

Subject: Weekly Epidemiological Report
Date: 19th January 2023

Introduction

This report provides a summary of indicators which are used to help understand the spread of the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) in Jersey. It shows the volumes of positive cases over the last 12 months (Figure 1). Data on symptomatic callers to the COVID helpline is also shown.

The report also includes information on weekly **testing rates** per 100,000 population¹ (Figure 2) and weekly **positivity rate** (Figure 3) which is the number of tests which were found to be positive as a proportion of all tests conducted in that week. Both metrics are shown alongside European countries.

Probable reinfections as a proportion of overall monthly cases are shown in Figure 4. Reinfections are assessed on a case by case basis where individuals have previously tested positive in Jersey. The time period between two positive tests that informs what is considered a reinfection has been adjusted over time in response to the latest understanding of COVID-19 and the dominant variants on-Island.²

Please note that the 7-day case rate per 100,000 population by age group, and the weekly testing numbers by test reason are now included in the website dashboard, updated every week, and are no longer included in this weekly epidemiological update.

Key Points

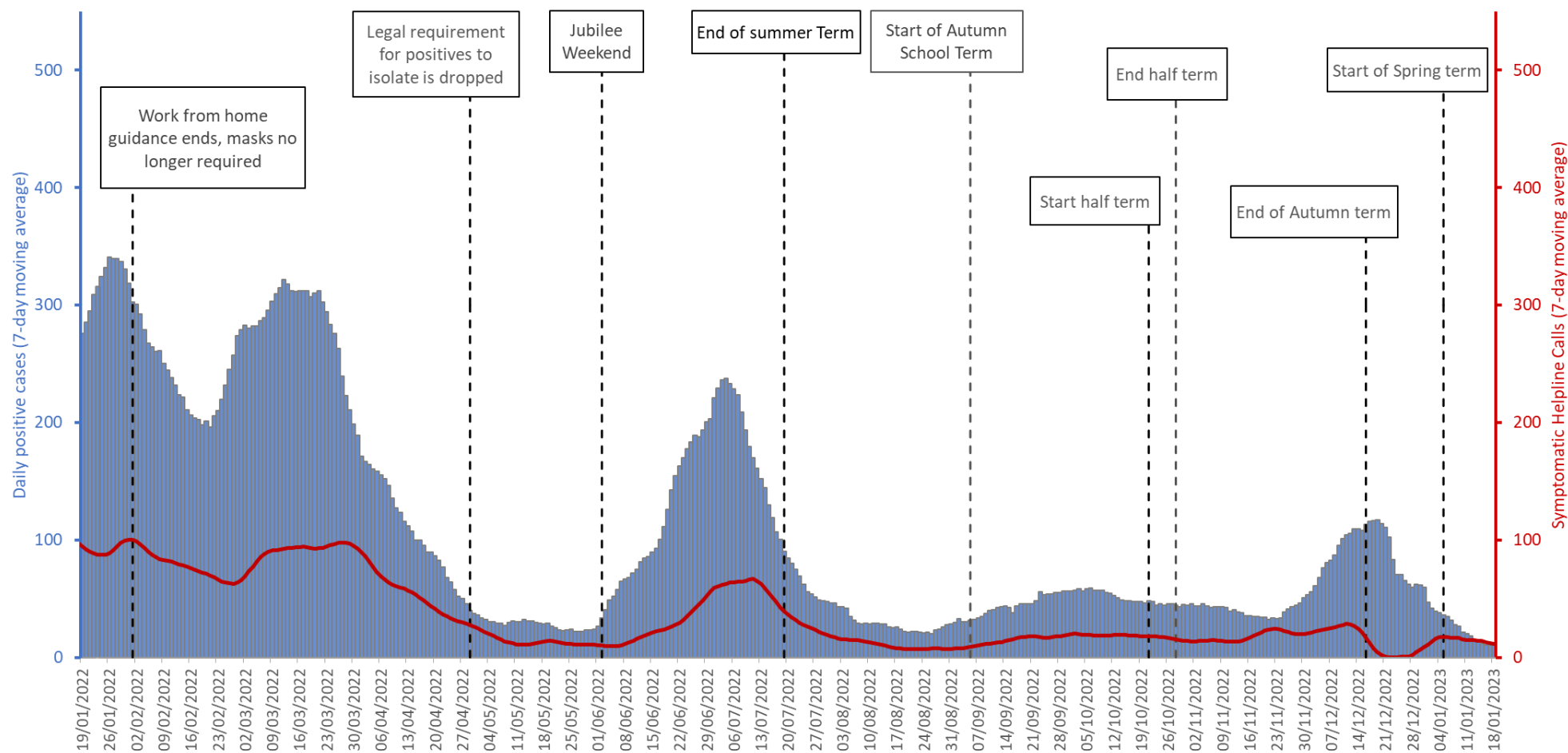
- The number of daily positive test cases is currently around 13 (Figure 1).
- Comparisons to data from the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) shows how the Jersey rate of testing (per 100,000 population) compares to other European countries³ (Figure 2). Note that the UK and some other countries include LFD tests (Lateral Flow Device) in their test count, whilst Jersey currently reports PCR and DiaSorin antigen tests only.
- Test positivity rate in Jersey is around 3.7% (Figure 3) whilst test positivity in England is 5.5%.
- In December 2022, the percentage of COVID-19 cases that were probable reinfections was 38.9%. (Figure 4).

