



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

STATISTICS

Testing data for coronavirus (COVID-19): up to 26 July 2020

Management information update on coronavirus testing up to 26 July 2020.

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1. National headline figures

Main results

- Lab capacity in NHS Wales labs was 15,157 as at 26 July 2020. This does not include capacity at UK labs where some Welsh residents' samples are processed.
- As at 1pm on 26 July 2020, there have been 364,215 tests authorised for Welsh residents.
- There have been a total of 224,120 tests performed on critical workers and residents in Wales.
- For samples processed in NHS Wales laboratories in the latest week, 51.3% of tests authorised in community testing units were authorised in two days compared to 86.3% in regional testing centres and 96.7% in hospitals/ unknown location.
- For samples processed in non-NHS Wales laboratories in the latest week, 84.4% of care home tests ordered through the care home portal were

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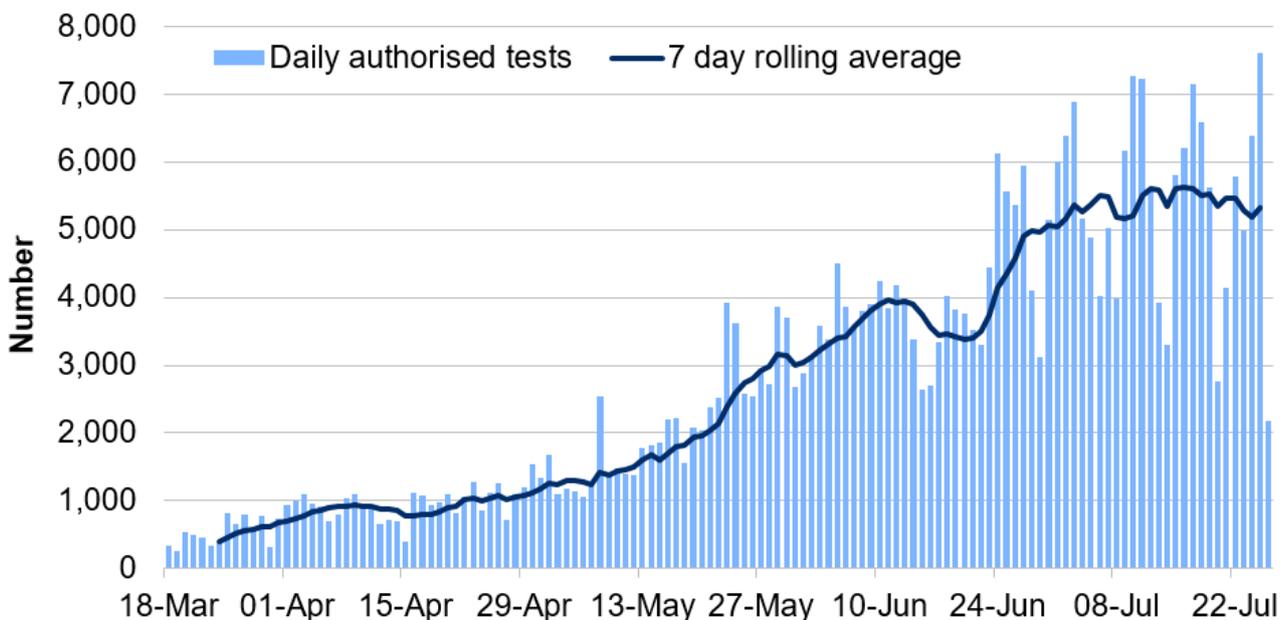
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authorised within two days compared to 88.6% of home tests and 99.1% in regional testing centres.

- By the end of 19 July 2020, 57,368 antibody tests have been authorised for Welsh residents processed through NHS Wales laboratories with 5,842 positive results.

Currently antibody testing is only available to priority groups with further explanation provided on our policy pages: [Antibody testing: coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#).

Chart 1: Total number of tests authorised through NHS Wales and non-NHS Wales laboratories at the end of 26 July 2020



Source: Public Health Wales

Total number of tests authorised at the end of 26 July 2020 (MS Excel)

Data for 26 July only includes results authorised up to 1pm.

