUBLING)



At a Wales level, on 9 April the 7 day rolling incidence of COVID-19 infections and the percentage of people testing positive for COVID-19 have decreased slightly compared with last week.

The SAGE/ SPI-M consensus estimate of Reproduction number (Rt) is 0.6 - 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 0.8 for Wales. At local health board level, there is considerable variation in the reproduction number (cases only) estimate. The reproduction number (cases only) has fallen below 1 in the Cardiff & Vale Health Board this week. The reproduction number (cases only) is above 1 for the Powys Health board however this is likely due to an increase in small numbers. Case estimates for Powys (local authority) remain relatively low at 14.3 per 100,000 population.

7-day cumulative incidence is decreasing across most of Wales. The case incidence of all local authorities above the incidence threshold of 25 cases per 100,000 have decreased compared with last week. Case incidence compared has increased in Blaenau Gwent and Rhondda Cynon Taf, whose incidences are both below 25 per 100,000.

There continues to be variation by local authority and age. At a Wales level, cases per 100,000 is currently at 17.6 per 100,000 population. This is a slight decrease compared to the previous report (22.0 per 100,000 population)

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. The 95% confidence intervals are showing in brackets after the central estimate. An asterisk (*) means that there are small numbers and estimates should be treated with caution. Local health board level estimates of Rt and halving times will be unstable when incidence is low.

Data as at 12:00PM 15 April 2021 unless otherwise specified

Slide 4. What is the situation with the NHS and social care?

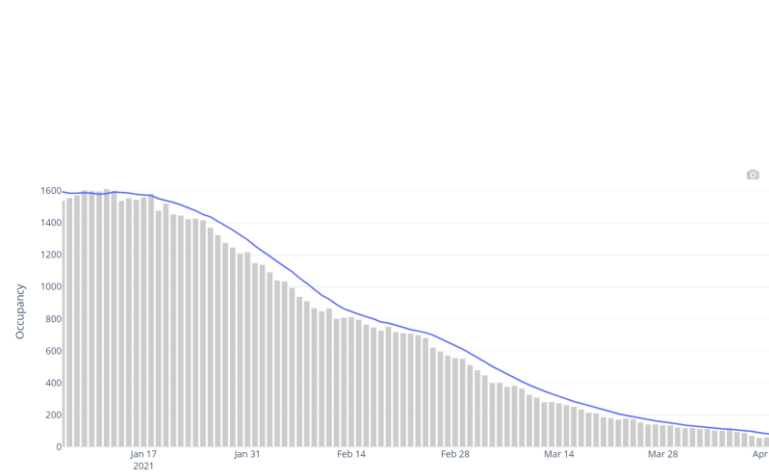
COVID-19 pressure on the NHS continues to improve. As at 14 April 2021 there were 347 COVID-19 related patients (Suspected, Confirmed and Recovering) occupying a hospital bed. Confirmed cases constitute 54 of the total. This is now the lowest number occupying a hospital bed since 18 September 2020, when there were 53 patients.

COVID-19 patients in critical care beds is currently at 11, this is 153 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 155, just above the historic maximum critical care capacity of approximately 152.

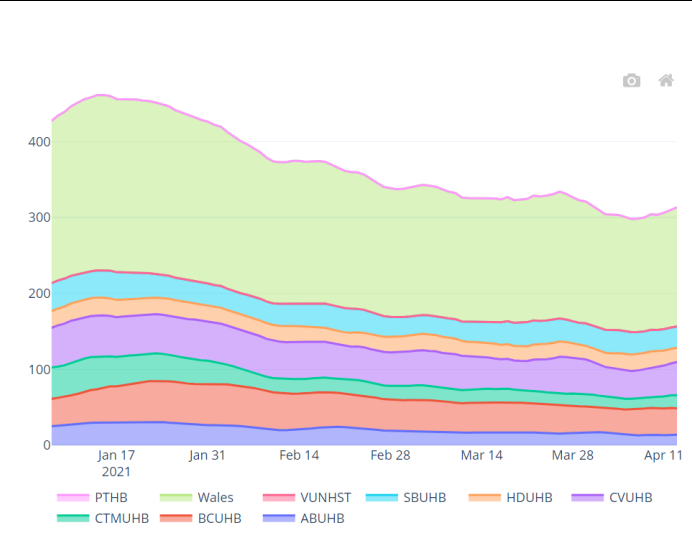
The number of COVID-19 cases in care homes continues to fall. The graph below highlights care homes data, which is reported to Incident Management Teams on a weekly basis. Those noted as red status have reported an outbreak or incident in the last five days.

