

Recovery Tactical Coordinating Group

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Lincolnshire's Resilience Forum



FORESIGHT AND INTELLIGENCE

Executive Summary

Key highlights in this week's report are;

- [People and Social](#) section highlights the number of positive COVID 19 cases in Lincolnshire and Districts to date. Specific focus has been on the end of shielding with reports from the Official National Statistics in June show that nationally only 58% of clinically vulnerable individuals reported completely following shielding guidance.
- Concerns over [schools](#) fully reopening in just under a month amid a rise in coronavirus cases and test and trace inadequacy.
- [Business and Economy](#) section highlights that the UK could be experiencing a K-shaped recovery meaning that the employed continue to see their fortunes rise as the recently unemployed are plunged into financial hardship. Also highlighting that Businesses who have escaped the worst effects of the economic fallout from the COVID-19 are typically in sectors which are more likely to feel the impacts of Brexit.
- Restaurant bookings continue to increase, however they are still down by a third compared with last year.
- [Local/National Monitoring](#) shows that more people in Lincolnshire are visiting parks, retail, recreational sites and supermarkets than in mid-April. However it is noted that people are still not visiting their workplaces compared to pre lockdown.
- Latest [global trends](#) and international media update.

Please provide feedback via the Recovery leads if local agency information is available to support or whether additional sector clarification would aid decision making.

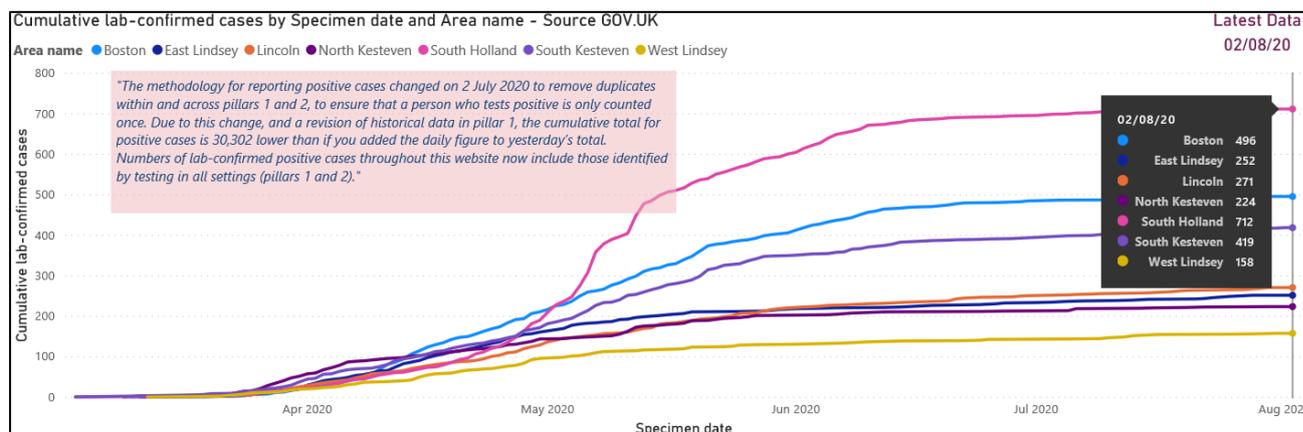
Main Report

People and Social

1. Figures on total number of cases identified through Pillar 1 and Pillar 2 are published daily for all positive cases identified by 5pm on the previous day. As of Monday 03 July at 4.17pm there are **2,532 COVID 19 cases in Lincolnshire (residents) to date.**

Source: <https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/#category=utlas&map=rate>

2. The below graph shows the cumulative number of confirmed cases by district in Lincolnshire. Currently South Holland has the highest number of confirmed COVID cases in Lincolnshire with 712 and Boston being the second highest with 496.



Source: *Lincolnshire County Council Public Health*

3. **R Number & Growth Rates** – As of Friday 31 July, the national R Number has increased to 0.8 – 1.0. Currently the R number in the midlands stands at 0.7 – 0.9, which largely mirrors other regions in the UK which vary between 0.7 and 0.8 to 1.1. The national growth rate has been reported to have slightly degraded from -5% to -1%, to -4% to -1%. This suggests that although infection rates are still declining, it's at a slightly slower pace over the last seven days.

Regional growth rate in the midlands area are still declining ranging from -5% to 0%, however this degraded from last week's range of -6% to -2%. Growth rates in multiple other regions (North West and South West) across England are back into positive figures, suggesting that the risk of infection is increasing. With significant increases infection rate across Europe, it is increasingly likely that this trend will continue as UK tourists travel back to the UK from European holiday destinations.

Source: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-r-number-in-the-uk>

4. Approximately 32,000 people within Lincolnshire are classed as Clinically Vulnerable and received a letter from their GPs. They were advised to take extra precautions during the peak of COVID 19 in England. This is known as 'shielding'.

