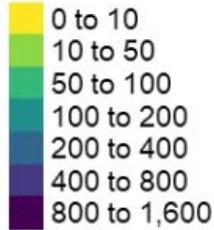
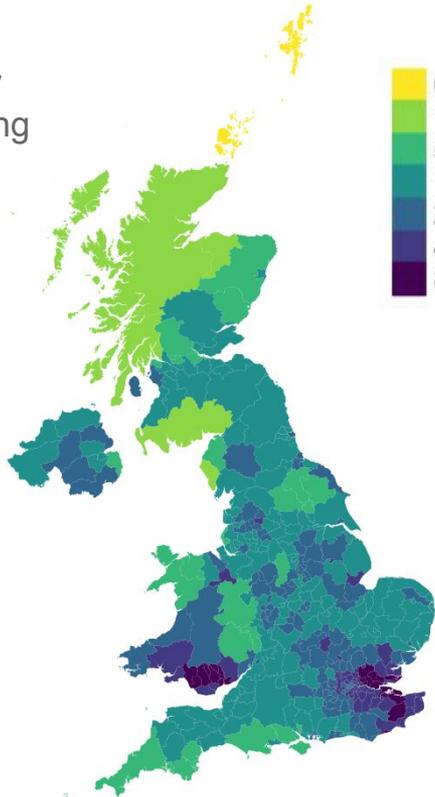
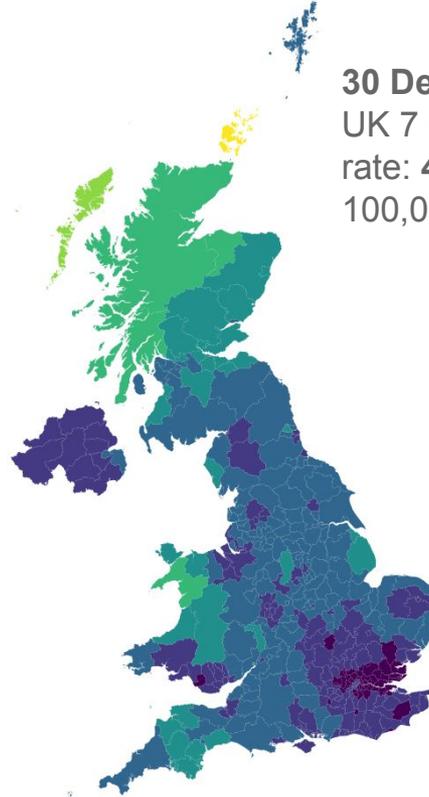


# In the two weeks to 30 December, the UK case-rate increased by 70 percent

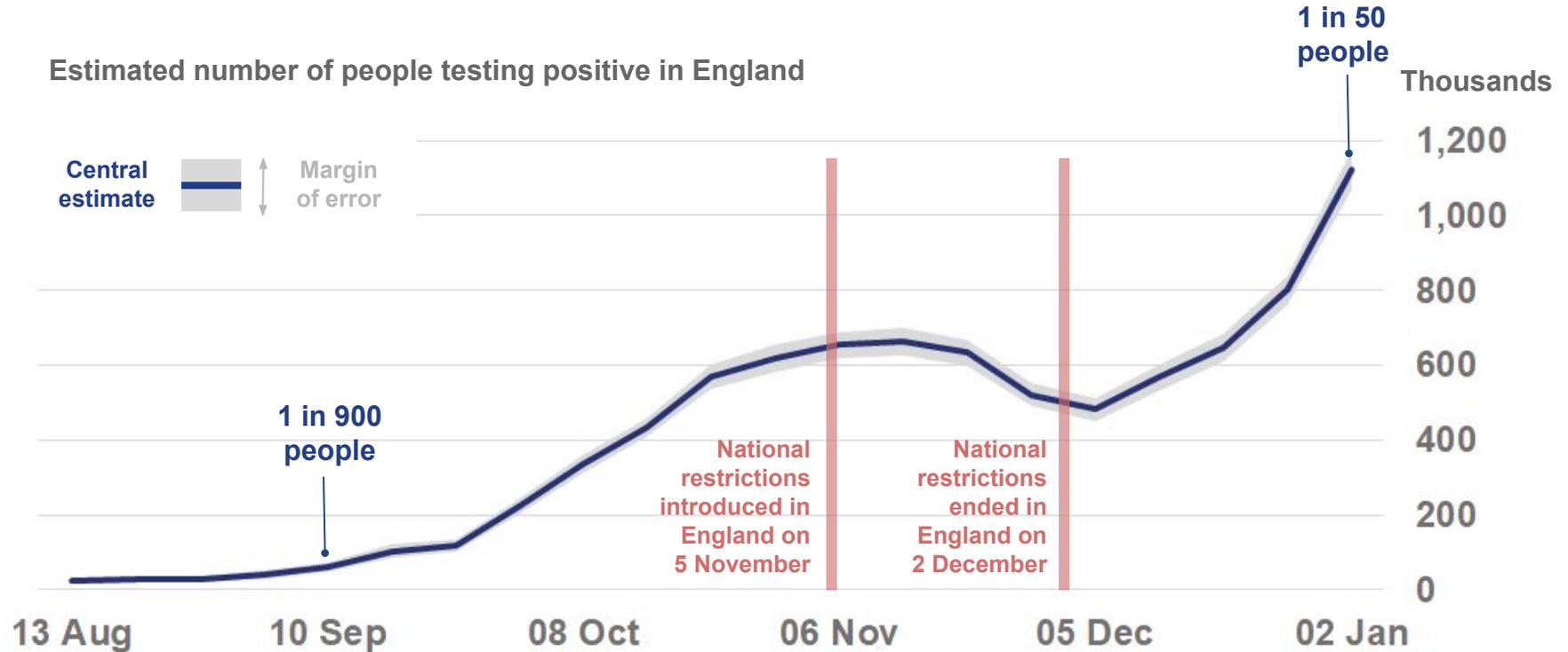
**16 December**  
UK 7 day rolling  
rate: **287** per  
100,000