Care Inspectorate Wales also reports this over the 14 (1.3%) adult care homes in Wales notified CIW of one or more confirmed cases of COVID-19, in staff or residents, in the past 7 days. This is a decrease compared to 31 (3.0%) in the 7 days up to 26 March 2021. The number of notifications is now at the lowest since the guidance changes on 17 December 2020.

Confirmed Hospital occupancy (7 day average)

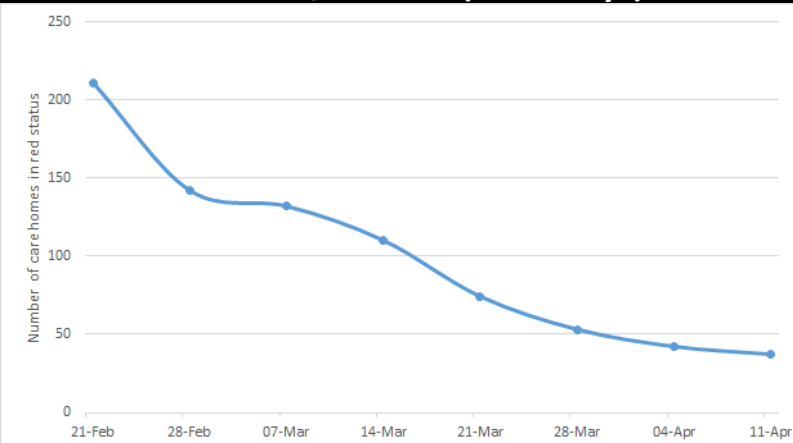


Overall ICU occupancy (7 day average)

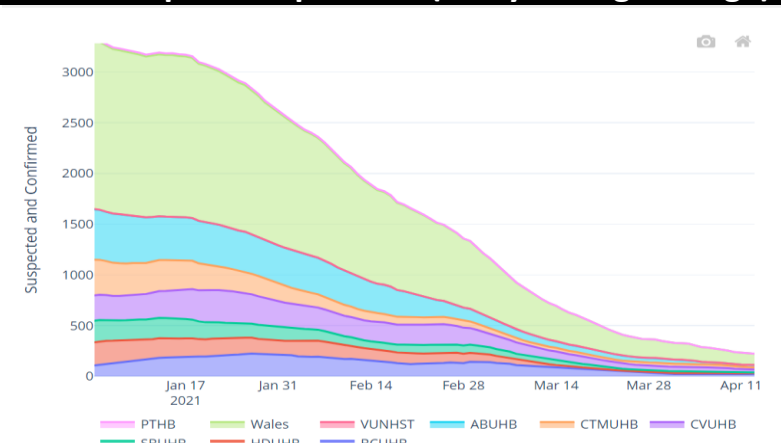


Data as at 12:00PM 13 April 2021 unless otherwise specified

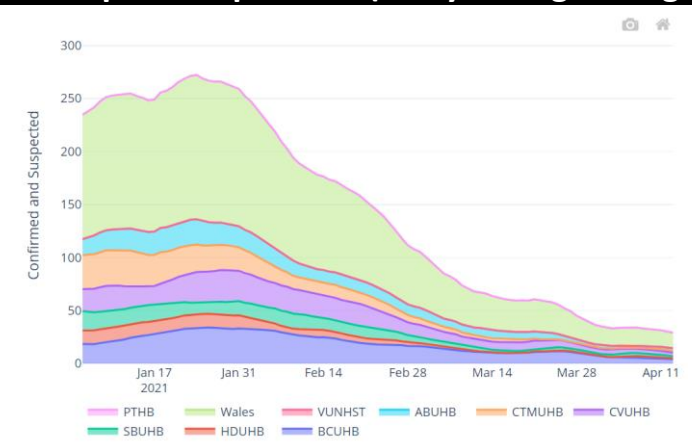
Number of adult care homes reported an ongoing outbreak/incident (last 7 days)



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)



Slide 5. What is the situation with education, children and young adults?

