



An Roinn Sláinte
Department of Health

COVID-19 situation in European region and selected countries

Israel

Sweden

Netherlands

England

Northern Ireland

NPHET presentation
15th October 2020

COVID-19 in Europe – epidemiological overview



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- COVID-19 situation deteriorating in many European countries – increasing cases (including in older age groups), hospitalisations, ICU admissions, deaths
- By the end of week 40 (4 October 2020), the 14-day case notification rate for the EU/EEA and the UK was **130.6 (country range: 24.0–319.3)** per 100 000 population. The rate has been **increasing for 77 days.**
- **High levels (at least 60 per 100 000) or sustained increases** (for at least seven days) in the 14-day case notification rates compared with previous week have been observed in **28 countries** (including France, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden and the UK).
- Based on data reported to TESSy, **among people over 65 years of age, high levels or sustained increases** in the 14-day COVID-19 case notification rates compared to last week have been observed in **19 countries** (including Ireland and Sweden)

As of 11 Oct, Europe had the **highest weekly incidence of COVID-19 cases since the beginning of the pandemic** with almost 700 000 new cases reported.

The weekly incidence in **cases and deaths increased by 34% and 16%** respectively in comparison to the previous week



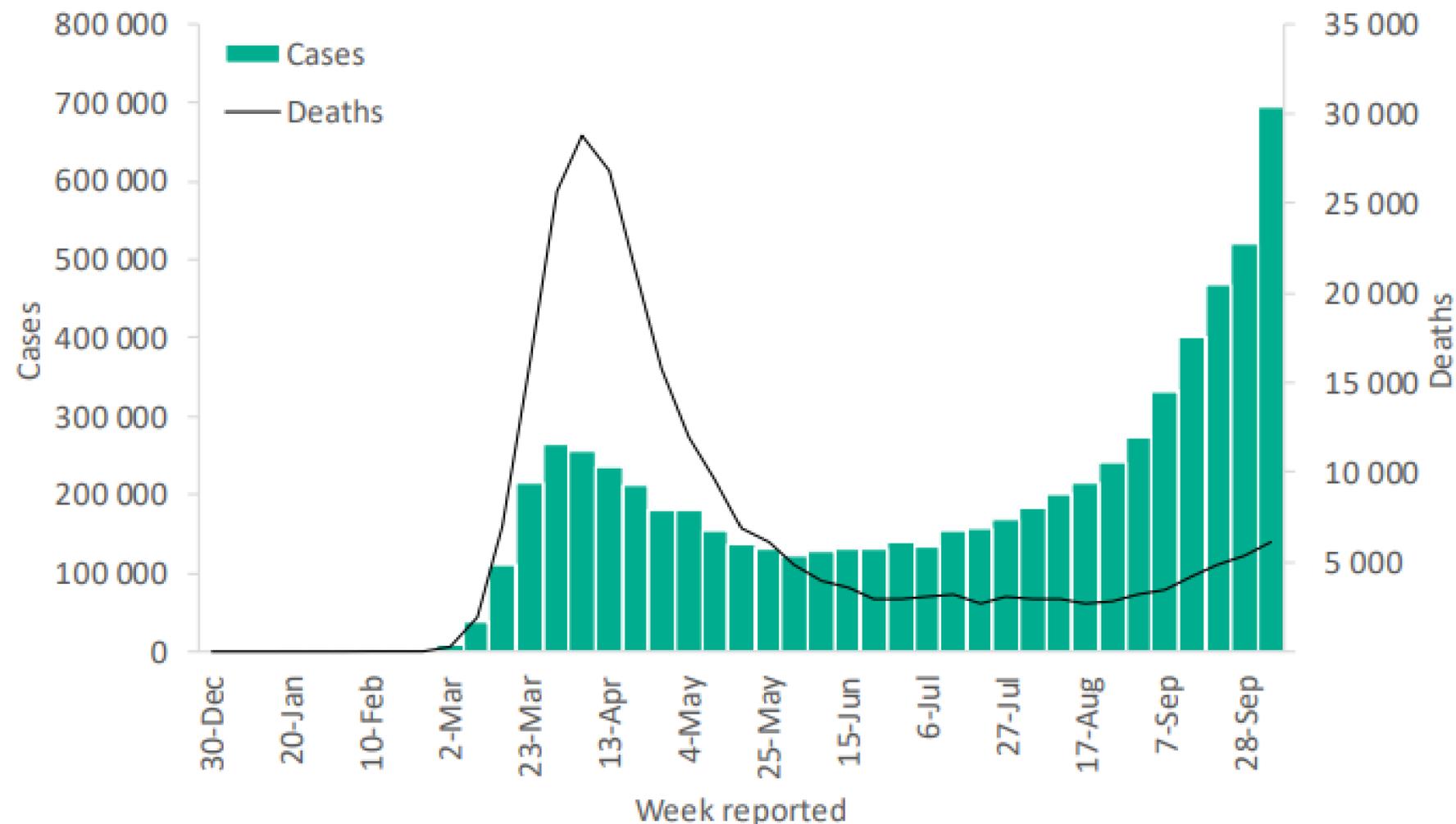
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The Region is the **second most active**, contributing almost a third (n=694 275, 31%) of new weekly cases reported globally.

