



# COVID-19 Wales Situational Report

## COVID-19 Intelligence Cell

COVID-19 Intelligence Cell: 22 April 2021  
Health Protection Advisory Group: 23 April 2021

Data as at 21 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.

**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 0.85 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 37 confirmed or probable cases of VOC-20DEC-02 (first identified in South Africa), 8 confirmed cases of **VUI-21APR-01** (first identified in India), and 1 confirmed case of VOC-21JAN-01 (first identified in Brazil). *Source: PHW*

**On vaccination,** as at 21 April 2021, a total of 2.36 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine were given in Wales and recorded in the COVID-19 Welsh Immunisation System. Of the 2.36 doses given nationally, 1.73 million were first doses and 0.64 million were second doses. Current coverage will not offer population level protection in the absence of other protective behaviours. *Source: PHW*

## Key indicators

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

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

|   | Current value<br>(17/04/21) | Change since previous week<br>(10/04/21 – 17/04/21 unless stated otherwise) |                             | Change since reported figures for previous Alert Level review<br>(25/03/21 – 17/04/21) |                             |
|---|-----------------------------|---|-----------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
|   |                             | Percentage change   | Value change                | Percentage change  | Value change                |
| Confirmed case rate (rolling 7 day sum per 100k)                | 14                          | -16%  | ↓ (-3)                      | -61%   | ↓ (-23)                     |
| Confirmed case rate for over 60s (rolling 7 day sum per 100k)   | 12                          | -2%   | ↓ (0)                       | -39%   | ↓ (-8)                      |
| Test positivity (7 day RA)                                      | 1.6%                        | -14%  | ↓ (-0.3 percentage points)  | -39%   | ↓ (-1.0 percentage points)  |
| Population estimated to have COVID-19 (prevalence) <sup>1</sup> | 0.11%                       | -8%   | ↓ (-0.01 percentage points) | -50%   | ↓ (-0.11 percentage points) |
| Reproduction number ( $R_t$ ) <sup>2</sup>                      | 0.7 to 1.2                  | 15%   | ↑ (0.12)                    | 14%  | ↑ (+0.11)                   |
| NHS capacity – Admissions <sup>3</sup>                          | 6                           | -34%  | ↓ (-3)                      | -60%   | ↓ (-8)                      |
| ONS deaths (7 day sum) <sup>4</sup>                             | 12                          | -8%   | ▬ (-1)                      | -79%   | ↓ (-46)                     |
| PHW deaths (7 day sum)  | 8                           | 0%  | ▬ (0)                       | -53%   | ↓ (-9)                      |

### Footnotes

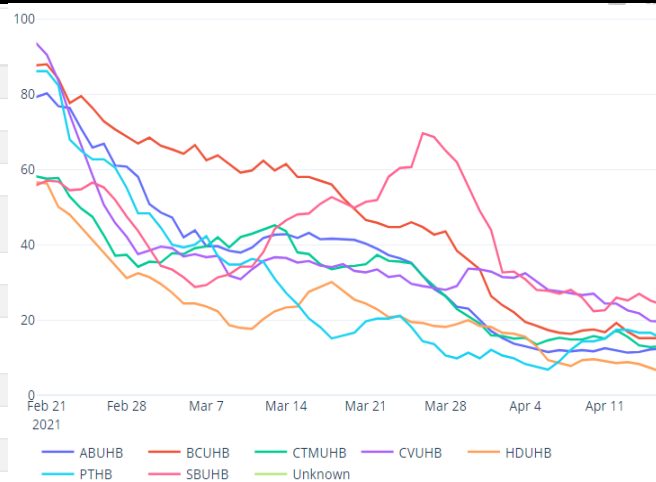
1. Latest Covid Infection Survey data is taken from the 4 April 2021 to 10 April 2021.
2. Latest  $R_t$  value is as at 13 April 2021. Changes shown in table are based on the central estimate of  $R_t$ .
3. Seven day rolling average to the current date of confirmed COVID-19 patients – does not include COVID-19 suspected or recovering.
4. Latest ONS deaths data is to 9 April 2021 (rather than 17 April 2021) for the current value. Data to 2 April 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.

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

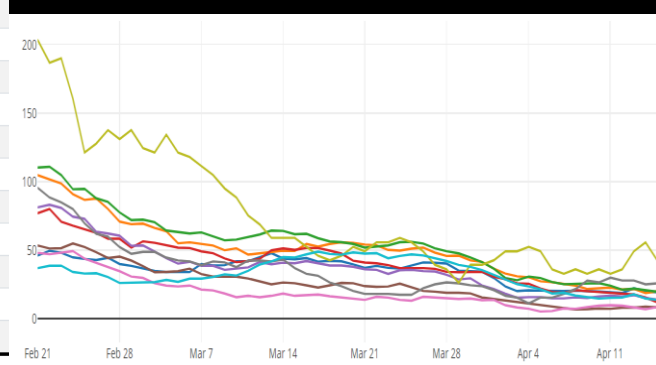
Cases per 100,000 population (7 day period ending 16th April 2021)

