IEMAG briefing

22 March 2021

Coronavirus
COVID-19
Public Health
Advice

Cases, numbers in hospital and intensive care

There is progress against all indicators of disease, though cases and the number of people requiring hospital care remain high. The number of people in hospital and ICU continues to decrease. The number of deaths per day remains high but is decreasing.

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	Apr 2020	Summer 2020	Oct 2020	Dec 2020	Jan 2021	24 Feb	3 Mar	10 Mar	17 Mar	22 Mar	Daily count 22 Mar
Cases confirmed per day	859 18-04	8.7 25-06	1158 21-10	262 12-12	6520 10-01	737	620	487	520	543	520
14-day incidence *per 100,000 population*	212 19-04	3.0 04-07	306 26-10	79 09-12	1532 15-01	231	199	163	148	157	
Hospital in-patients	862 17-04	9 02-08	333 01-11	198 16-12	1949 24-01	723	542	415	351	347	359
Hospital admissions per day	*85* *04-04*	*<1* *10-07*	*27* *26-10*	*11* *13-12*	*158* *15-01*	*40*	*23*	*24*	*23*	*26*	*11*
ICU confirmed cases	150 14-04	4 04-08	43 04-11	26 27-12	217 28-01	149	127	100	86	84	81
ICU admissions per day	*14* *31-03*	*<1* *03-06*	*4* *03-11*	*1* *16-12*	*20* *17-01*	*6*	*4*	*4*	*3*	*4*	*1*
Deaths confirmed per day	46 22-04	<1 30-07	7 01-12	4 17-12	57 03-02	29	18	20	10	8	1

Data are 7-day averages (the indicated day and the preceding 6 days, rounded to the nearest whole number) with the exception of 14 day cumulative incidence, which is the total number of cases in the preceding 14 days per 100,000 population. The highest and lowest values of each indicator are given for each wave of the pandemic, along with the date on which that value was recorded, as well as the data for recent weeks. The historic incidence data may change due to denotification of cases.

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Confirmed cases each day

Daily and weekly count and 5-day rolling average. The 5-day average peaked at 1186 on 21 October, reached a low of 251 on 28 November, peaked again at 6847 on 8 January, reached a low of 476 on 8 March, and is now increasing at 580

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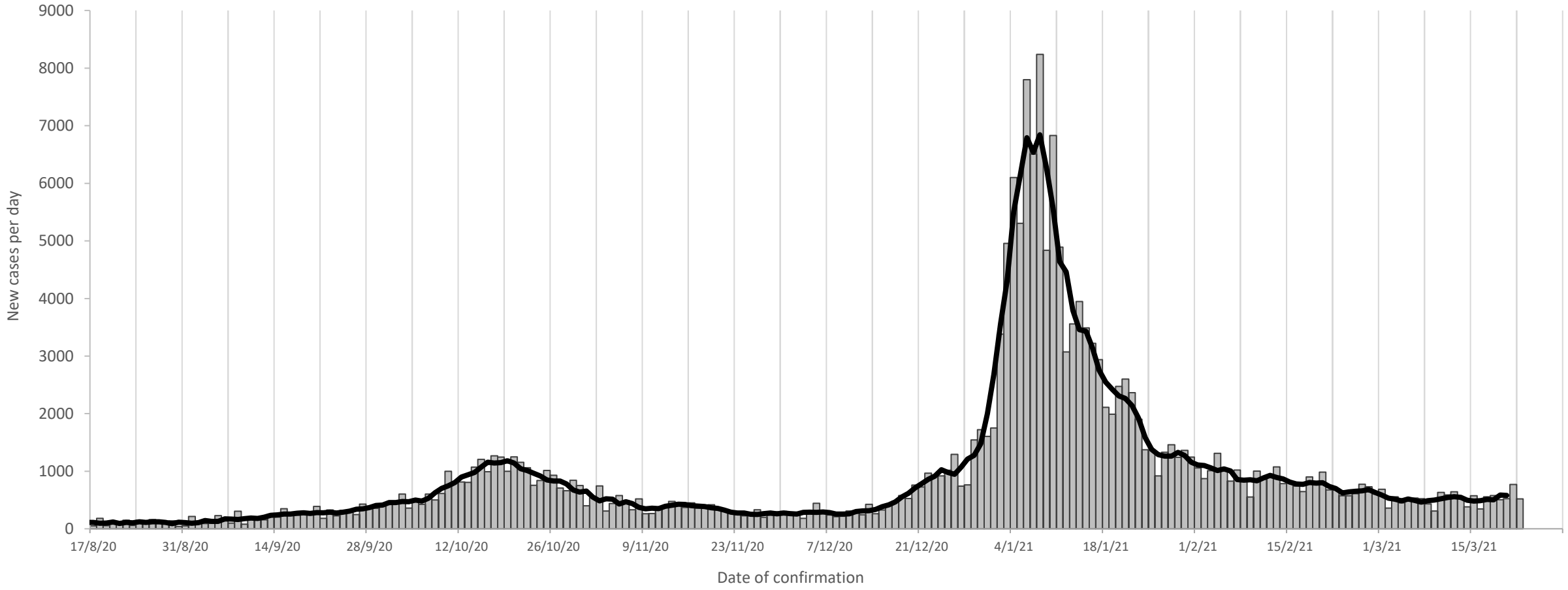
Cases per week																														
	711	796	912	1303	1947	2059	3031	4457	7398	7073	4838	3424	2583	2580	1798	2028	1964	3368	6597	15729	45621	25123	14815	8931	7147	6031	5530	4554	3632	3536	3859



Daily count (bars) 5-day average (line) and weekly counts of the number of laboratory confirmed new cases by date on which they were confirmed by HPSC. Case counts may change due to denotification of cases. Weekly case counts are by notification (event) date and standard epidemiological week.

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Daily incidence

Daily incidence is currently twice what it was in early December, and approximately 50 times what it was in late June 2020. Incidence is plateaued at approximately 500 cases per day.

