
To: Emergencies Board

On: 4 September 2020

Report by: Chief Executive

Heading: Update on COVID-19

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report provides an update of the Council's current arrangements and response to the COVID-19 pandemic. 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.
- 1.2 Section 4 provides an update on the current policy and guidance position – including the statement made by the First Minister on 1 September 2020 on the Programme for Government 2020 – 2021. Section 5 updates the Board on the current position with Council and partner services ongoing response arrangements including the new powers provided for local authorities to control the transmission of Coronavirus.

Key Messages

- 1.3 The number of reports of positive COVID-19 cases from tests in Renfrewshire remains low, however the daily trend has increased during August. This upward trend in numbers of cases is more pronounced in the wider Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board Area. The last week of August saw a particularly sharp increase and 66 new cases were identified in the 24 hrs to 1 September 2020.
- 1.4 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. Residents are being asked not to host anyone in their homes or travel to visit anyone else in their home in another area; care homes will revert to only outside visits and hospitals will minimise all visits during this period.

- 1.5 In Renfrewshire, plans for the reintroduction of visits in care homes have been paused with any indoor visiting stopped with immediate effect for the next 2 weeks. Public Health will review this position again in two weeks.
 - 1.6 There remains clear 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 in the last 5 weeks. Across Scotland there have been 2 deaths from confirmed COVID-19 since 16 July 2020. No deaths from COVID-19 have been reported in Renfrewshire Care Homes since 10 June 2020 and no care homes have reported residents with confirmed COVID-19 since 19 June 2020. No Care at Home service users have died with COVID-19 since 9 May 2020.
 - 1.7 The Government announced additional powers for Police Scotland to ensure indoor hospitality complies with guidance and to disperse large house parties; and for Council authorised officers to take steps to prevent and control the spread of infection by Coronavirus through premises, public open spaces or events.
 - 1.8 Guidance for pupils and staff on the use of face coverings in schools and on school transport has been updated. As of 31 August 2020, all adults and pupils in secondary schools should wear face coverings when they are moving around school in areas where distancing is challenging, this includes in corridors and communal spaces. In addition, all children should wear a face covering when travelling on dedicated home to school transport.
 - 1.9 There will be a significant expansion and focus on the national seasonal flu vaccination programme, which will be expanded to include social care workers, people over 55, and household members of those who are shielding. This could be further extended to those aged 50-54 if vaccine supplies allow. The Council is similarly planning an extended flu vaccination programme to encourage the whole workforce to be vaccinated ahead of the winter flu season and this will be supported by a communications campaign to encourage uptake.
 - 1.10 Test and Protect arrangements are robust and are acting as anticipated to identify potential cases and to put in place arrangements to minimise onward transmission – they are however coming under pressure when dealing with larger outbreaks.
 - 1.11 Renfrewshire Leisure will begin 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.
-

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) Note the review of operation of Household Waste Recycling Centres as reported in Section 5 of this report and agree that the current operational arrangements remain in place at present with a further review to take place in October 2020.
-

3. Current Position

- 3.1 Across the UK and in Scotland there have been continued positive indicators of the successful suppression of the virus due to the actions taken during the lockdown period. There have been 2 confirmed positive COVID-19 deaths recorded in Scotland since 16 July 2020. Worldwide, the numbers of cases and deaths continue to increase significantly in some countries with 20,000 – 30,000 new cases being identified each day.
- 3.2 In Renfrewshire, a total of 206 people have died with COVID-19 since the outbreak of the virus. This has not changed for 5 weeks. While a significant local outbreak has not yet been experienced, as expected, a number of cases of the virus have been identified in recent weeks since the schools have returned. In each case it has been confirmed that the transmission has taken place in the community and officials from the Public Health Protection Unit have been satisfied with the arrangements in place to prevent transmission of the virus within schools.
- 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 for 5 weeks (Appendix 1: Figure 1)
- No deaths from COVID-19 have been reported in Renfrewshire Care Homes since 10 June 2020 and no care homes have reported residents with COVID-19 since 19 June 2020. No Care at Home service users have died with COVID-19 since 9 May 2020. One care home is currently reporting 1 resident with suspected symptoms of COVID-19, while 2 care at home residents are currently reported as having COVID-19 like symptoms.
- The number of reports of positive cases from tests in Renfrewshire remains low, however the daily trend has increased during August. (Appendix 1: Figure 2)
- This upward trend in numbers of cases is more pronounced in the wider Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board Area. The last week of August saw a particularly sharp increase. 66 new cases were identified in the 24 hrs to 1 September 2020. (Appendix 1: Figure 3)
- 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. Residents are being asked not to host anyone in their homes or travel to other areas to visit anyone; care homes will revert to only outside visits and hospitals will minimise all visits during this period. Further guidance may be provided from Scottish Government in relation to this matter. In advance of such guidance being received, visits inside care homes in Renfrewshire will not take place. All care homes had been subject to individual risk assessments as part of planning to establish inside visiting. This work is now paused. External visits and hospital visits in Renfrewshire will continue under the current approach.
- As predicted, there have continued to be some localised outbreaks taking place in Scotland, and there have been incidences of infection in Renfrewshire since schools went back. In Renfrewshire, there has been an observed pattern of significant absence levels in a school in the days

immediately following the identification of a positive case, followed by a rapid return to more normal levels of absence as confidence in control measures and arrangements has been demonstrated in the school. It should be noted that most of these absences are not positive cases or even symptomatic as it includes those asked to self-isolate or quarantine and parents deciding not to send their child to school against public health guidance. Further information on the position in schools is provided in Section 5 of this report.

National

- New cases identified in Scotland peaked in late April and early May at just over 270 new cases per day. Since then cases identified have declined significantly reaching a low of around 9 new cases per day in July (7 day moving average). There has been a recent increase in new cases being identified however during August - which started as the first significant cluster was identified in Aberdeen and 154 new cases were identified in the 24 hrs to 1 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 in August over half are aged 44 or less. The charts clearly demonstrate the success of the approach taken to protect older people and when compared with the fact that 77% of all COVID-19 deaths so far have been over 75 may explain why rates of deaths have remained low during August and not increased in line with the numbers of cases. It is also clear that if this is the case, the efforts taken so far to reduce and prevent transmission to older and vulnerable groups must be maintained. (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 1,300 cases per day are being identified. (7 day moving average)

International

- Worldwide the pandemic is still growing. Over 26 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 (Appendix 1: Figures 9 and 10)

Numbers of Cases

- 3.4 Currently there have been 337,168 hospital confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the UK. In Scotland there have been 20,632 confirmed hospital cases, 264 are currently in hospital of which 6 are in intensive care. Of these, 5,597 cases have been within the Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board area. 66 new cases were identified in the GGCHB area overnight from 31 August to 1 September 2020.