Public Health Wales have finalised their work to bring together tests authorised in non-NHS Wales (Lighthouse Labs) with NHS Wales laboratory processed tests. Chart 1 shows the number of tests authorised in both NHS Wales and non-NHS Wales laboratories.

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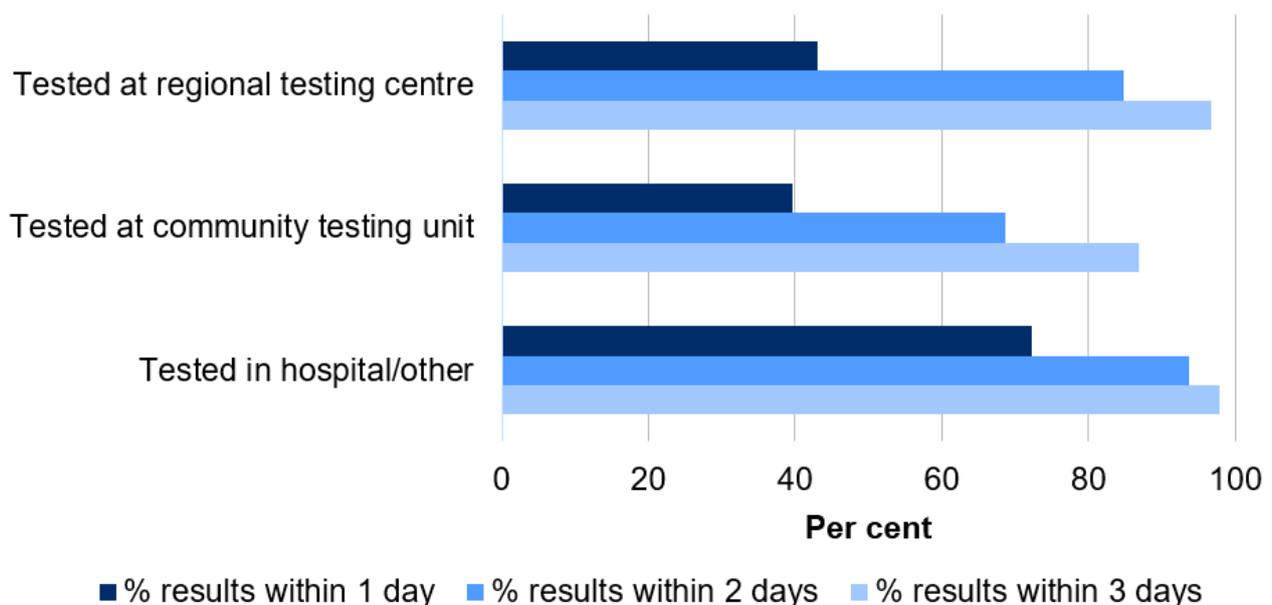
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- The number of tests authorised in NHS Wales laboratories had been on the rise until the start of June where there was a small decrease and the number of tests broadly levelling off.
- The highest number of tests authorised in a single calendar day was on 25 July, where 7,598 tests authorised in NHS Wales and non-NHS Wales laboratories.
- These figures include tests processed through labs outside NHS Wales, which includes tests for Welsh residents taken at testing centres in England, some testing centres in Wales, tests ordered through the care home portal and home testing kits.
- The first sample processed by a non-NHS Wales laboratory for a Welsh resident was on 24 April. Testing increased with the roll out of home testing on 18 May.
- Tests processed through non-NHS Wales laboratories began to increase towards the end of June. This is largely due to Welsh residents beginning to book tests through the newly available care home portal.

2. Turnaround times

Chart 2: Proportion of tests authorised from NHS Wales laboratories within one, two and three days as at end 26 July 2020



Source: Public Health Wales

Proportion of tests authorised from NHS Wales laboratories within one, two and three days as at end 26 July 2020 (MS Excel)

Since testing began up until the end of 26 July 2020:

- There have been 116,902 tests authorised at coronavirus testing units, with 69% of results authorised within two days.
- There have been 73,888 tests authorised at hospital, with 94% of results authorised within two days.
- There have been 67,816 tests authorised at regional testing centres, with 85% of results authorised within two days.