All learners returned to educational settings from 12 April 2021.

The number of new clusters reported this week has dropped significantly due to the Easter holidays.

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 07 April.

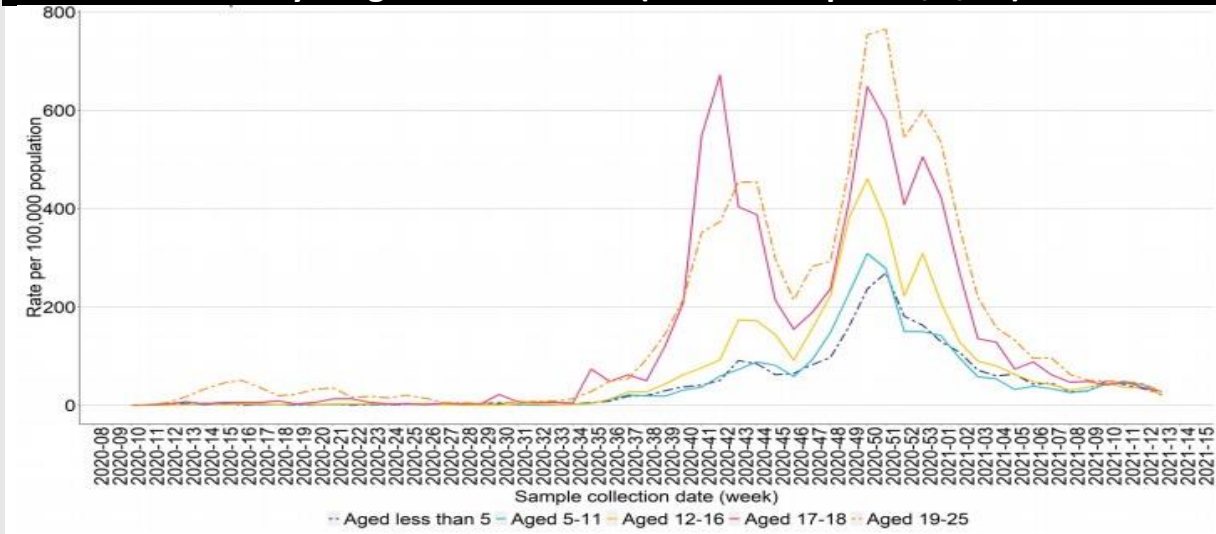
Childcare clusters are being closely monitored. The latest national SBAR covering the week of 5 April to 11 April reported that the incidence of clusters associated with childcare settings remains low. There were no new clusters reported this week, compared to 3 the previous week. There were 8 active clusters reported compared with 10 the week before and 7 the week before that. Source: National SBAR

An average of 322,101 pupils (73% of all pupils) were present in school over the week of 22 to 26 March.