Numbers of Deaths

- 3.5 Worldwide there have now been over 863,000 deaths due to COVID-19. At a UK level, the method of recording deaths was updated by Public Health England to apply a 28-day time limit to those deaths that are attributed to COVID-19 (ie only deaths that occur within 28 days of a positive test result are attributed to COVID-19). This is a methodology that is being applied by many other countries and is seeking to improve the consistency of the collecting and reporting of data worldwide. Applying a 28-day time limit resulted in a reduction of 5,377 (12.8%) deaths recorded as with COVID-19 in the UK as at 12 August 2020. Under this revised method the UK had recorded 41,504 deaths by 31 August 2020. The UK now ranks fifth for overall numbers of recorded deaths, behind Mexico, India, Brazil and the United States.
- 3.6 The most recent National Records of Scotland report (12 August 2020) shows that at 9 August 2020, there had been a total of 4,213 deaths registered in Scotland where COVID-19 was mentioned on the death certificate – up 5 from 2 August 2020. (NRS data is now being prepared once a month with the next report due on 16 September 2020).
- 3.7 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 for 5 weeks.

4 Policy and Guidance Updates

- Scotland remains in phase 3 of the routemap for the foreseeable future
- The Government announced additional powers for local authorities and Police Scotland to ensure indoor hospitality complies with guidance and to disperse large house parties.
- Guidance for pupils and staff on the use of face coverings in schools and on school transport has been updated, in light of the latest scientific and public health advice, including World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines. As of 31 August 2020, all adults and pupils in secondary schools should wear face coverings when they are moving around school in areas where distancing is challenging, this includes in corridors and communal spaces. In addition, all children should wear a face covering when travelling on dedicated home to school transport.
- There will be a significant expansion and focus on the seasonal flu vaccination programme, which will be expanded to include social care workers, people over 55, and household members of those who are shielding. This could be further extended to those aged 50-54 if vaccine supplies allow.
- The First Minister made a statement on 1 September 2020 outlining a programme for government for the period 2020 – 2021. In her statement the First Minister highlighted that suppressing COVID-19 is and remains the most immediate priority and set out a number of other aspirations and priorities.

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 7 August 2020, the following policy changes have been announced:

- The First Minister announced the country will stay in Phase 3 of the Routemap but with gyms and swimming pools able to open from the 31st of August, earlier than indicated at the last update.
- The Government announced additional powers for local authorities and Police Scotland to ensure indoor hospitality complies with guidance and to disperse large house parties. Further information on the powers provided to local authorities is included at Section 5 of this report.
- Settings where face coverings must be legally worn in Scotland expanded to include certain indoor public places such as cinemas, galleries, museums, and banks. Also, advice around face visors was updated - if a visor is worn it must be accompanied by another type of face covering.
- Guidance for pupils and staff on the use of face coverings in schools and on school transport was updated, in light of the latest scientific and public health advice, including World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines. As of 31 August 2020, all adults and pupils in secondary schools should wear face coverings when they are moving around school in areas where distancing is challenging, this includes in corridors and communal spaces. In addition, all children should wear a face covering when travelling on dedicated home to school transport.

- Teachers, nursery and school staff can now be tested for COVID-19 on demand if they are concerned they have been at risk from infection, even if they show no symptoms.
- The rehabilitation and recovery of those who have had coronavirus, as well as those who have been affected by lockdown, is to be supported through a new rehabilitation framework.
- Changes were made to the quarantine rules with countries including France, the Netherlands, Czech Republic, Austria, Croatia, Greece and Switzerland being added to the list of countries from which travellers need to self-isolate, and Portugal and Cuba were added to the list of destinations from which travellers are exempt from the requirement to quarantine.
- A new web-based tool, Turas Care Management tool, was launched to allow care homes to monitor coronavirus trends and identify risks quicker. It will allow all private and public sector care homes across the country to record information in one place, including COVID-19 infection rates, demand on services, and staff testing.
- The Scottish Government published its response to the recommendations made by The Enterprise and Skills Strategic Board sub-group for immediate action to mitigate rising levels of unemployment across Scotland due to the impact of COVID-19. It also published its response to the Advisory Group on Economic Recovery.
- The seasonal flu vaccination programme will be expanded to include social care workers, people over 55, and household members of those who are shielding to be eligible for the flu vaccine. This could be extended to those aged 50-54 if vaccine supplies allow. The Council is similarly planning an extended flu vaccination programme to encourage the whole workforce to be vaccinated ahead of the winter flu season and this will be supported by a communications campaign to encourage uptake.

4.2 Guidance Updates:

- Guidance on sport and leisure facilities has been published for the opening of indoor and outdoor sport and leisure facilities with physical distancing and hygiene measures.
- Coronavirus (COVID-19): child contact services guidance was published to help child contact centres safely re-open their premises and resume face-to-face services during the coronavirus pandemic.
- Sector specific guidance including guidance for call centres and customer contact centre environments, guidance for the performing arts and venues sector, and guidance for licensing authorities on travelling funfairs was published.
- New statutory guidance for the hospitality sector is now in place, including mandatory collection of contact details of visitors to premises in support of Test and Protect.
- A “Coronavirus (COVID-19): Scottish workbook 2020” has been published, bringing into one place advice on how local and national public health

agencies will provide support to put in place the action needed to prevent coronavirus spread, together with advice on management of outbreaks.

- The Scottish Government's updated Testing Strategy sets out the role testing continues to play in tackling coronavirus.
- Guidance on the mitigation of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the delivery of grant-funded affordable housing projects was published, as well as additional guidance on the duration of building warrants.

