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To:                **Emergencies Board**

On:                **18 September 2020**

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Report by:    **Chief Executive**

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Heading:       **Update on COVID-19**

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## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 This report provides an update of the Council's current arrangements and response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 1.2 **Dr Linda De Caestecker, Director of Public Health, at Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board will be in attendance at the start of the meeting in order to provide Members with an update on: infection levels across the Health board area and in Renfrewshire itself; the evidence supporting current additional restrictions in place in Renfrewshire; and any update on their impact to date. Divisional Commander Alan Murray will also be in attendance to provide further information on: the level of compliance with restrictions in Renfrewshire; the use of additional powers; and any update on Police Scotland's ongoing approach and response to the pandemic over the coming weeks. Both Officers will be available to answer questions from the Board.**
- 1.3 Information is provided in Section 3 on the current position including the numbers of cases and deaths within Renfrewshire and at a UK and international level. This includes information released on 16 September 2020 by National Records of Scotland; Test and Protect information relating to the numbers of confirmed cases and numbers asked to self-isolate in Council schools and other services; and context to the reports observed in the media relating to delays in test results being experienced by Care Homes.
- 1.4 Section 4 provides a short update on the current policy and guidance position and includes information on the latest unemployment data available to the Council. Section 5 updates the Board on the current position with Council and partner services ongoing response arrangements including: revisions to the powers provided for local authorities to control the transmission of Coronavirus;

amendments to the approach to statutory consultation in relation to the relocation of Paisley Grammar; and ongoing plans for the reopening of RLL facilities.

### **Key Messages**

- 1.5 It is clear, that as anticipated, the relaxation of lockdown requirements has led to increases in the numbers of positive cases of COVID-19 being confirmed across the UK, in Scotland and in Renfrewshire.
- 1.6 The number of reports of positive COVID-19 cases from tests in Renfrewshire has increased during August and the beginning of September. This trend in numbers of cases reflects the position in the wider Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board Area.
- 1.7 On 1 September 2020 the Scottish Government imposed local restrictions in Glasgow, West Dunbartonshire and East Renfrewshire Council areas initially intended to last for 2 weeks but subject to review in one week. On 7 September these restrictions were extended to Renfrewshire and East Dunbartonshire Council areas. Residents are being asked not to host anyone in their homes or travel to visit anyone else in their home in another area; in cases where an individual is identified as a close contact of a confirmed COVID–19 case their whole household is required to self-isolate under the Test and Protect arrangements. Subsequently these restrictions were also imposed in both North and South Lanarkshire, reflecting similar patterns of increased numbers of positive cases being experienced in these areas.
- 1.8 Test and Protect arrangements across Renfrewshire are robust and are acting as anticipated to identify potential cases in response to the increase in positive test results amongst the population and to minimise onward transmission of the virus. Incidences of confirmed cases have, as anticipated, impacted on some schools in Renfrewshire following the lockdown arrangements being eased during August 2020. Further information on the role of various agencies in the Test and Protect process and the current numbers of cases observed in Renfrewshire is contained within Section 3 of this report.
- 1.9 While numbers of positive cases identified have increased, there remains some evidence of success in suppressing the impact of the virus since the peak of the pandemic. No COVID-19 confirmed or suspected death has been recorded in Renfrewshire since week beginning 29 June 2020. Across Scotland however, the latest report from National Records of Scotland indicates that 5 people died with COVID-19 in the week to 13 September 2020, an increase of 3 from the previous week to 6 September 2020.
- 1.10 New regulations have been enacted providing additional powers to Council authorised officers to take steps to prevent and control the spread of infection by Coronavirus through premises, public open spaces or events. This report seeks authority to authorise Environmental Health Officers and Trading Standards Officers and their managers as relevant persons - to ensure that they continue to have the required authority to take relevant action under current legislation.

## 2. Recommendations

2.1 It is recommended that the Emergencies Board:

- (a) Note the current national and local situation with regard to COVID-19 and the impact on communities, businesses, the Council and its partners
  - (b) Note the response and recovery measures being put in place by the Council and partners as set out in this report
  - (c) Notes that the Council Scheme of delegated authority was used to authorise Environmental Health Officers and Trading Standards Officers under the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (Directions by Local Authorities) (Scotland) Regulations 2020 as made under the Coronavirus Act 2020
  - (d) Notes the update to legislation including the introduction of the Health Protection (Coronavirus) (Restrictions and Requirements) (Scotland) Regulations 2020 which came into force on 14 September 2020 and which replaces the Health Protection (Coronavirus) (Restrictions) (Scotland) Regulations 2020.
  - (e) Agrees with immediate effect to designate the Council's Environmental Health Officers and Trading Standards Officers and their managers as relevant persons under the Health Protection (Coronavirus) (Restrictions and Requirements) (Scotland) Regulations 2020 and the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (Directions by Local Authorities) (Scotland) Regulations 2020, as made under the Coronavirus Act 2020 and authorises them to undertake the powers available to relevant persons on the Council's behalf.
  - (f) Notes the arrangements that were required to be put in place to support participation in the statutory consultation on the Relocation of Paisley Grammar School to a New Build Community campus at Renfrew Road Paisley as set out in paragraphs 5.7 to 5.15 below ,as a result of the recently enhanced restrictions on public gatherings.
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### **3. Current Position**

- 3.1 Concern is growing once again about the numbers of positive cases of COVID-19 that are being identified across the UK and in Scotland. There is a particular concern in relation to parts of Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board area including in Renfrewshire.
- 3.2 In Renfrewshire, a total of 206 people have died with COVID-19 since the outbreak of the virus. This has not changed since the week beginning 29 June 2020. While a significant local outbreak has not yet been experienced, an increasing number of positive cases have been identified locally in recent weeks and these have impacted on schools and Council services. Across Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board area, Test and Protect has determined that most transmission has taken place in the community - in particular, at house parties and private events or gatherings – this is also the position in Renfrewshire. Officials from the Greater Glasgow and Clyde, Test and Protect team have been satisfied with the arrangements in place to prevent transmission of the virus within schools and other Council premises.
- 3.3 Appendix 1 contains a number of graphs that provide context; illustrate the evolving pandemic and highlight the key points below:

#### **Local**

- No COVID-19 confirmed or suspected deaths of Renfrewshire residents have been recorded now since week commencing 29 June 2020 (Appendix 1: Figure 1)
- The daily trend of reports of positive cases from tests in Scotland increased during August and early September (Appendix 1: Figure 2)
- This reflects the trend in numbers of cases in the wider Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board Area. (Appendix 1: Figure 3)

