

## Latest numbers on COVID-19 in the UK – 4 September 2020

We have combined data from the government's daily figures<sup>1</sup> and the government's report on NHS Test and Trace<sup>2</sup>.

1. Number and location of new cases in the UK.
2. Test and trace.
3. International context.
4. Schools.

1. <https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/>  
2. <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/nhs-test-and-trace-statistics-england-weekly-reports>

## Headlines

Deaths are declining, hospitalisation admissions continue to plateau at a low level.

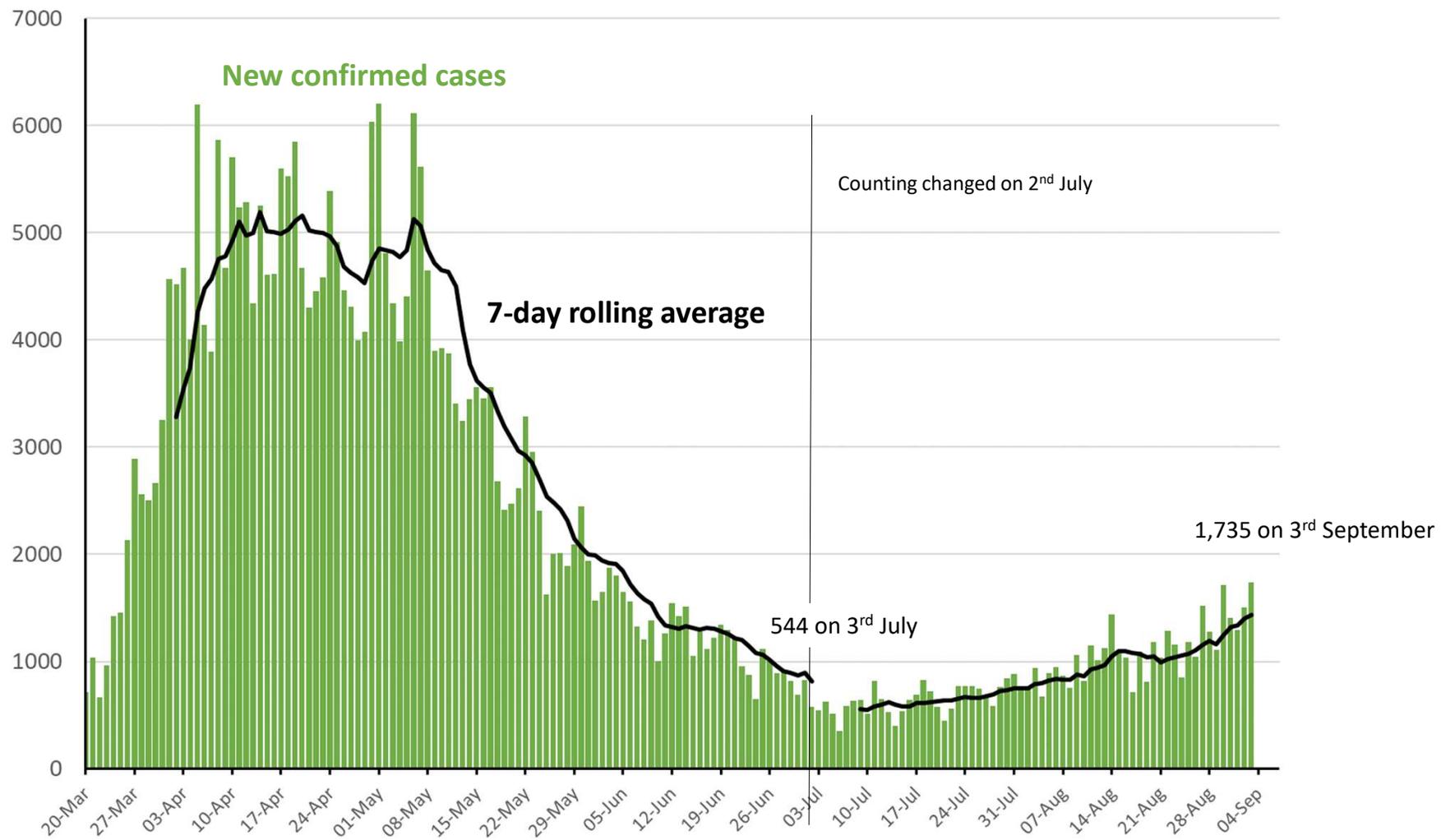
Number of daily cases are rising.