The government is now advising that clinically vulnerable individuals do not need to shield at the moment. This is because the rates of transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19) in the

community have fallen significantly. However this advice will be subject to review, especially in the instances of local lockdowns.

The updated guidance can be found on the below link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19>

The latest ONS data, collected from 24 June to 30 June 2020, show that nationally 58% reported completely following shielding guidance. This is a statistically significant decrease compared with data collected from 9 June to 18 June, where 63% reported completely following shielding guidance.

As shown from the ONS data nationally there was still a high proportion of clinically vulnerable individuals who did not completely follow the shielding advice during May and June. Focus on communications may need to shift towards the proportion of clinically vulnerable individuals who don't completely follow the advice if a local lockdown is implemented.

Table 1: Indicators of clinically extremely vulnerable people following shielding advice
England, 24 June to 30 June 2020

	14 May to 19 May	28 May to 3 June	9 June to 18 June	24 June to 30 June
Percentage that report completely following shielding advice	63	62	63	58
Percentage that report either not leaving the house at all or leaving the house only for exercise	65	67	64	60
Percentage receiving no visitors, except for support with personal care	86	87	83	77

Source: Office for National Statistics - Shielding Behavioural Survey

Source:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/conditionsanddiseases/bulletins/coronavirusandshieldingofclinicallyextremelyvulnerablepeopleinengland/24juneto30june2020>

Education

1. With just a month to go until schools fully reopen in Lincolnshire and across England, preparations are underway to ensure a safe return for all pupils in accordance with the guidelines. However concerns have been highlighted from teacher unions after a rise in COVID 19 cases, test and trace inadequacy and decisions from government to pause lockdown easing.

Reopening schools in September is an absolute priority for government to ensure children have face to face contact with teachers for the wellbeing of the pupils. Consequently this means there is a possibility of closures of pubs and 'other activities' to allow schools to reopen, as stated by Prof Graham Medley, chairman of SAGE.

Source: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-53629125> <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-53621613>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-53638083>

Business and Economy

1. Claimants vs Vacancy's

The Institute for Employment Studies has produced approximate statistics noting that there are now 8 people claiming benefits for each 1 job vacancy. This is up by 1.5 people per job from when the crisis began in March 2020. These statistics points to the growing numbers of people who are now situationally displaced and unemployed as a result of the coronavirus.

For Lincolnshire, the GLLEP have produced some experimental statistics noting that Lincolnshire shows similar ratios 8:1 whereas in North Lincolnshire, it could be as high as 14:1. This unemployment ratio is likely to worsen as the furlough scheme tapers off and some of the companies which are being kept afloat from government stimulus ends. It won't be until Autumn 2020 that the unemployment / employment picture becomes clear. The main factor would be the speed of recovery and whether supply and demand curves can continue to be resilient in the medium-long term.

2. K Shaped Recovery

Much has been written regarding the recovery trajectory of the UK. In particular, whether the nation and international partners can enact a 'V' shaped bounce back from COVID which reduced economic activity severely from March 2020 onwards.

The latent demand for goods and services for domestic / overseas partners has reduced. Some countries are in the midst of a second wave whereas other areas (South America) are seeing a high spike rendering much of its economic activity to retract. As such, the likelihood of a 'V' shaped recovery is slim.

With this in mind, the economists and press are examining whether the UK will move towards a 'K' shaped recovery, whereby the employed continue to recover relatively unaffected (on an upward trend) and the unemployed struggle with financial hardship (diverging and moving downwards). Thus creating a 2-tier system of inequality and contrast

within society. It will be telling which way the economy will turn; however, a ‘K’ shaped recovery will mean that local public services and the wider public support network will be greatly affected as we move towards the Autumn of 2020. The likelihood of the UK understanding this to occur from August onwards with a peak of unemployment in October 2020 as government incentive schemes stop and businesses face the reality of trading in new / uncertain circumstances.

3. Brexit hit looms for industries that escaped worst of pandemic

Businesses that have escaped the worst effects of the economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic are typically in sectors which are more likely to feel the impacts of Brexit. When comparing the effect of COVID-19 with the predicted impact of increased trade barriers with the EU, there is some evidence that those less hit by COVID-19 are likely to suffer more from Brexit for example such sectors as Electrical and Optical Equipment and Chemicals and Chemical Products.