**30 December**  
UK 7 day rolling  
rate: **487** per  
100,000



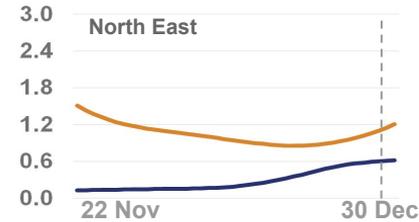
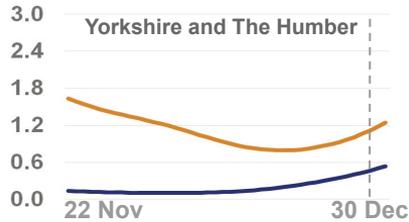
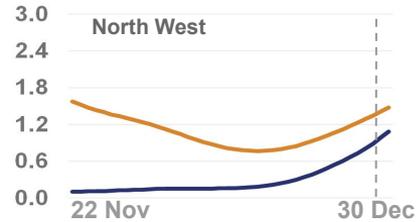
# The estimated number of people testing positive for COVID-19 in the community in England continues to increase



# The percentage testing positive in the community for the new variant in English regions

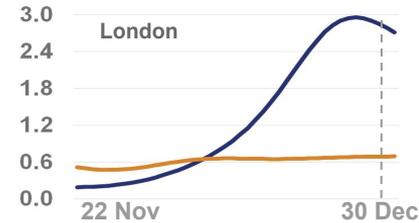
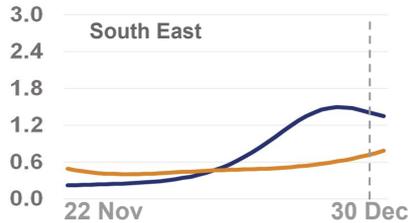
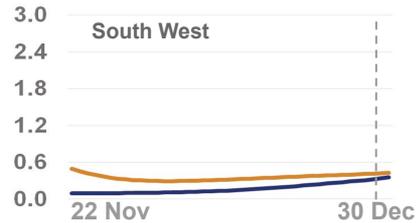
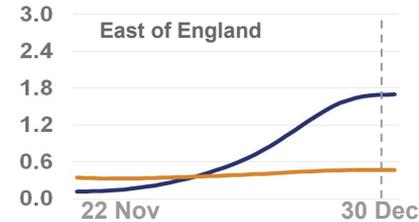
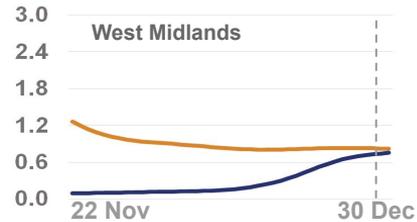
22 November to 2 January