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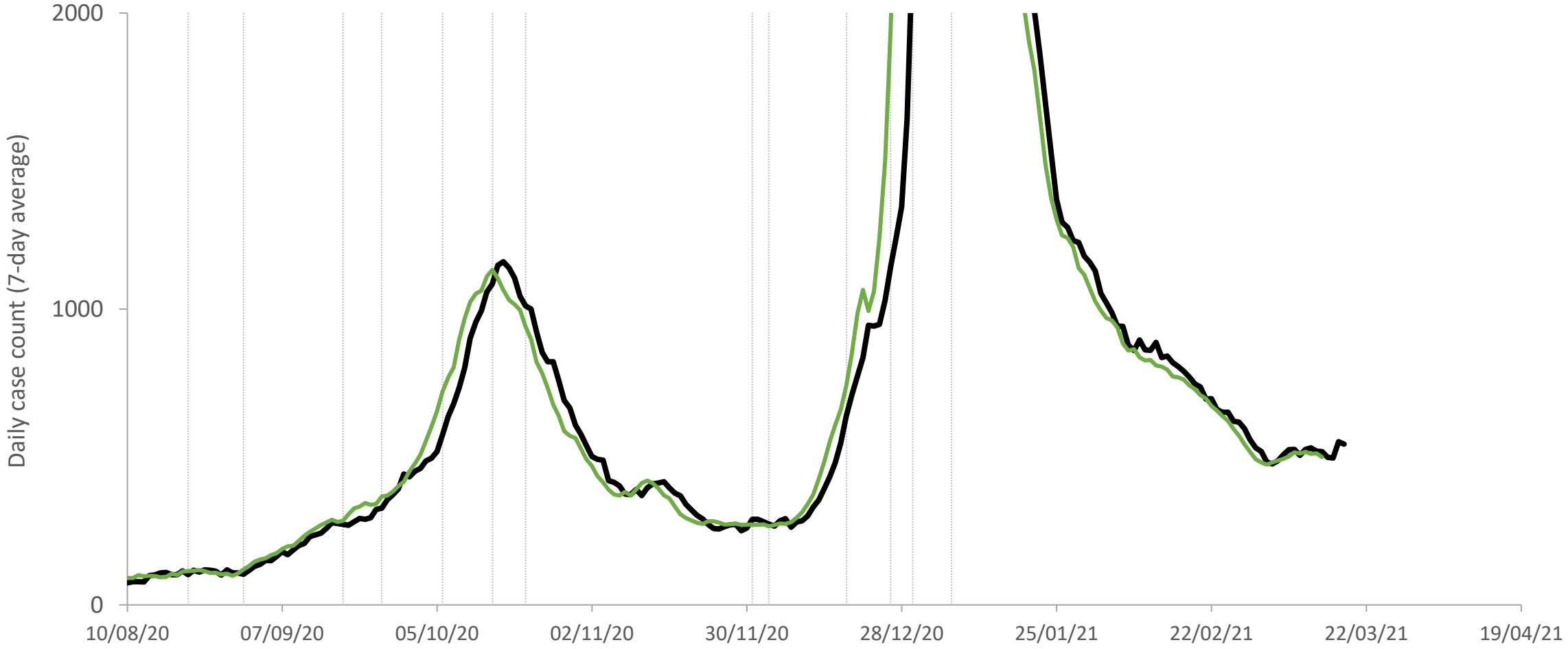

Daily cases by notification (event) date (black, the date the case was entered on the CIDR database) and specimen collection date (green). The vertical dashed lines indicate the dates of escalation and de-escalation of public health restrictions. Data are 7-day moving averages.

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Week-on-week decline in cases

While the rate of decline decreased in weeks 6 and 7 the data are compatible with a constant rate of decline in rates of infection of between 10 and 20% per week; case counts increased by 9% between week 10 and 11

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Week	Cases	Week-on week change
2021 - 1	45,621	
2	25,123	-45 %
3	14,815	-41 %
4	8,931	-40 %
5	7,147	-20 %
6	6,031	-16 %
7	5,530	-8 %
8	4,554	-18 %
9	3,632	-20%
10	3,538	-3%
11	3,895	+9%

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Confirmed cases in acute hospitals

The number of people in hospital with confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection. The number of people in hospital is decreasing, but the number of admissions and newly confirmed cases in hospital per day is plateaued at 20-25 per day.

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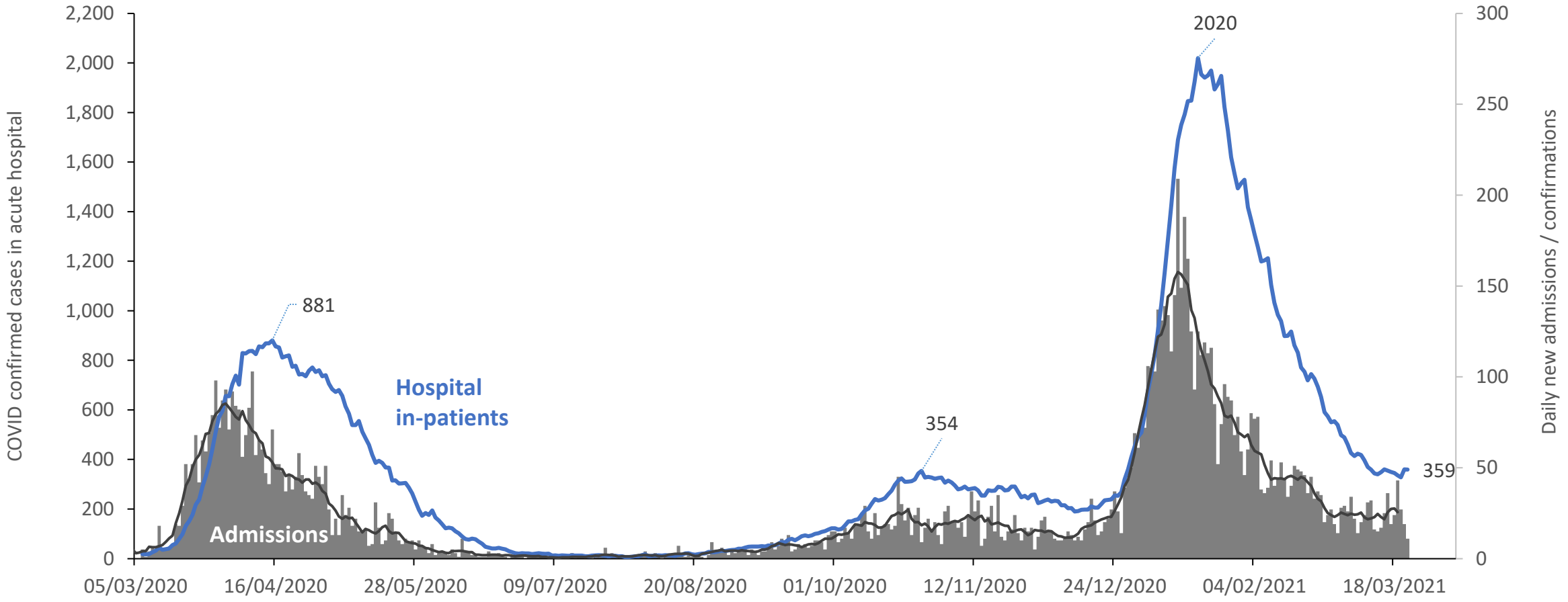