The **United Kingdom, France, the Russian Federation and Spain** account for over half of all new cases reported in the region (n= 355 455, 51%)..

The majority of the countries in the region self-characterise their current transmission pattern as community transmission or clusters of cases

Number of COVID-19 cases and deaths reported weekly by the WHO European Region , as of 11 October 2020



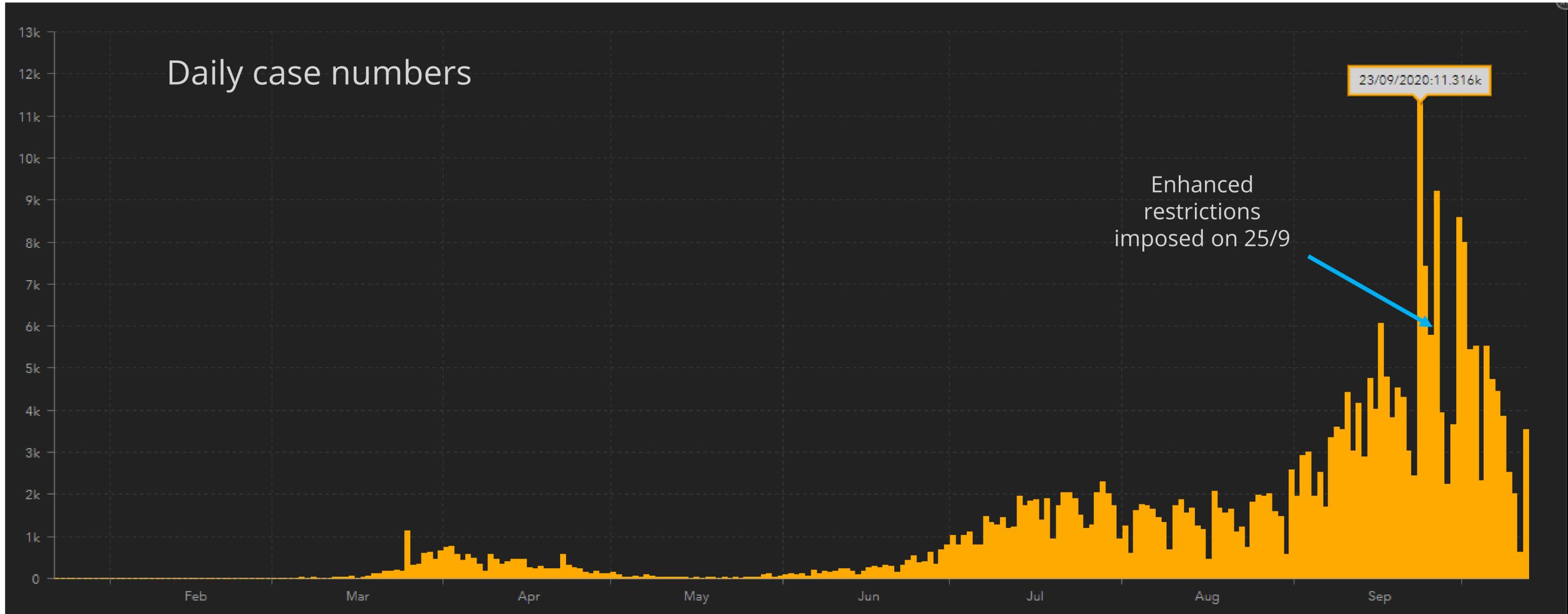
Spain, with over 50 000 cases reported in the past week, is showing a noticeable decline in the weekly incidence of cases and deaths of 24% and 19% respectively. As of 08 of October, the bed occupancy in intensive care unit ranged between 7% and 39% across all regions.