Positivity rates slowly going up.

Test and Trace system needs urgent improvement, particularly to support schools reopening.

[\\*https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/895847/S0418\\_Note\\_on\\_JB\\_C\\_and\\_potential\\_flows.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/895847/S0418_Note_on_JB_C_and_potential_flows.pdf)

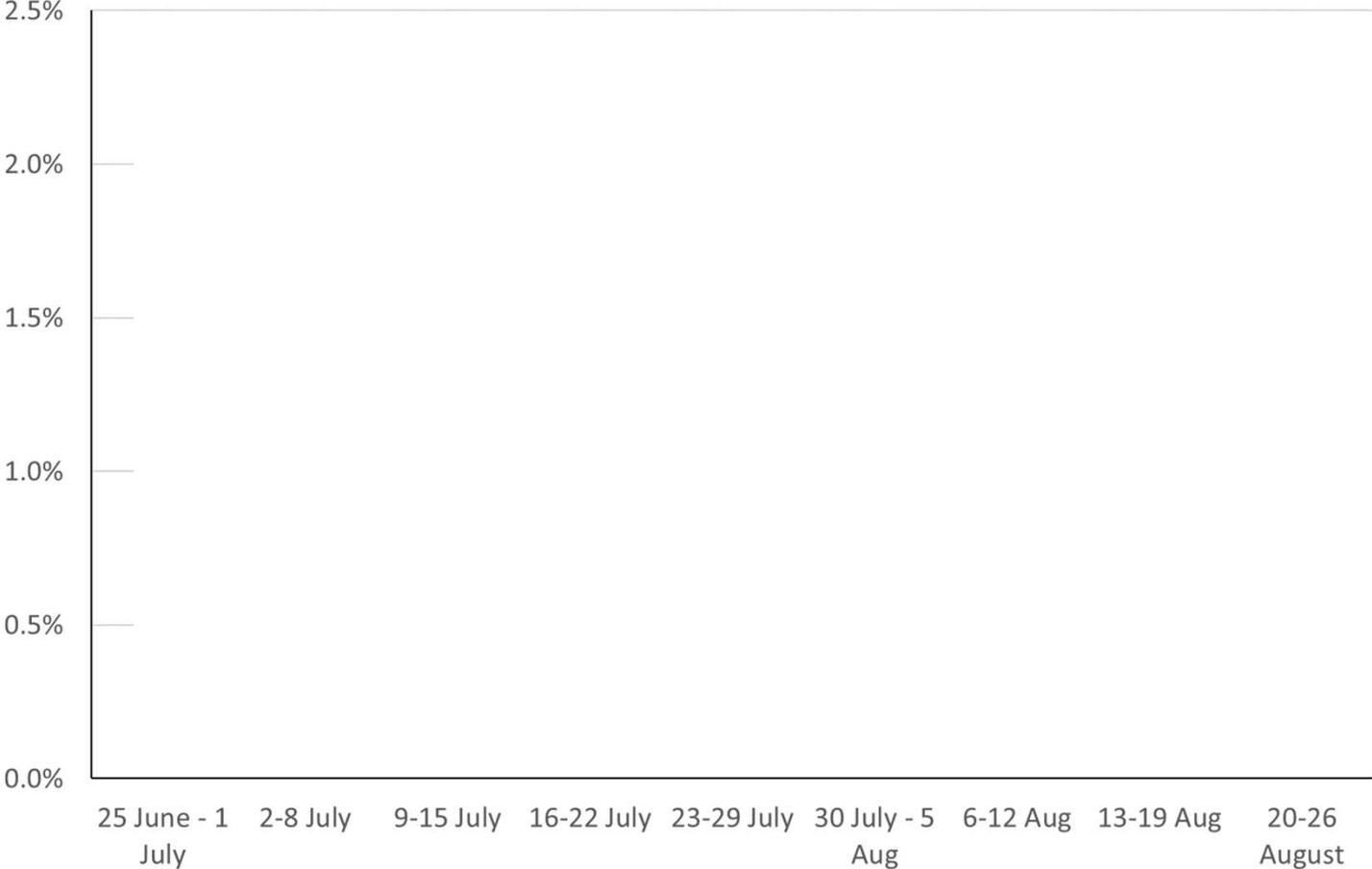
### Number of new UK confirmed COVID-19 cases (people who have had a positive test)