#### **National**

- New cases identified in Scotland peaked in late April and early May at an average of just over 270 new cases per day. Since then the cases identified declined significantly reaching a low of around 9 new cases per day in July (7 day moving average). In the context of significantly more tests now being carried out, there has been an increase in new cases being identified - starting during August as the first significant cluster was identified in Aberdeen. 267 new cases were identified in the 24 hrs to 16 September 2020. (Appendix 1: Figure 4)
- When the positive new cases identified are split by age group and comparisons are made between May and August 2020, it is clear that the overall age profile of positive cases has reduced markedly. In May over half of all cases were aged 45 and over and currently over half are aged 44 or less. When compared with the fact that 77% of all COVID-19 deaths so far have been over 75 this may explain why rates of deaths have remained low during August and not increased in line with the numbers of cases. When comparing the new cases for July and the last 4 weeks however, it is clear that while the age profile remains similar overall, the number of cases identified has increased markedly across all age groups. (Appendix 1: Figures 5 to 7)

- New cases identified in the UK peaked in May 2020 at around 6,000 cases per day and since then numbers identified declined steadily till June when around 550 new cases per day were being identified in the UK. Since the middle of June, the number of new cases per day has begun to increase again and currently over 3,000 cases per day are being identified. (7 day moving average)

### **International**

- Worldwide the pandemic is still growing. Just under 30 million cases have now been recorded, affecting 213 countries, and 35 countries have recorded increases of over 100 cases per 100,000 population in the last 14 days. (Appendix 1: Figure 8)
- This is driving an ongoing and continued increase in mortality and numbers of new cases being reported worldwide. Over 940,000 people have now died worldwide. Over 200,000 in the USA and over 133,000 in Brazil alone. (Appendix 1: Figures 9 and 10)
- Some countries which had managed to suppress deaths to a very low level following their lockdown period have since seen deaths rise as their lockdown restrictions have eased. For example, Spain recorded an average of 2 deaths per day for most of July and is currently recording an average of around 60 deaths per day.

### **Numbers of Cases**

- 3.4 Currently there have been 374,228 hospital confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the UK. In Scotland there have been 23,283 confirmed hospital cases, 6 people are currently in intensive care in Scotland with COVID-19. Of the confirmed hospital cases, 6,689 have been within the Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board area.

### **Numbers of Deaths**

- 3.5 In Renfrewshire, a total of 206 people have died with COVID-19 since the outbreak of the virus. 99 have died in care homes, 98 in hospital and 9 at home or other non-institutional locations. This has not changed since week beginning 29 June 2020.
- 3.6 The most recent National Records of Scotland report (15 September 2020) shows that at 13 September 2020, there had been a total of 4,236 deaths registered in Scotland where COVID-19 was mentioned on the death certificate – up 23 from 12 August 2020. (NRS data is now being prepared once a month with the next report due on 14 October 2020).
- 3.7 Worldwide there have now been over 940,000 deaths due to COVID-19. The UK had recorded 41,664 deaths by 15 September 2020 and now ranks fifth for overall numbers of recorded deaths, behind Mexico, India, Brazil and the United States.

### **Test and Protect**

- 3.8 The Test and Protect programme is run nationally by NHS Scotland. A new national team was set up in August 2020 to lead on COVID-19 Test and Protect calls and case management, however, complex cases (currently the majority of cases) are still being passed to and dealt with locally by individual health boards, in Renfrewshire this is Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board. The national team will assist Boards if there are large numbers of complex cases as has been the case in Greater Glasgow and Clyde recently.

- 3.9 As part of the Joint Health Protection Plan, Renfrewshire Council works very closely with the Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board, Public Health Protection Unit to minimise the risk of infection and the transmission of disease. Currently it has been agreed that Council's support the Test and Protect contact tracing process in schools, with local authorities taking the lead in assisting schools to identify the potential close contacts within the school and feeding this information back to the Health Board. Greater Glasgow and Clyde, Test and Protect will then confirm who is required to self-isolate for 14 days and issue a letter to pupils and their families. In Renfrewshire, the Council also seeks to telephone the parents of all pupils being asked to self-isolate to inform them of this, and Corporate Communications are issued to parents, teachers and Elected Members.
- 3.10 For all other cases, including those that impact on employees at other Council premises, Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board (Test and Protect) lead on contact tracing and minimising the transmission of the virus. On an informal basis, Council Environmental Health Officers offer proactive assistance to Council services as relevant, to support them in the early identification of the possible operational implications of an identified case and to take early action to self-isolate close contacts or otherwise seek to minimise the potential for transmission. The Council's Environmental Health team also assist the Health Board by visiting business premises that have been identified as being visited by a positive case and to assess any further contacts through information gathered by the business.
- 3.11 The Test and Protect programme continues to be busy within the Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board area reflecting the current increase in numbers of positive cases identified across the region. Within Renfrewshire, as was anticipated when lockdown restrictions were eased, Test and Protect has been active in some schools and Council premises.
- 3.12 To date, 17 schools in Renfrewshire have been linked to a confirmed case of COVID-19, with Test and Protect processes being activated in these schools to identify the close contacts of each of the 28 confirmed cases. Most of the confirmed cases in schools have been linked to a source of transmission that took place outwith and away from the school. A total of 352 pupils or staff have been asked to self-isolate since 15 August 2020 as a result of the cases in schools, 72 of whom have already completed their period of self-isolation and have returned to school.
- 3.13 In other services, there are currently 7 confirmed cases amongst employees other than teachers and 36 employees have been asked to self-isolate as a result of being a close contact of a confirmed case. Many of the employees asked to self-isolate have been a close contact of someone outwith Council premises, either socially or in another non-work situation.
- 3.14 Due to the current enhanced local restrictions that apply in Renfrewshire, where someone is deemed to be a close contact of a confirmed case, the entire household is required to self-isolate for 14 days from the last contact with that person.

### **Care Home COVID-19 Testing**

- 3.15 Over recent weeks, there have been issues reported in the media relating to Care Home testing delays via the UK Government's Social Care Portal. There are different routes and frequency levels for testing residents and staff in Older People care homes and additional context to these reports and the experience in Renfrewshire is provided below.

#### ***Resident Testing***

- 3.16 Resident testing is carried out via the NHS Scotland system 3 times a week on a Monday; Wednesday and Friday, with provision in place for urgent testing Monday to Friday, for:
- those who are symptomatic following referral from the GP
  - planned surveillance testing [regular planned testing of 10% of residents in 2 care homes each week]
  - mass testing following a test request for a staff member who is symptomatic (managed via the Test and Protect system) or a positive resident test
- 3.17 These results are available the next day, there have been no concerns raised with the current system. The last positive resident test was at the beginning of June 2020.