The incidence of cases and deaths in **Poland** increased this week by 93% and 104% respectively compared to the previous week, with almost 23 500 new cases and 370 deaths reported. Poland is tightening public health and social measures in response to these marked increases in an effort to avoid severe restrictions

Israel epidemiological situation – daily case numbers



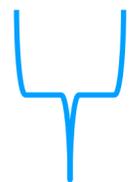
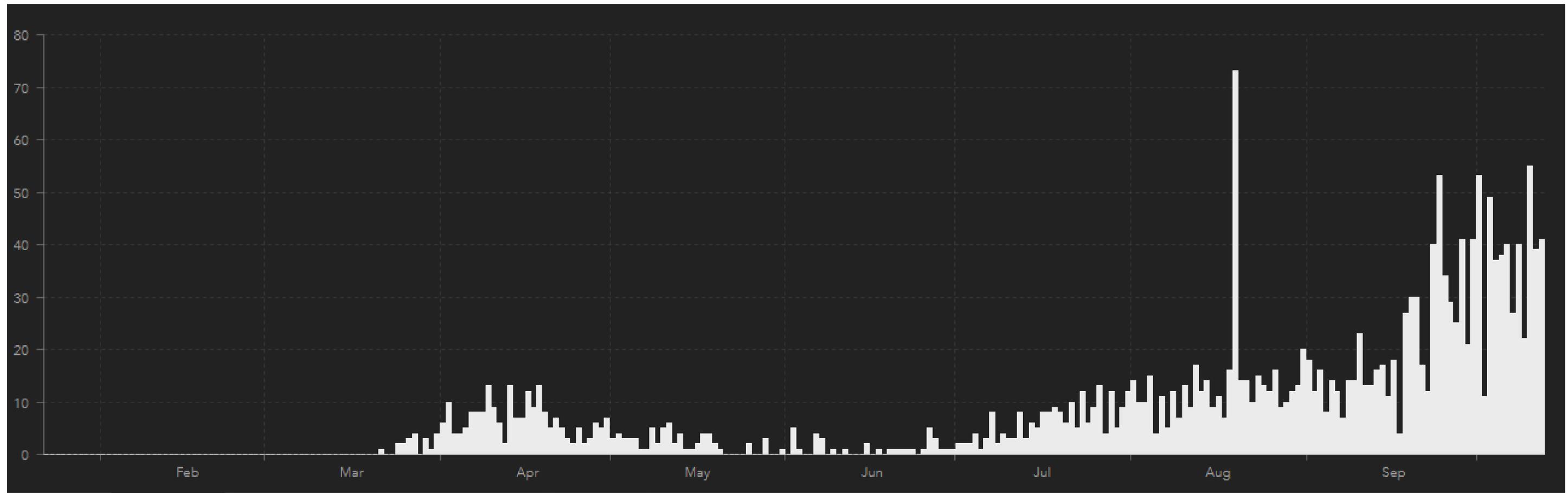
In Israel, a significant worsening of the disease profile occurred in September leading to the application of enhanced restrictions



Israel epidemiological situation – daily reported COVID-19 deaths



Increase in reported deaths in Sep and Oct. Total deaths in Oct (to 12/10) 452 – average daily 38 (range 11-53)



October
deaths

Israel – Public Health measures/restrictions



Israel imposed severe restrictions on 25 September in response to worsening epidemiological situation

- The initial three-week period was extended to four weeks, to expire on 18 October. Positive effect on health indicators is now discernible, although officials are reluctant to emphasise this in case it reduces compliance.
- The current measures require the closure of all schools, venues and non-essential workplaces, and travel is severely restricted.
- Measures included a max 10 people in a closed space and max 20 in an open area.
- Full closure of all businesses that receive the public in the fields of commerce, culture, recreation and domestic tourism, including swimming pools, gyms and restaurants (with exception for essential services).
- Restaurants permitted to operate delivery services only.
- Stay within 500 metres of home, except for essential need.
- Measures were tightened after the initial eight days failed to bring down the infection rate.