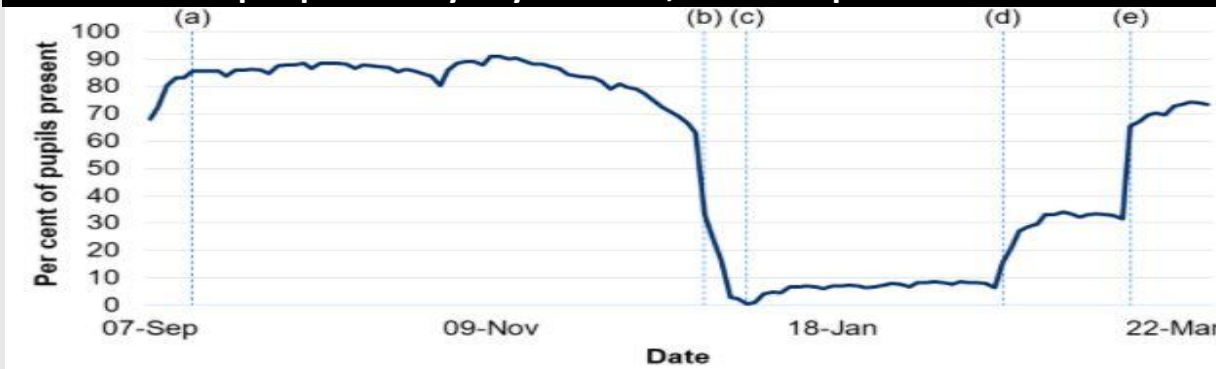
Voluntary LFD testing of childcare, school and FE staff and of FE students and older secondary school aged pupils has started. Detailed information on LFD test outcomes is not yet available.

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 and young adults in Wales (data as at 1pm 07/4/21)



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.

Slide 6. What is the situation with education, children and young adults? (cont.)

School clusters are being closely monitored. The number of new clusters reported this week has dropped significantly (due to the Easter holidays). 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 as well as school bus use. At the time of writing for the National SBAR to 12 April, 1 new cluster was reported last week compared to 31 the previous week. 21 on-going clusters reported last week compared to 68 the previous week. In the seven days to 12 April, 189 new confirmed cases associated with schools were reported by PHW to Welsh Government: 119 among pupils and 32 among staff (please note these figures do not include data from Cardiff & Vale)

Higher education institutions (HEIs) in Wales have, since January, prioritised a return to in person blended learning for those students with practical and qualification requirement that can not be met via online learning only and where in person learning is necessary to complete learning outcomes. University facilities, such as libraries, laboratories and study spaces, have been open for those who need access.

From 12 April HEIs have fully opened for blended learning with all students invited to access online and in person learning. HEIs report cases notified to them by students and staff. From 1 February 2021 most HEIs have changed the way in which they report data, with positive cases referring only to students or staff 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).