#### ***Staff Testing***

- 3.18 All staff in older adult care homes continue to be tested weekly, on a Wednesday, through the UK Government's Social Care Portal and any staff member who tests positive through this portal is retested by the local Health and Social Care Partnership team and the swab analysed by the NHS.
- 3.19 At the fortnightly care homes peer support group, a key concern raised by the care home managers has been the length of time taken to receive staff test results in recent weeks. Initially, staff tests were taken and picked up by a courier on the same day and the results followed within one or two days maximum. However, over the past few weeks this no longer the case for the majority of care homes, with some also reporting that they are not receiving results for staff or experiencing an increase in the number of 'unclear' results returned.
- 3.20 As a result, the care home managers are anxious that any delay in being informed that a staff member is positive could result in contact being maintained with residents and other members of staff. However, this should be mitigated by strict compliance with social distancing and PPE guidance.
- 3.21 The concerns of the care home managers have been escalated to both the NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde Executive level; Care Homes Assurance Group and Chief Officers Tactical Group. In a recent letter from the Scottish Government, they acknowledged that they are aware of the impact of delays in providing staff results and they are working to resolve the issues; recognising the UK Government has overall oversight for that part of the system. The UK Government has acknowledged the issues, as a result of rising demand, and has committed to resolving the testing delays in the coming weeks. The Scottish First Minister has advised that they are also exploring options for an improved approach.

### **Update from Police Scotland**

- 3.22 Divisional Commander Alan Murray will be attending the meeting in order to provide an update for Members of the Emergencies Board on the response to COVID – 19 from a Police perspective and the operational impact in Renfrewshire. The following information has been provided by Police Scotland as further context to the issues that he will raise.

### **Updated lockdown restrictions**

- 3.23 The increase in restrictions for Renfrewshire has seen a spike in calls to party houses over the last weekend, which resulted in several dispersals of 30+ people from house and garden parties with warnings issued and enforcement taken in line with the 4E's. It is considered that there was a spike in calls of this nature due to the perception that increased lockdown restrictions were going live on 14 September 2020.
- 3.24 So far it has not been necessary to use the updated powers of entry to private premises granted on 28 August 2020 under the Health protection (Coronavirus Restrictions)(Scotland) regulations 2020, with officers being able to gain entry without force to deal with incidents.

### **Student accommodation**

- 3.25 This week will see the start of students returning to campuses in Renfrewshire, which includes 2 halls of residence. Divisional Community Police Officers regularly attend and speak with staff, students and security officers at the halls of residence as part of their ward patrols. The campuses have 24hr security on site to deal with all low-level issues escalating the matter to Police Scotland if required.
- 3.26 K-Division has not encountered any issues with parties or gatherings within student accommodation since the lockdown period began. Police Scotland are specifically collecting information on any student accommodation calls at a national level. To date no calls have been received from security staff during the COVID-19 restrictions. The university also has a number of student liaisons who are happy to speak with police and highlight any issues that may arise.



## 4 Policy and Guidance Updates

- Scotland remains in phase 3 of the routemap for the foreseeable future
- From Monday 14 September the number of people who can gather indoors or outdoors has been set at a maximum of six from two households, excluding children under 12. (Currently this is constrained further in Renfrewshire where local lockdown arrangements are in place restricting meetings in indoor household settings)
- The NHS Scotland contact tracing app – Protect Scotland – became available for smartphone users to download. To date over 980,000 people have downloaded copies of the app
- At August 2020 the number of claimants in Renfrewshire was 7,885, a 1.5% increase since July. This is in the context of an increase in claimants in Renfrewshire between March and August 2020 of 96% and the likelihood that as the UK government's furlough scheme tapers off the number of claimants will increase further.

4.1 At both a Scottish and UK Government level, the policy context in relation to the response to COVID-19 continues to develop at a rapid pace. Changes to existing policies, the introduction of new processes, and announcements on future developments are all being closely monitored. Since the last Emergencies Board meeting on 4 September 2020, the following policy changes have been announced:

- Restrictions on meetings in indoor household settings were introduced in seven local authority areas – Renfrewshire, Glasgow, East Renfrewshire, West Dunbartonshire, East Dunbartonshire, North Lanarkshire, and South Lanarkshire.
- From Monday 14 September the number of people who can gather indoors or outdoors in Scotland has been set at a maximum of six from two households, excluding children under 12. (Currently this is constrained further in Renfrewshire where local lockdown arrangements are in place restricting meetings in indoor household settings) Other measures introduced include changes to where face coverings are required in hospitality settings, numbers permitted to attend wakes and receptions, and Routemap moves expected from 14 September have been given a new indicative date of 5 October.
- The NHS Scotland contact tracing app – Protect Scotland – became available for smartphone users to download. To date over 980,000 people have downloaded copies of the app.
- Changes were made to quarantine rules with travellers from Hungary and La Réunion being required to self-isolate, and Sweden being added to the list of destinations where travellers are exempt from the requirement to quarantine.

4.2 Guidance Updates:

- Guidance on adult social care building-based day services has been published to support the safe re-opening and delivery of these services, as well as updates to the adult care homes visiting guidance.

- Provisional guidance for organised activities for children, guidance for school visits and trips and an advisory note on physical education, music and drama in schools have also been published.

#### **Latest Unemployment Data**

- 4.3 On 15 September 2020 the latest claimant counts were published by the Office of National Statistics (ONS). The claimant count statistics don't represent unemployment, but the claims made through DWP are principally for the reason of being unemployed and so represent the closest regularly updated measure available for Renfrewshire of levels of unemployment locally.
- 4.4 At August 2020 the number of claimants in Renfrewshire was 7,885. This represents a 1.5% increase since July. This compares with a 3% increase for Scotland as a whole. Although this may seem like a relatively small increase it has to be read against the context of an increase in claimants in Renfrewshire between March and August 2020 of 96%. It is likely that in subsequent months (as the UK government's furlough scheme tapers off) that the number of claimants will increase further.