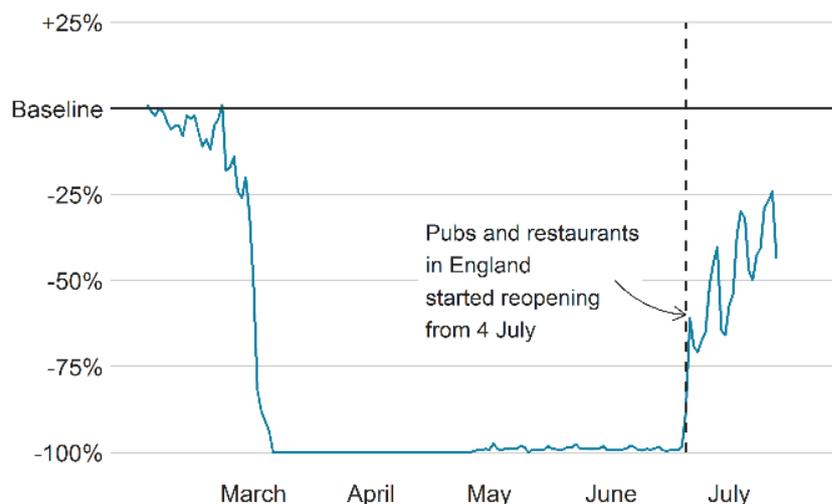
While businesses such as hotels and restaurants have been hit hard by COVID-19, they are predicted to see little change from trade rules with the EU. Other sectors, however, such as Inland Transport have been impacted by the pandemic and are also expected to be significantly affected by a no-deal Brexit, thus experiencing a double hit.

Source: <https://www.lse.ac.uk/News/Latest-news-from-LSE/2020/q-July-20/Brexit-hit-looms-for-industries-that-escaped-worst-of-pandemic>

- 4. According to figures from the booking service OpenTable, restaurant bookings continue to rise now that they are allowed to reopen, however they are still down by a third compared with last year. In the five days to 19 July, 52% of UK adults surveyed by the ONS said they would feel comfortable eating at a restaurant, up from 47% the week before.

Restaurant bookings are still down, but rising

Percentage change in number of bookings on OpenTable, compared with the equivalent day in 2019



Source: OpenTable, figures for the UK



Source: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/explainers-52229828>

Restaurant and cafe visits may start to increase now the Government's Eat Out to Help Out August scheme has commenced. Please see Appendix 1 for details of restaurants who have signed up to the scheme in the main locations around Lincolnshire.

5. Since the start of the pandemic, working from home has become a significant part of people's routine to protect from potential transmission. From the 1st August, employers in England can now ask staff to return to the workplace with discretion for employers to manage how to keep working safely. The government have published suitable guidance across various industries: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

Considering this shift towards home working, this summary below outlines some of the statistics on the matter:

- CIPD undertook a survey across 1,046 employers on home working noting that circa 37% of workers will be working from home on a regular basis post pandemic.
- The number of workers working from home all the time is expected to rise from 9% to 22%.
- The survey also points to a mixed picture regarding productivity / efficiency with 28% seeing a rise in productivity whilst the same amount saw the opposite effect.
- 37% of businesses surveyed did not believe there was any effect on productivity and efficiency.
- In total, the average proportion of the workforce working from home continuously during the lockdown was 54%.

Effects of working from home:

- Working from home will disrupt some existing patterns of economic activity with office workers spending less in town and city centres
- However, the benefit for employers will be substantial allowing the ability to hire individuals from a wider geographical area, this bringing increased diversity and equality
- Reduced time and money spent on commuting will take pressure off public transport and boost local spending
- Homeworking will make work more accessible and sustainable for people with caring responsibilities
- Society and workplaces can redefine what it means to have a better work-life balance which has impacts on mental and physical wellbeing

The resulting change from the pandemic and workplaces will require employers to improve how they manage and support people who are working from home. It allows businesses to trial flexible working practices and adapt to a new future with significant advantages. Since the pandemic, 66% of businesses surveyed are planning to change their policies to enable more home working with 46% seeking to also put in place more line management training to support workers. As always, some items of work cannot physically be performed without being present. However, there is a shift post pandemic to a new workplace environment which provides benefits and challenges for employers.

Source: Chartered Institute of Personnel Development <https://www.cipd.co.uk/about/media/press/home-working-increases>

Local/National Monitoring

1. According to Google Mobility Data published on 31 July 2020 more people in Lincolnshire are visiting parks, retail, recreational sites and supermarkets than in mid-April. However it is noted from figure 1 and 2 that although people are visiting their workplaces more now than in lockdown, visits are still 40% down from the baseline. This shows the majority of the workforce and organisations in Lincolnshire are still working from home.