4.3 Funding announcements:

- A £59million funding package was announced for the culture and heritage sectors to protect jobs and help the industry weather the effects of the coronavirus pandemic. It includes a new £15million Culture Organisations and Venues Recovery Fund, £21.3million for Historic Environment Scotland (HES), £5.9million to be made available to support heritage organisations through committed grants, and £270,000 for the New Lanark Trust. RLL and the Council are currently exploring whether they will be eligible to access any of these funds.
- £20m funding to deploy low carbon heat in existing social housing has been fast-tracked to support Scotland's economic recovery from the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The vast majority of the investment made through the Social Housing Net Zero Heat Fund will be made in the coming year to support the start of construction on shovel-ready projects. The fund will focus on providing financial support for the installation of heat pumps, with biomass boilers and integrated low carbon heat solutions in existing social housing also eligible for support. The Council's Housing Investment Team is reviewing opportunities to apply for this funding potentially for the installation of renewable heating (heat pumps) in individual properties.
- £10million was announced for a range of measures to recruit and retain apprentices, including additional funding for the Adopt an Apprentice programme.
- A total of £60million will be invested in a Youth Guarantee to give young people access to work, training or education. An implementation plan for Scotland's Youth Guarantee is currently being developed. Funding will come from the additional £100million Scottish Government investment for employment and skills announced last month.
- It was announced that the Flexible Workforce Development Fund, which helps employers upskill and reskill their existing workforce, will be increased from £10million to £20million for 2020/21, and a further £1.5million will be invested in Business Gateway's Digital Boost programme.
- CoSLA are continuing to engage with the Scottish Government in relation to funding and financial flexibility and it is intended that full details will be reported to the Council at its meeting on 24 September 2020 by which time it is expected that further clarity will have been secured.

Statement by the First Minister on the Programme for Government 2020/21 on 1 September 2020

- 4.4 The First Minister made a statement on 1 September 2020 outlining a Programme for Government for the period 2020 – 2021. The Programme focuses on dealing with the economic, health and social crisis caused by COVID-19, while taking steps to ensure that in responding to the pandemic, Scotland also delivers on the Government's commitments to tackle child poverty and to reach net-zero carbon by 2045. Full information on the content of the Programme for Government is available on the Scottish Government website at:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/protecting-scotland-renewing-scotland-governments-programme-scotland-2020-2021/>

- 4.5 Further information on some of the key areas and focus of particular relevance to tackling COVID-19 and to Renfrewshire Council and local communities is included below.

Supressing the virus

- 4.6 Since the start of the outbreak, testing capacity has been significantly increased in Scotland, and the government has pledged to continue to expand it further. To support contact tracing the government will shortly launch a new proximity app "Protect Scotland". This will seek to enhance, not replace, the work of contact tracers and will add an additional means of notifying people who may have been exposed to the virus and require to self-isolate.
- 4.7 Following the pause of shielding on 1 August 2020, the government announced it was establishing mechanisms by which people at high risk from COVID-19 can access tools and information to help them understand the changing levels of infection in the community. This will allow them to make informed choices about their individual situation.
- 4.8 Additional Hospital and ICU capacity to deal with COVID-19 is also being maintained, with NHS Louisa Jordan remaining open through the winter. The government is also replenishing stocks and strengthening supply chains to ensure there is PPE for health and care workers.

Economy and Jobs

- 4.9 The First Minister set out an Inward Investment Plan to help create 100,000 high-quality jobs over the next decade, increase government revenue by £680m by 2040 and grow Scotland's GDP by £4.2bn.
- 4.10 An additional £25 million will be invested in a new National Transition Training Fund, to provide support for up to 10,000 people most at risk of redundancy and unemployment due to the coronavirus pandemic. In addition, the government is to invest nearly £1.6 billion in transforming buildings, ensuring that emissions from heating are eliminated by 2040 and removing poor energy efficiency as a driver of fuel poverty. A new national infrastructure investment plan is set to be published setting out the framework for £32bn of infrastructure investment over the next five years. Part of that investment will be in digital infrastructure.

- 4.11 The programme notes that the government is on track for the Scottish National Investment Bank to open this year and that this will be uniquely positioned to help influence and shape the direction of Scotland's economic recovery.

Digital

- 4.12 The government will work to increase digital inclusion through programmes like Connecting Scotland, which provides devices, data and training to help support the most vulnerable people to get online. The Programme for Government commits to an investment of £30 million as part of a digital boost through provision of laptops for disadvantaged children and young people, which includes £25 million to enable a rollout of digital devices to school pupils to enable them to study online, with an initial provision of approximately 25,000 Chromebooks.

Towards net zero

- 4.13 Half of the £100m Green Jobs Fund will be dedicated to helping businesses and organisations grow to significantly increase employment in low carbon sectors. The other half will help businesses take advantage of public and private investment in the low carbon economy. The government will invest a further £60m to support the industrial and manufacturing sectors' transition to net zero.
- 4.14 A £70 million fund to improve local authority refuse collection infrastructure and develop a new route map to reduce waste and meet Scotland's waste and recycling targets for 2025 has also been announced in the programme.

Health and Wellbeing

- 4.15 A nationwide network of community treatment centres will be developed to help patients manage their conditions and get their treatments closer to home.
- 4.16 The Programme commits to scale up access to digital care – for both physical (Near Me video consultations) and mental health (Cognitive Behavioural Therapies) care. The government is also investing £500 million over the next 5 years in Active Travel which will help to support the rise in walking, cycling and wheeling that has been seen during the coronavirus lockdown.
- 4.17 There will be work to encourage healthier eating, and reducing harm caused by alcohol and tobacco. The programme confirms the intention to deliver on the key recommendations of the drug deaths taskforce, including research into the high rate in Scotland.
- 4.18 In order to achieve the highest standard of support and care for people who use adult social care services, the government will immediately establish an independent review into adult social care in Scotland which will include consideration of a Scottish national care service.

'Support Net'

- 4.19 Applications for a Scottish Child Payment, which will give families £10 a week for each eligible child, will open for children under 6 in November 2020 and the first payments will be made from the end of February 2021. The programme commits to make payments of a new Child Winter Heating Assistance in winter 2020.
- 4.20 The government has also committed to deliver increased early learning and childcare and set a new target date for the expansion of childcare to 1,140 hours

for all three and four year olds, and vulnerable two year olds, across all local authorities by the end of 2020.

Housing and Regeneration

- 4.21 The Programme outlines plans for a 20-year plan to deliver good quality, energy efficient, zero carbon housing with access to outdoor space, transport links, digital connectivity and community services. The Housing to 2040 Vision and Principles and Route Map will be published later this year.
- 4.22 To build upon this work, Social Renewal Advisory Board advice, and recent recommendations of the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Action Group, the government will publish jointly with COSLA an updated Ending Homelessness Together action plan in autumn.
- 4.23 The programme commits to establishing a new £10 million Tenant Hardship Loan Fund later this autumn which will provide interest free loans to support those struggling to meet their rent costs due to financial difficulty associated with the pandemic. This Fund will focus on those tenants unable to access other forms of support for their housing costs.