% testing positive



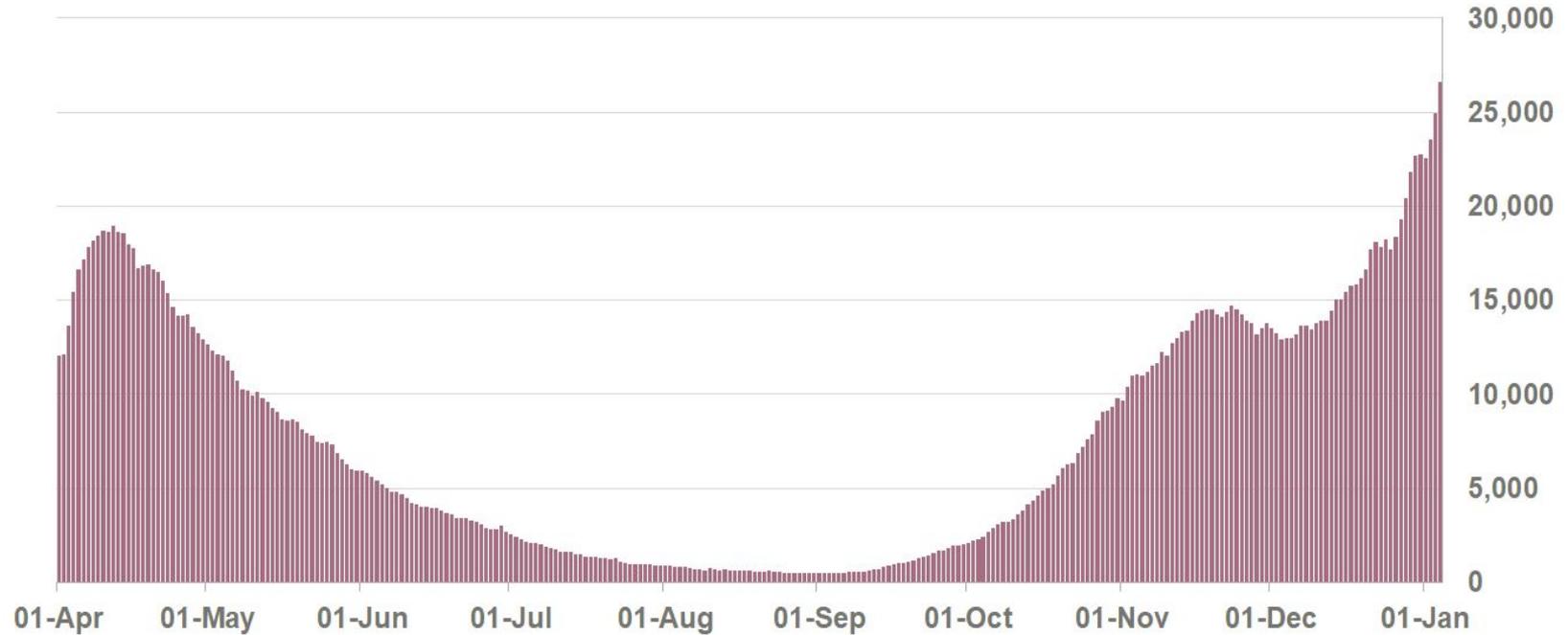
**Other variants**  
**New variant compatible**

After 30 December, estimates have more uncertainty



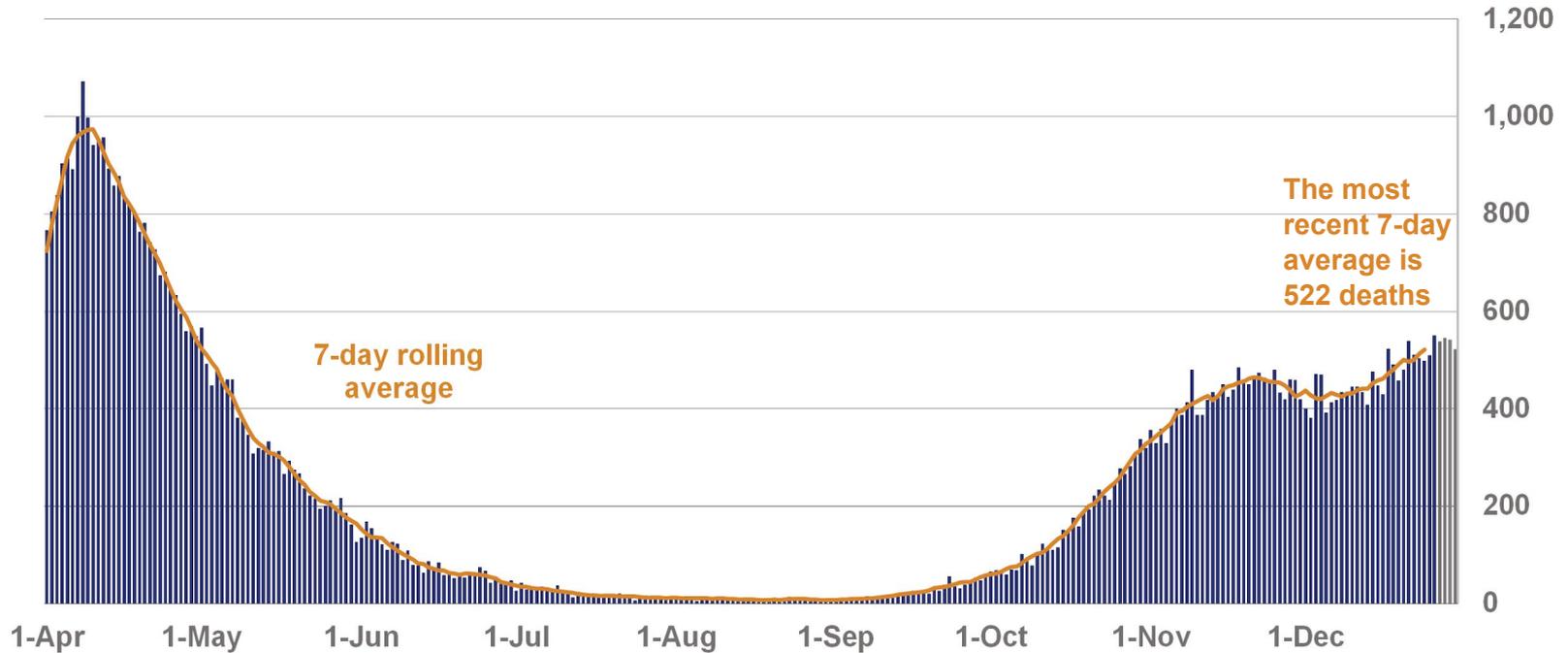
# The number of people in hospital with COVID-19 in England is higher than ever