| Local Authority   | Health Board | Number | % of All Wales Total | Case Incidence per 100,000 | Incidence threshold reached | Change from previous week |
|-------------------|--------------|--------|----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Swansea           | SBUHB        | 67     | 14.0%                | 27.1                       | 25 to < 50                  | -16% ↓                    |
| Newport           | ABUHB        | 40     | 8.4%                 | 25.9                       | 25 to < 50                  | 48% ↑                     |
| Gwynedd           | BCUHB        | 32     | 6.7%                 | 25.7                       | 25 to < 50                  | -9% ↓                     |
| Cardiff           | CVUHB        | 83     | 17.4%                | 22.6                       | 20 to < 25                  | -28% ↓                    |
| Neath Port Talbot | SBUHB        | 27     | 5.6%                 | 18.8                       | 15 to < 20                  | 29% ↑                     |
| Flintshire        | BCUHB        | 29     | 6.1%                 | 18.6                       | 15 to < 20                  | 26% ↑                     |
| Torfaen           | ABUHB        | 15     | 3.1%                 | 16.0                       | 15 to < 20                  | 50% ↑                     |
| Rhondda Cynon Taf | CTMUHB       | 37     | 7.7%                 | 15.3                       | 15 to < 20                  | -16% ↓                    |
| Powys             | PTHB         | 20     | 4.2%                 | 15.1                       | 15 to < 20                  | 5% ↑                      |
| Wrexham           | BCUHB        | 20     | 4.2%                 | 14.7                       | Under 15                    | -5% ↓                     |
| Merthyr Tydfil    | CTMUHB       | 8      | 1.7%                 | 13.3                       | Under 15                    | 33% ↑                     |
| Isle of Anglesey  | BCUHB        | 8      | 1.7%                 | 11.4                       | Under 15                    | -60% ↓                    |
| Vale of Glamorgan | CVUHB        | 14     | 2.9%                 | 10.5                       | Under 15                    | -18% ↓                    |
| Bridgend          | CTMUHB       | 13     | 2.7%                 | 8.8                        | Under 15                    | -19% ↓                    |
| Denbighshire      | BCUHB        | 8      | 1.7%                 | 8.4                        | Under 15                    | 14% ↑                     |
| Cardiff           | HDUHB        | 15     | 3.1%                 | 7.9                        | Under 15                    | -17% ↓                    |
| Conwy             | BCUHB        | 9      | 1.9%                 | 7.7                        | Under 15                    | -36% ↓                    |
| Caerphilly        | ABUHB        | 13     | 2.7%                 | 7.2                        | Under 15                    | -32% ↓                    |
| Ceredigion        | HDUHB        | 4      | 0.8%                 | 5.5                        | Under 15                    | 0% →                      |
| Monmouthshire     | ABUHB        | 4      | 0.8%                 | 4.2                        | Under 15                    | 300% ↑                    |
| Pembrokeshire     | HDUHB        | 5      | 1.0%                 | 4.0                        | Under 15                    | -64% ↓                    |
| Blaenau Gwent     | ABUHB        | 1      | 0.2%                 | 1.4                        | Under 15                    | -93% ↓                    |
| Unknown           | Unknown      | 6      | 1.3%                 | -                          |                             | -45% ↓                    |
| Total             | Total        | 478    | 100.0%               | 15.2                       | 15 to < 20                  | -14% ↓                    |

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)          | 0.85<br>(0.8 to 0.9) | 1.0<br>(0.8 to 1.1) | 0.9<br>(0.7 to 1.1) | 1.0<br>(0.9 to 1.3)           | 0.8<br>(0.6 to 0.9) | 0.7<br>(0.5 to 1.0) | 1.0<br>(0.7 to 1.4)          | 0.9<br>(0.8 to 1.0)             |
| Halving time (days) | 64<br>(15 to -27)    | 18<br>(6 to -20)    | 42<br>(9 to -17)    | -26<br>(7 to -17)<br>DOUBLING | 32<br>(10 to -24)   | 13<br>(6 to -36)    | -19<br>(4 to -8)<br>DOUBLING | -452<br>(11 to -12)<br>DOUBLING |

At a Wales level, on 16 April the 7-day rolling incidence of COVID-19 cases and the percentage of people testing positive for COVID-19 have decreased compared with last week.

The SAGE/ SPI-M consensus estimate of Reproduction number ( $R_t$ ) is **0.7 - 1.2 (as at 13 April 2021)**. When we look at reproduction numbers using 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 0.85 for Wales. At local health board level, there is considerable variation in the reproduction number (cases only) estimate. The reproduction number (cases only) is 1.0 for the Swansea Bay, Aneurin Bevan and Powys Health Boards.

7-day cumulative case incidence is decreasing across most of Wales. The case incidence for Newport has increased since last week and is above the incidence threshold of 25 per 100,000. The case incidences for Swansea and Gwynedd are above the incidence threshold of 25 cases per 100,000, but their incidences have decreased compared with last week.

There continues to be variation by local authority and age. At a Wales level, cases per 100,000 is currently at 15.2 per 100,000 population. This is a slight decrease compared to the previous report (17.6 per 100,000 population).