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
- Test and Protect arrangements are acting as anticipated to identify potential cases and to put in place arrangements to minimise onward transmission. However, resources are limited to be able to respond to peaks in demand and mutual aid arrangements have been put in place and used to support peaks in demand caused by localised outbreaks.
- There have been a small number of positive cases of COVID-19 reported in schools. Children's Services has worked effectively with the Public Health Unit and the Test and Protect team to ensure that these have been dealt with as quickly and effectively as possible to reduce the risk to the wider school community. To date, none of the cases have been indicated as having any school transmission.
- Plans for the reintroduction of visits in care homes have been paused with any indoor visiting stopped with immediate effect for the next 2 weeks. Public Health will review this position again in two weeks.
- Guidance on the reintroduction of building based older people and learning disability services has been received and is being considered.
- Renfrewshire Leisure will begin 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

Environmental Health and Trading Standards – New Powers

- 5.1 The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (Directions by Local Authorities) (Scotland) Regulations were enacted on 28 August 2020. The legislation updates the Health Protection (Coronavirus) (Restrictions) (Scotland) Regulations with parts of them likely to be superseded.
- 5.2 The 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 could be made with regards to a premise, event or public open space and can include closing, prohibiting, restricting entry or limiting facilities within the premise.
- 5.3 All Environmental Health Officers and Trading Standards Officers (including management) have been "designated" as authorised officers under these Regulations. Further guidance is due to be published by the Scottish Government to assist in the implementation of the regulations.

Test and Protect

- 5.4 Since the schools returned there has been an increase in the number of positive cases identified through test and protect. This was anticipated, however the NHS led Test and Protect programme has been steadily getting busier over recent weeks. Renfrewshire Council currently has 2 staff (FTE) working on Test and

Protect as mentors and NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde has requested that all staff trained in Test and Protect, are available until at least May 2021. On 2 occasions to date, Renfrewshire Council has been required to provide additional support to NHS GGC due to the demand on resource to maintain robust Test and Protect arrangements.

- 5.5 Discussions are continuing with regards to ongoing local authority assistance as the initial 3 month agreement ended on 31 August 2020, however, this is noted as a crucial element in the fight against the pandemic and Renfrewshire Council will continue to support the Test and Protect programme wherever possible.
- 5.6 During the week from 25 August – 31 August there were 20 confirmed positive cases within Renfrewshire. Officers work closely with Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board if there is a possible link to a school/business locally to determine the potential for onward transmission and the steps to be taken to minimise this.

Mutual Aid

- 5.7 Renfrewshire Council was one of 20 local authorities that assisted Aberdeen City Council with mutual aid during the recent lockdown in the city. Environmental Health Officers phoned lower risk hospitality premises and fed back to Officers within Aberdeen City Council. This allowed their own EHOs to visit and assess high risk premises to ensure they could successfully re-open on time.

Children's Services

- 5.8 Following announcements by the Scottish Government in July, schools and early learning centres reopened in August 2020 to all children and young people on a full-time basis.
- 5.9 Following the publication of national guidance risk assessments were updated and operational guidance was developed and issued. There has been full and ongoing union engagement to ensure any issues are addressed quickly and appropriately. In addition, a risk assessment process combined with occupational health assessments has been undertaken to ensure staff with underlying health conditions have been able to return to the workplace safely and with appropriate support.
- 5.10 Head teachers have worked tirelessly alongside those who are centrally deployed from across a range of services to ensure schools were ready to reopen to staff on 10 August 2020 and for pupils to return on a phased basis from 12 August 2020. This resulted in a very positive experience for children and their families as they were welcomed back to full time learning.
- 5.11 A number of challenges have been addressed including hand washing, distancing for adults, arrangements for catering and enhanced cleaning. This has been done successfully and arrangements are being monitored on an ongoing basis in order to make amendments and revisions as required.
- 5.12 There have been a small number of positive cases of COVID-19 reported in schools. Children's Services has worked effectively with the Public Health Unit and the Test and Protect team to ensure that these have been dealt with as quickly and effectively as possible to reduce the risk to the wider school

community. To date, none of the cases have been indicated as having any school transmission.

- 5.13 Pupil absence is being monitored on a daily basis in order to identify any challenges in relation to ensuring the wellbeing of all our school communities with support being put in place where this is required. Since the start of the new session, pupil absence has been an average of 8.77%. This is higher than normal for this time of year and includes all reasons for absence including COVID-19. For a similar period last session the figure was 4.29%.

Environment and Infrastructure

Review of Operation of Household Waste Recycling Centres

- 5.14 On 3 July 2020 the Emergencies Board was advised that the current arrangements for the household waste recycling centres (HWRC's) would be reviewed at the end of August. Following this review, it was determined that maintaining physical distancing at the HWRC's by controlling the number of vehicles on the sites at any one time remains the key priority to protect public health, and the current traffic management arrangements are supporting the control of vehicles accessing the centres. The table below sets out the current arrangements for the 5 centres which it is proposed will remain in place until the end of October, at which point the arrangements will be further reviewed.

Household Waste Recycling Centre	Days of the week Open	Times of Opening
Linwood, Middleton Road	7 days a week	8.00 am to 6.00 pm
Paisley, Underwood Road	7 days a week	8.30 am to 6.00 pm
Erskine, Barrhill Road	5 days a week. Every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday	8.00 am to 6.00 pm
Renfrew, Haining Road (entrance via Sean Park Road)	5 days a week. Every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday	8.00am to 6.00 pm
Johnstone, Miller Street	3 days a week. Every Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday	8.00am to 6.00 pm

Health and Social Care Partnership

Care Home Visits

- 5.15 In the last update to the Emergencies Board, an update on guidance to support an increase in the level of visiting to care home residents, for both outdoor and indoor visits and also the re-introduction of health care services to homes was provided.
- 5.16 In Renfrewshire, the HSCP Oversight Group continues to work across the local Care Home Sector, alongside Public Health, to safely introduce visiting in line with this guidance. Each of the 22 Care Homes in Renfrewshire is being considered on an individual basis and is required to have appropriate plans and risk assessments in place and approved by the local health protection team for increased levels of outdoor visiting, and by the Health Board's Director of Public Health or their designated lead for indoor visiting. Extra care housing continues to be aligned to the guidance for care homes reflecting the nature of the local service.
- 5.17 On 2 September 2020 a letter was sent to all registered managers of care homes from the Director of Public Health to advise that any indoor visiting should stop with immediate effect for the next 2 weeks. Public Health will review this position again in two weeks depending on the rates of infection in the local population.

