Latest numbers on COVID-19 in the UK – 7 August 2020

We have combined data from the government’s daily figures\(^1\), the government’s report on NHS Test and Trace\(^2\), ONS infection survey\(^3\) and each nation’s official death registries.

1. Number of new deaths from COVID-19 in the UK.
2. Number and location of new cases in the UK.
3. Test and Trace
4. Summary

---

1. [https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/](https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/)
Number of new UK deaths from COVID-19 per week

These are registered deaths where COVID-19 was mentioned on the death certificate, regardless of location.

Data from:
- Northern Ireland: [www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/weekly-deaths](http://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/weekly-deaths)
Number of new UK confirmed COVID-19 cases (people who have had a positive test)

Note: new confirmed cases reflect people infected about 1 week earlier

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 covering 28 May – 29 July
Can increased testing explain increase in cases?

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

Data covering 28 May – 29 July

Increased testing cannot explain all of the increase over last 2 weeks

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

Data covering 28 May – 29 July

Increased testing cannot explain all of the increase over last 2 weeks

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

- **“Pillar 1” – tests done in hospital settings**
  - 258,767 people tested (12% increase since 15 July)
  - 4,305 people +ve (38% increase since 15 July)

- **“Pillar 2” – tests done in community settings**
  - 131,475 people tested
  - 661 people +ve

Where are the cases?

All of UK

Data from https://www.covidlive.co.uk/.

England - 5 August

Data from https://www.fil.ion.ucl.ac.uk/spm/covid-19/dashboard/local/.
Towards zero COVID?

New daily confirmed cases per million people (average over last week)

Control threshold

Towards zero COVID?

New daily confirmed cases per million people (average over last week)

Test and Trace metrics over the last 9 weeks (28 May – 29 July)

No significant improvement

47,344 people referred to NHS Test & Trace (new cases)

77% of new cases reached

60% of new cases provided at least one contact

98% of complex contacts reached

56% of non-complex contacts reached

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

Deaths are declining, but latest data is to 24 July – reflecting people infected in mid June, when cases were still going down. We would not expect to see any increase in deaths until end of August at the earliest.

There does appear to be a (small) increase in transmission since mid-July (last 3 weeks).

August should be the easiest month to keep virus under control. Although increases are small now, they can quickly escalate – government needs to act now.

We believe the government priority should be driving down infections to enable schools to fully open in September.

This requires a much better contact tracing system. We believe it is time to rethink the whole test and trace system.

The centralised contact tracing structure is not working. It’s time to invest those resources instead in local structures (such as are already being developed in some areas).

The good news that it’s not too late – but we cannot “take August off”. Adopting a towards ZeroCOVID strategy *now* is how we move into autumn safely.