## 5 Recovery Update: Living with COVID-19

- New regulations have been enacted providing additional powers to Council authorised officers to take steps to prevent and control the spread of infection by Coronavirus through premises, public open spaces or events
- A series of virtual events are being organised to give the public different opportunities to participate in the consultation on the Relocation of Paisley Grammar School to a New Build Community Campus at Renfrew Road in Paisley. These are in addition to the other ‘traditional’ activities where interested parties are still invited to email or write to the director with their comments.
- Renfrewshire Leisure has begun the safe and phased reopening of indoor leisure centres from 14 September 2020, including the ON-X in Linwood, the Lagoon Centre in Paisley, Renfrew Leisure Centre, Renfrew Victory Baths, Erskine Sports Centre and Erskine Swimming Pool. Other services and facilities will open in subsequent phases.

### **Communities and Public Protection**

#### **Legislative changes – Regulatory Functions**

- 5.1 As detailed in previous reports to the Emergencies Board, the legislation and guidance around COVID-19 is constantly changing and evolving. The Health Protection (Coronavirus) (Restrictions) (Scotland) Regulations 2020 were amended 13 times before being revoked and replaced by the Health Protection (Coronavirus) (Restrictions and Requirements) (Scotland) Regulations 2020 on 11 September 2020.
- 5.2 All the powers that Renfrewshire Council previously had under the Public Health (Coronavirus) (Restrictions) (Scotland) Regulations 2020 were replaced with powers under the Public Health (Coronavirus) (Restrictions and Requirement) Regulations 2020. The latest legislation makes face covering mandatory in certain indoor establishments (enforced by Police Scotland) and changes the numbers of people allowed to meet indoors or outside (6 people from 2 different households).
- 5.3 The legislation allows a relevant person to take such action as is necessary to enforce any requirement imposed by these Regulations. In particular, this will ensure officers have power of entry but predominantly to:
- ensure relevant businesses remain closed e.g. nightclub, disco, theatre, soft play
  - ensure measures are taken to minimise the risk of exposure to coronavirus e.g. physical distancing, layout of premises and minimising numbers
  - ensure only 6 people from 2 households are within company
  - ensure all details are obtained for Test and Protect to allow suitable contact tracing if a case is identified.
- 5.4 Revoking and replacing these regulations impacted on the delegated authority approved at the Emergencies Board on 3 April 2020 and this report seeks authority to authorise Environmental Health Officers and Trading Standards Officers and their managers as relevant persons under the Health Protection (Coronavirus) (Restrictions and Requirements) (Scotland) Regulations 2020 as

made under the Coronavirus Act 2020, to ensure that they continue to have the required authority to take relevant action under current legislation.

- 5.5 In addition, the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (Directions by Local Authorities) (Scotland) Regulations 2020 were enacted on 28 August 2020. These new regulations give additional powers to local authorities to direct as necessary, for the purpose of preventing, protecting against, controlling or providing a public health response to the incidence or spread of infection by coronavirus in the local authority's area. Directions can be made with regards to a premise, event or public open space. This report also seeks authority to authorise Environmental Health Officers and Trading Standards Officers and their managers as relevant persons under the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (Directions by Local Authorities) (Scotland) Regulations 2020.
- 5.6 Further guidance from the Scottish Government will be issued to ensure the consistency of approach to enforcement across Scotland.

### **Children's Services**

- 5.7 In March 2020 the Education and Children's Services Policy Board approved the report "Proposal to Consult on the Relocation of Paisley Grammar School to a New Build Community Campus at Renfrew Road in Paisley". As a result of COVID-19 lockdown restrictions it was not possible to progress the formal consultation under the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 (referred to as the "2010 Act"), as originally intended.
- 5.8 A revised report was submitted to the Education and Children's Services Policy Board in August with a new timetable to take forward this consultation.
- 5.9 Additionally, to comply with physical distancing measures, the location for the public consultation meeting was relocated to the Lagoon Sports Centre. However, since the revised report was presented to board, further physical distancing restrictions have been imposed which mean that this meeting, in its present format, can no longer take place as planned.
- 5.10 Legislation states that there is a requirement to hold a public meeting with interested parties but does not prescribe the format that any public meeting must take. The Scottish Government are considering issuing guidance to cover public meetings in these circumstances. However, that is not yet available.
- 5.11 Legislation states that there is a requirement to engage with interested parties but does not give a definition of the format that this must take. As a public meeting in the 'traditional' sense is not possible currently, we intend to revise some of our methods of consultation to ensure all interested parties continue to have a voice.
- 5.12 The public meeting on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September, previously arranged to take place at the Lagoon Sports Centre, will now take place online. This will enable local people to hear directly from Children's Services and the school team and to ask questions. In addition, and to ensure all parties can engage fully in the process, a second live streaming event will take place on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September. The virtual consultation will be promoted through all the council's digital channels, the local media and school communication channels to ensure the widest possible

reach. There will also be the opportunity for people to engage by letter for anyone who is unable to access an online meeting.

- 5.13 Furthermore, a date will be agreed to have a virtual meeting with ward members where they will be able to present questions on behalf of constituents. Finally, officers will make themselves available to attend community council meetings if invited.
- 5.14 The virtual events organised give the public different opportunities to participate in the consultation process. These are in addition to the other 'traditional' activities where interested parties are still invited to email or write to the director with their comments.
- 5.15 All other parts of the consultation will continue as detailed in the paper to board in August. The public consultation will end on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

### **Renfrewshire Leisure Outdoor Pitches**

- 5.16 Following Scottish Government lockdown easing measures announced in late August, Renfrewshire Leisure re-opened synthetic surfaces at ON-X, Renfrew Sports Centre, Ralston, Seedhill and Ferguslie on 7 September 2020. Teams requesting 3G pitch bookings are required to contact the bookings team and complete COVID secure paperwork and Risk Assessments prior to their bookings being accepted. Uptake has been good and feedback positive.
- 5.17 To support the return of schools in August, Renfrewshire Leisure agreed that schools pitches would not be made available to the public within the first phase of re-openings. It was agreed that all school facilities (both indoor and pitches) would open in a subsequent phase/s, with strictly controlled public access, following a period of review. Teams have missed playing in their usual locations and RLL is now pleased to note that in partnership with the Council, they have completed the review for the reopening of pitches within the schools estate, and these pitches will now reopen on a phased basis, with relevant risk assessments and protection arrangements in place, commencing from 29 September 2020.

### **Leisure Centres**

- 5.18 The first phase of leisure centres reopening went live on 14 September 2020 at the ON-X in Linwood, the Lagoon Leisure Centre in Paisley, Renfrew Leisure Centre, Renfrew Victory Baths, Erskine Sports Centre and Erskine Swimming Pool, complying with all Scottish Government guidance on hygiene and physical distancing.
- 5.19 Early levels of usage and feedback from customers have been very positive. Fitness classes are strongly attended, swimming sessions also have high take up levels and there has been a steady gym footfall. Shared leisure facilities at Park Mains High School in Erskine and at the Johnstone Community Sports Hub will open in a second phase, with strictly controlled public access. This is subject to a review process currently underway and will involve detailed health and safety reviews. Planned investment work in maintenance of the swimming pool at Johnstone means that this part of the venue will not be ready to reopen alongside other areas of the site, but will follow later.