Respite and Day Services: Older People and Learning Disability Services

- 5.18 The Scottish Government issued an update on next steps for the local re-establishment of respite and day care services on 3 August 2020. This update stated that further guidance on residential respite provision and adult day centre services would be published in late August. It also stated that residential respite and day centre provision could be restarted in advance of the publication of this guidance, providing this provision had been adapted and risk assessed in consultation and agreement with the Care Inspectorate and local Health Protection teams.
- 5.19 The HSCP took the risk-assessed decision, in agreement with the Chief Social Work Officer, to await the release of this further guidance prior to finalising plans for reopening services. In doing so, the existing closures of day centres for older people and people with learning disabilities have remained in place and the four-tier model of support within Learning Disability Services has continued to be delivered. In adult services, support has continued to be provided in line with the eligibility criteria for people with the most critical level of needs.
- 5.20 Guidance on adult social care building-based day services was published by the Scottish Government on 31 August 2020. This guidance recognises that the range of user groups and settings used for building-based services means that no 'one size fits all approach' is available and that it will take time to ensure appropriate modifications are in place. Services will need to operate at reduced capacity to ensure the safety of service users and staff. The HSCP is now considering the application of this guidance locally.

Renfrewshire Leisure

- 5.21 Renfrewshire Leisure will begin the safe and phased reopening of indoor leisure centres from 14 September 2020. This is a significant milestone in service recovery, and the service is looking forward to welcoming people back within the safety parameters set by the most recent guidance from the Scottish Government.
- 5.22 As many sites as possible are being reopened in the first phase. From 14 September 2020, ON-X in Linwood, the Lagoon Centre in Paisley, Renfrew Leisure Centre, Renfrew Victory Baths, Erskine Sports Centre and Erskine Swimming Pool will reopen, complying with all Scottish Government guidance on hygiene and physical distancing. Entry to all indoor leisure facilities and services will be by pre-booked time slots only. Clearly indicated hygiene measures will be in place at each venue, with details emailed to members and customers as bookings are made.
- 5.23 Renfrewshire Leisure members will not be charged any membership fees until November. This delay to restarting payments is to cover payments made in March but has been extended as a thank you for their loyalty and as a demonstration of our commitment to helping people invest in improving their health.
- 5.24 Shared leisure facilities at Park Mains High School in Erskine and at the Johnstone Community Sports Hub will open in a second phase. Planning for this second phase is designed to ensure school services on these shared sites have properly settled in after classes recommenced in August and that there has been an opportunity to assess them before enabling strictly-controlled wider public

access. 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 in a later phase.

- 5.25 Some outside synthetic sports pitches reopened on 31 August 2020 although changing room facilities as well as smaller pavilions and gym facilities (at Seedhill, Ferguslie and Ralston) will remain closed for now as a result of challenging physical distancing requirements.
- 5.26 Details on how RLL can safely restart the *Learn to Swim* programme are currently being reviewed.

Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – the Council is experiencing 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 will emerge 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, urgent and immediate support arrangements and services from the Council to help individuals, families and businesses across Renfrewshire as well as the Council's workforce. The Scottish Government has provided a range of immediate funding announcements to provide specific support via local authorities to both individuals and businesses as well as a degree of general funding to assist local authorities in managing immediate financial pressures. Engagement will continue between COSLA and the Scottish Government regarding further funding as the period of emergency extends and services and facilities are reopened on a phased basis, however notwithstanding, the Council will experience significant financial impact and disruption that will require it to draw heavily on all its financial reserves and from which it is likely to take some time to recover. Current outcome estimates indicate a full year impact in 2020/2021 of up to £55M for the Council, with comparable additional funding announced of around £9.5M to begin to address this impact. This financial position will continue to be subject to ongoing review and updating, for example in line with the changes being planned in relation to the operation of schools in August. Additionally, as outlined previously to the Board, a report outlining recommended changes to the Council's financial strategy in response to the COVID19 impact is scheduled to be presented to the September Council meeting.
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

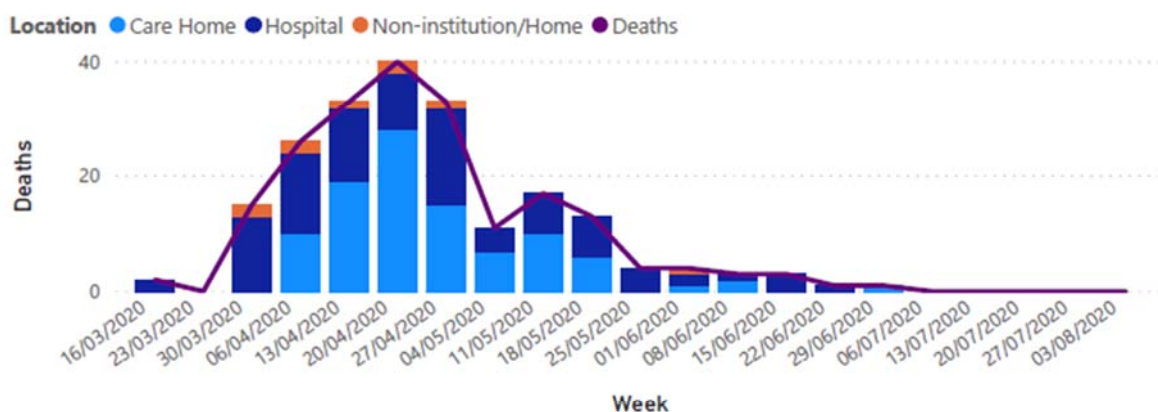
None

Author: Oliver Reid, Head of Communities and Public Protection.