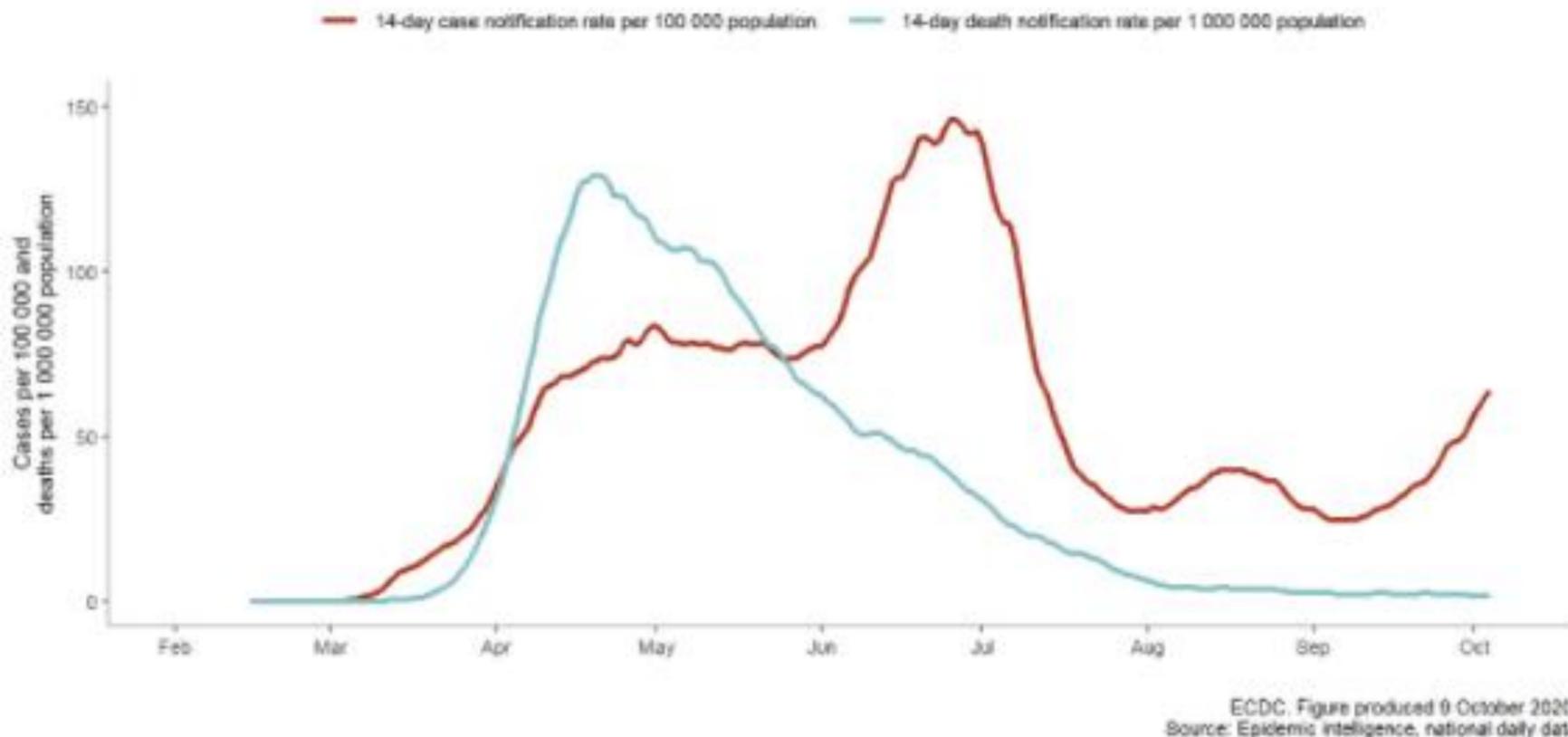
Sweden – epidemiological situation

Sweden: 14-day COVID-19 case and death notification rates

National totals as of 4 Oct 2020: 95 647 cases (earliest 1 Feb, latest 4 Oct 2020), 5 882 deaths (12 Mar, 3 Oct 2020)