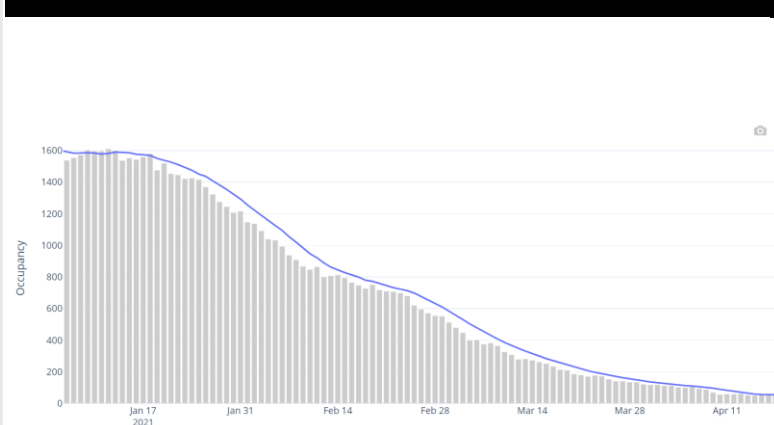
The second table below also provides estimates of doubling and halving times based on COVID-19 positive test data. In this table, halving times are positive, whilst doubling times are negative. The 95% confidence intervals are showing in brackets after the central estimate. An asterisk (\*) means that there are small numbers and estimates should be treated with caution. Local health board level estimates of  $R_t$  and halving times will be unstable when incidence is low.

Data as at 12:00PM 21 April 2021 unless otherwise specified

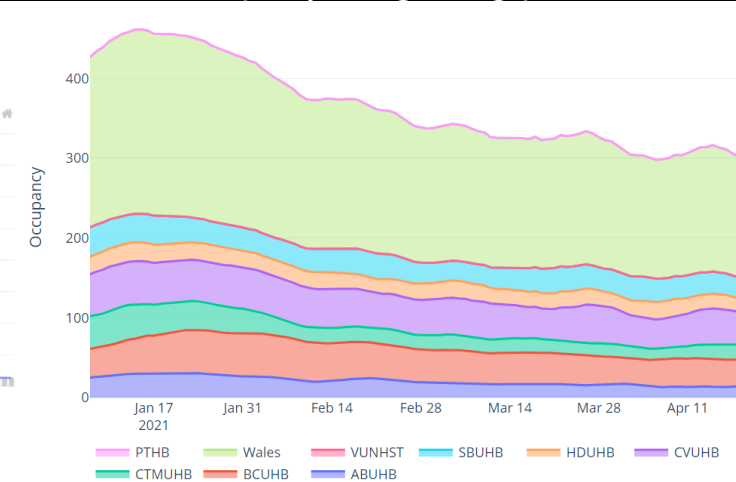
# Slide 4. What is the situation with the NHS and social care?

- COVID-19 pressure on the NHS continues to improve and is back to the levels seen in September last year. As at 21 April 2021 there were 269 COVID-19 related patients (Suspected, Confirmed and Recovering) occupying a hospital bed. This is the lowest number of COVID-19 related patients occupying a hospital bed since 19 September, when there were 264 patients. Confirmed cases constitute 59 of the total.
- COVID-19 patients in critical care beds is currently at seven, this is 157 lower than the maximum COVID-19 position of approximately 164 and is the lowest number since 15 September when there were six. The total number of patients in critical care for COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 stands at 150, two below the historic maximum critical care capacity of approximately 152.
- 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.
- 12 (1.1%) adult care homes in Wales notified CIW of one or more confirmed cases of COVID-19, in staff or residents, in the 7 days up to 15<sup>th</sup> April. This is a further decrease from the last reported figure of 14 (1.3%) in the 7 days up to 9<sup>th</sup> April. The number of notifications is now at the lowest since the guidance change on 17 December 2020.

Confirmed Hospital occupancy (7 day rolling average)

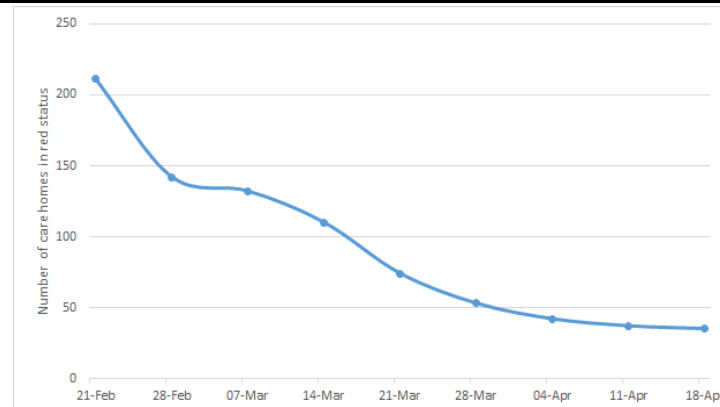


Overall invasive ventilated bed occupancy (7 day rolling average)