Lincolnshire

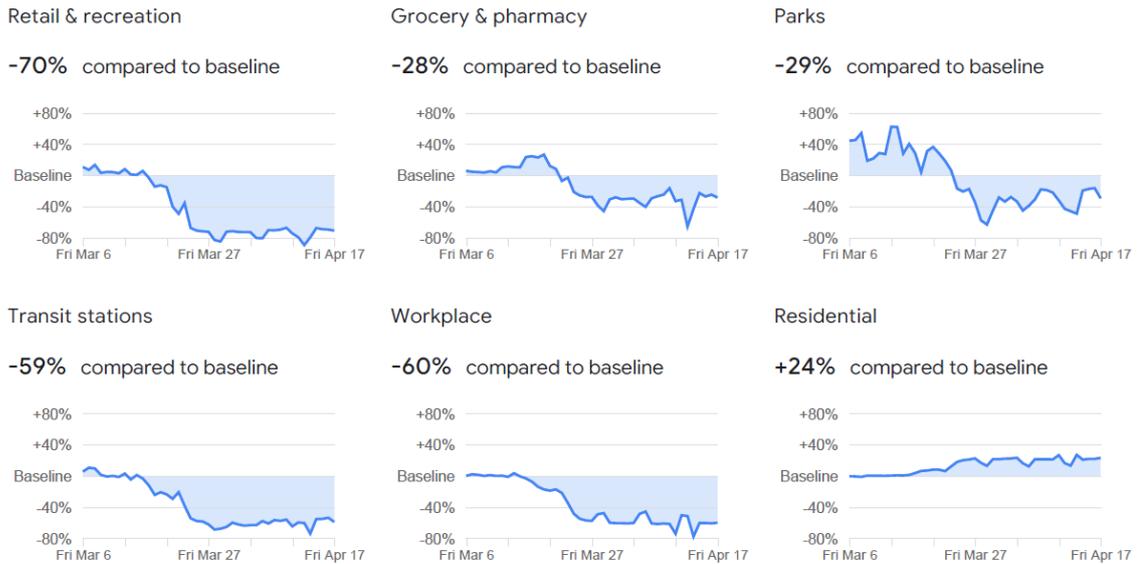


Figure 1: Google COVID 19 Community Mobility Report 17/04/2020

Lincolnshire

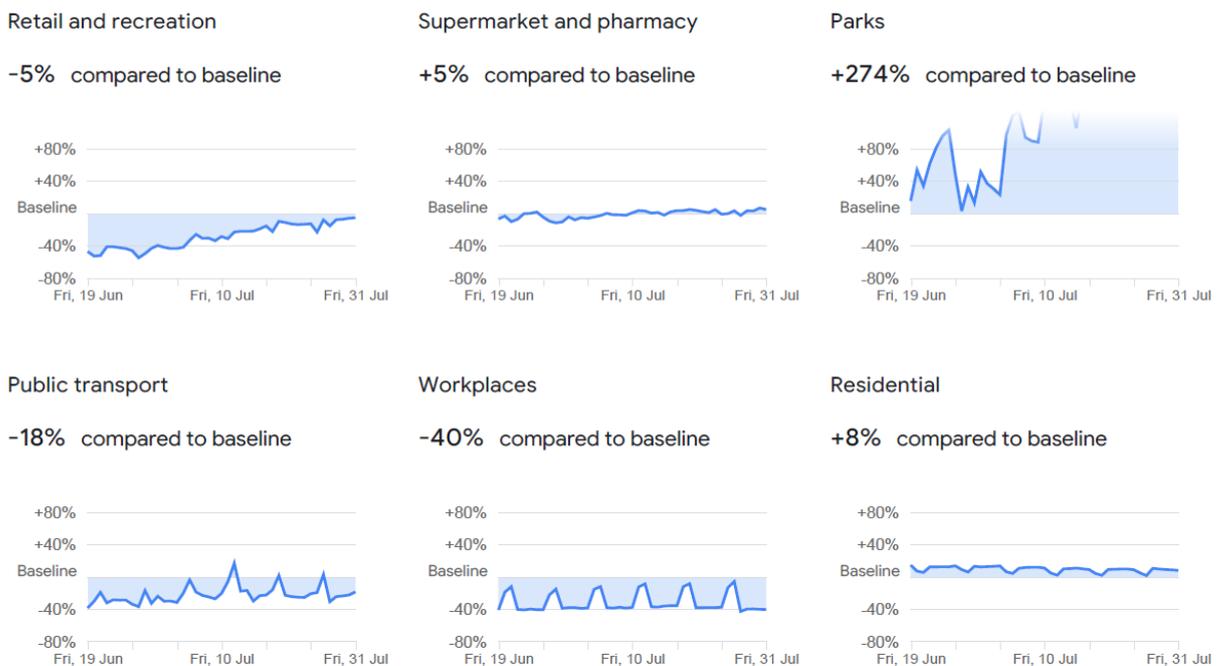
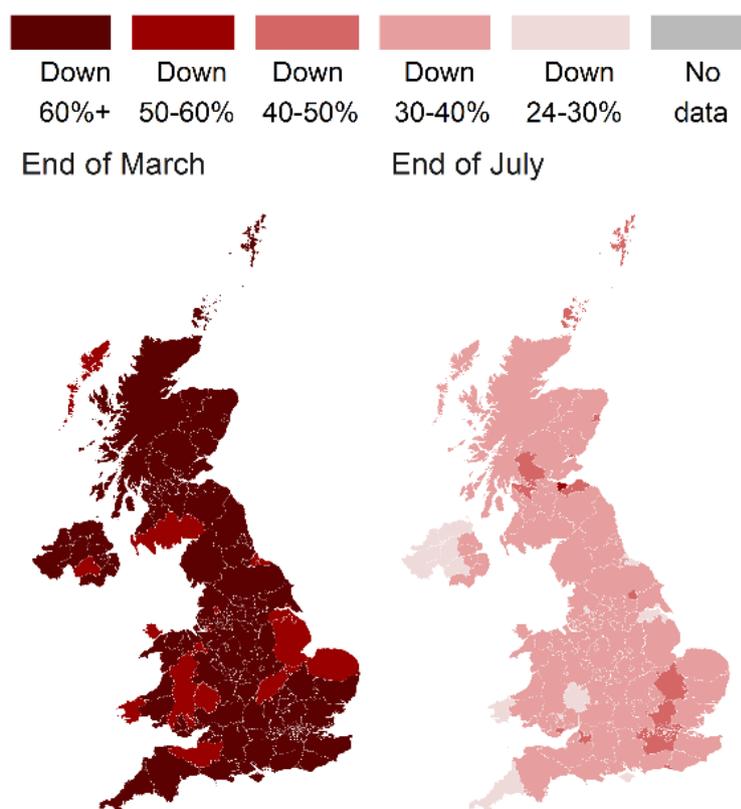