Hospital in-patients: Daily count of number of COVID-19 confirmed cases in acute hospitals. Admissions: New COVID-19 confirmed admissions and new laboratory confirmations of suspected cases in preceding 24 hours (7-day moving average also shown). Data from HSE PMIU-SDU, 8am census.

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Confirmed cases in intensive care

The number of people in ICU with confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection remains high and is decreasing very slowly.

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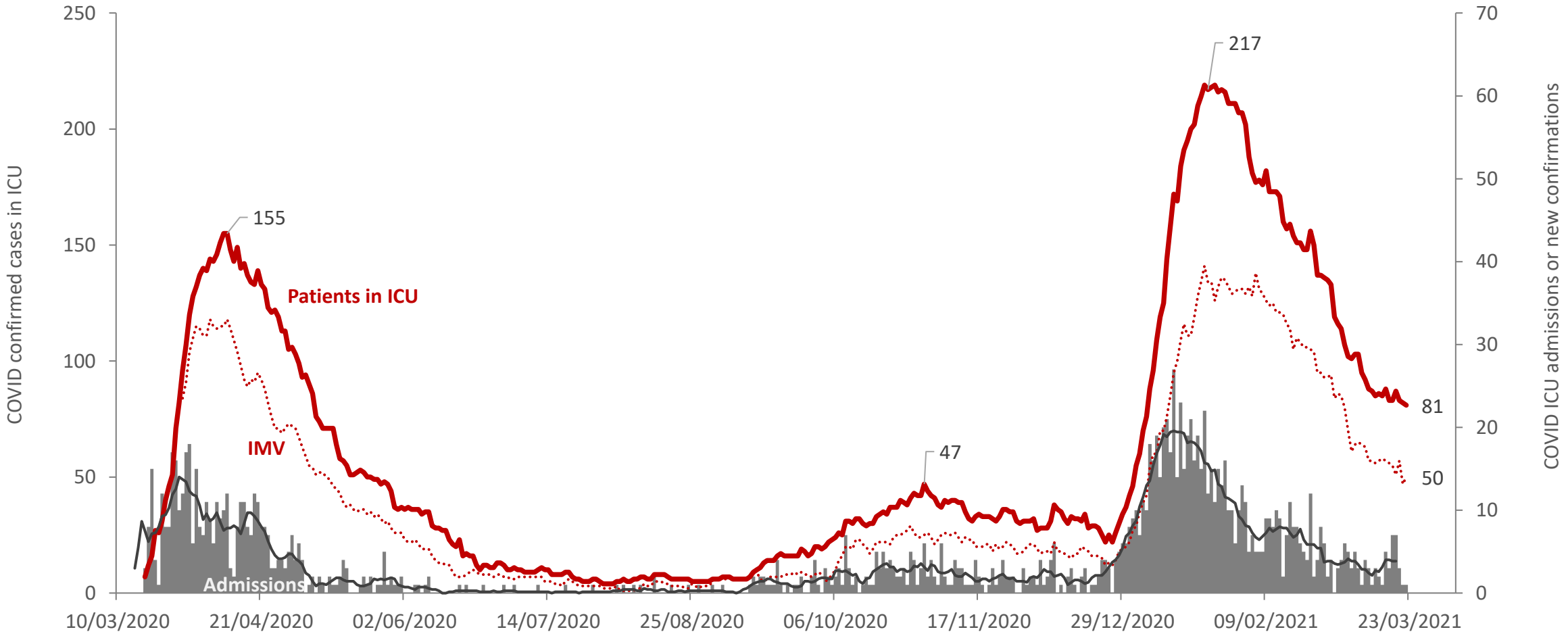

Patients in ICU: Daily count of number of COVID-19 confirmed cases in ICU. IMV: Daily count of number of COVID-19 patients requiring invasive mechanical ventilation. Admissions: daily new COVID-19 confirmed admissions to ICU and new laboratory confirmations of suspected cases in ICU (7-day average also shown). Data from morning census from NOCA

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Where are transmissions occurring

We know where approximately two-thirds of transmissions occur, either from investigation of outbreaks or the work of the contact management programme. When the disease enters a household, the attack rate is high, so transmissions within households account for almost 60% of known transmissions. Transmissions in social gatherings and workplaces account for half the transmissions outside the household.

