COVID-19 Results Briefing

The United Kingdom

February 12, 2021

This document contains summary information on the latest projections from the IHME model on COVID-19 in the United Kingdom. The model was run on February 12, 2021 with data through February 8, 2021.

Current situation

- Daily reported cases in the last week decreased to 19,800 per day on average compared to 27,000 the week before (Figure 1).
- Daily deaths in the last week decreased to 1,050 per day on average compared to 1,130 the week before (Figure 2). This makes COVID-19 the number 1 cause of death in the United Kingdom this week (Table 1).
- Effective R, computed using cases, hospitalizations, and deaths, is greater than 1 in no locations (Figure 3).
- We estimated that 16% of people in the United Kingdom have been infected as of February 8 (Figure 4).
- The daily death rate is greater than 4 per million in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales (Figure 6).

Trends in drivers of transmission

- Mobility last week was 54% lower than the pre-COVID-19 baseline (Figure 7). Mobility was near baseline (within 10%) in no locations. Mobility was lower than 30% of baseline in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales.
- As of February 8 we estimated that 67% of people always wore a mask when leaving their home compared to 67% last week (Figure 8). Mask use was lower than 50% in no locations.
- There were 926 diagnostic tests per 100,000 people on February 8 (Figure 9).
- In the United Kingdom 88.8% of people say they would accept or would probably accept a vaccine for COVID-19. The fraction of the population who are open to receiving a COVID-19 vaccine ranges from 88% in Northern Ireland to 90% in Scotland (Figure 11).
- In our current reference scenario, we expect that 50.90 million will be vaccinated by June 1 (Figure 12).
Projections

- In our **reference scenario**, which represents what we think is most likely to happen, our model projects 161,000 cumulative deaths on June 1. This represents 29,000 additional deaths from February 8 to June 1 (Figure 13). Daily deaths peaked at 1,320 on January 22 (Figure 15).

- By June 1, we project that 24,900 lives will be saved by the projected vaccine rollout.

- If **universal mask coverage (95%)** were attained in the next week, our model projects 5,000 fewer cumulative deaths compared to the reference scenario on June 1 (Figure 13).

- In the **rapid spread of variants scenario**, daily deaths would remain above 30 on June 1. Cumulative deaths on June 1 would be 161,000 (Figure 14).

- Under our **worse scenario**, our model projects 169,000 cumulative deaths on June 1 (Figure 13).

- Figure 17 compares our reference scenario forecasts to other publicly archived models. Forecasts are widely divergent.

- At some point from February through June 1, England, Northern Ireland, and Wales will have high or extreme stress on hospital beds (Figure 18). At some point from February through June 1, all four countries will have high or extreme stress on ICU capacity (Figure 19).
Model updates

The major update in this week’s models has been to incorporate the expected spatial spread of variants to adjacent states or countries. The speed of spread has been based on the observed pace of the spread of the B.1.1.7 variant in England. Expected spread of variants has been incorporated into the reference scenario.
Current situation

Figure 1. Reported daily COVID-19 cases
Table 1. Ranking of COVID-19 among the leading causes of mortality this week, assuming uniform deaths of non-COVID causes throughout the year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cause name</th>
<th>Weekly deaths</th>
<th>Ranking</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COVID-19</td>
<td>7,370</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ischemic heart disease</td>
<td>1,796</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stroke</td>
<td>974</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease</td>
<td>845</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tracheal, bronchus, and lung cancer</td>
<td>824</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lower respiratory infections</td>
<td>805</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias</td>
<td>624</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colon and rectum cancer</td>
<td>466</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prostate cancer</td>
<td>307</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Breast cancer</td>
<td>293</td>
<td>10</td>
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Figure 2a. Reported daily COVID-19 deaths
Figure 2b. Estimated cumulative deaths by age group

Figure 3. Mean effective R on January 28, 2021. The estimate of effective R is based on the combined analysis of deaths, case reporting, and hospitalizations where available. Current reported cases reflect infections 11-13 days prior, so estimates of effective R can only be made for the recent past. Effective R less than 1 means that transmission should decline, all other things being held the same.
Figure 4. Estimated percent of the population infected with COVID-19 on February 08, 2021.

Figure 5. Percent of COVID-19 infections detected. This is estimated as the ratio of reported daily COVID-19 cases to estimated daily COVID-19 infections based on the SEIR disease transmission model.
Figure 6. Daily COVID-19 death rate per 1 million on February 08, 2021
Critical drivers

Table 2. Current mandate implementation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primary school closure</th>
<th>Secondary school closure</th>
<th>Higher school closure</th>
<th>Borders closed to any non-resident</th>
<th>Borders closed to all non-residents</th>
<th>Individual movements restricted</th>
<th>Curfew for businesses</th>
<th>Individual curfew</th>
<th>Gathering limit: 6 indoor, 10 outdoor</th>
<th>Gathering limit: 10 indoor, 25 outdoor</th>
<th>Gathering limit: 25 indoor, 50 outdoor</th>
<th>Gathering limit: 50 indoor, 100 outdoor</th>
<th>Gathering limit: 100 indoor, 250 outdoor</th>
<th>Restaurants closed</th>
<th>Bars closed</th>
<th>Restaurants / bars curbside only</th>
<th>Non-essential retail closed</th>
<th>Gyms, pools, other leisure closed</th>
<th>Non-essential workplaces closed</th>
<th>Stay home order</th>
<th>Stay home fine</th>
<th>Mask mandate fine</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>England</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mandate in place</td>
<td>No mandate</td>
<td>No mandate</td>
<td>No mandate</td>
<td>Mandate in place</td>
<td>(implemented this week)</td>
<td>(lifted this week)</td>
<td>(update from previous reporting)</td>
<td>(update from previous reporting)</td>
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<td>Northern Ireland</td>
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<td>Wales</td>
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*Not all locations are measured at the subnational level.
**Figure 7a.** Trend in mobility as measured through smartphone app use compared to January 2020 baseline

**Figure 7b.** Mobility level as measured through smartphone app use compared to January 2020 baseline (percent) on February 08, 2021
**Figure 8a.** Trend in the proportion of the population reporting always wearing a mask when leaving home.