Email: oliver.reid@renfrewshire.gov.uk

Appendix 1 - Coronavirus (COVID-19) Statistics

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

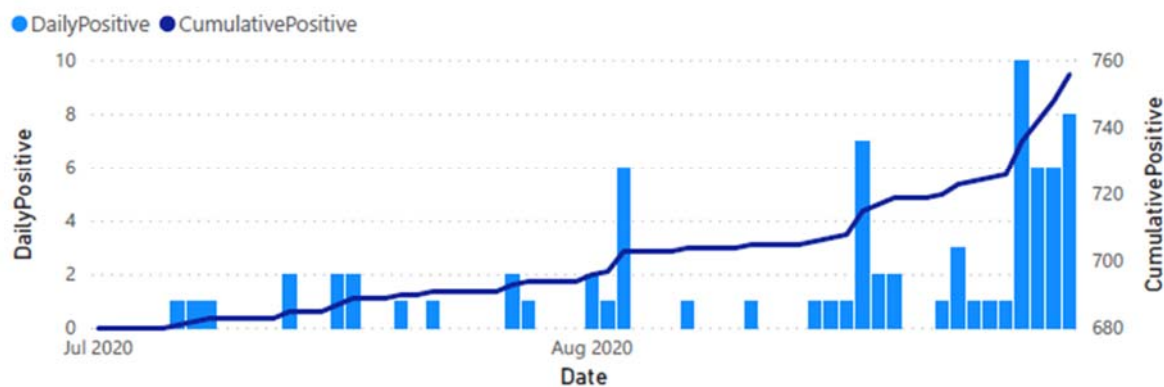


COVID-19 related deaths were first reported in Renfrewshire in the week commencing 16th March 2020. Weekly deaths increased rapidly and reached a peak of 40 deaths in the week beginning the 20th April 2020. They then fell rapidly throughout the rest of April and into May, reaching levels consistently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

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

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

Figure 2 - Renfrewshire, Daily and Cumulative Positive Cases

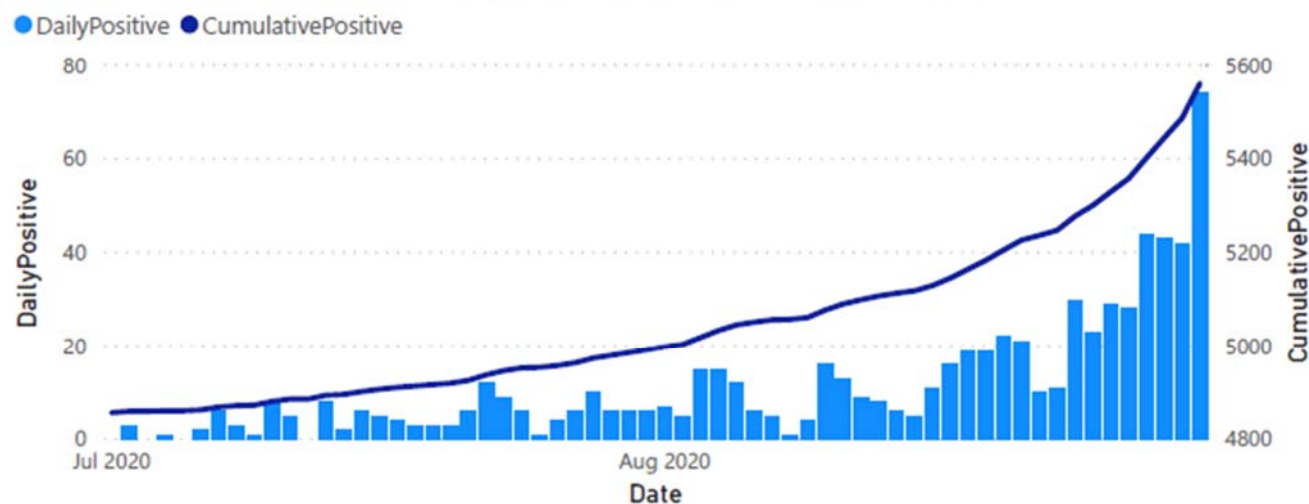


Reported positive cases from tests have remained low in Renfrewshire although the trend has been upward during August.

Source: Public Health Scotland

Appendix 1 - Coronavirus (COVID-19) Statistics

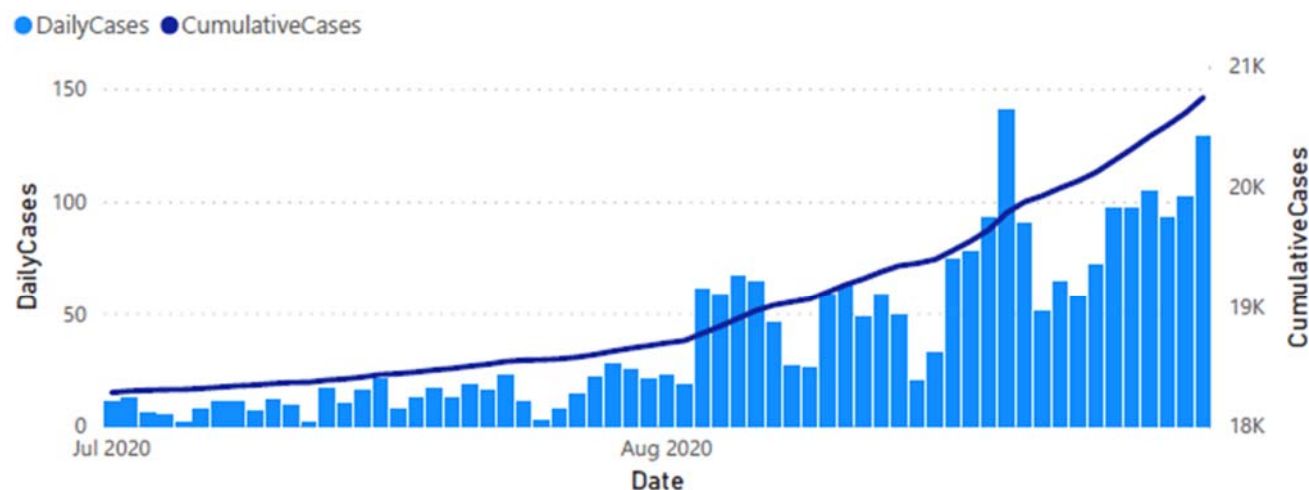
Figure 3 - Greater Glasgow & Clyde, Daily and Cumulative Positive Cases



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 and Cumulative Positive Cases



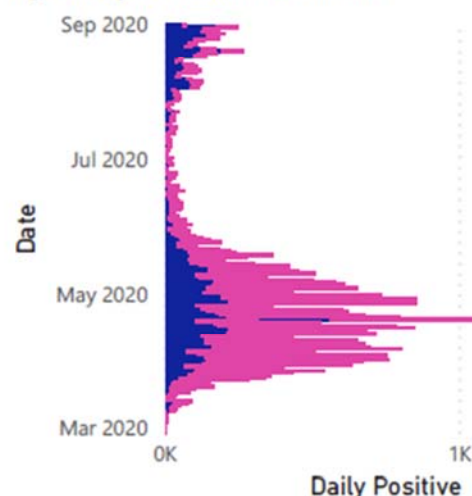
The same upward trend is apparent again at the Scottish level. However the increase began earlier with the outbreaks in Aberdeen and Angus.

