Progression of COVID-19 in the Community in Scotland •• the journey so far

Timeline of policy and community surveillance programme interventions

- 01 Mar: First Scottish case of COVID-19 reported
- 01 Mar: The Scottish Government confirm that all new pathways from 111 to Hubs / Community Assessment Centres (CACs) need to be in place by 23 March, diverting patients with COVID-19 symptoms from General Practice
- 13 Mar: Lockdown announced
- 23 Mar: COVID-19 Hubs / CACs open
- 14 Apr: Community surveillance pilot scheme
- 27 Apr: Community surveillance programme launched—all Health Boards commence swabbing and data collection
- 19 May: Change to clinical case definition to include loss of normal sense of smell or taste
- 28 May: Lockdown to Phase 1 of Scotland’s route map
- 01 Jun: Shift from testing in the Hubs / CACs for surveillance purposes to diagnostic testing, with surveillance data collection continuing
- 09 Jul: Lockdown from Phase 1 to Phase 2 (introduction of F.A.C.T.S)
- 20 Jul: Lockdown from Phase 2 to Phase 3
- 05 Aug: Scottish Government confirms surveillance programme to continue into October 2020
- 05 Aug: Symptomatic children aged < 5 years eligible for testing
- 01 Sep: Localised lockdown interventions
- 11 Aug: Schools re-open in Scotland
- 01 Oct: Introduction of additional restrictions for local authorities in the Glasgow area
- 12 Oct: Scottish Government confirms funding for COVID-19 surveillance programme to May 2021, with the inclusion of testing samples for Influenza / RSV

Figure illustrating the characteristics of the sample from cases across Scotland

For further information please contact nss.hpscoronavirus@phs.scot
Key findings

These are some of the results from those who reported COVID-19 symptoms, recruited into the surveillance programme by clinicians in the COVID Hubs and Community Assessment Centres, over 26 weeks from 13 April to 11 October 2020. This sample included 13,832 cases from all areas across Scotland, of which 338 samples were positive.

The 45–64 age group was more likely to have a positive test result than other age groups.

Men and women were both as likely to have a positive test result.

In those with positive COVID-19 test results, symptoms varied according to age group, however adults who reported cough and altered sense of taste/smell were significantly more likely to have positive test results, followed by headache, diarrhoea and fatigue. There were no symptoms which were more indicative of a positive test result in children and adolescents.

During Phase 1, there were higher numbers of positive tests in the group of patients with mild symptoms (who did not require a face to face consultation at a COVID-19 Community Assessment Centre) than in those with moderate symptoms (seen at an assessment centre).

All 14 Health Boards submitted data in Phases 1 and 2. We need to see this sustained and increased in Phase 3.

As we collect data in Phase 3, we will report on analysis of long term conditions in relation to COVID-19 and trends over time for events such as the re-opening of schools and universities.


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