Data from <https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/>

### Can increased testing explain increase in cases?

Percentage of people tested who then test positive (“positivity rate”)

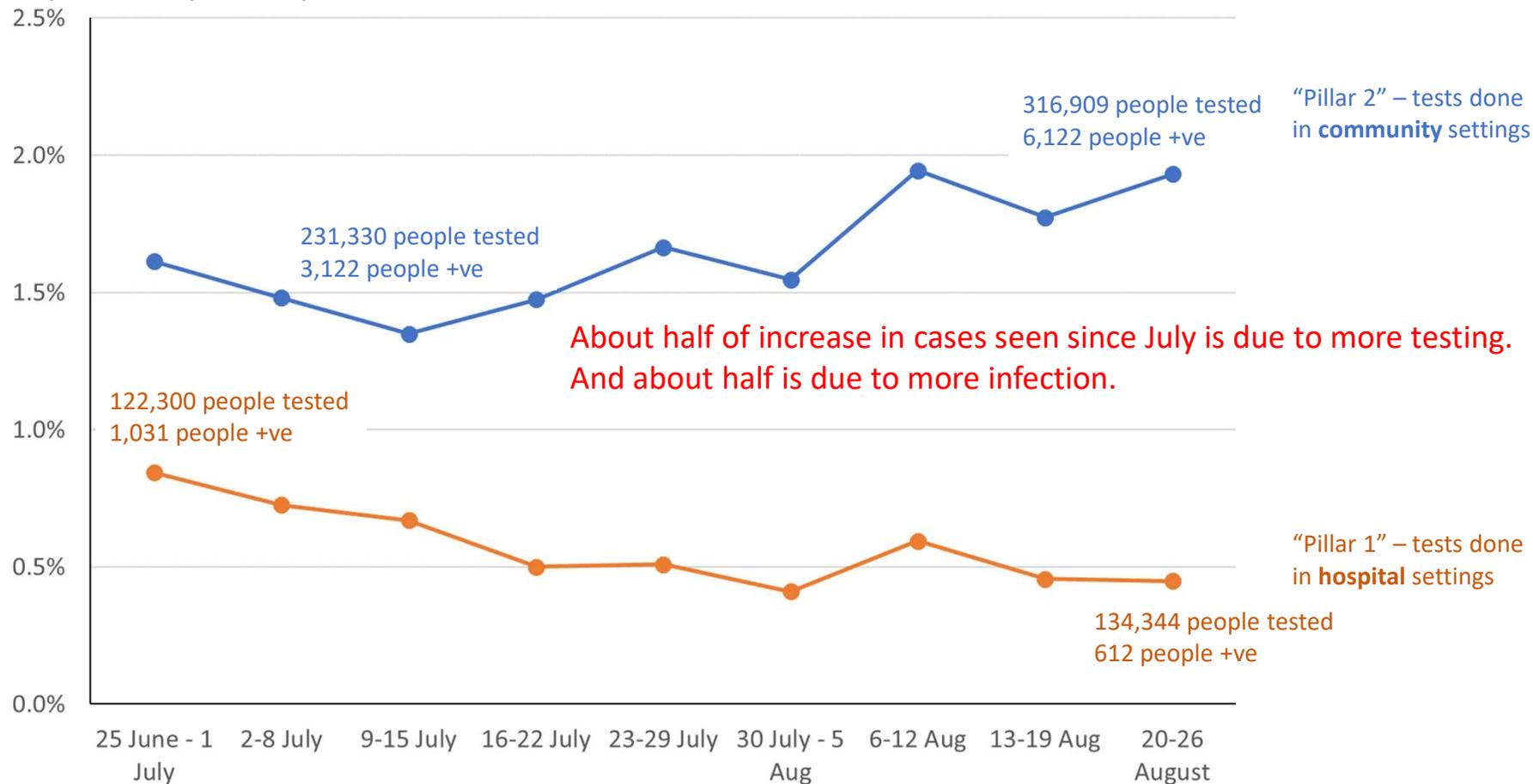


Data from <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/nhs-test-and-trace-statistics-england-weekly-reports>

Data covering 28 May – 26 August

## Positivity rates in England have gone up since mid July

Percentage of people tested who then test positive (“positivity rate”)