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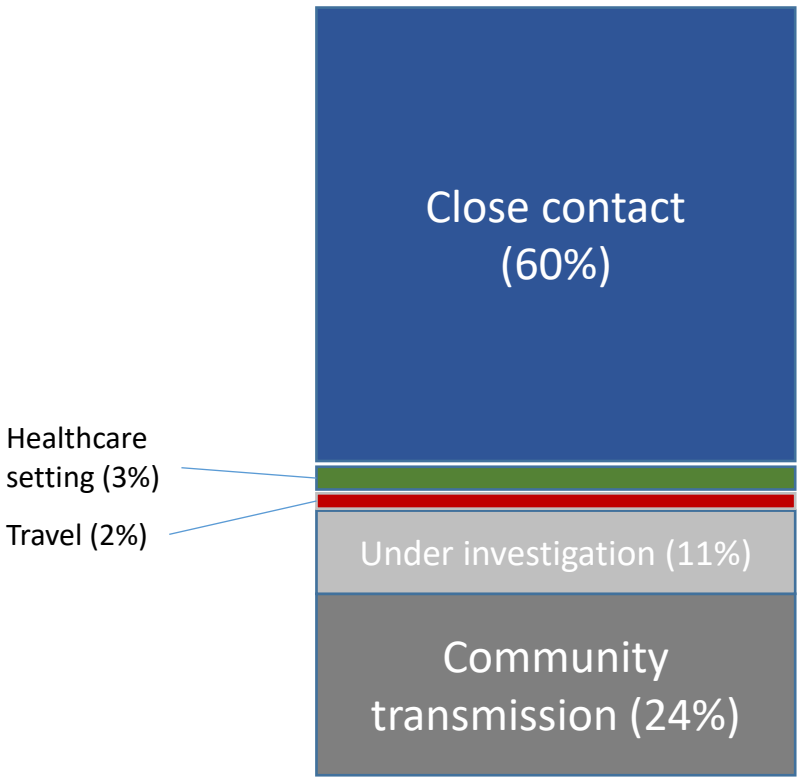

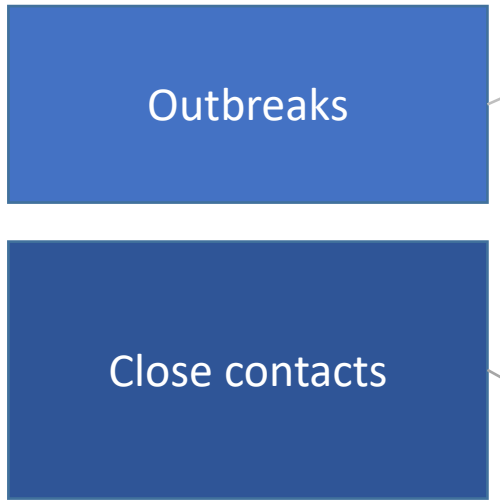

47% private houses
11% extended family
8.7 % workplaces
5.0% community
5.6% childcare
4.7% school
2.5% religious service

65% household
11% social
2% workplaces
19% other

59% household
15% social
5% workplaces
22% other

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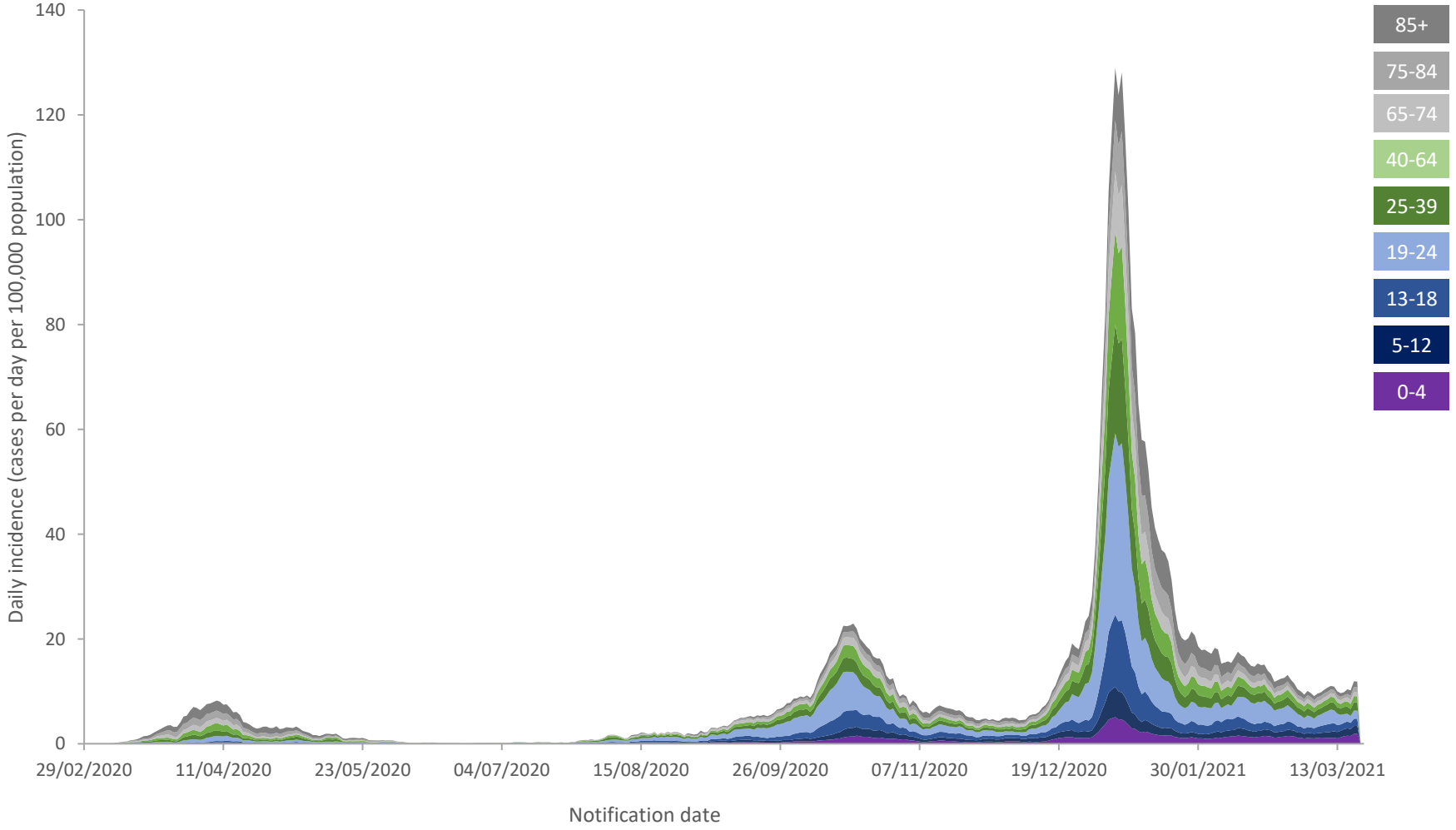
Incidence across different age groups (excluding HCW and LTRC)