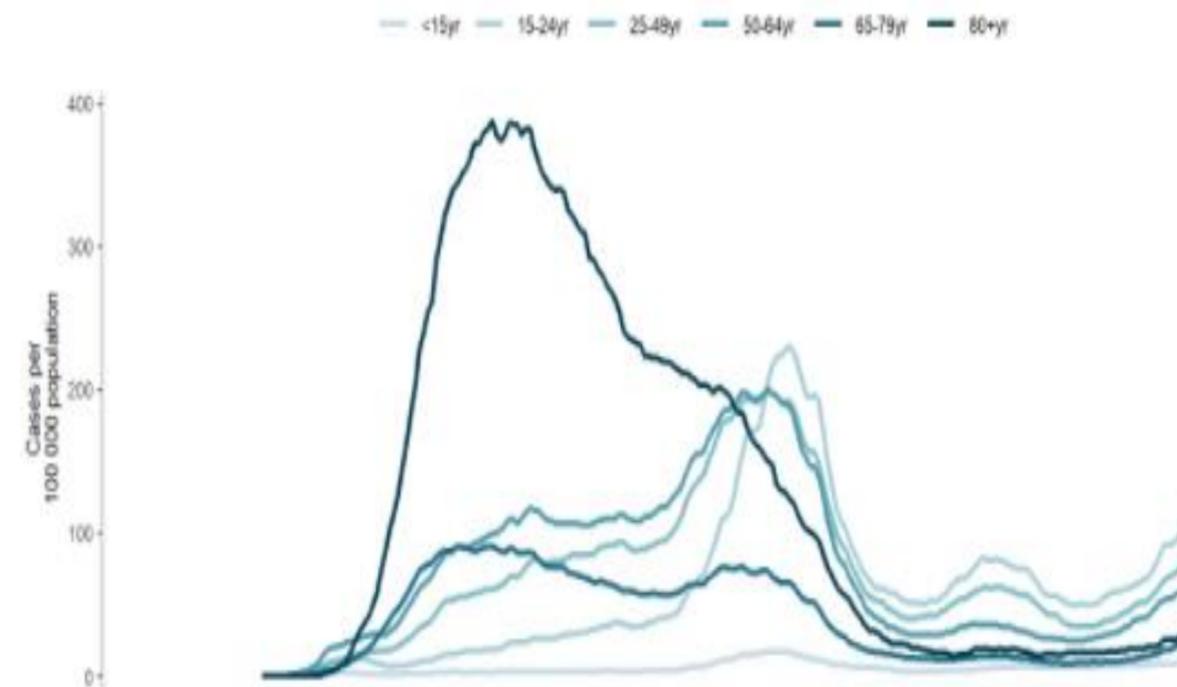


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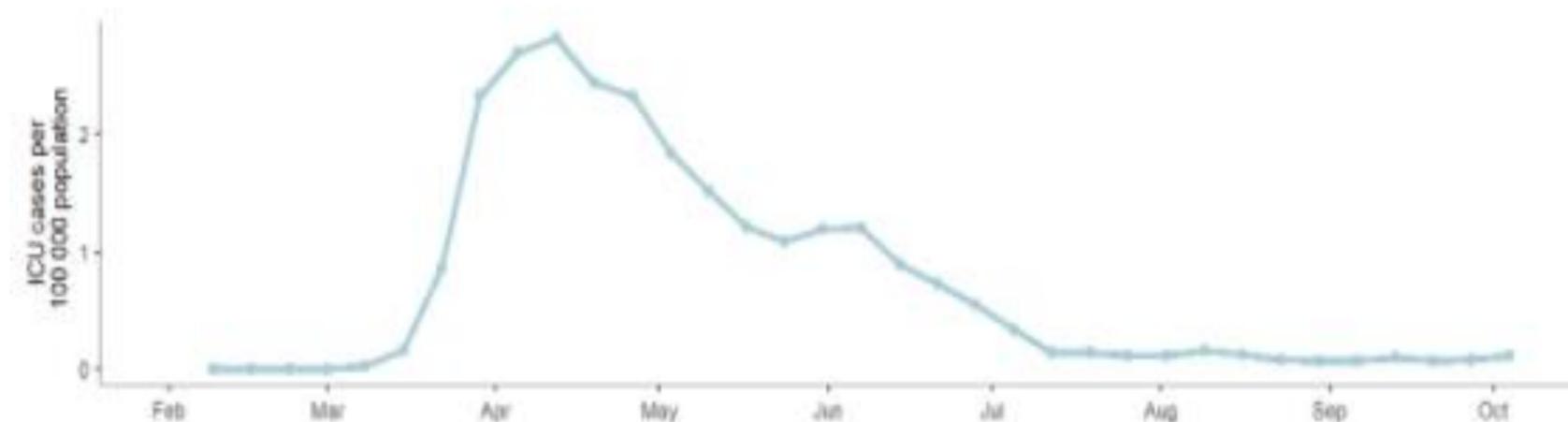
Sweden: 14-day age-specific COVID-19 case notification rate

Age-specific data available from 4 Feb to 4 Oct 2020, n = 95 343 (99.9% of the official national total to 4 Oct 2020)



- 14-day case incidence increasing since approx. mid-Sep, primarily in younger age groups but also increasing in >65y
- 14-day death notification and weekly ICU admissions stable in recent months
- The spread of the virus has increased in Stockholm (supported by evidence from studies of sewage samples) and is now approaching the levels reached in May
- Last week, the proportion of positive tests among those tested was 2.9% marking a steady increase in recent weeks.