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

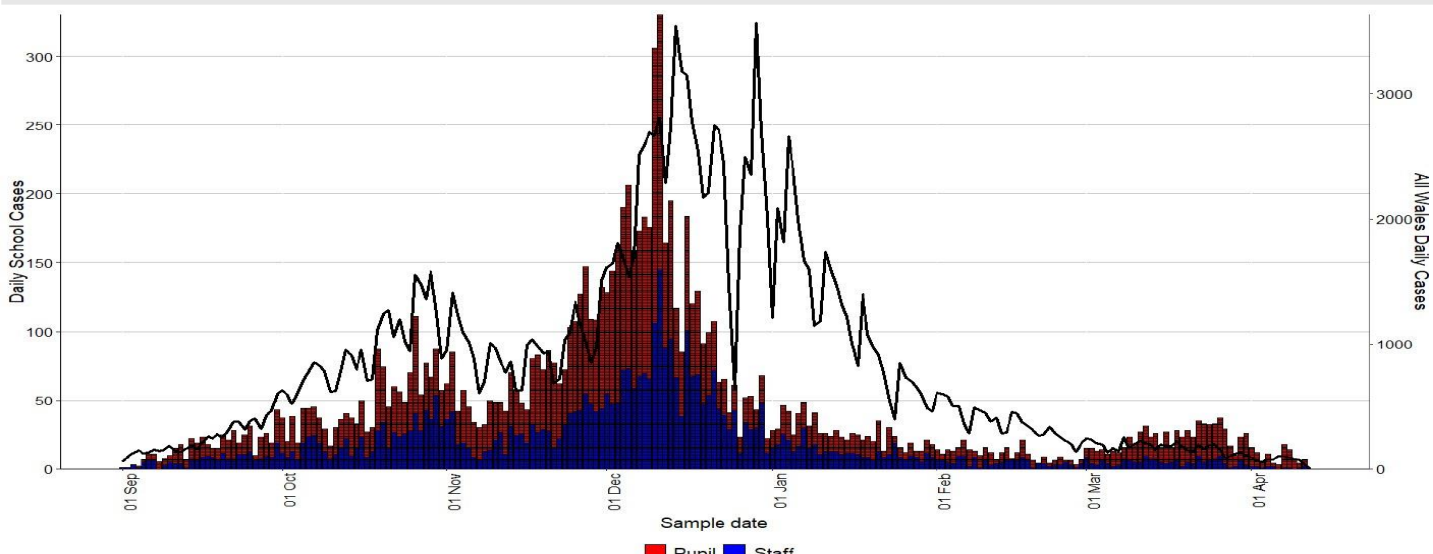
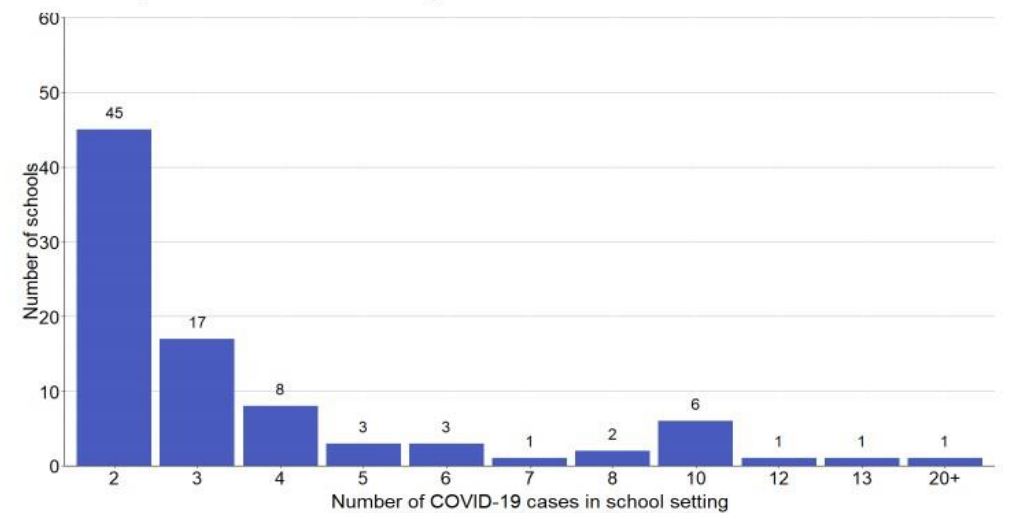
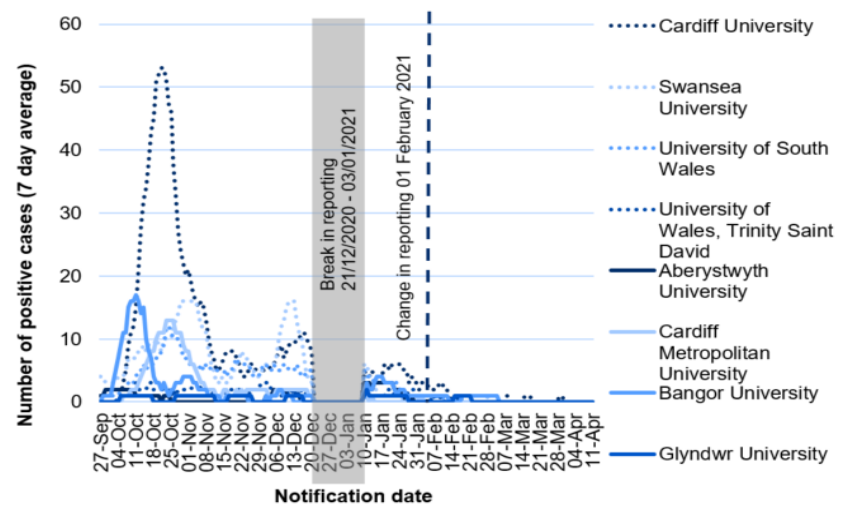


Figure 3 - Number of schools with more than one COVID-19 case identified within the last 21 days

• Excluding 173 schools that have had only 1 case.