Source: Public Health Scotland

Appendix 1 - Coronavirus (COVID-19) Statistics

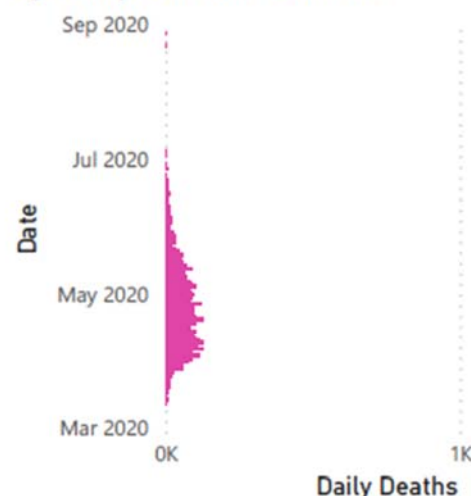
Figure 5 - Scotland, Daily Positive Tests

Age Group ● Below 45 ● Over 45



Scotland, Daily Deaths Following Positive Test

Age Group ● Below 45 ● Over 45

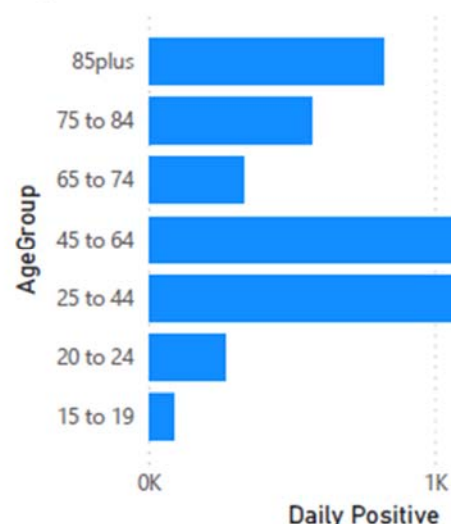


Source: Public Health Scotland

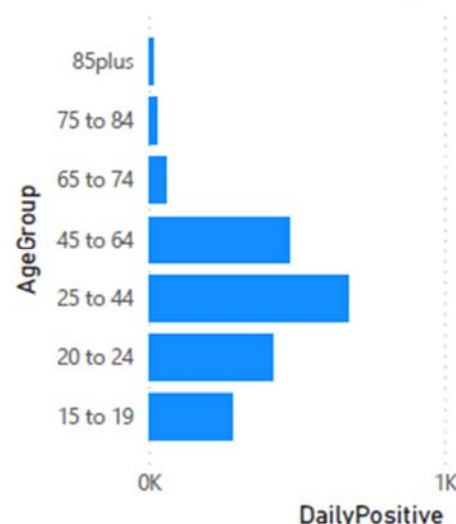
While the number of new cases identified each day is greatly reduced, new cases continue to be identified regularly across Scotland and the trend has been upwards during August.

The graph above shows the number of new cases identified by testing in Scotland along with deaths recorded following positive tests. The age split shows that the recent increase has been driven by positive tests in the under 45s.

Figure 6 - Total Positive in Scotland - May



Total Positive in Scotland - August



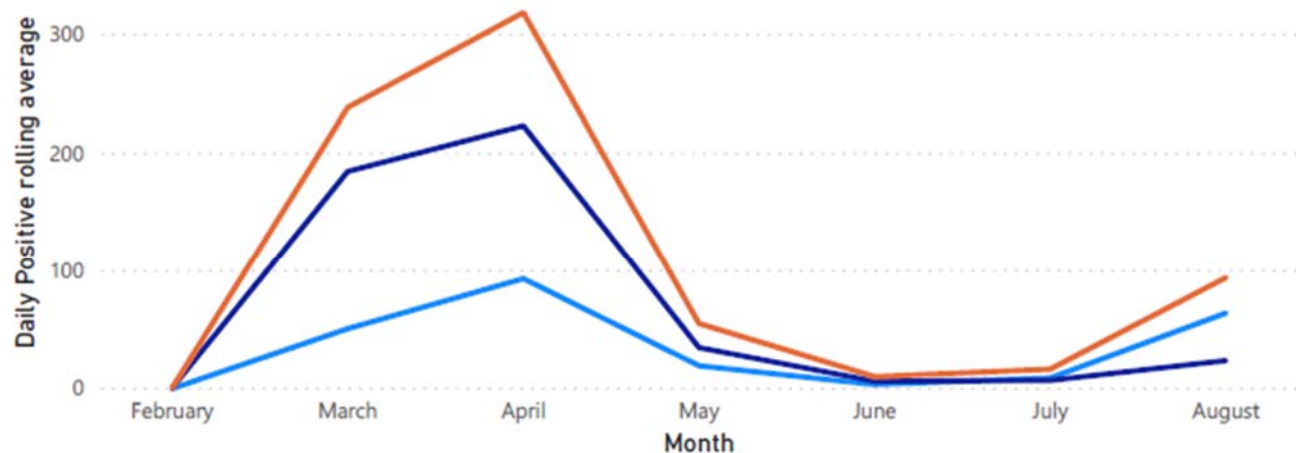
Source - Public Health Scotland

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.

