

Media Release

Date: 8 July 2021

Civil Contingencies Authority continue to monitor UK prevalence and local travel data – travel rules to continue unchanged at this time in line with STAC recommendation

The Civil Contingencies Authority has met this week and agreed to maintain its current rules around borders and travel, including the 'blue' channel which means fully vaccinated arrivals from the Common Travel Area (UK, Jersey, Isle of Man and Republic of Ireland) can travel without any testing or self-isolation requirements.

With some UK regions seeing the prevalence of cases continuing to rise, the CCA considered whether it should apply special rules for travellers from the most affected regions but has decided not to do so at this time. The Scientific and Technical Advisory Cell gave consideration to this also and recommended no change at this time and no special rules for specific regions. However, the CCA will continue to monitor data from all UK and Common Travel Area regions and data relating to travel into the Bailiwick.

Several studies have shown that vaccines provide protection against infection, and uninfected individuals obviously cannot transmit. Therefore, vaccines are effective at preventing transmission in that respect. This is supported by data from Scotland that has also shown that household contacts of vaccinated healthcare workers are at reduced risk of becoming a case. A household transmission study in England found that household contacts of cases vaccinated with a single dose had approximately 35% to 50% reduced risk of becoming a confirmed case of COVID-19.

Emerging data also suggest that even when fully vaccinated people do become infected, the likelihood that they will transmit the virus on to others is less than in unvaccinated people. This may be because their viral load is typically lower. However, any fully vaccinated person who does develop symptoms must come forward for testing immediately.

The CCA also considered more emerging data from the UK which further shows the effect the vaccination programme is having in reducing cases where hospital care is needed. This graph illustrates that during the wave of infection in Scotland and England in December 2020/January 2021 hospital admissions largely reflected the wave of infections, albeit with a lag period. However, in the current wave of infection we are seeing a disconnect between cases and hospitalisations, reflecting the protective efficacy of the vaccination programme

in the most vulnerable people. The graph below illustrates the daily admissions to hospital versus the daily cases (with different scales on the y axis).