Figure 2: Google COVID 19 Community Mobility Report 31/07/2020

Going to work in lockdown

Percentage change in visits to workplaces after lockdown started and at the end of July



Source: Google Covid-19 Mobility Report

BBC

2. New Restrictions imposed in the North of England

From the 31st July, residents in areas of Greater Manchester, Lancashire and West Yorkshire were placed under new restrictions in response to an increase in Covid-19 cases. Residents are not permitted to meet people outside their support bubble in a private home or garden, visit anyone else in their home outside the health protection area, or socialise with people outside their bubble in indoor venues (i.e. pubs, places of worship, cafes). Care homes have also been advised to restrict visits. Police will be given the powers to issue fixed penalty notices for those not complying. Residents are still permitted to go on holiday out of the area, but only with people in their support bubble. All businesses that were closed before 31 July are now required to remain closed. However vulnerable people who were shielding in those areas have been advised they no longer need to, in line with national guidance. The exception to this is Blackburn with Darwen, where vulnerable individuals should continue to shield.

The announcement from central government has been met with negative reactions from local leaders, who questioned the delivery (21:15 on 30th July) and the proportionality of the measures. Business owners have described the difficulty in adapting to the new restrictions and associated loss of income within such a short timescale, and there are also concerns this

has disproportionately affected the Muslim population of these areas, with the restrictions being imposed the day before Eid celebrations¹.

The new restrictions are likely to place even more pressure on local business owners at a time when the furlough scheme is scaling back, making the chances of them recouping their losses over the remainder of the summer even more remote.

Blackburn with Darwen have announced they will be working with PHE on their own regional track and trace scheme, as the national one has been deemed too slow². Under the scheme, local teams would be employed to trace those who could not be found by the national NHS Track and Trace system within 48 hours. Council workers will be used to visit those who cannot be contacted remotely. Other councils – including Sandwell in the West Midlands and Greater Manchester, have taken similar routes, citing the need to reach more confirmed cases³ and a lack of useful contextual data, such as occupation, from the national system.

These new, locally-based schemes are expected to overcome some hurdles encountered by NHS Track and Trace, such as knowledge of local communities, awareness of high risk workplaces, and language barriers. At the same time, it is unclear how many local councils have the capacity or resources to take on a project as labour-intensive as this, especially if several outbreaks were to occur simultaneously.