7 day rolling average of positive cases in Welsh universities, 27 September 2020 to 11 April 2021



Source: Higher Education Providers, Wales

Slide 7. What does the situation look like going forward?

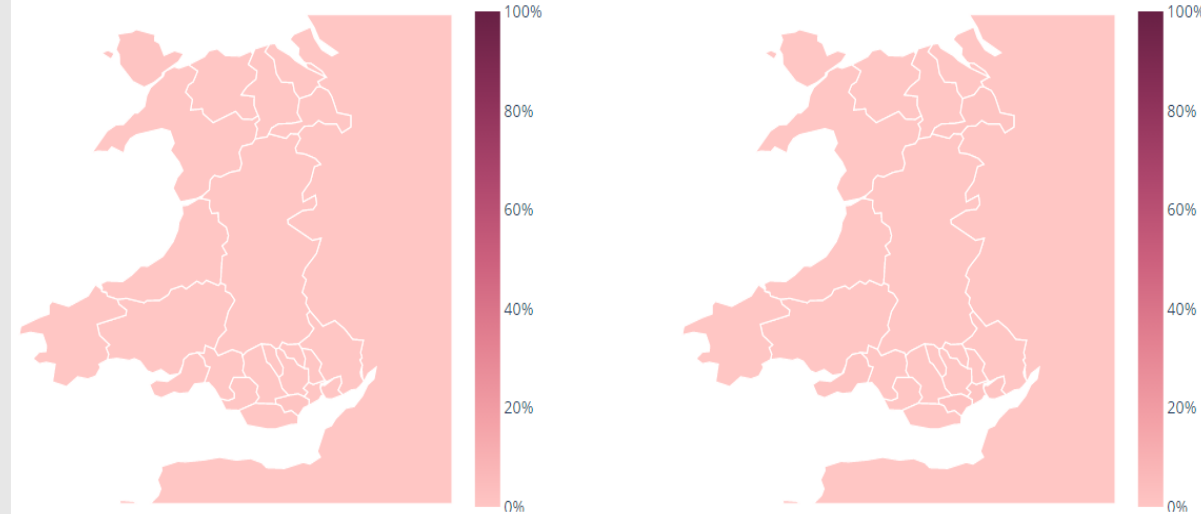
Based on the current rates observed with current restrictions:

- **Cases (right) –the probability of incidence greater than 100 per 100,000 within the next two weeks is 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 low numbers of deaths** towards the beginning of May. *Source: SPI-M, 13 April*
- **Hospitalisations per day (bottom right) - continue to decrease** to 1 per day towards the beginning of May. *Source: SPI-M, 13 April*

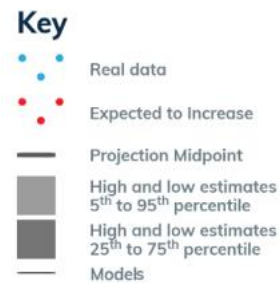
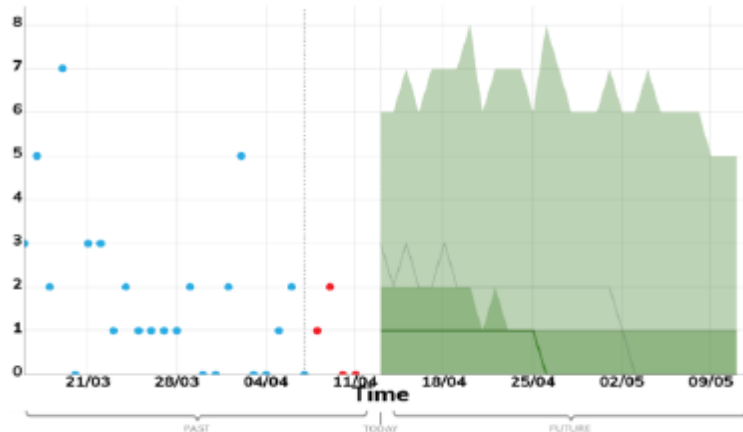
Probability of greater than 100 per 100,000 cases by local authority, Wales