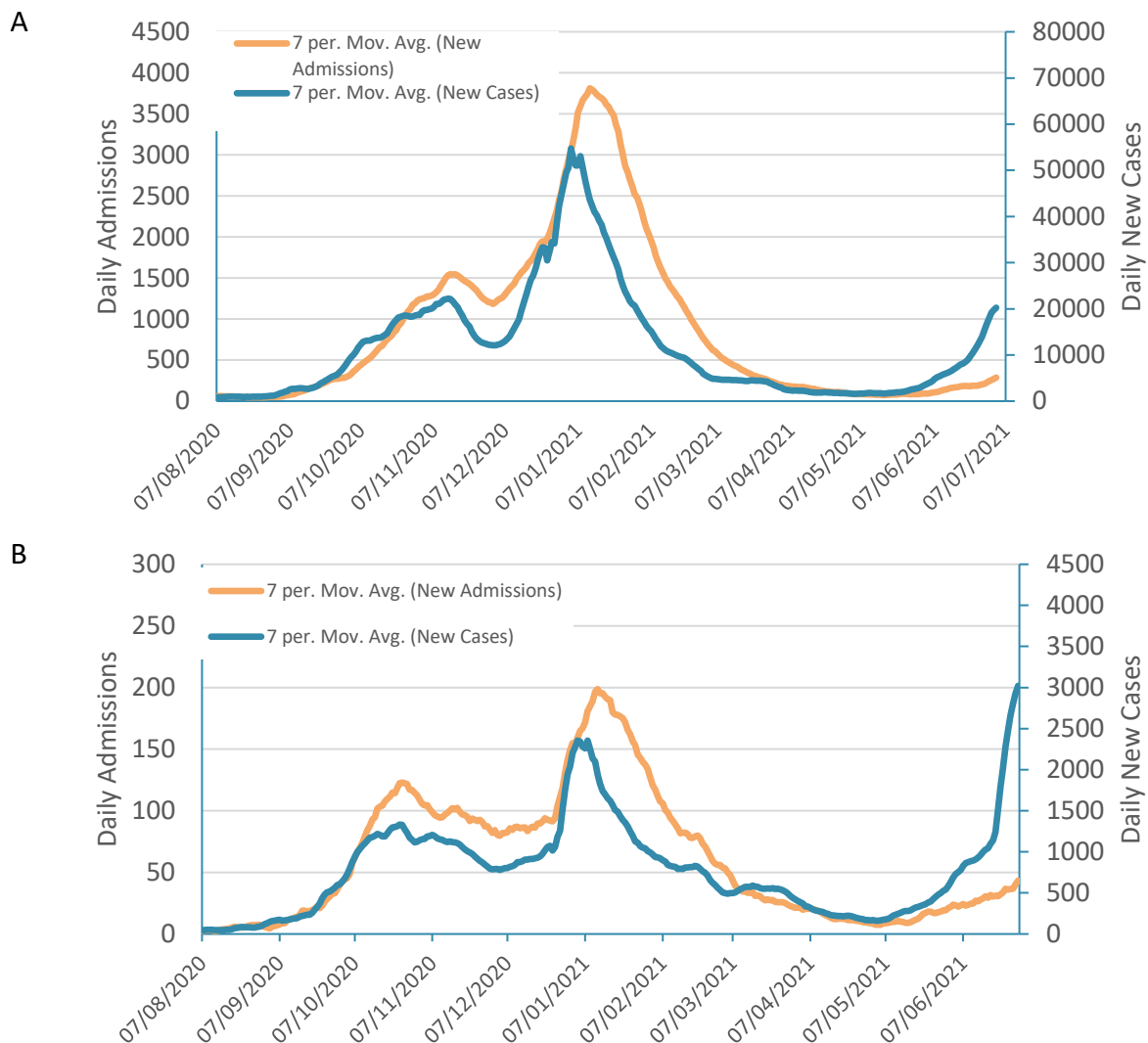


Figure 1: Hospital admissions versus Cases of COVID-19.

Daily admission and new case data for England (A) and Scotland (B). All data extracted from Public Health England data set available at <https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/>. Data extracted 12:00 on 06/07/2021

Data from travel into the Bailiwick continues to be closely monitored. Between the 1st July and 4th July there were around 2,300 journeys into the Bailiwick and 85% of these travellers were 'blue' arrivals meaning they were fully vaccinated. Data from the Travel Tracker means our Public Health team can assess risk to the community based on the areas that people are travelling from.

The Bailiwick continues to maintain good levels of visibility on the prevalence of cases with high levels of testing across the community including testing of symptomatic cases, surveillance testing, as well as testing all unvaccinated arrivals, and case numbers remain low. Importantly, there are no COVID-19 patients in hospital in the Bailiwick.

The CCA will continue to review its border policies and take further advice from its expert scientific and medical advisors moving forward and stresses that it will not rule out any change, including imposing additional border measures in the future if required.

As of today (8 July) there are 17 active cases and a further 26 people who are required to self-isolate as contacts of a positive case, and no evidence of community seeding.

On Friday of this week, the next live COVID-19 briefing will be broadcast at 1pm and the panel will speak more on the latest information which continues to inform its travel policies.

Dr Nicola Brink, Director of Public Health said

“We’re constantly looking at new data both locally and internationally and more and more we’re seeing data that gives us confidence our advice to the CCA remains appropriate and proportionate. The vaccination programme is making a real difference in preventing serious illness with the data from England and Scotland supporting this. Locally, 93% of our adult population (over 18s) have had at least one dose of vaccine, with 70% being fully vaccinated. We know prevalence is rising steeply in some UK regions and we did carefully consider whether additional measures for those regions made sense but knowing many of our arrivals are fully vaccinated and present a low risk to the community is important and mitigates any risk. As we move forward we need to consider the broader mental and physical health and wellbeing of islanders. I know that seems counter-intuitive after so many months of focusing on case numbers - We shouldn’t be complacent and we aren’t letting cases numbers get out of control, but we must also recognise that as we find a way to live with COVID we will have cases but they don’t present the same kind of danger as they did before our vaccination roll-out.”

Ends

Notes to Media

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