Weekly turnaround times are included in the accompanying data tables.

The results performance shown is a measure from the date a sample is

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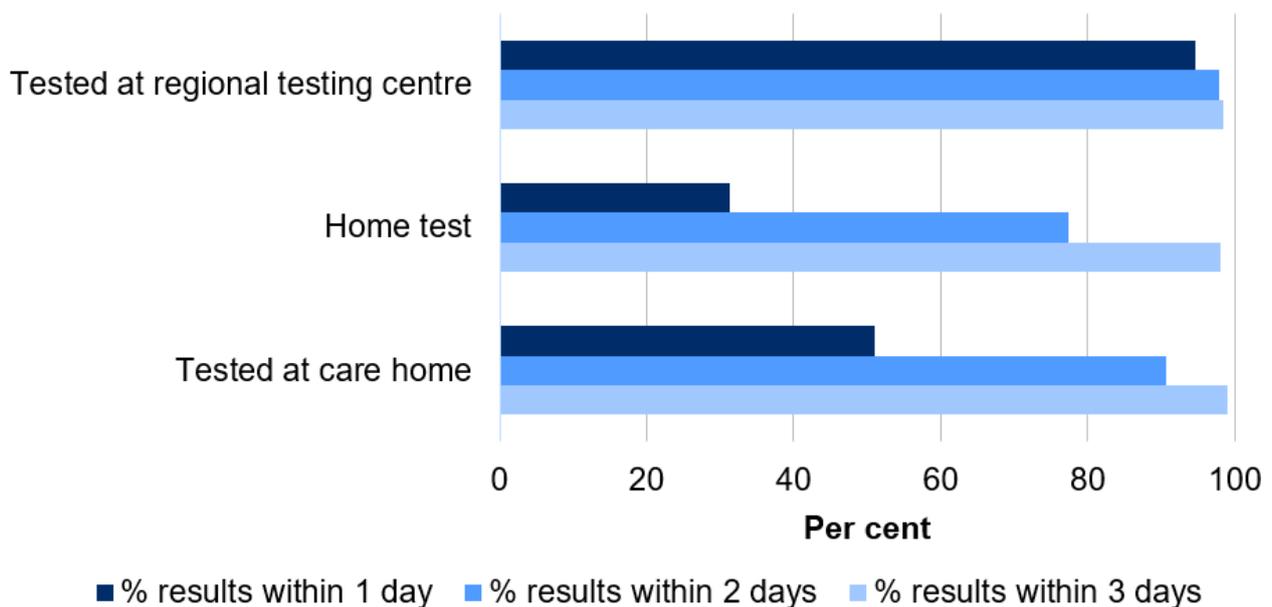
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recorded as being collected to the time that the result is authorised. It does not indicate how long it takes for an individual to receive their result from point of testing.

Data on the time taken to receive a COVID-19 test result is split up to show the different routes for getting tested, as this will have an impact upon the time taken.

Chart 3: Proportion of tests authorised from non-NHS Wales laboratories within one, two and three days as at end 26 July 2020



Source: Public Health Wales

Proportion of tests authorised from non-NHS Wales laboratories within one, two and three days as at end 26 July 2020 (MS Excel)

Since testing began up until the end of 26 July 2020:

- There have been 66,982 care home portal tests authorised with 91% of results authorised within two days.
- There have been 31,156 home tests authorised, with 77% of results authorised within two days.

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- There have been 15,993 tests authorised from regional testing centres processed in non-NHS Wales laboratories, with 98% of results authorised within two days.

Weekly turnaround times are included in the accompanying data tables.

The results performance shown is a measure from the date a sample is recorded as being collected to the time that the result is authorised. It does not indicate how long it takes for an individual to receive their result from point of testing.