Week	Age band								
	0-4	5-12	13-18	19-24	25-39	40-64	65-74	75-84	85+
9	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
10	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.7	0.5	1.0	0.0
11	0.6	0.2	0.5	5.4	5.0	4.4	4.6	6.6	7.4
12	4.5	2.4	7.5	22.9	27.7	31.1	25.2	24.9	37.0
13	6.9	4.2	14.5	58.3	73.3	86.5	72.6	88.5	94.7
14	4.5	4.4	6.7	28.1	40.1	50.9	50.9	91.1	125.8
15	5.7	5.6	9.1	31.4	29.3	47.4	47.7	72.8	119.9
16	3.0	5.3	10.8	19.3	20.8	32.1	29.5	50.9	79.9
17	3.3	4.2	7.8	21.7	23.6	26.7	21.4	56.5	97.7
18	4.5	6.4	9.4	20.2	26.0	21.0	18.7	37.7	53.3
19	2.1	2.7	4.6	13.3	15.2	14.3	10.2	19.3	37.0
20	3.6	1.6	5.1	12.1	16.4	12.1	6.7	9.2	13.3
21	3.3	2.7	4.6	8.5	6.3	8.2	7.5	15.3	22.2
22	2.1	2.4	2.2	4.2	5.1	6.8	4.0	4.6	5.9
23	1.2	0.5	1.3	3.0	0.8	1.9	1.6	5.6	3.0
24	2.7	0.7	1.3	1.5	1.3	1.4	1.6	2.0	1.5
25	0.0	0.4	0.5	1.8	1.4	1.0	1.1	1.0	1.5
26	0.6	0.2	0.3	1.8	1.5	0.7	0.8	1.5	3.0
27	1.5	0.4	0.3	1.8	1.9	0.9	0.0	1.0	0.0
28	0.9	1.1	1.1	10.3	2.0	1.0	1.3	1.0	3.0
29	1.2	0.4	0.8	3.6	3.3	2.0	2.9	1.5	3.0
30	1.8	0.5	1.6	3.6	4.3	0.9	1.9	0.0	1.5
31	4.8	2.6	7.3	11.2	8.5	4.6	2.1	2.5	3.0
32	4.5	3.6	6.7	18.4	16.4	10.5	4.6	2.5	3.0
33	6.0	10.0	12.1	27.2	19.5	12.1	8.3	2.5	7.4
34	7.2	7.5	17.5	37.4	16.6	11.4	5.9	5.1	4.4
35	6.3	9.7	13.5	37.1	18.4	11.1	4.8	9.2	5.9
36	13.0	13.1	17.2	47.7	21.6	13.3	11.0	11.7	14.8
37	17.2	17.9	30.1	63.4	28.7	24.4	22.2	8.7	10.4
38	21.7	26.2	43.9	90.6	44.0	34.9	33.2	19.8	19.2
39	12.1	22.6	42.8	146.7	49.9	41.8	32.9	31.0	20.7
40	29.6	28.8	63.2	167.6	68.0	57.8	34.5	26.0	20.7
41	42.8	46.8	132.9	316.7	115.3	89.7	61.6	51.9	60.7
42	78.1	90.6	198.3	434.2	154.4	142.9	90.5	67.2	71.1
43	81.7	93.9	174.7	301.9	123.4	121.7	85.4	82.4	84.4
44	55.8	67.6	95.8	155.8	75.5	77.6	55.2	55.5	59.2
45	34.7	39.7	58.1	83.9	57.8	45.9	42.8	44.3	47.4
46	41.9	37.2	65.7	89.7	45.3	44.7	32.4	42.7	69.6
47	22.0	34.1	59.7	79.4	34.6	33.0	29.2	39.7	62.2
48	23.2	31.3	45.5	66.4	33.8	29.6	22.2	36.1	40.0
49	28.4	36.8	37.7	40.5	33.2	30.1	25.4	29.0	41.4
50	21.4	39.9	44.1	57.4	39.8	35.0	22.5	31.0	22.2
51	51.9	58.5	74.5	128.3	87.9	81.0	54.3	54.5	51.8
52	77.5	76.9	120.6	325.8	176.2	134.7	95.8	95.7	119.9
53	218.1	236.7	513.5	1402.4	761.0	636.1	424.1	349.6	361.2
1	183.7	208.7	569.2	1329.4	791.0	722.4	498.5	445.8	558.1
2	130.6	126.7	302.2	582.4	415.5	419.8	302.0	409.7	577.3
3	93.5	81.3	169.0	328.2	254.4	244.2	169.7	252.9	413.0
4	74.2	60.9	128.1	228.6	154.6	146.7	119.4	161.8	266.4
5	78.1	72.9	126.5	209.2	127.2	123.5	85.7	116.0	214.6
6	91.7	85.3	124.6	224.0	117.3	101.3	68.0	90.6	124.3
7	87.5	76.4	96.6	253.0	106.6	88.4	59.4	79.4	116.9
8	87.5	69.8	89.9	186.9	94.3	77.3	43.4	55.0	90.3
9	67.0	57.0	65.4	124.7	75.7	58.2	45.0	45.8	41.4
10	68.2	68.0	90.2	146.7	79.9	59.0	39.6	41.2	41.4
11	108.3	89.7	78.6	85.7	89.0	63.0	45.2	55.0	60.7

Chart shows 5-day rolling average of total incidence (cases per day per 100,000 population) with coloured bands showing the contribution of each age cohort to the total incidence, having adjusted for the number of people in that age cohort (CSO 2016 census data). Healthcare workers and cases associated with outbreaks in long-term residential care are excluded, so that the analysis reflects the pattern of cases in the community. Cases dated by notification date. A number of cases in those aged 65 and older will be linked in the coming days to outbreaks in LTRC.