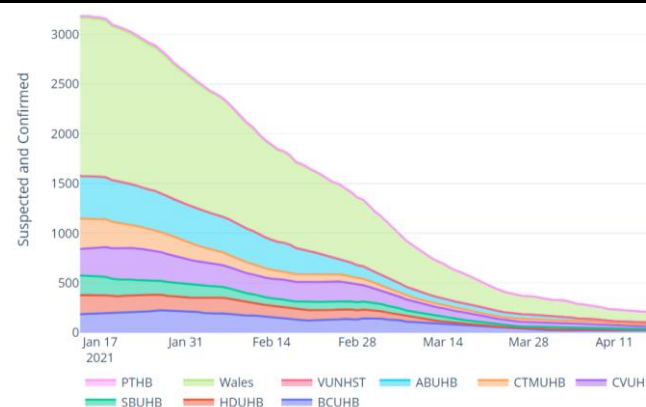


Data as at 12:00PM 20 April 2021 unless otherwise specified

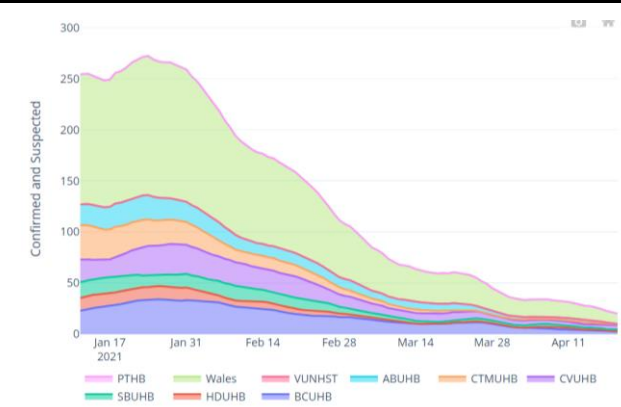
Number of adult care homes reported an ongoing outbreak/incident (last 7 days)



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



Invasive ventilated 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 remained low due to the break over 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.

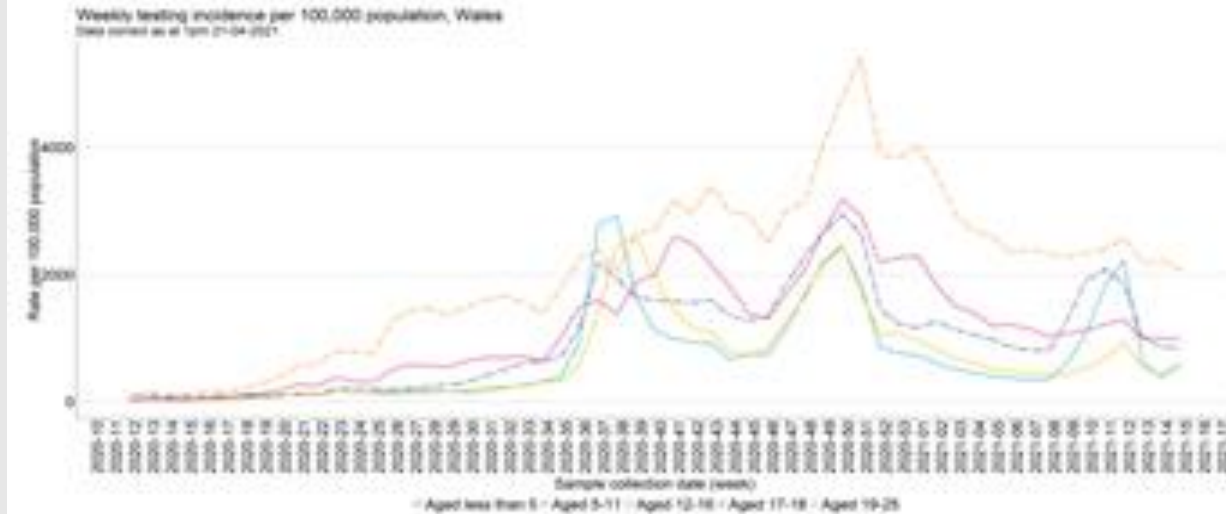
**Childcare clusters are being closely monitored.** The latest national SBAR covering the week of 12 April to 18 April reported that there are currently no new or on-going clusters associated with childcare settings in Wales. Source: National SBAR

An average of 93% of all pupils were present in school over the week of 12 April to 16 April, the highest rate of the academic year to date. This was the first week that all pupils were expected to be present in school since December 2020. This information is provisional and will be revised on 28 April)

