



Home

News

Sport

Weather



Home | Israel-Gaza war | Cost of Living | War in Ukraine | Climate | UK | World | More

Business | Politics | Culture

Scotland | Scotland Politics | Scotland Business | Edinburgh, Fife & East | Glasgow & West | Highlands & Islands | NE, Orkney & Shetland | South | Tayside & Central | Alba | Local News

Covid in Scotland: Cases doubling weekly after restrictions eased

🕒 30 August 2021

Coronavirus



PA MEDIA

| More than 7,000 positive tests were recorded on Sunday

Covid cases in Scotland have roughly doubled every week since restrictions eased, leading to an increase in hospital admissions.

More than 500 people with Covid-19 are in hospital and case numbers hit a record high at the weekend.

According to the latest WHO figures, Lanarkshire and Glasgow's health board areas had Europe's highest case rates.

National clinical director Prof Jason Leitch said the NHS was stretched and elective surgeries could be delayed.

Scotland wanted "to get on top" of the virus and may need a "reverse gear" on some restrictions, he told the BBC.

On Sunday 7,113 positive tests were recorded compared with fewer than 1,500 on 9 August, when most of the Covid restrictions in Scotland were lifted.

Physical distancing rules and the limits on gatherings were removed, and all venues were allowed to reopen.

- [Nicola Sturgeon tests negative for Covid-19](#)
- [Record Covid cases as NHS faces 'perfect storm'](#)
- [Warning as major events return despite Covid surge](#)

A further 3,893 new cases were reported on Monday, with 14.1% of tests taken giving a positive result. This number is thought to be an underestimate because of a data backlog in the system in the testing laboratories.

The number of hospital patients rose to a total of 551, with 52 in intensive care.

Across the UK, the average number of daily confirmed cases, which had been falling in recent weeks, has been [rising for several days](#) with 26,476 confirmed cases announced on Monday.

There were 48 more deaths registered - 42 in England and [six in Northern Ireland](#).

Vaccines 'preventing harm'

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon previously said she was reassured that "vaccines are preventing the levels of serious health harms that case numbers like this would once have caused", but urged people to take care.

She went into self-isolation on Sunday after being contact traced by NHS Test and Protect as a close contact of someone with the virus.

However, she has now said that her own **PCR test came back negative** - meaning she no longer needed to isolate because she was fully vaccinated.

Allow Twitter content?

This article contains content provided by Twitter. We ask for your permission before anything is loaded, as they may be using cookies and other technologies. You may want to read [Twitter's cookie policy](#) and [privacy policy](#) before accepting. To view this content choose 'accept and continue'.

Accept and continue

● The BBC is not responsible for the content of external sites.

Under Scotland's Covid-19 rules, she is able to exit quarantine as she had her second dose of vaccine more than two weeks ago.

The SNP leader said she would continue to regularly take lateral flow tests as an "added precaution", and encouraged others to do likewise.

'NHS under pressure'

Speaking to **BBC Scotland**, Prof Leitch said: "We are hopeful that things might slow down, but there aren't many signs of that.

"We're doubling every seven days and that would mean we get to 10,000 sometime this week, maybe even beyond that by the end of the week.