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Incidence across different age groups (excluding HCW and LTRC)

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Week	Age band								
	0-4	5-12	13-18	19-24	25-39	40-64	65-74	75-84	85+
47	22.0	34.1	59.7	79.4	34.6	33.0	29.2	39.7	62.2
48	23.2	31.3	45.5	66.4	33.8	29.6	22.2	36.1	40.0
49	28.4	36.8	37.7	40.5	33.2	30.1	25.4	29.0	41.4
50	21.4	39.9	44.1	57.4	39.8	35.0	22.5	31.0	22.2
51	51.9	58.5	74.5	128.3	87.9	81.0	54.3	54.5	51.8
52	77.5	76.9	120.6	325.8	176.2	134.7	95.8	95.7	119.9
53	218.1	236.7	513.5	1402.4	761.0	636.1	424.1	349.6	361.2
1	183.7	208.7	569.2	1329.4	791.0	722.4	498.5	445.8	558.1
2	130.6	126.7	302.2	582.4	415.5	419.8	302.0	409.7	577.3
3	93.5	81.3	169.0	328.2	254.4	244.2	169.7	252.9	413.0
4	74.2	60.9	128.1	228.6	154.6	146.7	119.4	161.8	266.4
5	78.1	72.9	126.5	209.2	127.2	123.5	85.7	116.0	214.6
6	91.7	85.3	124.6	224.0	117.3	101.3	68.0	90.6	124.3
7	87.5	76.4	96.6	253.0	106.6	88.4	59.4	79.4	116.9
8	87.5	69.8	89.9	186.9	94.3	77.3	43.4	55.0	90.3
9	67.0	57.0	65.4	124.7	75.7	58.2	45.0	45.8	41.4
10	68.2	68.0	90.2	146.7	79.9	59.0	39.6	41.2	41.4
11	108.3	89.7	78.6	85.7	89.0	63.0	45.2	55.0	60.7

Heat map shows age-specific incidence (cases per week per 100,000 population). Healthcare workers and cases associated with outbreaks in long-term residential care are excluded, so that the analysis reflects the pattern of cases in the community. Cases dated by specimen collection date.

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Age-specific incidence in recent weeks

Incidence in those aged 19-24 years has decreased significantly in recent weeks

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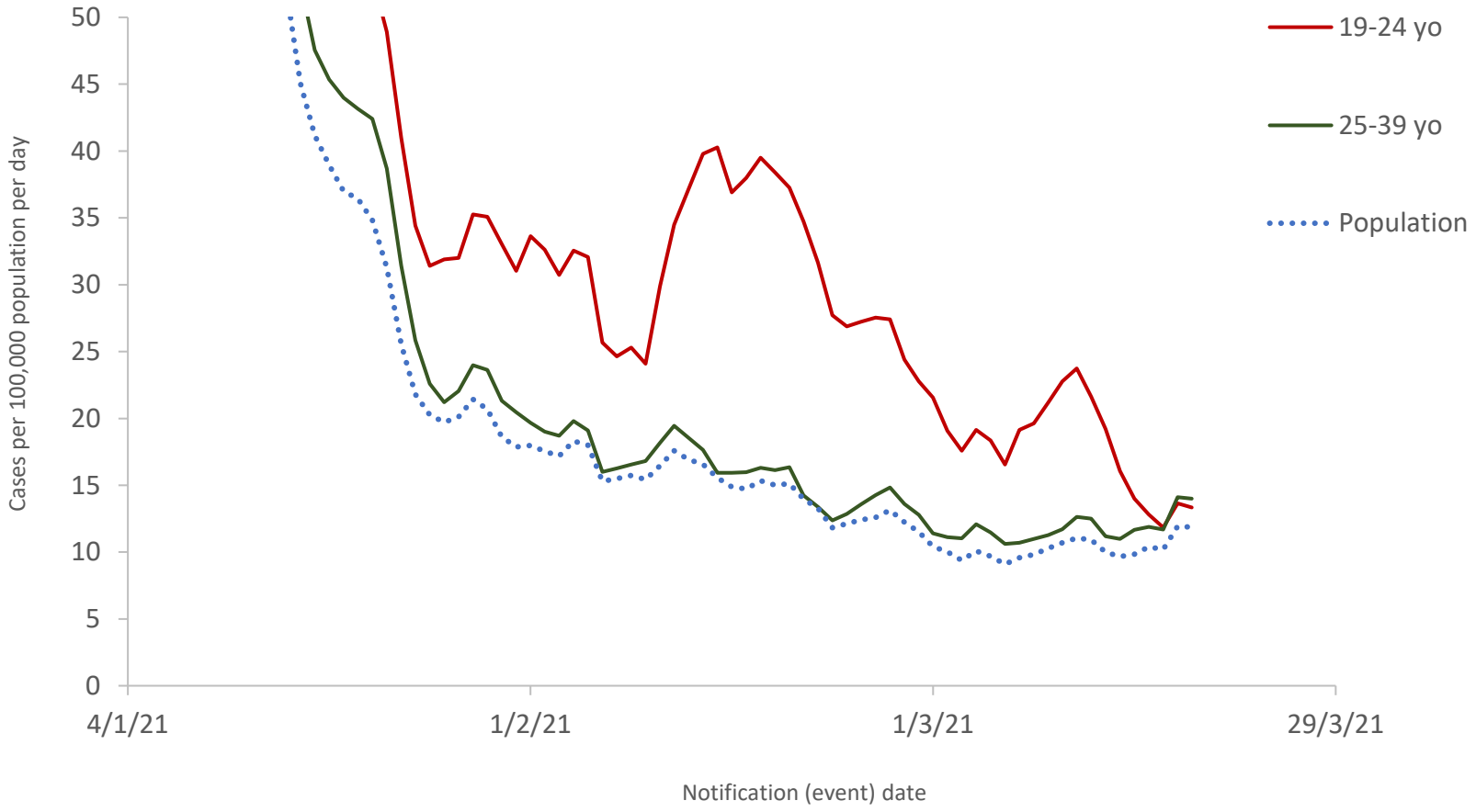

Age-specific incidence (cases per day per 100,000 population within each age cohort, population from CSO 2016 census data). Healthcare workers and cases associated with outbreaks in long-term residential care are excluded, so that the analysis reflects the pattern of cases in the community. Cases dated by notification (event) date. Tests outsourced to German laboratory in April backdated, using the specimen collection date, to the date they would have been confirmed if tested in a timely manner.