**Figure 8b.** Proportion of the population reporting always wearing a mask when leaving home on February 08, 2021.
**Figure 9a.** Trend in COVID-19 diagnostic tests per 100,000 people

**Figure 9b.** COVID-19 diagnostic tests per 100,000 people on February 02, 2021
Figure 10. Increase in the risk of death due to pneumonia on February 1, 2020 compared to August 1, 2020.
Figure 11. This figure shows the estimated proportion of the adult (18+) population that is open to receiving a COVID-19 vaccine based on Facebook survey responses (yes and yes, probably).

Figure 12. The number of people who receive any vaccine and those who are effectively vaccinated and protected against disease, accounting for efficacy, loss to follow up for two-dose vaccines, partial immunity after one dose, and immunity after two doses.
Projections and scenarios

We produce four scenarios when projecting COVID-19. The reference scenario is our forecast of what we think is most likely to happen. Vaccines are distributed at the expected pace. Governments adapt their response by re-imposing social distancing mandates for 6 weeks whenever daily deaths reach 8 per million, unless a location has already spent at least 7 of the last 14 days with daily deaths above this rate and not yet re-imposed social distancing mandates, in which case mandates are re-imposed when daily deaths reach 15 per million. Variant B.1.1.7 (first identified in the UK) continues to spread in locations where 100 or more isolates have been detected to date.

The rapid variant spread scenario shares assumptions with reference but variant B.1.351 (first identified in South Africa) spreads to everywhere in the world, starting Feb. 1, 2021. Variant B.1.351 spreads at the observed rate that B.1.1.7 spread in London. The variant is assumed to increase the infection-fatality rate by 29% and transmissibility by 25%. This scenario also assumes that those vaccinated are less effectively protected against variant B.1.351: Pfizer, Moderna, Janssen, and Novavax clinical effectiveness is reduced by 20%; all other vaccines clinical effectiveness is reduced by 50%. Governments adapt their response by re-imposing social distancing mandates for 6 weeks whenever daily deaths reach 8 per million, unless a location has already spent at least 7 of the last 14 days with daily deaths above this rate and not yet re-imposed social distancing mandates, in which case mandates are re-imposed when daily deaths reach 15 per million. Variant B.1.1.7 (first identified in the UK) continues to spread in locations where 100 or more isolates have been detected to date.

The worse scenario makes the same assumptions as the rapid variant spread scenario but also assumed that in those that are vaccinated mobility moves towards pre-COVID-19 levels.

The universal masks scenario makes all the same assumptions as the reference scenario but also assumes 95% mask usage adopted in public in every location.
Figure 13. Cumulative COVID-19 deaths until June 01, 2021 for four scenarios

Figure 14. Daily COVID-19 deaths until June 01, 2021 for four scenarios
Figure 15. Daily COVID-19 infections until June 01, 2021 for four scenarios

Figure 16. Forecasted percent infected with COVID-19 on June 01, 2021
Figure 17. Comparison of reference model projections with other COVID modeling groups. For this comparison, we are including projections of daily COVID-19 deaths from other modeling groups when available: Delphi from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Delphi; https://www.covidanalytics.io/home), Imperial College London (Imperial; https://www.covidsim.org), The Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL; https://covid-19.bsvgateway.org/), and the SI-KJalpha model from the University of Southern California (SIKJalpha; https://github.com/scc-usc/ReCOVER-COVID-19). Daily deaths from other modeling groups are smoothed to remove inconsistencies with rounding. Regional values are aggregates from available locations in that region.
**Figure 18.** The estimated inpatient hospital usage is shown over time. The percent of hospital beds occupied by COVID-19 patients is color coded based on observed quantiles of the maximum proportion of beds occupied by COVID-19 patients. Less than 5% is considered *low stress*, 5-9% is considered *moderate stress*, 10-19% is considered *high stress*, and greater than 20% is considered *extreme stress.*
Figure 19. The estimated intensive care unit (ICU) usage is shown over time. The percent of ICU beds occupied by COVID-19 patients is color coded based on observed quantiles of the maximum proportion of ICU beds occupied by COVID-19 patients. Less than 10% is considered low stress, 10-29% is considered moderate stress, 30-59% is considered high stress, and greater than 60% is considered extreme stress.
More information

Data sources:
Mask use data sources include PREMISE; Facebook Global symptom survey (This research is based on survey results from University of Maryland Social Data Science Center) and the Facebook United States symptom survey (in collaboration with Carnegie Mellon University); Kaiser Family Foundation; YouGov COVID-19 Behaviour Tracker survey.
Vaccine hesitancy data are from the COVID-19 Beliefs, Behaviors, and Norms Study, a survey conducted on Facebook by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (https://covidsurvey.mit.edu/).
Data on vaccine candidates, stages of development, manufacturing capacity, and pre-purchasing agreements are primarily from Linksbridge and supplemented by Duke University.

A note of thanks:
We wish to warmly acknowledge the support of these and others who have made our covid-19 estimation efforts possible.

More information:
For all COVID-19 resources at IHME, visit http://www.healthdata.org/covid.