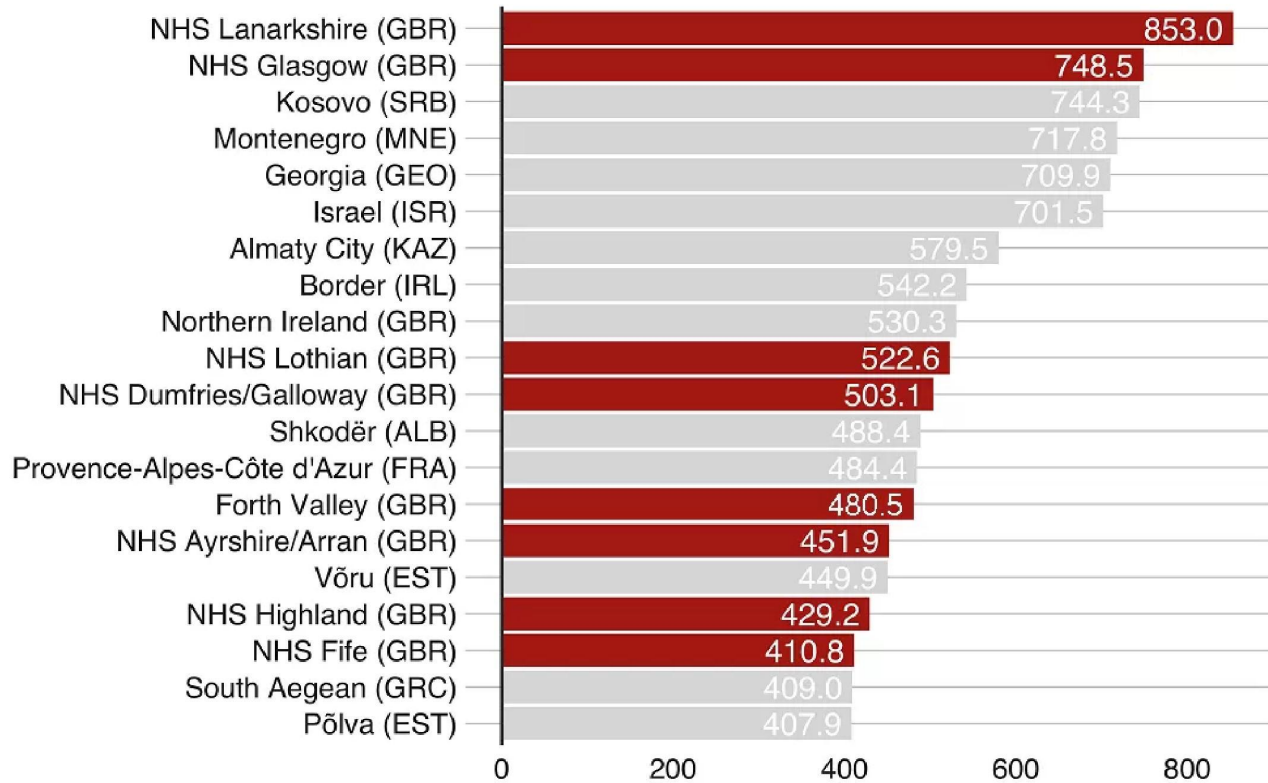
"But it is in our hands. There are things we can do about that - vaccination, testing and following the rules, the three things everybody now knows so well."

He said people now catching Covid were younger, healthier and going to hospital for shorter periods of time, but increasing numbers overall meant more people would become seriously ill.

"We're now beginning to see rises in hospital admissions and that is harm," he said. "We don't admit people to hospital for no reason."

Covid hotspots across Europe

Rates of coronavirus per 100,000 people as of 30 August



Source: World Health Organization

BBC

NHS Lanarkshire and NHS Glasgow top a list of the worst-hit regions in Europe, according to World Health Organization (WHO) figures with 853 and 748.5 cases per 100,000 respectively.

Six other Scottish health boards - Lothian, Dumfries and Galloway, Forth Valley, Ayrshire and Arran, Highland and Fife - also feature in the top 20.

NHS Lanarkshire announced that patients would only be able to have one visitor per day because of the increase in Covid cases in their hospitals while NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde is the latest health board to announce it is postponing elective surgery.

Prof Leitch said the increase in Covid cases was partly caused by the Delta variant being more transmissible, schools opening and more people meeting and gathering after lockdown restrictions were removed.

The health service was under pressure already, "with or without Covid", he added.

"When you add a new infectious disease on top of what we already manage, diabetes, and strokes and heart attacks and everything else that comes through our community and hospital system, of course it is stretched."



| Prof Jason Leitch is working with groups to address vaccine hesitancy

Efforts to tackle a backlog of elective procedures built up in the past year was being challenged by the latest surge, he said.

"The only thing you can turn off in a health system is elective care. You can't postpone strokes, heart attacks and emergency admissions for the elderly.

"We don't want to do that but if you need staff, beds etc for a novel infection disease then that's what you have to do because you can't just make respiratory consultants out of nowhere, or nurses in charge of intensive care out of nowhere, so you have to be flexible in that."