## Heritage Centre

- 5.20 The restart of on-site services on 17 September 2020, marks another stage in recovery from the coronavirus lockdown for Renfrewshire Leisure. The Centre is a fantastic resource and the team there worked hard during lockdown to share their vast knowledge digitally and over the phone, however it is clear that many people are looking forward to being able to physically access materials once again. A number of safety measures are in place such as an appointment-only entrance system and the wearing of face coverings, to ensure the safe operation of the centre temporarily housed at the Abbey Mill Business Centre on Seedhill Road as the transformation of Paisley Museum takes place.

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## Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – the Council continues to experience significant financial pressure arising from the impact of the pandemic on the population as well as the economic and social disruption caused by the associated restrictions being deployed by national governments. Significant financial pressures have emerged in a wide range of forms from loss of income, exceptional service costs, significant increase in demand for services, the need for additional and new interventions, support arrangements and services from the Council to help individuals, families and businesses across Renfrewshire as well as the Council's workforce during both the immediate emergency and as the country moves through the four phases of recovery under national direction.

The situation continues to be fluid and the estimated full year cost of the expected interventions continue to be updated in line with changes that emerge. The most significant of these changes relate to the full return to school of pupils in August which has materially reduced the additional cost forecast previously estimated for the delivery of a blended learning model. In addition, the Scottish Government has continued to confirm a range of further funding announcements over the course of the summer to provide specific support via local authorities to both individuals and businesses as well as a range of specific and general funding to assist local authorities in managing immediate financial pressures. Some of these funding announcement and flexibilities remain subject to confirmation and it is therefore expected that a full understanding in this regard will continue to develop over the course of the coming weeks. Engagement continues between COSLA and the Scottish Government regarding further funding and potential financial flexibilities as the period of emergency continues to extend and services and facilities are reopened on a phased basis.

A full financial update is scheduled to be presented to the September Council meeting at which point a greater degree of clarity will be in place. It is also anticipated that the report to Council will include a range of recommendations to manage both the immediate and substantial financial impact during 2020/21 but also recommendations to appropriately adjust the Council's medium term financial strategy in recognition of the significantly increased financial risks being faced by the Council. In this context it is expected that beyond the September Council meeting, the consequences of COVID19 and its financial impact on the Council will continue to be fluid and potentially subject to material change.

2. **HR & Organisational Development** – the Council's workforce represents a major part of the local population and as such has been impacted directly by the spread of confirmed cases, but much more significantly by the public health directions for self-isolation given to those displaying symptoms and those with family members displaying symptoms as well as those

in the at risk groups instructed to pro-actively implement strict social distancing arrangements. Full support and communication are being provided to all staff members to ensure they remain fully informed of the developing situation and where appropriate and practical, are being supported to work safely at home and or safely return to active work once recovered or free of recommended self-isolation periods. Working closely with national government, partners and trade unions the Council has been required to actively manage and redeploy staffing resources to meet the most critical services over this exceptional emergency period and will continue to do so as the Council moves forward through the Government's phased routemap to reopen services and facilities.

3. **Community/Council Planning –**

COVID-19 has impacted on the operations of Council partners and on services to the community. This paper highlights the work undertaken to mitigate this impact as far as possible, to maintain essential services for the safety and wellbeing of the community and to reopen services as partner organisations and the Council are able to do so following the Government routemap.

4. **Legal – N/A**

5. **Property/Assets –** Initial planning for the phased reopening of non-essential office accommodation in line with requirements for physical distancing and to protect employees, members and customers has indicated that the capacity of some office buildings will be around 25% of previous normal occupancy levels. The use of property and assets will be prioritised to support essential services, necessary access to equipment and facilities, customer demand for necessary face to face service provision and the welfare of employees. Adjustments to physical assets will be required in the form of physical screens and the implementation of one-way access and egress arrangements required to ensure the safety of employees, members and customers using facilities.

6. **Information Technology –** ICT are working to ensure staff have the capability to work from home wherever possible to reduce social contact in line with government and health guidance. There will be an ongoing requirement to support employees with appropriate equipment and training to allow them to continue to work flexibly and from home as a default wherever possible.

7. **Equality & Human Rights**

- (a) The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report.

8. **Health & Safety –** Advice and guidance is being given to protect the health and safety of employees and service users when carrying out priority services for the Council in line with up to date government and health guidance. As services are prioritised and planned to restart or reopen appropriate health and safety assessments are being carried out to ensure that working processes and procedures have been updated, cleaning arrangements and equipment are reviewed and relevant training, guidance, and where required PPE have been provided to ensure that employee and customer safety is maintained.

9. **Procurement –** As the lockdown period progressed the availability of some key materials and PPE supplies was under pressure across all UK organisations. Procurement teams are maintaining ongoing monitoring of the supplies of these products and operational services will ensure appropriate levels of stocks are maintained to meet the future needs of their services as the phased reintroduction of services and facilities proceeds in line with the Government routemap.

10. **Risk** – Due to the severity of the global pandemic and COVID-19, there is a risk to the delivery of the services with staff levels being reduced or access to facilities or equipment restricted. This is being closely monitored by the Emergency Management Team. Business Continuity Plans have been reviewed and the risk has been added to the Corporate Risk Register. As services are prioritised and planned to restart or reopen appropriate risk assessments are being carried out to ensure that working processes and procedures have been updated to ensure that employee and customer safety is maintained.
11. **Privacy Impact** - None.
12. **COSLA Policy Position** – Not Applicable
13. **Climate Risk** – Not Applicable
- 