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Age-specific incidence in recent weeks

There has been an increase in incidence in those aged 0-12 in recent weeks, it remains volatile and will be monitored closely

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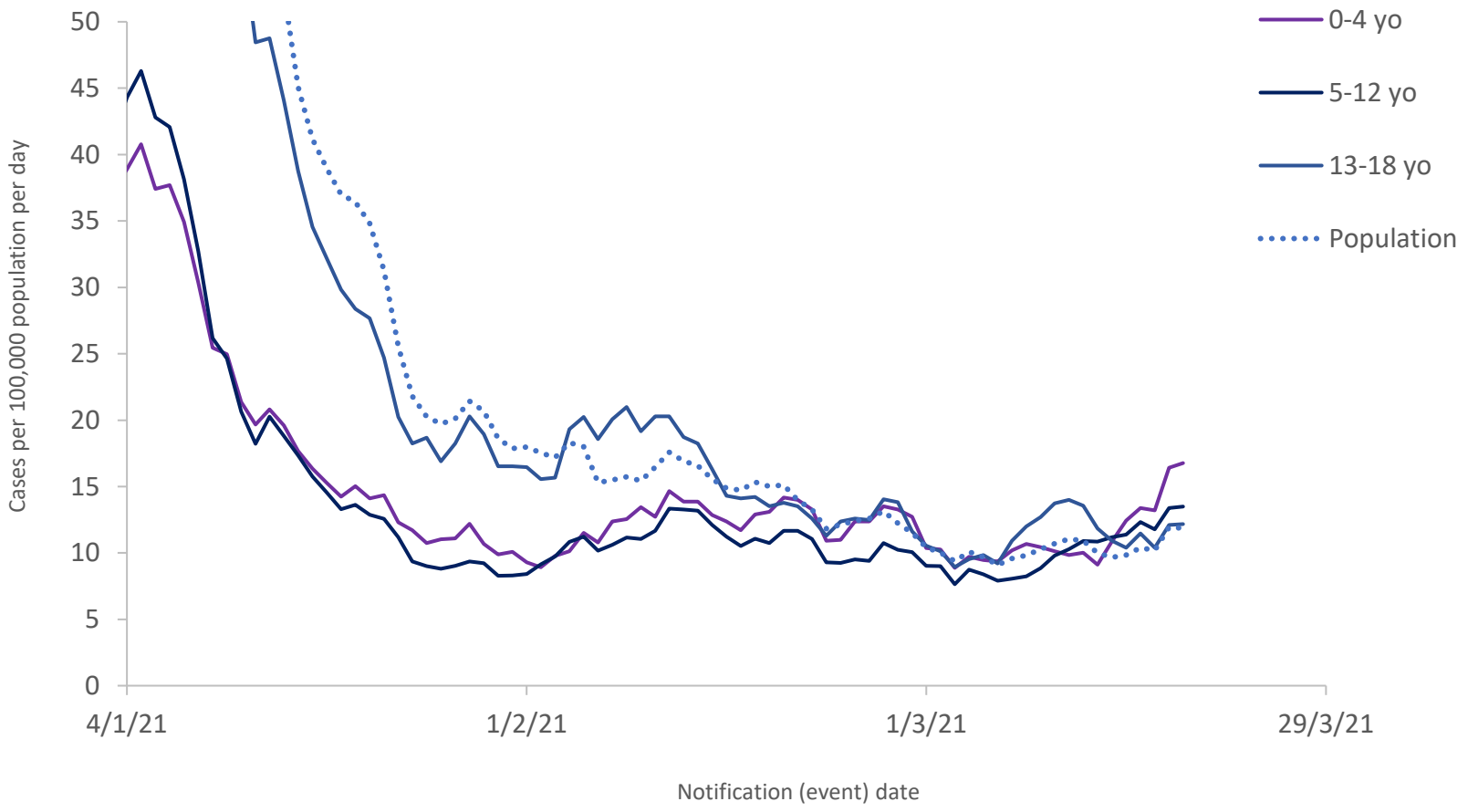

Age-specific incidence (cases per day per 100,000 population within each age cohort, population from CSO 2016 census data). Healthcare workers and cases associated with outbreaks in long-term residential care are excluded, so that the analysis reflects the pattern of cases in the community. Cases dated by notification (event) date. Tests outsourced to German laboratory in April backdated, using the specimen collection date, to the date they would have been confirmed if tested in a timely manner.

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Cases in outbreaks in schools

The number of cases in school outbreaks is a small fraction of the total number of cases in children of school-going age, and occur later in a surge when there is a high level of disease in the community

