

on 11 May, to 173 now. UK hospitalisations peaked at 3,645 on 1 April and have now fallen to 475.

5. This data will not reflect the most recent set of changes, made on 15 June. Nor will this effect be known fully when the step three package is introduced, at the start of July. The incidence and prevalence of the disease in the UK remains higher than in most other European countries which have eased their lockdowns. There is a risk that easing measures will lead to an increase in infections. Local outbreaks will be tackled with local responses, but a more general increase in infections might, in extremis, require national responses. The Government will need to maintain specific measures to tackle the epidemics in NHS, Social Care, and other high risk settings.
6. The Committee has recently re-endorsed the Government's strategy, in which it will move away from national level lock-down measures, to local management of outbreaks through the NHS Test and Trace programme and the Joint Biosecurity Centre (JBC). The effectiveness of the NHS Test and Trace programme has grown quickly since it was established. The programme now has the capacity to trace contacts of up to 10,000 people per day, and will increase capacity further if needed. In the first week of operation, contact tracers reached 67% (5,407) of the people who had tested positive; 79% of those provided contacts within 24 hours; 85% (26,985) of those contacts were reached and agreed to self-isolate; and 85% of those who agreed to self-isolate did so within 24 hours of identification. It will, however, take more time for the programme to be operating at maximum capacity.
7. Officials continue to judge that the Government is meeting the first four of the five tests. The Committee will want to make its own judgement. To meet the fifth test, the Government must be confident that any adjustments to current measures will not risk a second peak of infections that overwhelms the NHS. Effective local management of any outbreaks is the first line of protection against a second wave that might overwhelm the NHS. Rapid response is