Sweden: Weekly rate of new ICU COVID-19 admissions



Sweden – Public Health measures/restrictions



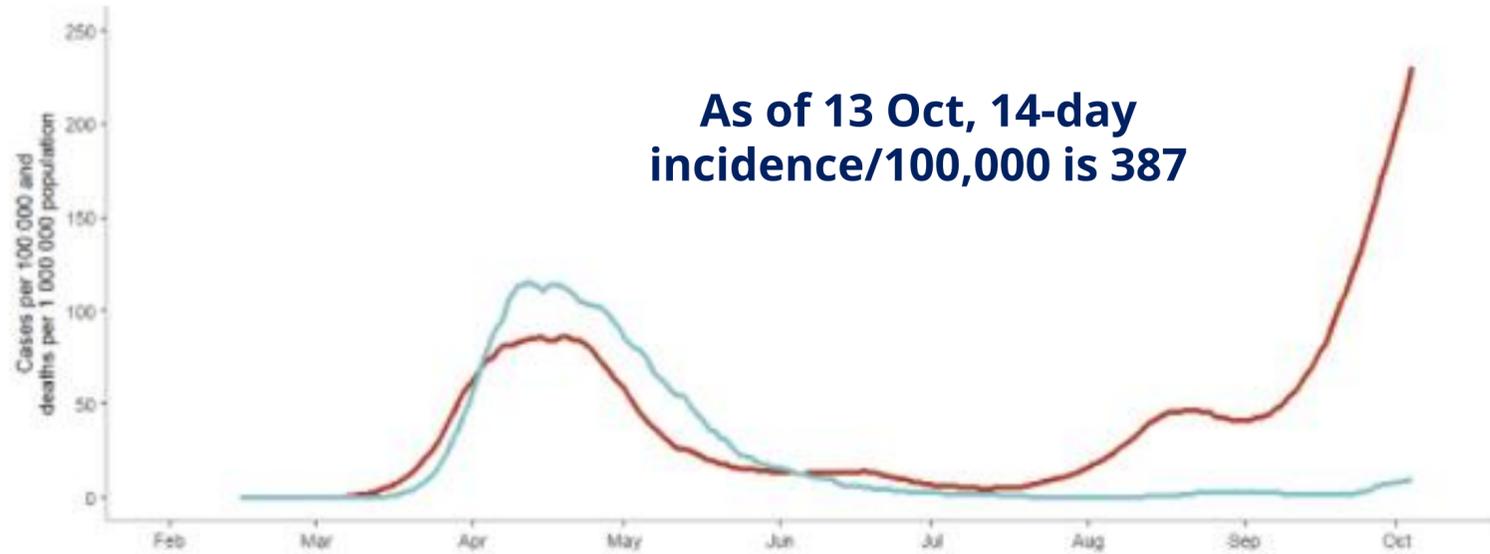
- Limit of 50 ppl at public events
- People over age of 70 and other risk groups asked to avoid close contact with others; postpone sporting events; postpone annual meetings of non-profits, limit numbers on public transport; encourage working from home; shops and malls should limit no. of customers allowed in at one time.
- Upper secondary schools and universities advised to switch to distance learning.
- Nurseries and lower primary schools remain open.
- Shops, pubs, restaurants and cafes remained open although social distancing is compulsory.



Netherlands: 14-day COVID-19 case and death notification rates

National totals as of 4 Oct 2020: 131 749 cases (earliest 28 Feb, latest 4 Oct 2020), 6 440 deaths (7 Mar, 4 Oct 2020)

— 14-day case notification rate per 100 000 population — 14-day death notification rate per 1 000 000 population

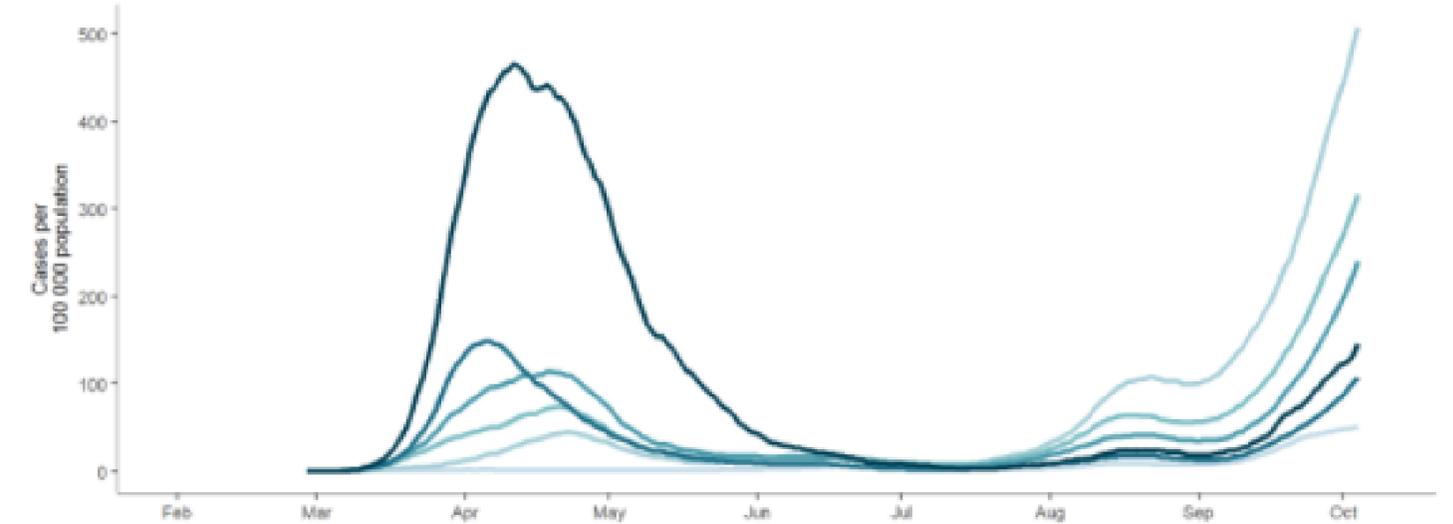


ECDC. Figure produced 9 October 2020.
Source: Epidemic intelligence, national daily data