Number of people in hospital each day, up to 4 Jan



# The number of deaths of people who had a positive test result for COVID-19 in the UK is increasing

Number of deaths each day, by date of death, up to 30 Dec



Data highlighted in grey is incomplete

# Statistical notes

## Case-rates:

Case rates are the total number of people with a positive COVID-19 virus test result per 100,000 population, by specimen date, for the rolling seven-day periods ending on the date shown in the given areas.

## Estimated number of people testing positive for COVID-19 in England:

We provide 95% credible intervals because the figures are based on a model from a sample of people. A credible interval is calculated so that there is a 95% probability of the true value lying in the interval. The estimates refer to infections reported in the community in private households. These estimates exclude infections reported in hospitals, care homes or other institutional settings. To improve stability in our modelling while maintaining relative timeliness of our estimates, we are reporting our official estimates based on the midpoint of the reference week. This week, the reference day for positivity rates is Wednesday 30 December 2020.

For further information, contact [infection.survey.analysis@ons.gov.uk](mailto:infection.survey.analysis@ons.gov.uk).

## Estimated number of people testing positive for the new COVID-19 variant in regions of England:

This analysis was produced by Sarah Walker at the University of Oxford and looks at the prevalence of the new variant of the coronavirus (COVID-19) across the UK. Swabs are tested for three genes present in the coronavirus: N protein, S protein and ORF1ab. Each swab can have any one, any two or all three genes detected. Positives are those where one or more of these genes is detected in the swab other than tests that are only positive on the S-gene, which is not considered a reliable indicator of the virus if found on its own.

The new variant of COVID-19 has genetic changes in the S-gene. This means the S-gene is no longer detected in the current test, and cases that would have previously been positive on all three genes are now positive only on the ORF1ab and the N-gene (not the S-gene). There are also other reasons why a swab may be positive for only these two genes, including lower viral load in the sample, which is why we have always seen a small percentage of this type of positive result. Absence of the S-gene appears to have become a reliable indicator of the new variation in COVID-19 from mid-November, based on the higher levels of virus in these type of positives after this date. Prior to that, the data should not be read as being an indicator of the variant.

Caution should be taken in over-interpreting any small movements in the latest trend. After 30 December, estimates have more uncertainty.

## Patients in hospital with COVID-19, England:

Total number of people in hospital with COVID-19 in England. England data now covers all Acute Trusts, Mental Health Trusts and the Independent Sector and are reported daily by trusts to NHS England and NHS Improvement.

# Statistical notes

## COVID-19 daily deaths within 28 days of a positive test, UK:

Number of deaths of people who had a positive test result for COVID-19 and died within 28 days of the first positive test. Data from the four nations are not directly comparable as methodologies and inclusion criteria vary. The 7-day rolling mean average of daily deaths is plotted on the chart on the middle day of each seven day period. Data presented is by date of death rather than date reported or registered. Data for the most recent few days, highlighted in grey, is incomplete.

## Further information and data

UK - [COVID-19 in the UK](#); for further information contact [coronavirus-tracker@phe.gov.uk](mailto:coronavirus-tracker@phe.gov.uk)

Welsh Government - [NHS activity and capacity during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

Scottish Government - [COVID-19 daily data for Scotland](#)

Northern Ireland - [COVID-19 statistics](#)