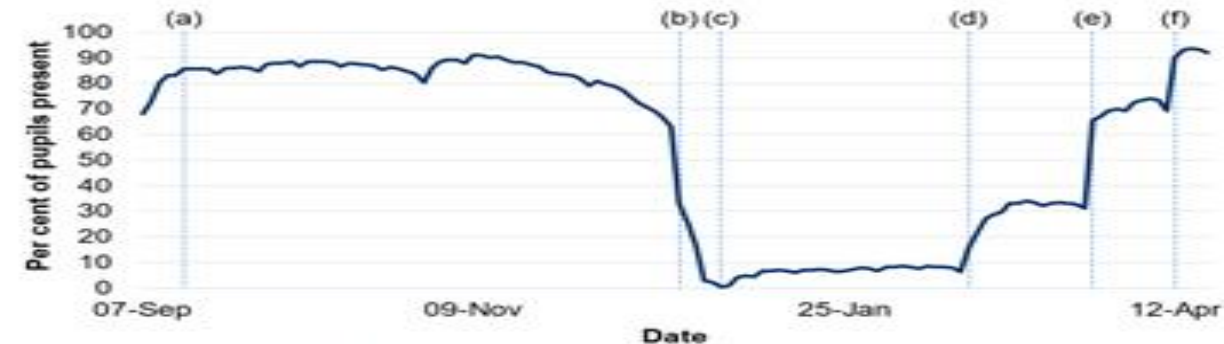
**Voluntary LFD testing** of childcare, school and FE staff and of FE students and older secondary school aged pupils has started. Detailed information on LFD test outcomes is not yet available.

Please note: Due to accuracy & timeliness limitations with the capability of our surveillance systems, distinguishing exact case associations between children over 19, school staff and/or family members is currently not possible. However feedback from local health protection officers will be taken into account in future updates.

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



## Pupils present by day in Wales, from 7 September 2020



Source: Schools in Wales

(a) Schools open to all pupils from 14 September 2020.

(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 2020).

(c) Schools closed to most pupils from 4 January 2021.

(d) A phased return of Foundation Phase pupils began on 22 February 2021.

(e) From 15 March 2021, all remaining primary school children and children in qualification years were able to return to learning on site.

(f) From 12 April 2021, all remaining pupils 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 increased slightly. IMTs report that cluster investigation commonly attributes the acquisition of infection to transmission routes outside the educational setting, with the acknowledgement that the incidence associated with schools reflects wider community transmission. At the time of writing for the National SBAR to 18 April, 5 new clusters were reported to be associated with schools over 3 health boards and 30 on going clusters were reported over 4 health boards.

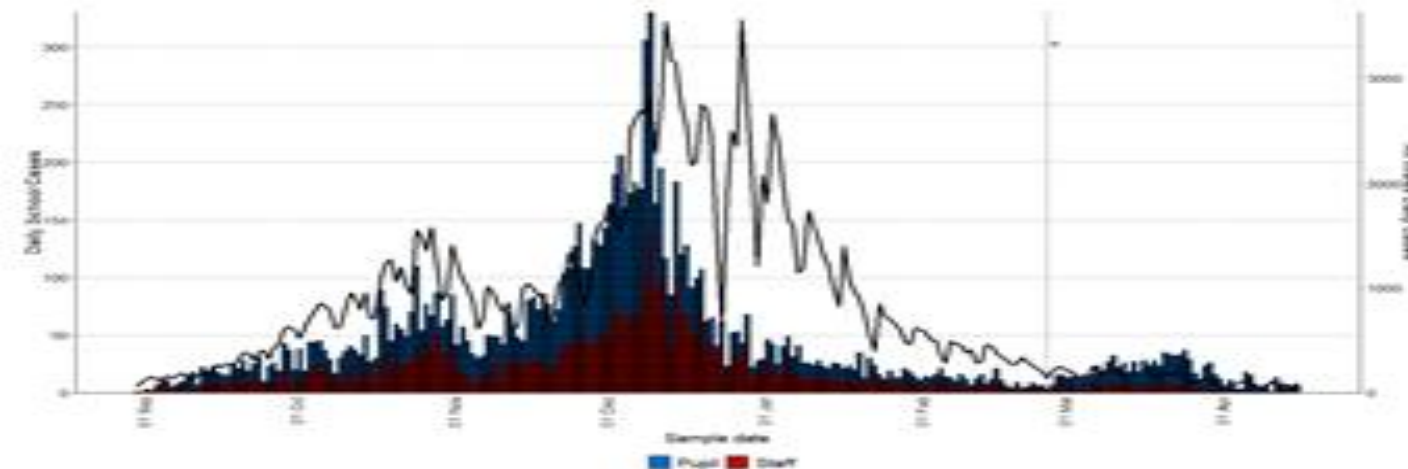
In the seven days to 18 April, 111 new confirmed cases associated with schools were reported by PHW to Welsh Government: 92 among pupils and 19 among staff.

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 cannot 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.