Time period: 18 April – 24 April

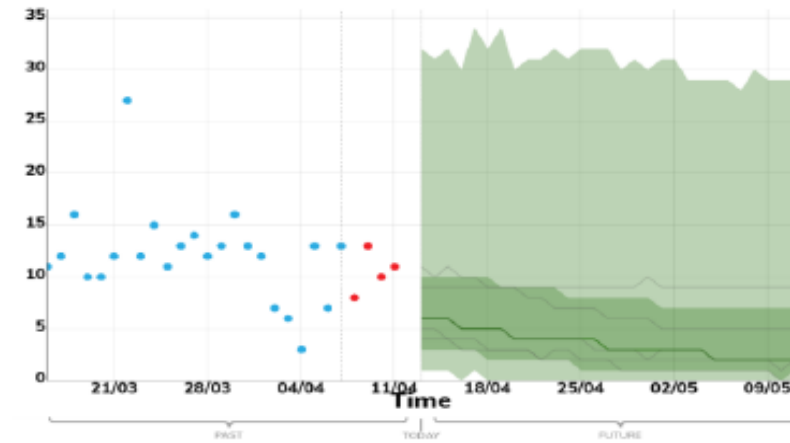
Time period: 25 April – 1 May



Number of deaths per day, Wales

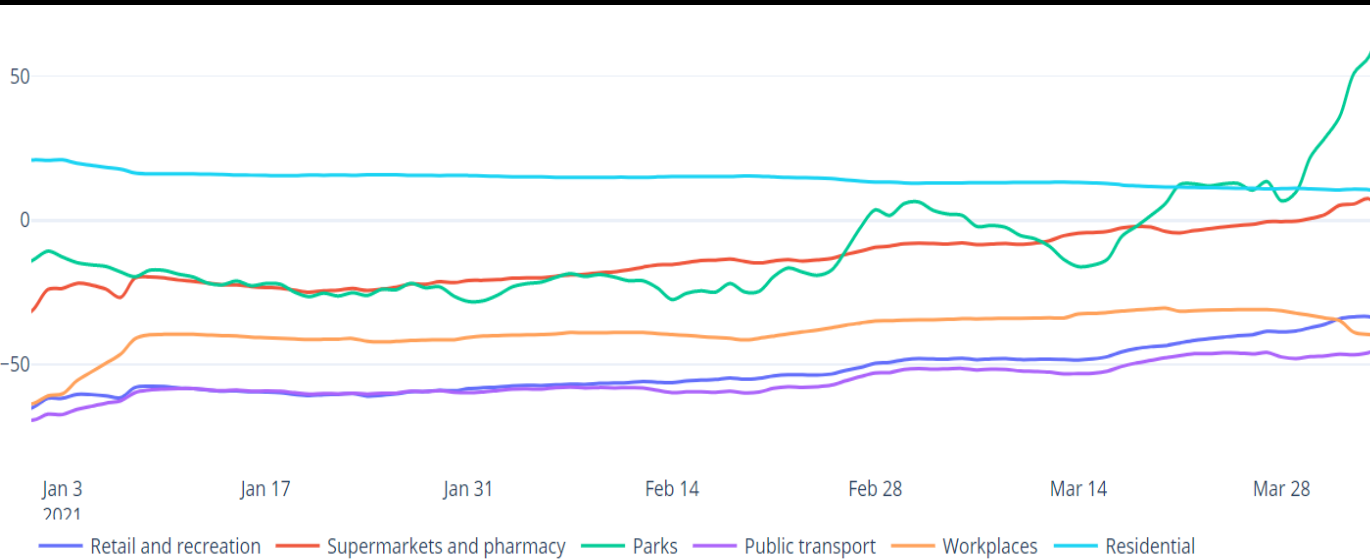


Hospitalisations per day, Wales



Slide 8. Mobility data and UK Comparison

Mobility data by location of trip



Mobility

There is a slight increase in mobility generally across the board, which is likely linked to lifting of restrictions, improvements in weather, as well as the recent Easter holidays. There are steady increases in mobility to workplaces, supermarkets and retail and recreation.