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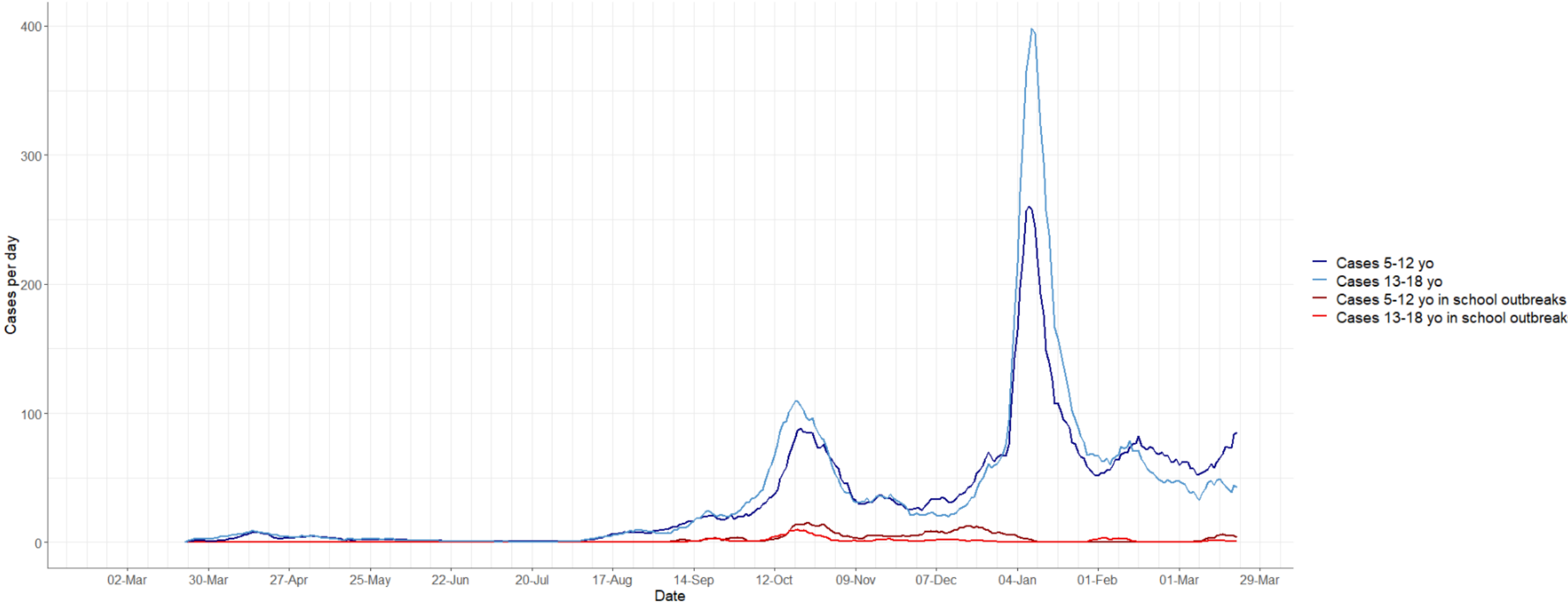

Total cases per day in those aged 5-12 years, and 13-18 years, and those cases in those age bands associated with ooutbreaks in schools.
Data are averaged using a window that is 7 days or 1000 cases in duration, whichever is longer. Cases dated by notification (event) date.

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Cases in outbreaks in childcare facilities

The number of cases in outbreaks in children in childcare facilities remains less than 25% of all cases in children aged 0-4 years.

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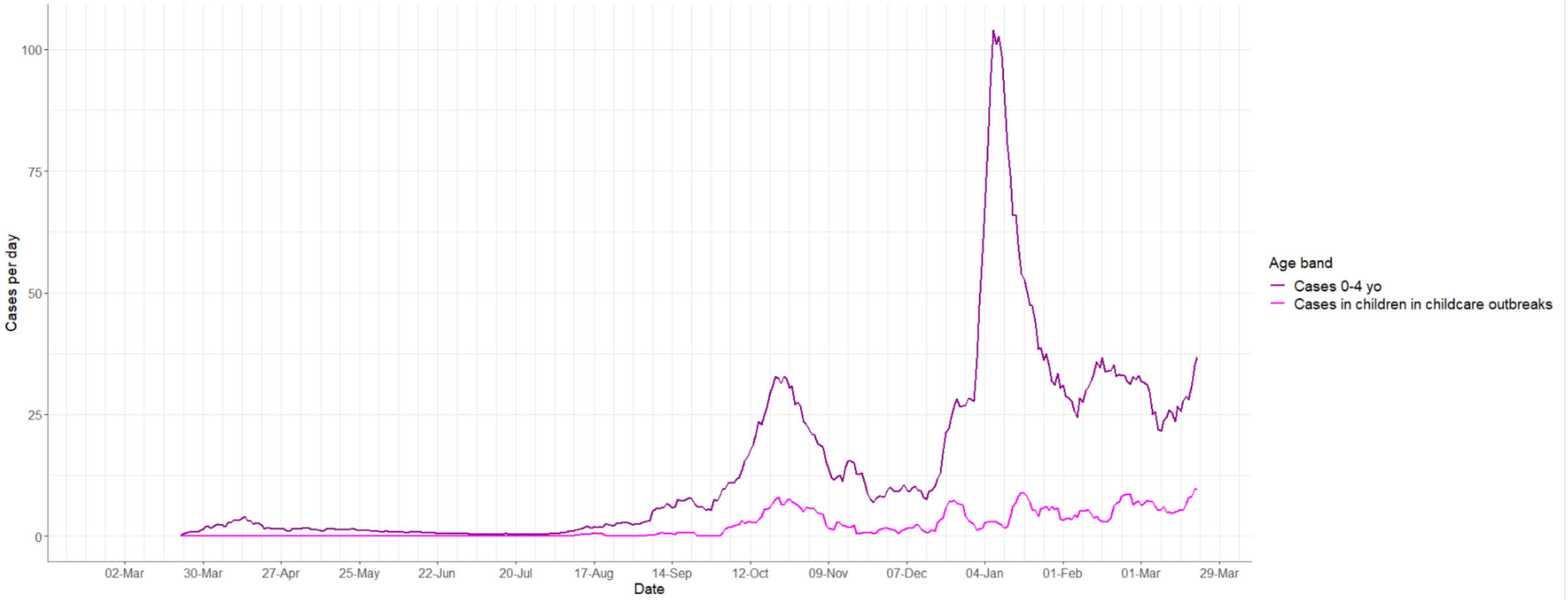

Total cases per day in those aged 0-4 years years, and cases aged 0-4 years associated with outbreaks in childcare facilties.
Data are averaged using a window that is 7 days or 1000 cases in duration, whichever is longer. Cases dated by notification (event) date.

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