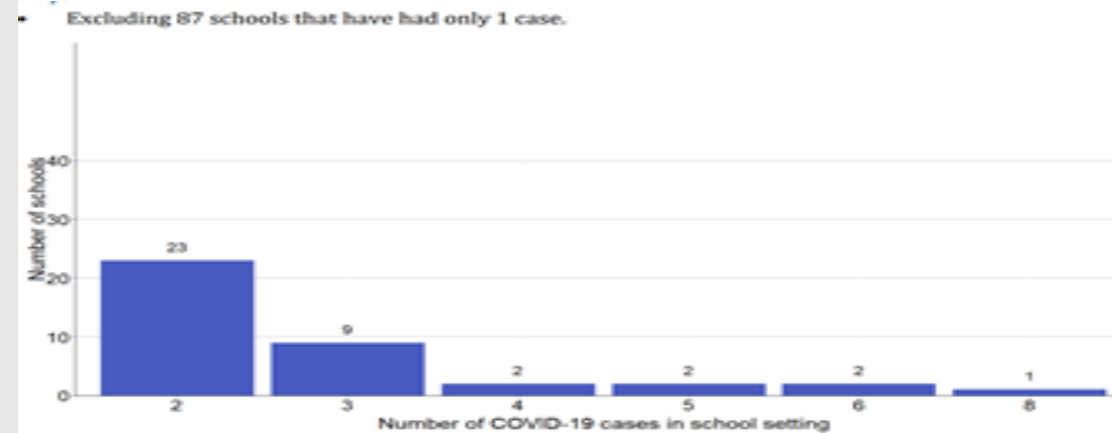
From 12 April HEIs have fully opened for blended learning with all students invited to access online and in person learning. HEIs report cases notified to them by students and staff. From 1 February 2021 most HEIs have changed the way in which they report data, with positive cases referring only to students 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). Over the past week, the 7 day rolling average has been less than 1 positive COVID-19 cases for all HEI's

**Please note:** Due to accuracy & timeliness limitations with the capability of our surveillance systems, distinguishing exact case associations between children over 19, school staff and/or family members is currently not possible. Feedback from local health

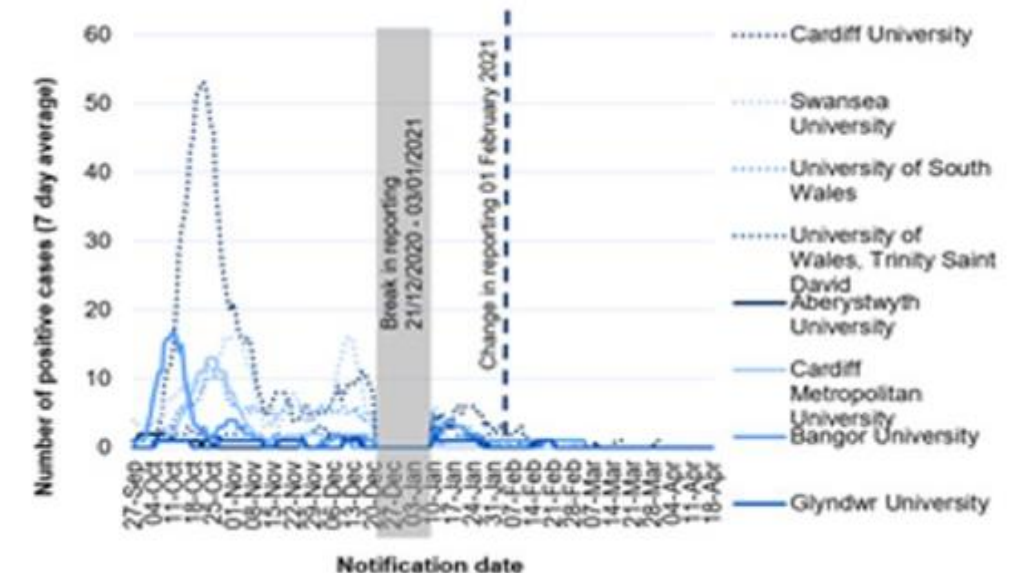
**Epidemiological curve of cases in all staff and pupils linked to a school between 01 September 2020 to 12 April 2021 for all Wales maintained schools**



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



**7 day rolling average of positive cases in Welsh universities 27 September to 18 April 2021**



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

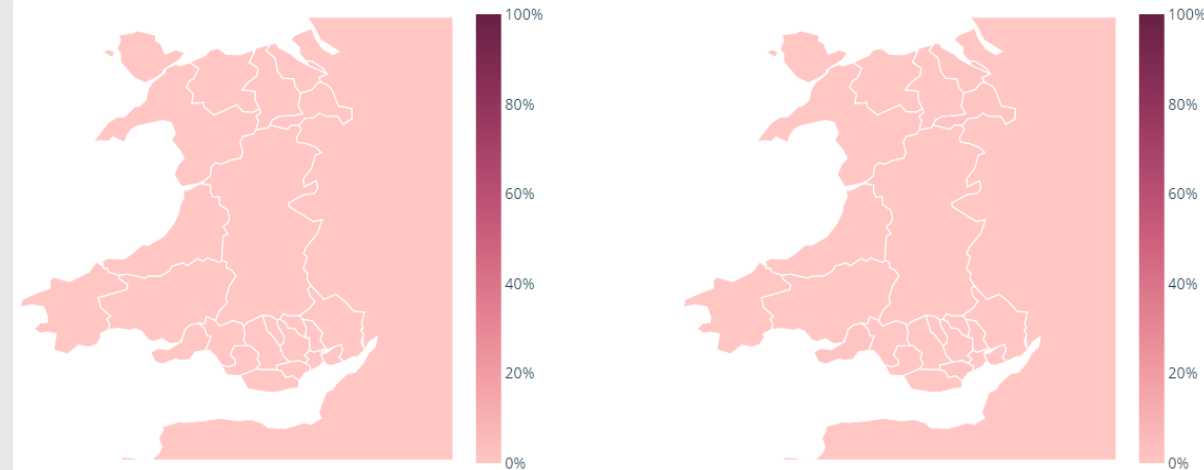
Based on the current rates observed with current restrictions:

- **Cases (right)** –the probability of incidence greater than 100 per 100,000 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 small numbers over the next four weeks. *Source: Modelled medium term projections, SAGE, 7 April*
- **Hospitalisations per day (bottom right)** - continue to decrease to 1 per day over the next four weeks. *Source: Modelled medium term projections, SAGE, 7 April*
- These projections are based on current trends and will not fully reflect the impact of policy or behavioural changes over the past two to three weeks. They are not forecasts or predictions.