3. Critical workers and residents

Table 1: Total number of tests and results for critical workers and residents as at end 26 July 2020

Category	Total positive tests	Total negative tests	Total number of tests
Key worker: care home	1,339	76,797	78,136
Key worker: education	23	817	840
Key worker: emergency	149	988	1,137
Key worker: healthcare	6,363	23,745	30,108
Key worker: hostel or supported living	16	760	776
Key worker: other or unknown	499	5,066	5,565
Keyworker: prison or detention centre	25	125	150

Resident: care home	1,298	35,393	36,691
Resident: education	1	200	201
Resident: hostel or supported living	61	2,186	2,247
Resident: other or unknown	102	574	676
Resident: prison or detention centre	2	27	29
Resident or key worker: care home	90	66,892	66,982
Resident or key worker: education	2	10	12
Resident or key worker: hostel or supported living	11	25	36
Resident or key worker: prison or detention centre	109	425	534

Source: Public Health Wales

Table 1 shows the number of tests authorised for critical workers and residents in Wales authorised in NHS Wales and non-NHS Wales laboratories.

Public Health Wales are currently undertaking improvements to the critical worker and resident category in their data. This has led to revisions in the data and different categories being used compared to previous publications.

- Around 81% of all tests for critical workers were performed on care home residents or care home workers.
- 21% of tests conducted for healthcare workers identified positive results.

The number of tests recorded for critical workers is dependent on the critical worker category being recorded in the system when the sample was taken. It is

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currently not possible to distinguish between key worker and residents for samples processed in non-NHS Wales laboratories and have been included together in the table.

Table 2: Total number of antibody tests and results for critical workers and residents as at end 26 July 2020

Category	Positive results	Negative results	Equivocal results	Number of tests
Key worker or resident: care home	38	122	9	169
Key worker or resident: education	1,026	18,080	901	20,033
Key worker: emergency	51	291	6	348
Key worker: healthcare	3,947	26,853	909	30,938
Key worker or resident: other or unknown	11	180	6	197
Key worker or resident: prison or detention centre	*	*	*	11
Resident: hostel or supported living	*	*	*	*
Household member of keyworker	*	*	*	5
Not specified	767	4,828	71	5,666

* The data item is suppressed to avoid disclosure.

Source: Public Health Wales and NHS Wales Informatics Service (NWIS)

Table 2 shows the number of antibody tests authorised in NHS Wales

laboratories and lateral flow tests.

Since testing began up until the end of 26 July 2020 there have been 20,033 antibody tests for key workers or residents in education and 30,938 antibody tests for healthcare key workers. This reflects the current sampling strategy of prioritising antibody testing for these key workers and residents. These data include 9,195 lateral flow tests.

The number of tests and results reflect a snapshot in time and will be greatly influenced by the sampling strategy at that moment in time. Currently antibody testing is only available to priority groups, more information is available in the [Antibody testing: coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#) pages of our website.

If an antibody test is equivocal, it means that the result is inconclusive.

4. Background

We are publishing these data to provide a weekly summary of testing activity in Wales, including tests on critical workers, residents and the timeliness of tests.

From 13 July, Public Health Wales have combined tests and results processed in NHS Wales laboratories and non-NHS Wales laboratories, which were previously reported separately. Chart 1 and Table 1 include tests processed for Welsh residents through both NHS Wales laboratories and non-NHS Wales laboratories (Lighthouse Labs). Chart 2 shows only tests authorised at NHS Wales laboratories and Chart 3 only shows tests authorised through non-NHS Wales laboratories. Table 2 shows antibody tests authorised through NHS Wales laboratories and lateral flow tests.

The data in this release is based on a mixture of dates at different stages of the testing process, such as specimen date, processing date and authorised data. Each table in the Open Data spreadsheet details the reporting timeframe.

Our data explainer titled [Understanding data on coronavirus \(COVID-19\) testing](#) provides further explanation on the data used including the difference in dates and data sources.

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COVID-19 antibody tests are used to find out whether a person has previously had the virus. The antibody test works by taking a blood sample and testing for the presence of antibodies. Antibodies are produced by the body in response to an infection and can usually be found in the blood after around 2 weeks following infection.