Netherlands: 14-day age-specific COVID-19 case notification rate

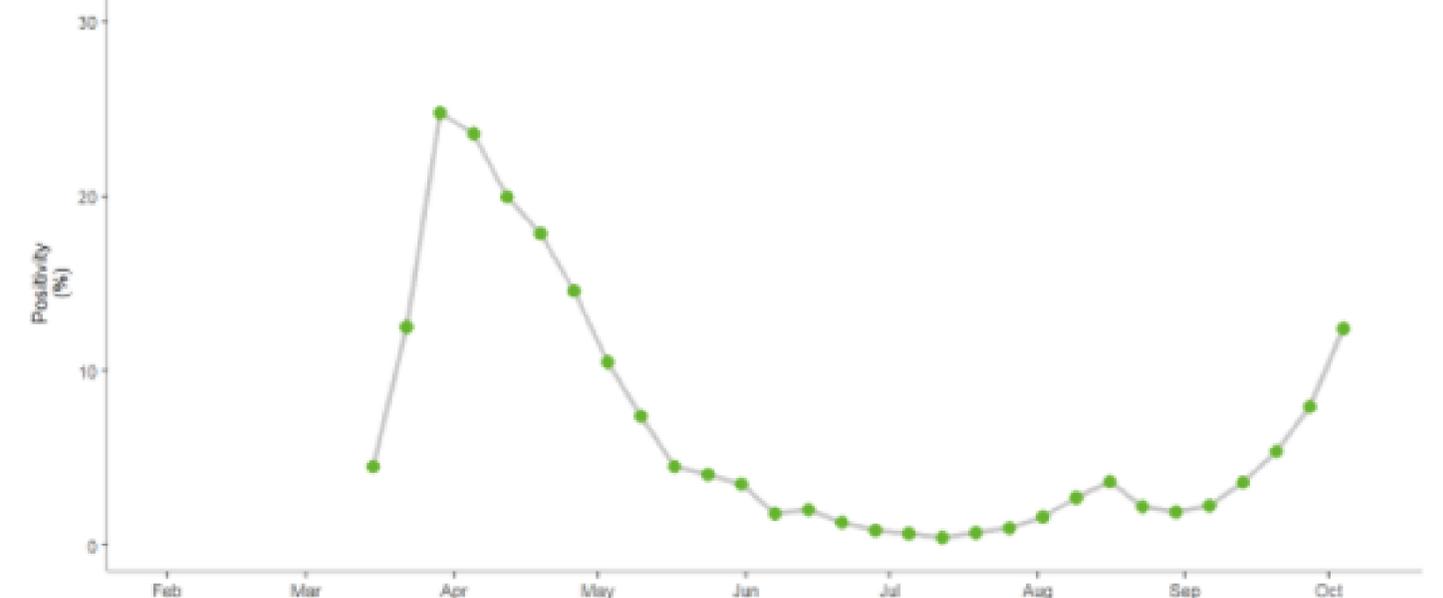
Age-specific data available from 27 Jan to 4 Oct 2020, n = 135 877 (103.1% of the official national total to 4 Oct 2020)

— <15yr — 15-24yr — 25-49yr — 50-64yr — 65-79yr — 80+yr



ECDC. Figure produced 9 October 2020

Netherlands: weekly test positivity



ECDC. Figure produced 9 October 2020.
Source: TESSy/surveyonline sources, weekly COVID-19 testing data; Epidemic intelligence, national daily data

- 14-day incidence rapidly increasing since Sept, 14-day death notification/100,000 also increasing in Oct
- Highest ASIR in younger age groups but substantial increases also being observed in >65y
- Weekly test positivity increasing (12.4% in Wk 40 – 13.8% as of 13/10)

In week 6 th Oct-13 th Oct		% increase on previous 7 days
Newly reported COVID-19 infections	43,903	↑ 37%
Number of hospital admissions	1,144	↑ 30%
Number of admissions to ICU	192	↑ 37%
Deaths	150	↑ 41%
Test positivity rate	13.8%	↑ 25%



New set of restrictions (Level 3 of 4) which take effect from Oct 14th 10pm, and will be in place for a period of 4 weeks (reviewed after 2 weeks):

- **Bars and restaurants to close.** This includes outdoor dining and terraces. Takeaway Only.
- Hotels can stay open but can only serve food/drink to guests staying in the hotel
- No more than 30 people at indoor events, exception for churches and Parliament but critical assessment of group size needs to be undertaken.
- No large outdoor events permitted.
- **Visitors to private homes are limited to 3 people from another household per day.**
- **Maximum number of people (not from same household) who can meet indoors or outdoors is limited to 4 (excluding children below 13).** This will be strictly enforced.
- Team sports prohibited for those over 18 yrs, only professional soccer can continue. Can continue to train and play sports up to a max group size of 4 with adequate social distancing. Gyms will remain open. No spectators for amateur or professional sports.
- **All shops close by 8pm apart from supermarkets.** Supermarkets must ensure 1.5m separation and maximum amount of shoppers in shop. This will be enforced and shops can be closed if not found to comply.
- **No alcohol sales after 8pm.** It will also be illegal to carry alcohol on your person after 8pm.
- Working from home where possible and Government to work with employers and trade unions to facilitate home working.
- Face masks mandatory for everyone over age 13 in public indoor spaces including secondary schools and above. This will become legal requirement.