#### **List of Background Papers**

None

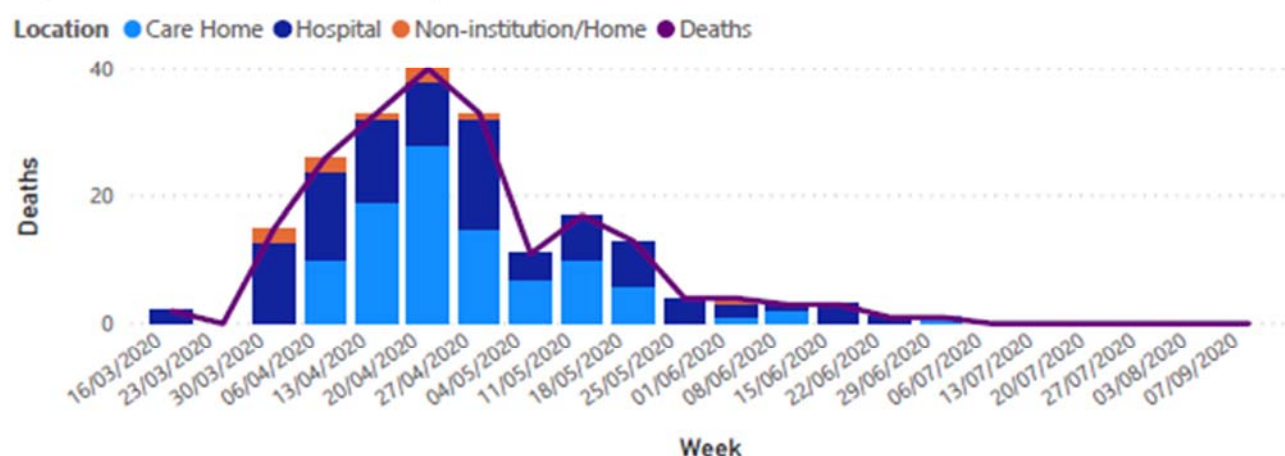
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## Appendix 1 - Coronavirus (COVID-19) Statistics

Figure 1 - Renfrewshire, Weekly COVID-19 Deaths, Number and location



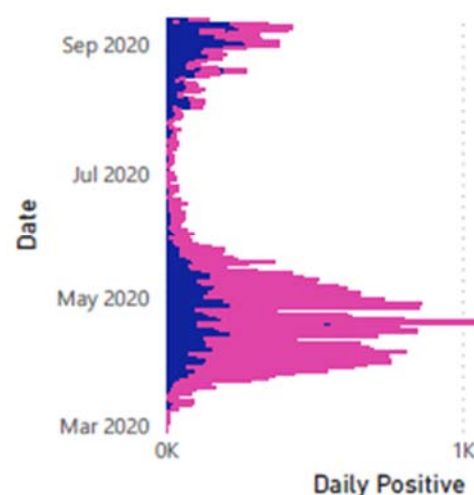
COVID-19 related deaths were first reported in Renfrewshire in the week commencing 16th March 2020. Weekly deaths increased rapidly and reached a peak of 40 deaths in the week beginning the 20th April 2020. They then fell rapidly throughout the rest of April and into May, reaching levels consistently below 5 deaths per week by June. No deaths have been recorded in the last six reporting periods.

National Records Scotland have now moved to monthly reporting at a Local Authority level with the next figures released on the 16th September.

Source: National Records Scotland <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/covid19stats>

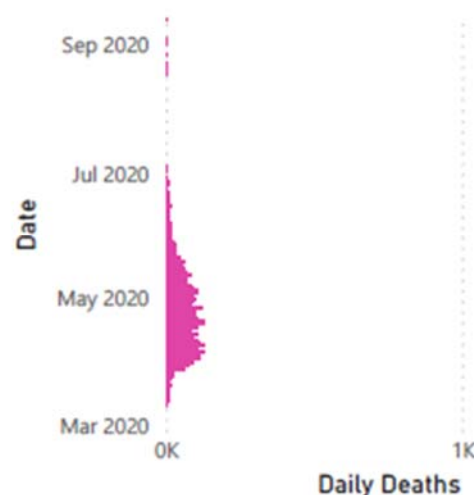
Figure 2 - Scotland, Daily Positive Tests

Age Group ● Below 45 ● Over 45



Scotland, Daily Deaths Following Positive Test

Age Group ● Below 45 ● Over 45

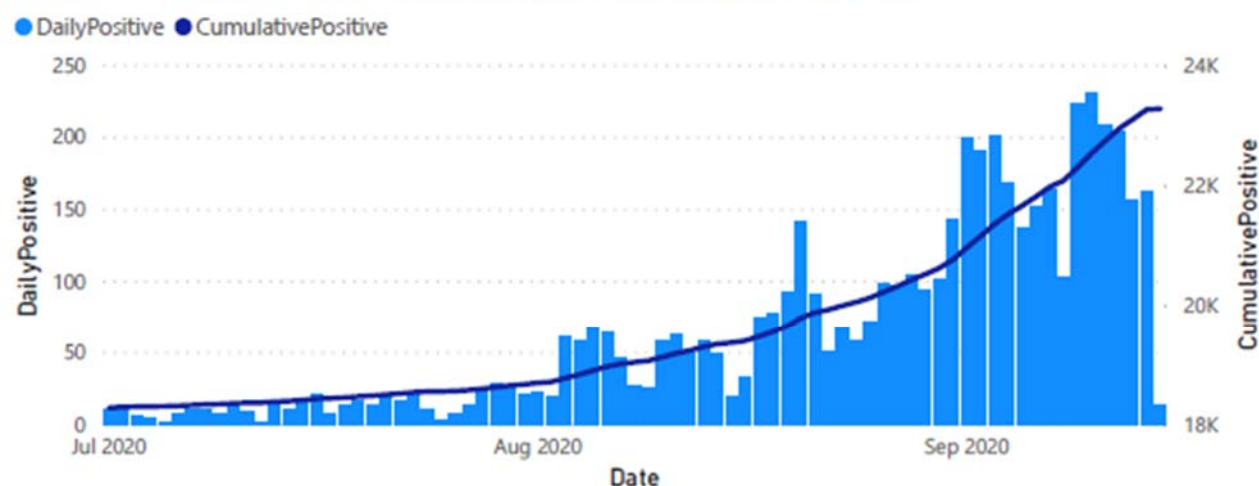


While the number of new cases identified each day is greatly reduced, new cases continue to be identified regularly across Scotland and the trend has been upwards during August, including increased positive test among the over 45s.