Global Trends

1. The monitoring below measures the 7-day averages of death rates and new cases to give readers a sense of how the UK rates compare against its neighbours in mainland Europe. Please see below for the results;

Seven Day Case/deaths Averages – 29 July – 04 August 2020

UK

- Average new cases per day – 789 – Up by 112
- Average deaths recorded per day – 64 – No Change

France

- Average new cases per day – 813– Down by 91
- Average deaths recorded per day – 14 – No Change

Spain

- Average new cases per day – 3,220 – Up by 1,228
- Average deaths recorded per day – 2.6 – Up by 1

Germany

- Average new cases per day – 660 – Up by 104
- Average deaths recorded per day – 6 – Up by 1

Italy

- Average new cases per day –278– Up by 41
- Average deaths recorded per day – 7 – Down by 1

¹ https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-manchester-53592240?intlink_from_url=https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/localnews/2643123-manchester/0&link_location=live-reporting-story

² <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/aug/04/local-authority-blackburn-with-darwen-sets-up-test-trace-system-english-scheme-covid>

³ <https://www.thenewseuropean.co.uk/top-stories/sandwell-council-coronavirus-contact-tracing-sky-news-1-6769577>

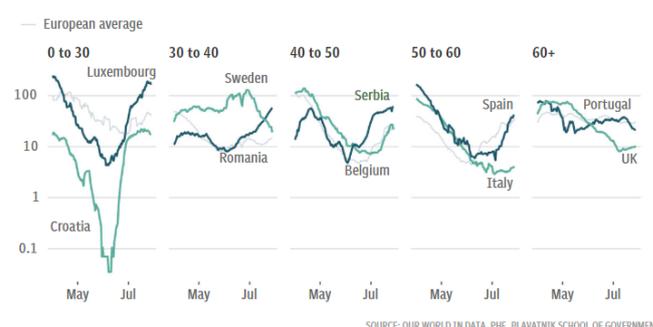
Death rates remain low this week, however all monitored countries infection rates have trended upwards and are significant rises are seen in Spain and Germany. This is now largely being dubbed by the media as the start of the 2nd wave and various governments are now taking measures to try stem the increasing spread. The UK continues with the below travel guidance for Spain:

- The Foreign & Commonwealth Office advises against all non-essential travel to Spain now applies to the whole country, including the Balearic and Canary Islands
- Anyone returning to the UK from Spain will need to self-isolate for 14 days

International Media Coverage

Media coverage regarding the infections has continued to be extensive. The media story that gained the most coverage is the threat of a second wave in Europe and reported increases across the continent. Boris Johnson first warned last week (27th August) that there are signs of a “second wave” of coronavirus infections emerging in Europe. The announcement by the Prime Minister was met with opposition from Europe but statistics have shown that countries with less strict lockdowns are seeing resurgence.

Cases are rising across Europe - at a greater rate in countries with less stringent lockdown measures
Daily new cases per million (seven day rolling average) and average stringency index in last fortnight



On the 29th of July France saw the highest infections for a month. Although, the rate of deaths within ICU unites didn't show any increases. This week France has the seventh highest death toll in the world and has reported 400-500 COVID outbreak clusters. Places in Spain have been told to stay at home and on the 29th a two-week ban on drinking in public places started. Overall Spain is staking more deceive action against the spread and possibility of a second resurgence.

Germany has assessed the outbreaks are originating from nursing homes, hospitals facilities for asylum seekers and refugees. The German government has suggested further restrictions, if cases don't remain stable. This was responded with up to 20,000 people taking part in demonstrations against the government's coronavirus restrictions.

Australia reported its deadliest day with 13 deaths and across the country new restrictions are being put into place. The country has introduced curfews and mandatory fines, in specific locations. Australia remains one of the lowest infected countries in the world.

For more information and links to the original articles please see Appendix 2.

Distribution List

- LRF Recovery Group
- LRF Cells
- SCG
- TCG

Author

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Appendix 1

Eat Out to Help Out in Lincolnshire

Location	Postcode	No. Registered Restaurants within 5 Miles	Type of Premise	Link
Lincoln	LN1 1DD	100 - noted majority of cafes and restaurants in Lincoln have signed up	Local Cafes, Restaurants, Takeaway Services (Chip Shops), Chains	https://www.tax.service.gov.uk/eat-out-to-help-out/find-a-restaurant/results?postcode=LN1+1DD
Gainsborough	DN21 1AA	22	Local Cafes, Garden Centre, Restaurants, Takeaway Services (Chip Shops), Chains	https://www.tax.service.gov.uk/eat-out-to-help-out/find-a-restaurant/results?postcode=DN21+1AA
Boston	PE21 8QR	36	Local Cafes, Garden Centre, Restaurants, Takeaway Services (Chip Shops, Kebab), Chains	https://www.tax.service.gov.uk/eat-out-to-help-out/find-a-restaurant/results?postcode=PE21+8QR
Stamford	PE9 1AA	40	Local Cafes, Garden Centre, Restaurants, Takeaway Services (Chip Shops, Kebab), Chains, Burghley House, Hotels	https://www.tax.service.gov.uk/eat-out-to-help-out/find-a-restaurant/results?postcode=PE9+2AG