'Vaccine hesitant' groups

Prof Leitch warned that there had to be a "reverse gear" to protect public health but said further restrictions might not be a "short, sharp shock", but turning off "some bits of society".

"I hope we don't have to do any of that," he said.

Overall, 82.1% of over-18s in Scotland are fully vaccinated and 91.1% have had at least a first dose.

Prof Leitch said he was working with groups who were "vaccine hesitant" to address concerns.

"They have got legitimate questions," he said. "Some of it is, of course, scientific nonsense. The fertility one - there is no biological method where a vaccine could hurt fertility in any conceivable way - but there are legitimate questions about the blood clots, about allergies, that we can answer. When we answer, people come forward [for a vaccine]."

Scotland was "operationally ready for the 12 to 15-year-olds" when the JCVI approve vaccinations for that age group, he added.

More about coronavirus



- RULES: [What are the restrictions in your area?](#)
- EASING: [What rules are changing, and when?](#)
- WHO? [The people who have died with Covid-19](#)
- CASES: [Where are the latest cases?](#)

Related Topics

[Coronavirus vaccines](#)

[Coronavirus testing](#)

[Coronavirus](#)

More on this story



Nicola Sturgeon tests negative for Covid-19

30 August 2021



Record Covid cases as NHS faces 'perfect storm'

29 August 2021



Warning as major events return despite Covid surge

28 August 2021

Top Stories

Greece denies Elgin Marbles promise as row deepens

9 minutes ago

LIVE More hostages to be freed as Gaza truce extended for 48 hours

Greed prevented Wilko rescue deal, claims HMV boss

1 hour ago

Features



How Hamas built a force to attack Israel on 7 October



Watch: Released 12-year-old hostage hugs mum



The English town with a curious Canadian corner



Ninety-eight trees and a gingerbread White House



Chris Mason: Sculptures row about politics as much as history



How can we stop children vaping?



Watch: Boy's tearful thanks after leukaemia all-clear



When sea levels rise, so does your rent



The T-shirt chewing enzyme ready to tackle plastic waste

Elsewhere on the BBC



A compelling journey through the craziest crimes...

The world's most jaw-dropping crime stories with Laura Whitmore and Iain Stirling

Sounds



A Dublin crime family face a gangland war

Outnumbered and outgunned - will bonds of blood win out?

iPlayer



The pictures might be lost in time, but the sound lives on!

A chance to hear three of Doctor Who's earliest adventures in audio form

Sounds



A concert you'll never forget...

Take That perform a special gig filled with tracks from their new album, This Life, and their biggest hits too!

Sounds

Most Read

1 Wilko rescue failed due to greed, claims HMV boss

2 Greece denies Elgin Marbles promise as row deepens

3 Road has eight speed changes after switch to 20mph

4 Nurses react with fury over doctor pay offer

5 Groundbreaking green-fuelled flight to take off

6 New book promises to detail Royal turmoil

7 The English town with a curious Canadian corner

8 Toxic gas putting millions at risk in Middle East

9 'Most dangerous asteroid' sample arrives in UK

10 Royal book is more like Action Replay than Endgame

BBC News Services

 On your mobile

 On smart speakers

 Get news alerts

 Contact BBC News

Doctor Who



Choose your own intergalactic adventure!

CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE



The home of all things Doctor Who

DOCTOR WHO AT THE BBC



▶ Going behind the scenes...

▶ DOCTOR WHO: UNLEASHED



▶ Watch the first episode now!

▶ THE STAR BEAST

Home

Weather

CBBC

Bitesize

Local

News

iPlayer

CBeebies

Arts

Three

Sport

Sounds

Food

Taster

[Terms of Use](#)

[About the BBC](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Cookies](#)

[Accessibility Help](#)

[Parental Guidance](#)

[Contact the BBC](#)

[Make an editorial complaint](#)

[Get Personalised Newsletters](#)

Why you can trust the BBC

© 2023 BBC. The BBC is not responsible for the content of external sites. [Read about our approach to external linking.](#)