Appendix 1 - Coronavirus (COVID-19) Statistics

Figure 7 - Scotland, Daily Positive rolling average by Month and Age Group

Age Group ● Below 45 ● Over 45 ● Total

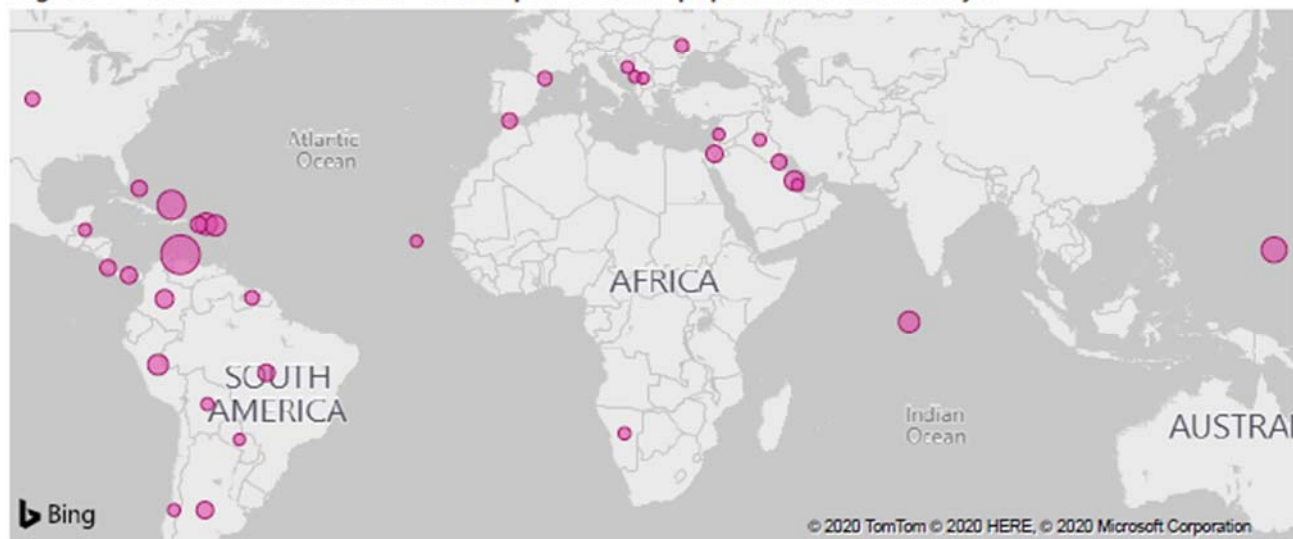


Source: Public Health Scotland

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 graph 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

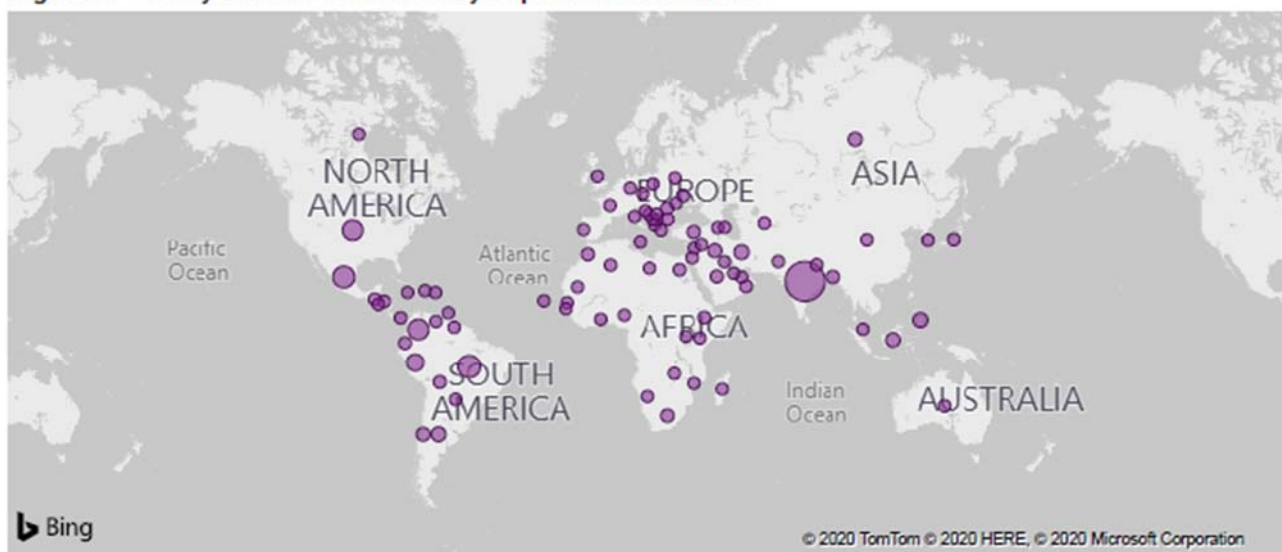


Source - European Centre for Disease Control/WHO

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 31st August 2020.

Appendix 1 - Coronavirus (COVID-19) Statistics

Figure 9 - Daily COVID-19 mortality reported worldwide

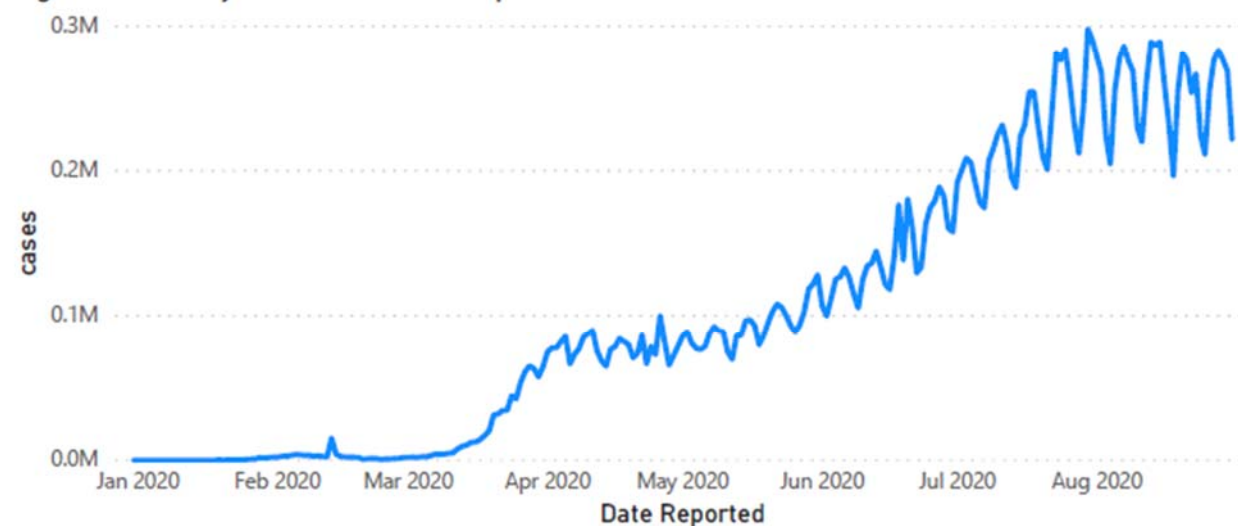


Source: European Centre for Disease control/WHO

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 31st August.

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.