Grantham	NG31 6PZ	35	Local Cafes, Garden Centre, Restaurants, Takeaway Services (Chip Shops, Kebab), Chains, Hotels, Belton Woods, Downtown	https://www.tax.service.gov.uk/eat-out-to-help-out/find-a-restaurant/results?postcode=NG31+6PZ
Sleaford	NG34 7EF	39 - majority of restaurants in and around Sleaford have signed up	Local Cafes, Garden Centres, Restaurants, Takeaway Services, Hotels	https://www.tax.service.gov.uk/eat-out-to-help-out/find-a-restaurant/results?postcode=NG34+7EF
Spalding	PE11 1EY	27	Local Cafes, Garden Centres, Restaurants, Takeaway Services, Springfields	https://www.tax.service.gov.uk/eat-out-to-help-out/find-a-restaurant/results?postcode=PE11+1ey
Skegness	PE25 2UN	93 - Wide range of restaurants and cafes signed up - Postcode covers Skegness, Ingoldmells and Chapel st Leonards	Local Cafes, Restaurants, Takeaway Services (Chip Shops), Chains, Hotels, Holiday Park restaurants	https://www.tax.service.gov.uk/eat-out-to-help-out/find-a-restaurant/results?postcode=PE25+2UN

Chain Restaurants and Large Businesses signed up in Lincolnshire

- Prezzo
- Ask
- Wagamama
- Wildwood
- Zizzi
- Wetherspoons
- Starbucks
- Pizza Hut
- Pizza Express
- Nandos
- McDonalds
- Morrisons Café
- KFC
- Burger King
- Greene King: Chef & Brewer, Farmhouse Inns, Hungry Horse, Wacky Warehouse
- Costa
- Café Nero
- Marstons -
Lincoln: Lion and Snake, Magna Carta, Lincolnshire Poacher, Plough, The Still, Woodcocks
Skegness: Twelve Oars
Boston: Chain Bridge
Spalding: Tulip Queen, Lincoln Arms
Grantham: Black Dog
Gainsborough: Lincolnshire Otter
- The National Trust
- Stonegate Pubs -
Lincoln: Mailbox, William Foster, Walkabout, Slug and Lettuce.
Gainsborough: The Canute
Grantham: The Old Bank

Appendix 2

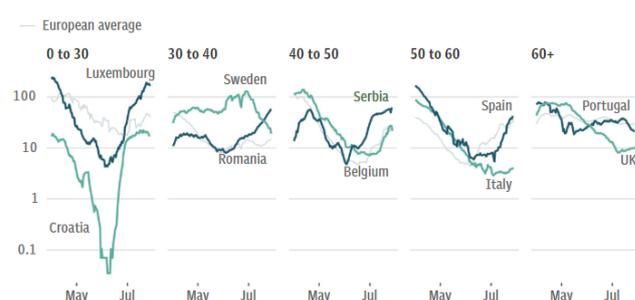
International CV-19 Update: 29 July - 4 Aug 2020

The purpose of this report is to provide readers with quick easy to digest bullet points, or links to useful reports regarding international recovery from CV-19. Primarily we will be focusing on news articles affecting France, Spain, Italy and Germany.

Summary

- Media coverage regarding the infections has continued to be extensive. The media story that gained the most coverage is the threat of a second wave in Europe and reported increases across the continent. Boris Johnson first warned last week (27th August) that there are signs of a “second wave” of coronavirus infections emerging in Europe. The announcement by the Prime Minister was met with opposition from Europe but statistics have shown that countries with less strict lockdowns are seeing resurgence.

Cases are rising across Europe - at a greater rate in countries with less stringent lockdown measures
Daily new cases per million (seven day rolling average) and average stringency index in last fortnight



SOURCE: OUR WORLD IN DATA, PHE, BLAVATNIK SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT

- On the 29th of July France saw the highest infections for a month. Although, the rate of deaths within ICU unites didn't show any increases. This week France has the seventh highest death toll in the world and has reported 400-500 COVID outbreak clusters.

Places in Spain have been told to stay at home and on the 29th a two-week ban on drinking in public places started. Overall Spain is staking more deceive action against the spread and possibility of a second resurgence.

Germany has assessed the outbreaks are originating from nursing homes, hospitals facilities for asylum seekers and refugees. The German government has suggested further restrictions, if cases don't remain stable. This was responded with up to 20,000 people taking part in demonstrations against the government's coronavirus restrictions.

- Australia reported its deadliest day with 13 deaths and across the country new restrictions are being put into place. The country has introduced curfews and mandatory fines, in specific locations. Australia remains one of the lowest infected countries in the world.