Source: Public Health Scotland

## Appendix 1 - Coronavirus (COVID-19) Statistics

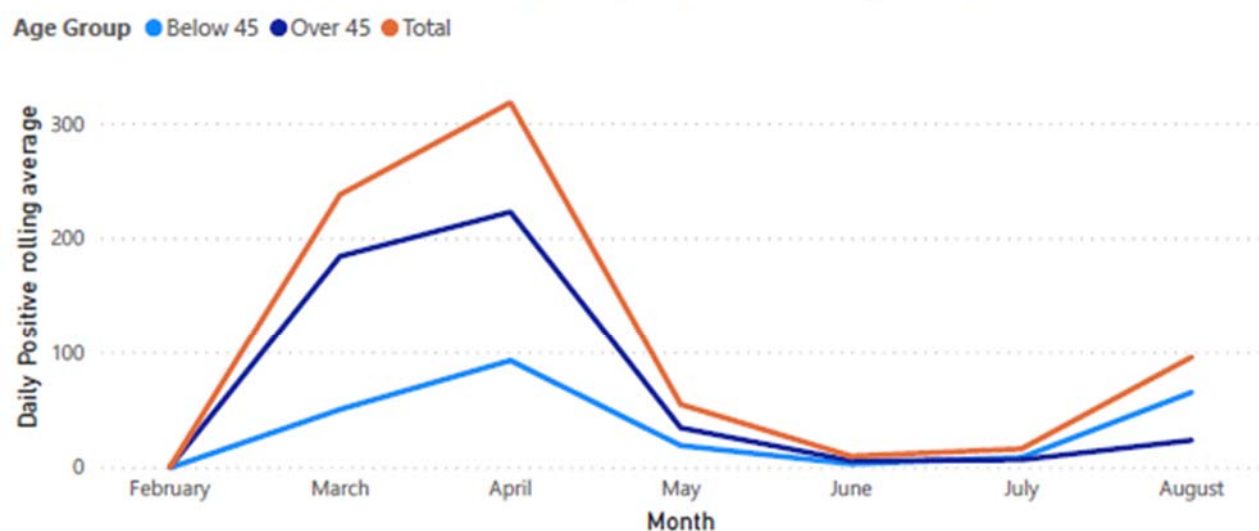
Figure 3 - Greater Glasgow & Clyde, Daily and Cumulative Positive Cases



This upward trend is more pronounced in the wider Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board Area. The last week of August saw a particularly sharp increase.

Source: Public Health Scotland

Figure 4 - Scotland, Daily Positive rolling average by Month and Age Group

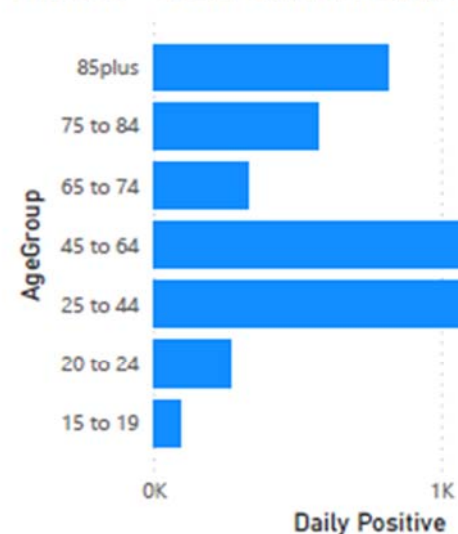


While the number of new cases identified each day is greatly reduced, new cases continue to be identified regularly across Scotland and the trend has been upwards during August, including increased positive test among the over 45s.

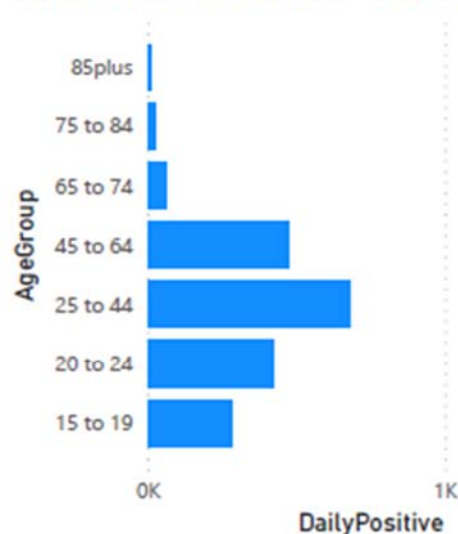
Source: Public Health Scotland

## Appendix 1 - Coronavirus (COVID-19) Statistics

Figure 5 - Total Positive in Scotland - May



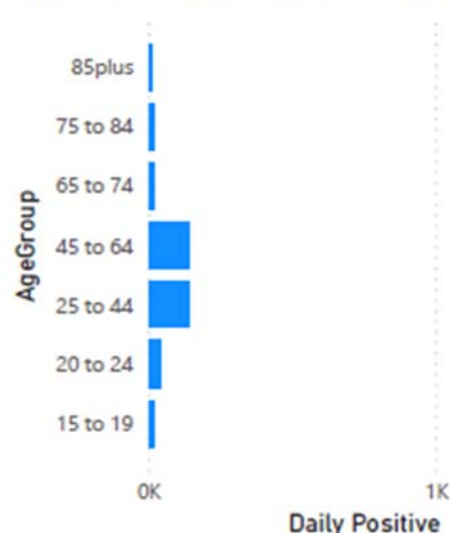
Total Positive in Scotland - August



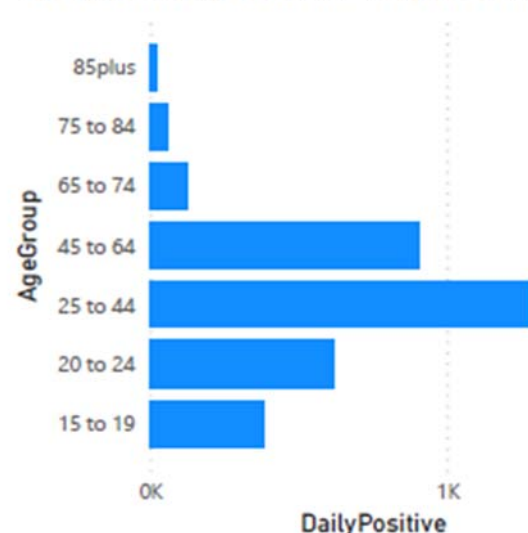
Source: Public Health Scotland

The graphs above contrast the positive tests in May with the positive tests recorded in August. The levels have reduced but also the age groups of the individuals testing positive have changed with the most at risk age groups (65+) now only a small minority of cases.

Figure 6 - Total Positive in Scotland - July



Total Positive in Scotland - August 16th on



Source - Public Health Scotland

The pattern of age groups affected has also changed in the latest phase. As well as increased numbers, cases in the most at risk age groups are starting to increase.