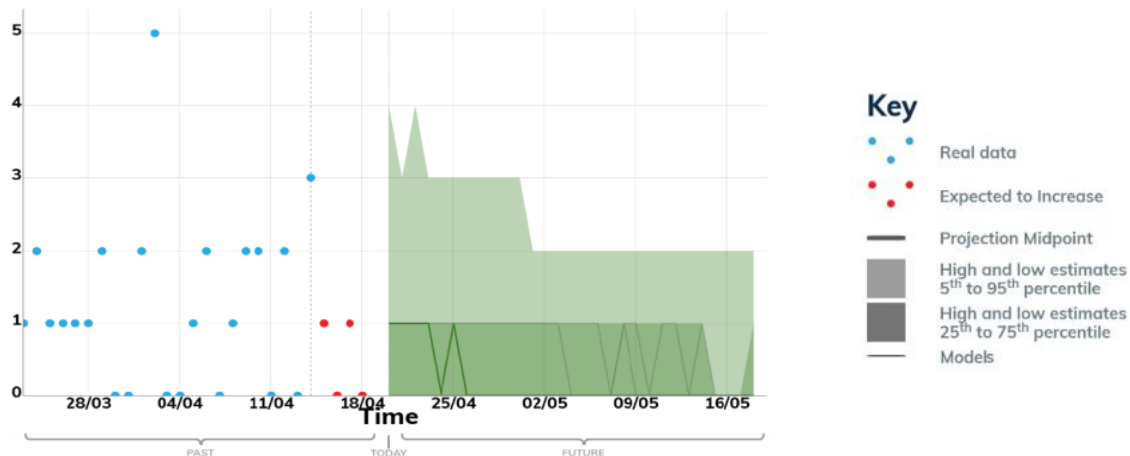
## Probability of greater than 100 per 100,000 cases by local authority, Wales