Antibody testing is only available to priority groups at the moment with testing prioritised for a sample of school staff who have previously worked in education hubs and healthcare workers. Further explanation of antibody testing in Wales can be found on our policy pages: [Antibody testing: coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#).

Data included in this release is correct at 23:59 on 26 July unless otherwise stated.

5. Quality and methodology information

Context

The data is management information which has been collected to support testing operations. We're publishing these data to provide a timely summary of testing activity but has not undergone the same level of quality assurance as official statistics, with the data subject to future revisions. This weekly summary of COVID-19 testing information from the [Public Health Wales \(PHW\) daily surveillance dashboard](#), plus further detail on the number of tests on critical workers and the location that the test sample was collected.

This information helps to monitor the impact of COVID-19 and contribute to Wales monitoring and decision-making.

Relevance

Public Health Wales analyse patient testing data from WLIMS as part of their disease surveillance responsibilities. In addition, these statistics are used daily for a number of other purposes:

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- to understand the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic
- to support evidence-based advice on future decisions around reviews of lockdown arrangements
- contributions to Wales and UK wide monitoring and decision-making

Accuracy

Public Health Wales Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre is responsible for carrying out surveillance of respiratory infections in Wales including the coronavirus (COVID-19).

Clinical data is stored in the Welsh Laboratory Information System (WLIMS), this includes COVID-19 testing data. The data is accessed and cleansed by Public Health Wales analysts, this includes removing duplicate positive cases prior to publishing the data on their daily surveillance dashboard. The data is revised on a daily basis and is classed as provisional subject to future revision.

Different test dates have been used when reporting test data depending on the nature of the data and the use. For rapid surveillance data the authorised test date has been used and is included in the headline figures presented by Public Health Wales, whereas for detailed surveillance over time the specimen date has been used.

Further information can be found in our data explainer: [Understanding data on coronavirus \(COVID-19\) testing](#).

Timeliness and punctuality

The data in this release provides data from the 18 March 2020 and onwards.

Accessibility and clarity

This statistical release has been pre-announced and then published on the [Statistics and Research section of our website](#). It is accompanied by an Open Document Spreadsheet to allow users to have direct access to the data

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that underlies the charts in this release.

Comparability

Public Health Wales produce a [daily surveillance dashboard](#) where users can access the most up to date information on the number of tests authorised, individuals tested (testing episodes) and positive cases.

Data for England is published on the [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) in the UK](#) pages of the GOV.UK website.

Data for Scotland is published on the [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): daily data for Scotland](#) pages of the GOV.SCOT website.

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) also publish daily information on tests and positive cases.

National Statistics status

These statistics are not National Statistics. However, as far as has been practicable, they have been collected and validated in accordance with the pillars and principles within the [Code of Practice for Statistics](#). We continue to develop the data collection and quality assurance process to improve the data.

These statistics have been produced quickly in response to developing world events.

Well-being of Future Generations Act

The Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of Wales. The Act puts in place seven wellbeing goals for Wales. These are for a more equal, prosperous, resilient, healthier and globally responsible Wales, with cohesive communities and a vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language. Under section (10)(1) of the Act, the Welsh Ministers must (a) publish indicators ('national indicators') that

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must be applied for the purpose of measuring progress towards the achievement of the wellbeing goals, and (b) lay a copy of the national indicators before the National Assembly. The 46 national indicators were laid in March 2016.

Information on the indicators, along with narratives for each of the well-being goals and associated technical information is available in the [Well-being of Wales report](#).

Further information on the [Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#).

The statistics included in this release could also provide supporting narrative to the national indicators and be used by public services boards in relation to their local well-being assessments and local wellbeing plans.

Next update

This is currently a weekly statistical release. It will be published at 12.30pm every Tuesday. We will review the frequency in line with changing user need.

The next release will be on Wednesday 5 August.

We want your feedback

We welcome any feedback on any aspect of these statistics which can be provided by email to kas.covid19@gov.wales.

6. Contact details

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Media: 0300 025 8099

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About this document

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