Figure 7 - Positive cases by month and age group

| AgeGroup | February | March | April | May   | June | July | August | September | Total |
|----------|----------|-------|-------|-------|------|------|--------|-----------|-------|
| 15 to 19 | 0        | 42    | 142   | 182   | 32   | 26   | 568    | 372       | 1364  |
| 20 to 24 | 0        | 112   | 725   | 560   | 74   | 80   | 842    | 686       | 3079  |
| 25 to 44 | 0        | 998   | 4584  | 2444  | 294  | 288  | 1380   | 1671      | 11659 |
| 45 to 64 | 2        | 1874  | 6834  | 2866  | 314  | 294  | 948    | 1188      | 14320 |
| 65 to 74 | 0        | 784   | 1710  | 699   | 90   | 32   | 116    | 176       | 3607  |
| 75 to 84 | 0        | 918   | 2812  | 1256  | 156  | 38   | 46     | 78        | 5304  |
| 85plus   | 0        | 492   | 3098  | 1806  | 200  | 22   | 20     | 28        | 5666  |
| Total    | 2        | 5280  | 20041 | 9905  | 1186 | 804  | 4186   | 4493      | 45897 |
| Total    | 4        | 10500 | 39946 | 19718 | 2346 | 1584 | 8106   | 8692      | 90896 |

Source: Public Health Scotland

The seven day average for daily positive cases has moved from a high point of over 300 in May 2020 to a low of between 10-20 in June and July, to the August figure of 80 cases per day.

The table above also illustrates that the rate for under 45s is now approaching levels experienced during March 2020 but the levels over 45s remain very low compared to that period.

Figure 8 - Countries with 100+ cases per 100,000 population, last 14 days

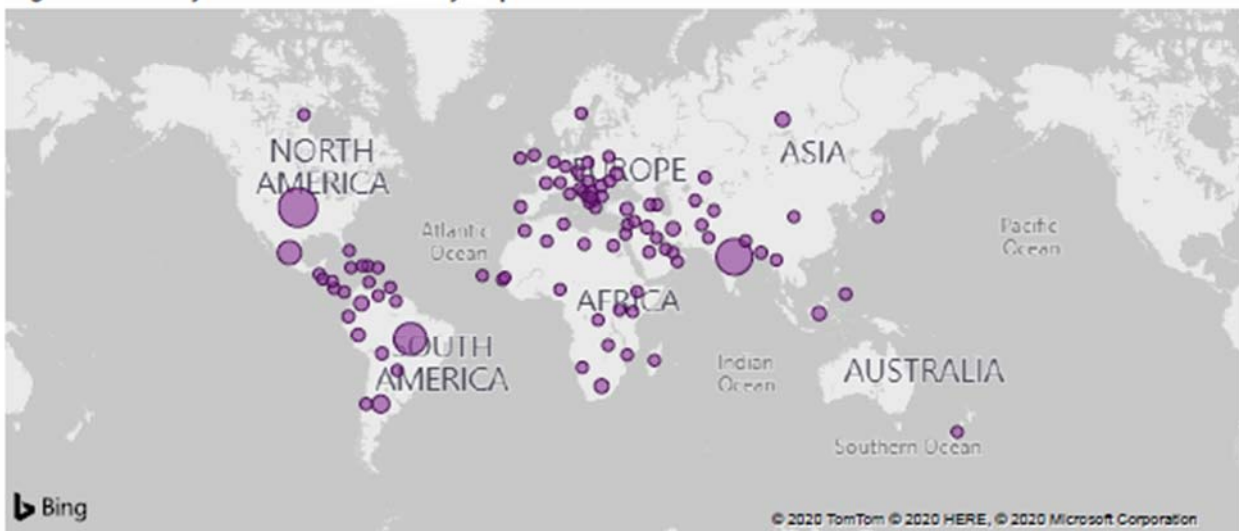


Source - European Centre for Disease Control/WHO

The map above shows the countries recording more than 100 cases per 100,000 population in the last 14 days and illustrates that outbreaks remain on a global scale with the Middle East, Central America and the Balkans reporting significant increases. Significant numbers of new cases continue to be reported around the world with 35 countries reporting more than 100 new cases per 100,000 of population in the last 14 days as at the 16th September 2020.

## Appendix 1 - Coronavirus (COVID-19) Statistics

Figure 9 - Daily COVID-19 mortality reported worldwide

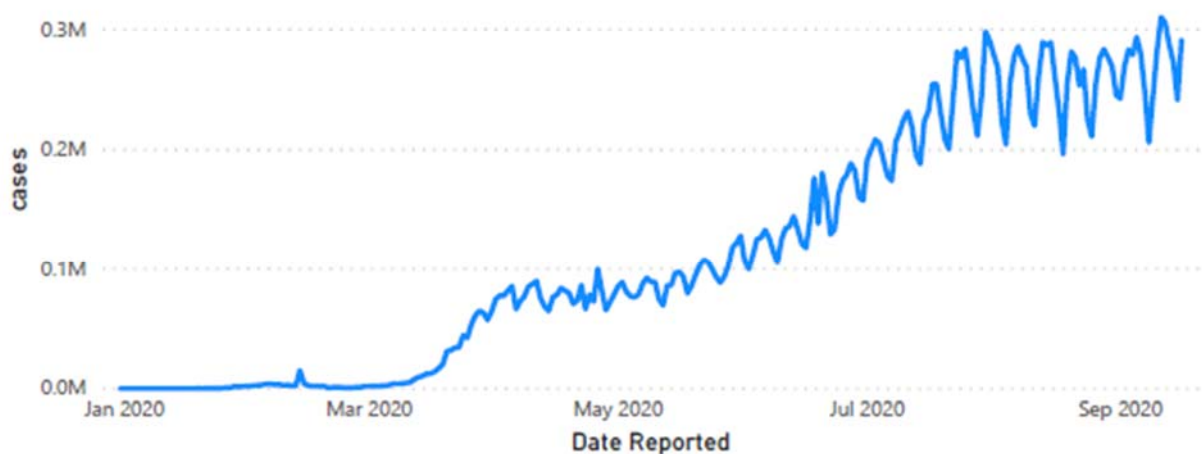


Source: European Centre for Disease control/WHO

The continuing escalation of cases unfortunately translates into continuing wide spread mortality across the world.

The map above illustrates where deaths were reported on the 16th September.

Figure 10 - Daily COVID-19 cases reported worldwide



Source: European Centre for Disease control/WHO

While the distribution of cases is becoming more geographically dispersed, the overall number of daily cases reported worldwide continues to grow. The graph above shows the total new cases reported each day so far in 2020 showing a steady acceleration cases and now steady reports of between 20,000-30,000 cases a day.

Increases may relate to the expansion of testing programmes over time as well as the spread of the virus but the figures highlight the scale of the pandemic globally.