Time period: 25 April – 1 May

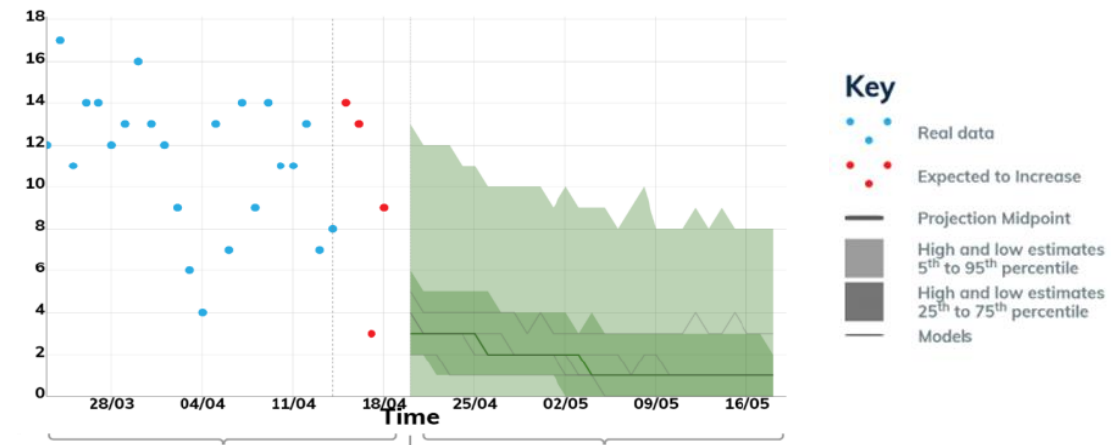
Time period: 2 May – 8 May



## Number of deaths per day, Wales

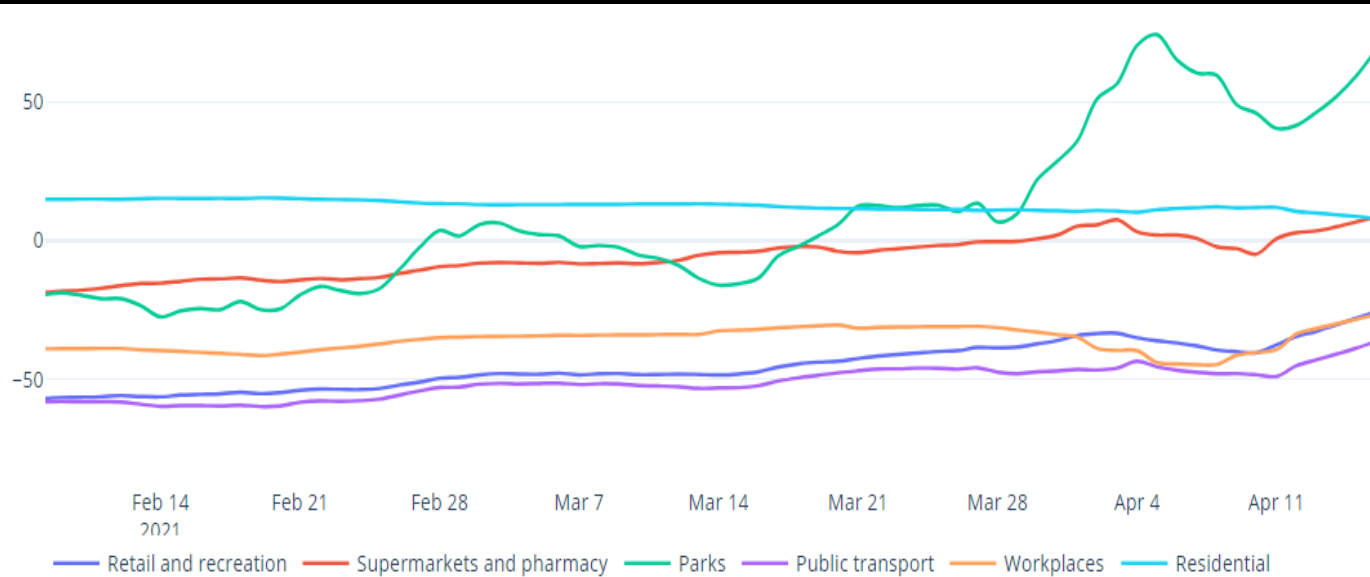


## Hospitalisations per day, Wales



# Slide 8. Mobility data and UK Comparison

## Mobility data by location of trip



## Mobility

There has been an increase in mobility generally across the board since 11 April, which is likely linked to lifting of restrictions, including opening of non-essential retail and close-contact services from 12 April, and sunny weather. There are steady increases in mobility to parks, workplaces, public transport, supermarkets and retail and recreation.

Source: Google

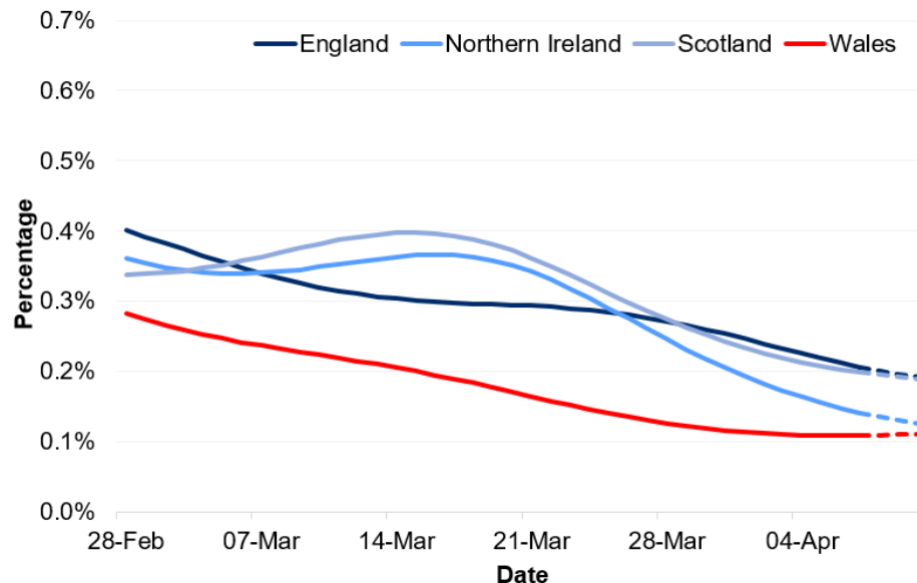
## UK comparison

The percentage of people testing positive has decreased in Wales in recent weeks.

In Wales, the percentage of people testing positive decreased in the two weeks up to 10 April 2021; we estimate that 3,300 people in Wales had COVID-19 (95% credible interval: 1,500 to 6,000), equating to around 1 in 920 people. This compares to around 1 in 480 people in England, around 1 in 500 people in Scotland and around 1 in 710 people in Northern Ireland.

Source: Office for National Statistics COVID-19 Infection Survey

## Positivity rates (%) across UK countries since 28 February 2021





# Slide 9. Key risks and sources

| Key risks                                     |   |
|---|---|
| Area  | Assessment  |
| <b>Transmission, incidence and prevalence</b> | Overall transmission is generally decreasing.   |
| <b>NHS Capacity</b>                           | Overall COVID-19 hospital admissions and deaths continue to fall. With numbers now comparable to those observed in September 2020.  |
| <b>Mortality</b>                              | Generally continuing to decrease.   |
| <b>Variants</b>                               | VOC-20DEC-01 (the Kent variant) is the dominant variant in Wales.   |
| <b>Immunity and Vaccines</b>                  | 2.36 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine were given in Wales. Of the 2.36 million doses given nationally, 1.73 million were first doses and 0.64 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>