Source: Google

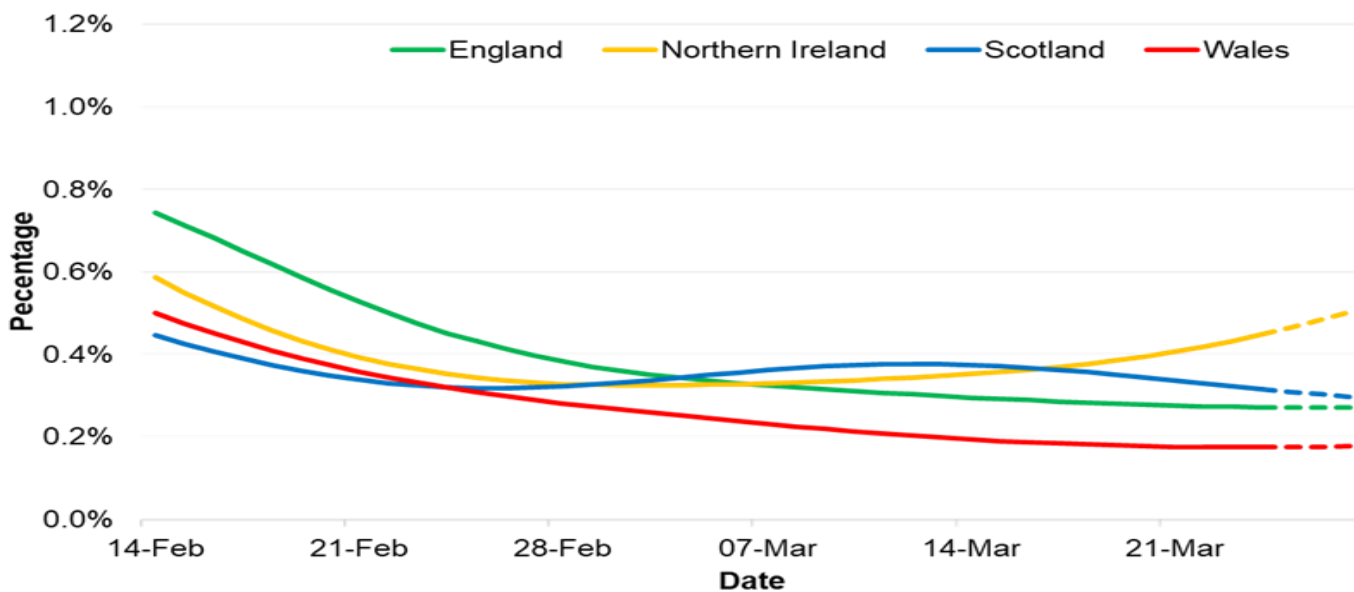
UK comparison

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

In Wales, the percentage of people testing positive decreased in the two weeks up to 3 April 2021; we estimate that 3,800 people in Wales had COVID-19 (95% credible interval: 1,900 to 6,500), equating to around 1 in 800 people. This compares to around 1 in 340 people in England, around 1 in 410 people in Scotland and around 1 in 300 people in Northern Ireland.

Source: Office for National Statistics COVID-19 Infection Survey

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



Slide 9. Key risks and sources

Key risks	
Area	Assessment
Transmission, incidence and prevalence	Overall transmission is generally decreasing.
NHS Capacity	Overall COVID-19 hospital admissions and deaths continue to fall. With numbers now comparable to those observed in September 2020.
Mortality	Generally continuing to decrease.
Variants	VOC-20DEC-01 (the Kent variant) is the dominant variant in Wales.
Immunity and Vaccines	1.95 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine were given in Wales. Of the 1.95 million doses given nationally, 1.49 million were first doses and 0.47 million were second doses.

Key Sources for this update

Technical Advisory Cell brief:

<https://gov.wales/advice-coronavirus-technical-advisory-cell>

COVID Infection Survey results:

<https://gov.wales/coronavirus-covid-19-infection-survey>

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>