Data from <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/nhs-test-and-trace-statistics-england-weekly-reports>

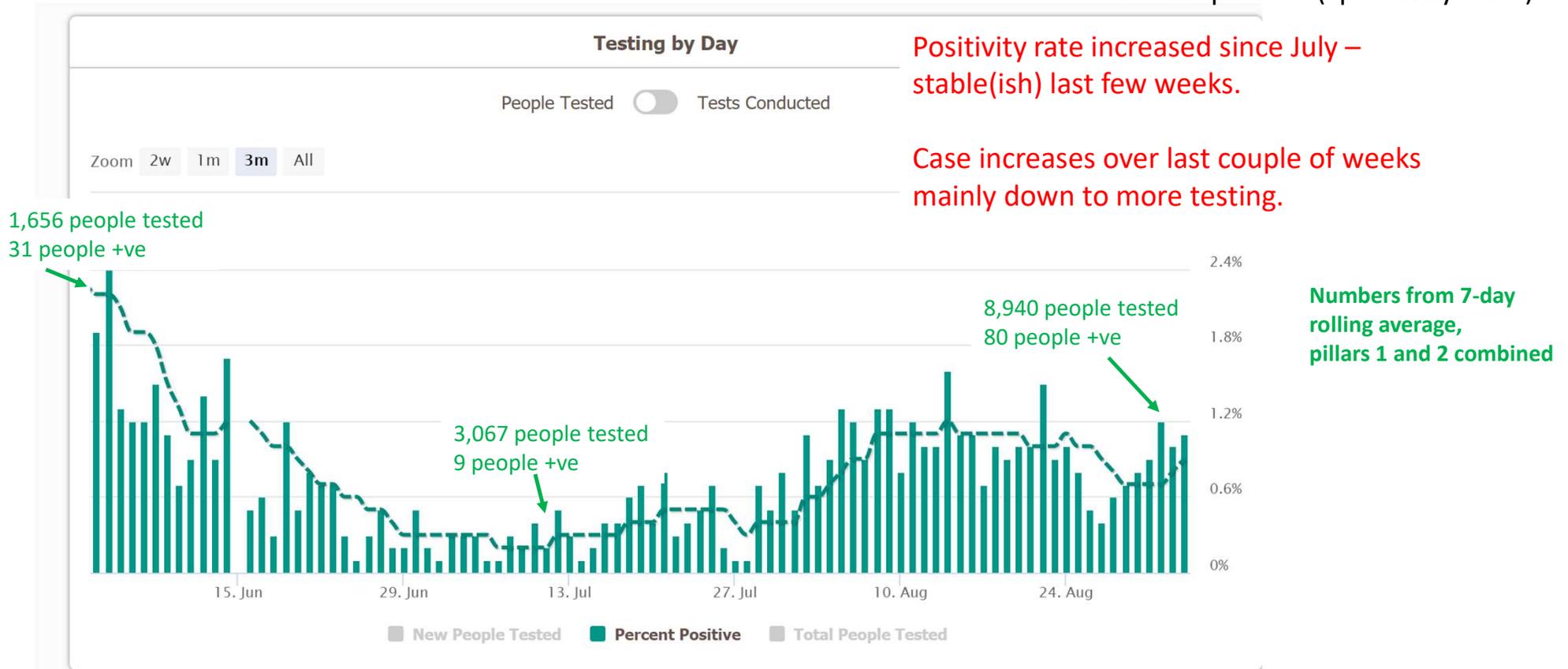
Data covering 28 May – 26 August

## Positivity rates in Scotland have gone up since mid July, but stable last few weeks

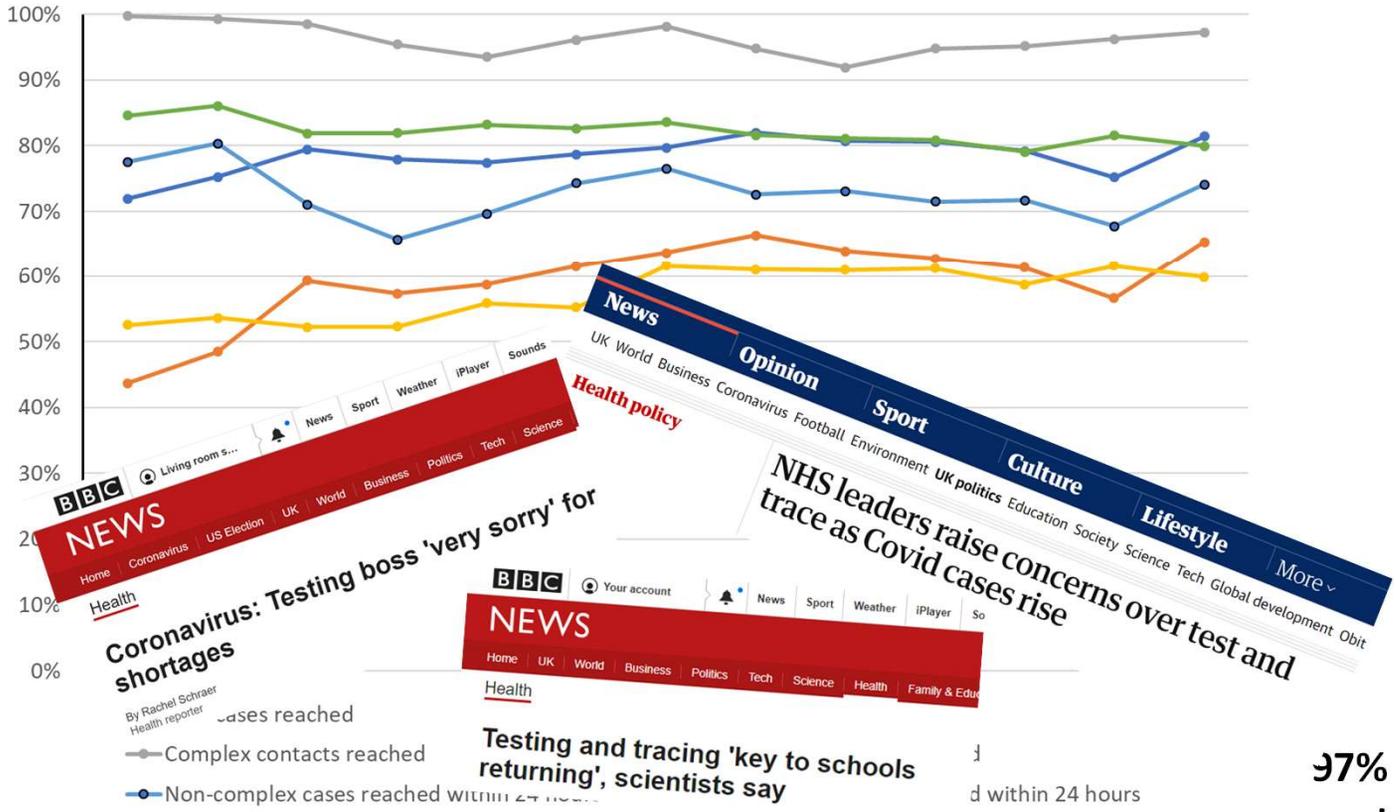
Percentage of people tested who then test positive (“positivity rate”)

Positivity rate increased since July – stable(ish) last few weeks.

Case increases over last couple of weeks mainly down to more testing.



## Test and Trace metrics (28 May – 26 August)



No significant improvement.  
Last week of August:

**7,673** people referred to NHS  
Test & Trace (**new cases**)

↓  
**81%** of **new cases** reached

↓  
**65%** of **new cases** provided  
at least one contact

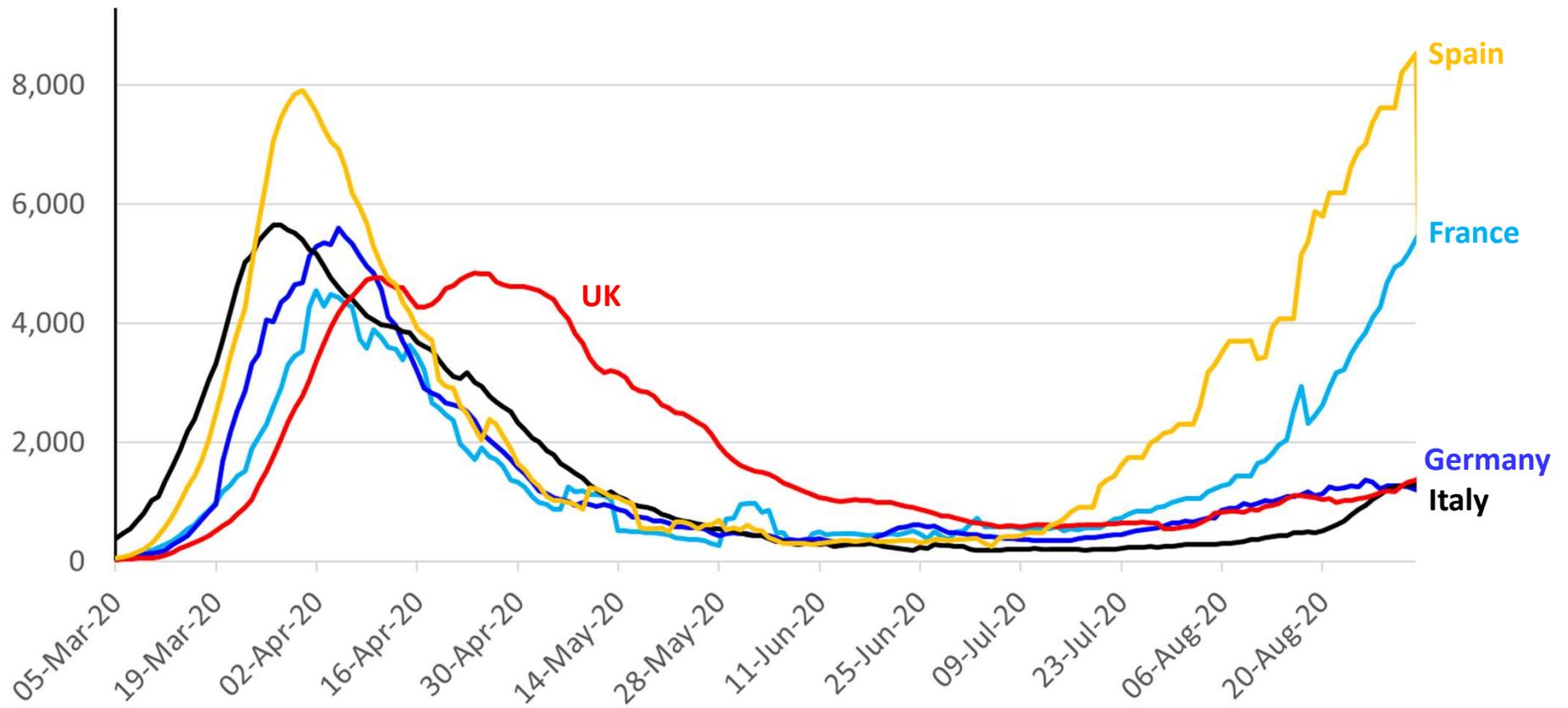
↙  
**97%** of **complex**  
**contacts** reached

↘  
**60%** of **non-complex**  
**contacts** reached

Data from <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/nhs-test-and-trace-statistics-england-weekly-reports>

## Many countries in Europe are experiencing increases in cases

7-day rolling average of new confirmed COVID-19 cases per day across similarly sized European countries



Data from European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/geographical-distribution-2019-ncov-cases>

## Some international examples of prevention measures in schools

### Going back:

Most countries are sending children back to school but not all.

Some hard hit areas in US are starting off with virtual classes only. Some schools in France in high risk areas remain closed, Madrid mix of online and in-class teaching.

### Masks / Face coverings:

Elementary and Secondary schools: Japan, Spain, South Korea (govt provided)

Just secondary schools: France (inc teachers), Belgium, Germany (not in classrooms)

### Other mitigation:

Spaced seating in classrooms / cafeteria: South Korea, Spain, Norway

Open windows / doors: Japan

Bubbles of children: France, Germany, Spain, Norway

Frequent hand washing / hand sanitising: Germany, Spain, Norway

### Support for children with virtual learning (providing laptops):

Paris

## Summary

Deaths are declining, hospitalisation admissions continue to plateau at a low level.

Number of daily cases are rising.

500 daily confirmed cases 6/7 weeks ago to over 1500 a day now. About half of this due to more testing but the rest down to more infections.

Positivity rates going slowly up.

Test and Trace system needs urgent improvement, particularly to support schools reopening.

Little improvement in the metrics, and new reports highlight increasing problems in accessing tests.

Other countries have opened schools earlier than us, including Scotland. As schools now open in the other England, Wales & NI, we can and should learn from the experience of others.