3-tier system in England (12 October)

Intended to simplify the current patchwork of local restrictions across England, groups local authorities into the three tiers (alert levels):



1. Medium Alert Level (minimum for all parts of England unless higher alert in place)

- This is for areas where national restrictions continue to be in place.
- All businesses and venues can continue to operate, in a COVID-Secure manner, other than those that remain closed in law, such as nightclubs.
- Certain businesses selling food or drink on their premises are required to close between 10pm and 5am.
- Businesses and venues selling food for consumption off the premises can continue to do so after 10pm as long as this is through delivery service, click-and-collect or drive-thru.
- Schools, universities and places of worship remain open.
- Weddings and funerals can go ahead with restrictions on the number of attendees.
- Organised indoor sport and exercise classes can continue to take place, provided the Rule of Six is followed.
- People must not meet in groups larger than 6, indoors or outdoors.

2. High Alert Level (e.g. currently – Cheshire, Lancashire, Greater Manchester and others areas)

This is for areas with a higher level of infections. This means the following additional measures are in place:

- People must not meet with anybody outside their household or support bubble in any indoor setting, whether at home or in a public place.
- People must not meet in a group of more than 6 outside, including in a garden or other space.
- People should aim to reduce the number of journeys they make where possible. If they need to travel, they should walk or cycle where possible, or to plan ahead and avoid busy times and routes on public transport.

3. Very High Alert Level – (currently Liverpool City Region)

This is for areas with a very high level of infections. The Government will set a baseline of measures for any area in this local alert level. Consultation with local authorities will determine additional measures.

- **Pubs and bars must close, and can only remain open where they operate as if they were a restaurant** - which means serving substantial meals, like a main lunchtime or evening meal. They may only serve alcohol as part of such a meal.
- **Wedding receptions are not allowed.**
- **People must not meet with anybody outside their household or support bubble** in any indoor or outdoor setting, whether at home or in a public space. The Rule of Six applies in open public spaces like parks and beaches.
- **People should try to avoid travelling outside the 'Very High' area** they are in, or entering a 'Very High' area, other than for things like work, education, accessing youth services, to meet caring responsibilities or if they are in transit.

Northern Ireland Executive agreed a range of measures to curb spread of COVID-19 on 14th Oct:

These will come into regulatory effect from Fri 16th Oct and remain in place for four weeks



- Bubbling to be limited to a maximum of **10 people from two households**
- No overnight stays in a private home unless in a bubble;
- **Closure of the hospitality sector (incl. pubs and restaurants) apart from deliveries and takeaways** for food, with the existing closing time of 11.00pm remaining.
- Close contact services such as **hairdressers and beauticians are not permitted to open**, apart from those relating to the continuation of essential health interventions and therapeutics.
- **No indoor sport of any kind** or organised contact sport involving household mixing other than at elite level;
- **No mass events involving more than 15 people** (except for allowed outdoor sporting events where the relevant number for that will continue to apply);
- Gyms may remain open but for individual training only with local enforcement in place;
- **Funerals to be limited to 25 people** with no pre- or post-funeral gatherings;
- **Off licenses and supermarkets will not sell alcohol after 8.00pm;**
- **Wedding ceremonies and civil partnerships to be limited to 25 people with no receptions.**

And the following advice will be added to the existing health guidance:

- Work from home unless unable to do so;
- **Universities and further education to deliver distance learning to the maximum extent possible** with only essential face to face learning where that is a necessary and unavoidable part of the course;
- No unnecessary travel should be undertaken.
- **The half term holiday break for schools and colleges will be extended to a two-week break to run from 19th to 30th October.**
- Places of worship will remain open with a mandatory requirement to wear face coverings when entering and exiting.
- **The retail sector will also stay open at this time.**



Conclusions

- Many countries in Europe, and beyond, are experiencing resurgence of COVID-19 in recent weeks/months as restrictions that had initially been imposed were lifted
- Increasing incidence driven primarily by infection rates amongst younger age groups, however, cases are increasingly occurring in those aged >65y
- Many countries in Europe, and other regions, are observing increasing hospitalisations, ICU admissions and deaths related to COVID-19
- Restrictions are increasingly being reintroduced in countries as control of the disease is lost and community transmission spreads



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