Belgium

- Seven Day averages – 525 new cases/ 3 deaths
 - New Cases = 3,675
 - Infections = 69,402

- A Brussels Hospital is carrying out circa 500 tests a week, and recording 6.8% positive results. At the end of June it was 0.8%. The report thinks that Antwerp the next biggest city is not far away from similar results. "We have a lot of people with dual nationality who, for example, want to travel to Morocco and therefore take a test. People in their thirties or forties. Our biggest fear is that these people will infect their parents or grandparents." ([Source Article](#))

France

- Seven Day averages – 813 new cases/ 14 deaths
 - New Cases = 5,691
 - Infections = 187,919
- Frances infection has risen again. Making July's figures similar to those seen in May when France started easing lockdown.
(Source: <https://www.foxnews.com/world/france-prepares-for-potential-second-wave-as-coronavirus-cases-creep-back-up>)
- 29 July saw the highest infections for a month. Although there is still a decline of people in ICU units there are sign of an increase in of the viral circulation. R Rate is higher than 1.3 a rise in the last 24 hours. France has the seventh highest death toll in the world. ([Source Article](#))
- France reported 400 – 500 COVID outbreak clusters. Many involve Abattoirs and care home. Other form Family holidays. ([Source Article](#))

Netherlands

- Seven Day averages – 323 new cases /
 - New Cases =2,264
 - Infections =55,043
- Dutch public health officials are unbending with respect to what they consider to be lack of scientific evidence on the efficacy of non-medical masks in limiting the spread of the novel coronavirus. ([Source Article](#))

Spain

- Seven Day averages – 3,220 new cases/ 2.6 deaths
 - New Cases = 16,100
 - Infections = 285,430
- Residents of Barcelona told to stay at home in metropolitan area's. "On July 18th, all public cultural and sporting venues were closed, meaning that cinemas, gyms, sports facilities and nightclubs had to be shut down again, just little more than a month after they reopened." "As of July 29th, even more restrictions have been brought into place. There is also now also a two-week ban on drinking alcohol in public places, which in Spain is known as 'botellón'." ([Source Article](#))

Germany

- Seven Day averages – 660 new cases/ 6 deaths
 - New Cases = 4,620
 - Infections = 209,893

- Since travel to Germany has opened up about a month ago experts are saying that the main outbreaks are from Nursing Homes, hospital, facilities for asylum seekers and refugees, industrial settings plus religious and family celebrations.
- According to officials, up to 20,000 people took part in demonstrations against the government's coronavirus restrictions at different locations across Berlin on Saturday, amalgamating for a joint rally later in the day. Organisers said up to 1.3 million people took part, a figure that police denied. ([Source Article](#))

Italy

- Seven Day averages – 278 new cases/ 7 deaths
 - New Cases = 1,952
 - Infections = 248,070
- A survey by the Italian government suggests 2.5% of Italy's population has coronavirus antibodies, or nearly 1.5 million people. ([Source Article](#))
- More than 6,000 people were still on board a cruise ship in the Italian port city of Civitavecchia late on Thursday after the liner was placed on lockdown over fears two Chinese passengers could be carrying the coronavirus. Preliminary tests on the pair suggested they were not carrying the virus, the ministry of health said, although definitive results could take up to 48 hours. ([Source Article](#))

UK

- Seven Day averages – 789 New cases / 64 deaths
 - New Cases = 5,523
 - Infections = 305,623
- Scientists discover why COVID causes a loss of smell: "The findings suggest that in most cases coronavirus is unlikely to lead to persistent loss of smell - medically known as anosmia - a condition that can be associated with mental health issues including depression and anxiety." ([Source Article](#))
- Cornwall new cases have tripled in the past week although new case rate remains small to some area of the country 3.3 per hundred thousand. Blackburn and Darwen has a rate 87.3 per hundred thousand.
 - Trafford (up from 11.0 to 38.1, with 90 new cases)
 - Manchester (up from 14.2 to 23.2, with 127 new cases)
 - Sandwell (up from 23.2 to 32.4, with 106 new cases)
 - Swindon (up from 8.1 to 21.2, with 47 new cases) ([Source Article](#))

Rest of the World

- Asia
 - Vietnam had been virus free for 4 months is now seeing cases in 6 cities and provinces.
 - China continues to see an increasing number of infections.
 - Reports are that North Korea has a case. ([Source Article](#))
- Australia
 - "Anyone venturing out in Australia's second-biggest city was ordered on Thursday (Jul 23) to wear a mask as authorities struggle to contain multiple coronavirus clusters in the country's southeast." Previous lockdown have been enforced with warnings; this time it's mandatory with a fine. ([Source Article](#))

- Covid in Asia: On the 30th July Australia reported its deadliest day with at least 13 deaths. Melbourne is under a stricter lockdown but concerns are that the states infections have seeded outbreaks in other areas outside of Victoria.
- EU
 - The European Union has warned member states of the risk of shortages of syringes, wipes and protective gear needed for potential mass vaccinations against COVID-19 and urged them to consider joint procurement. ([Source Article](#))

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