¹ Using the 2021 Census population figure

² Prior to September 2021 cases were generally assumed to be probable reinfections if more than 28 days had passed since their previous positive test. From September 2021 the period was lengthened to 90 days, and on 12th January 2022 the period was reduced back to 28 days, in response to evidence of Omicron's increased dominance in Jersey and of the propensity of the Omicron variant to reinfect individuals who had previously contracted another variant of COVID-19. Back series data may be amended following data quality improvements.

³ In line with changes to reporting by the UK government, figure for comparison with England are included only, as combined UK figures are no longer available at <https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/>

Figure 1: Volumes of positive cases and calls to the COVID helpline with symptoms over the past 12 months, 7-day moving average



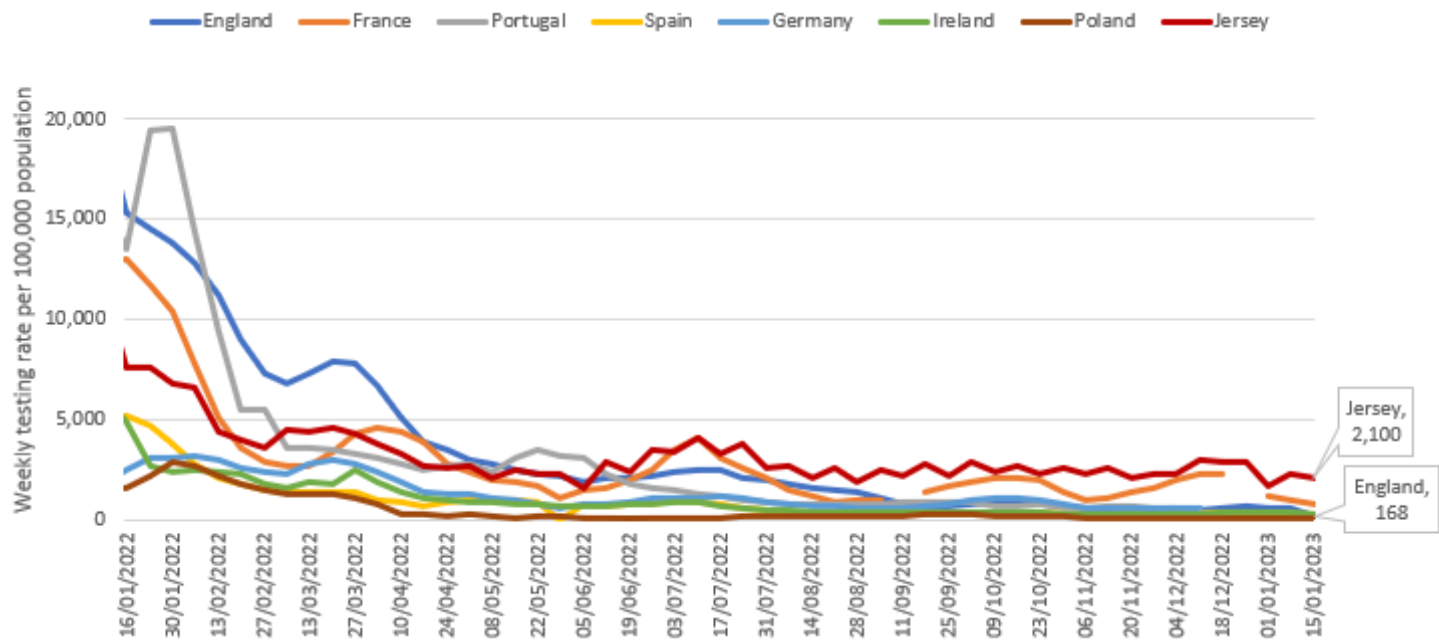
Indicator definitions

■ **Seven-day moving average trend in daily new positive cases:** each result is recorded against the day that the swab was taken. Please note that the split between asymptomatic and symptomatic cases is no longer provided. The historic time series of asymptomatic / symptomatic is available on opendata.gov.je

— **Seven-day moving average of daily symptomatic calls received by the COVID helpline***

*There has been a disruption in the calls received by the covid helpline in the 10 days prior to Christmas.

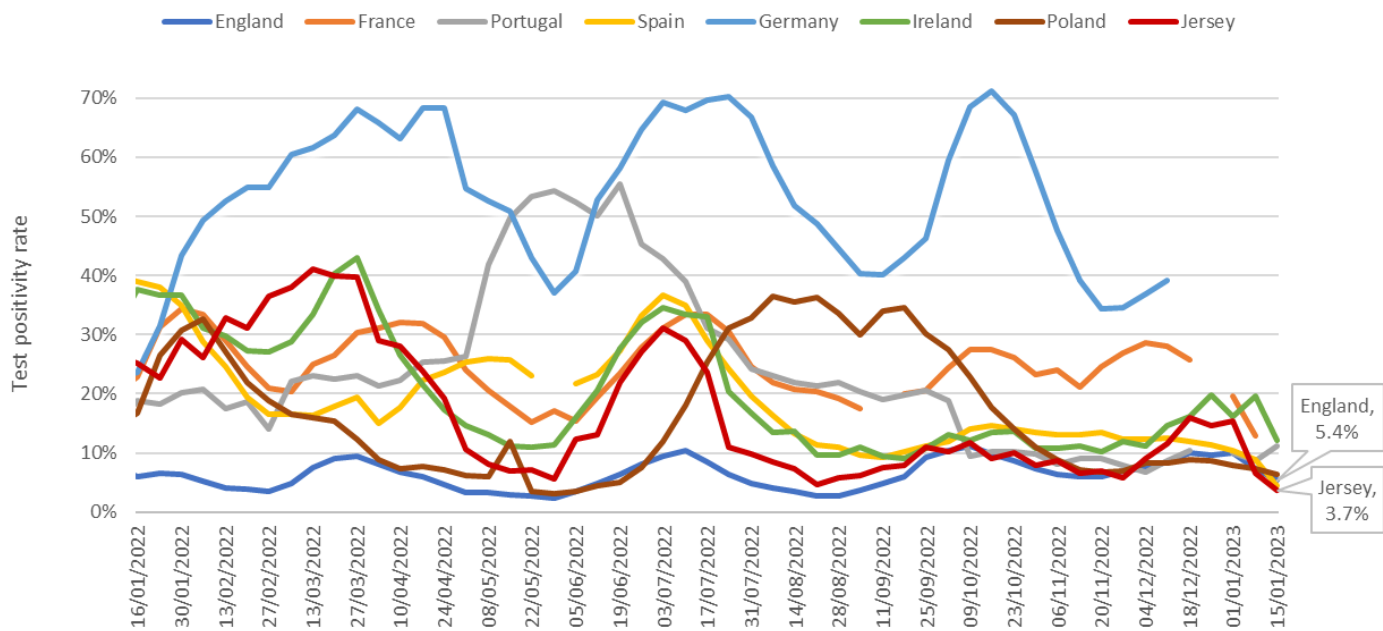
Figure 2: Weekly testing rate per 100,000 population



Source: ECDC, UK Government, and Government of Jersey

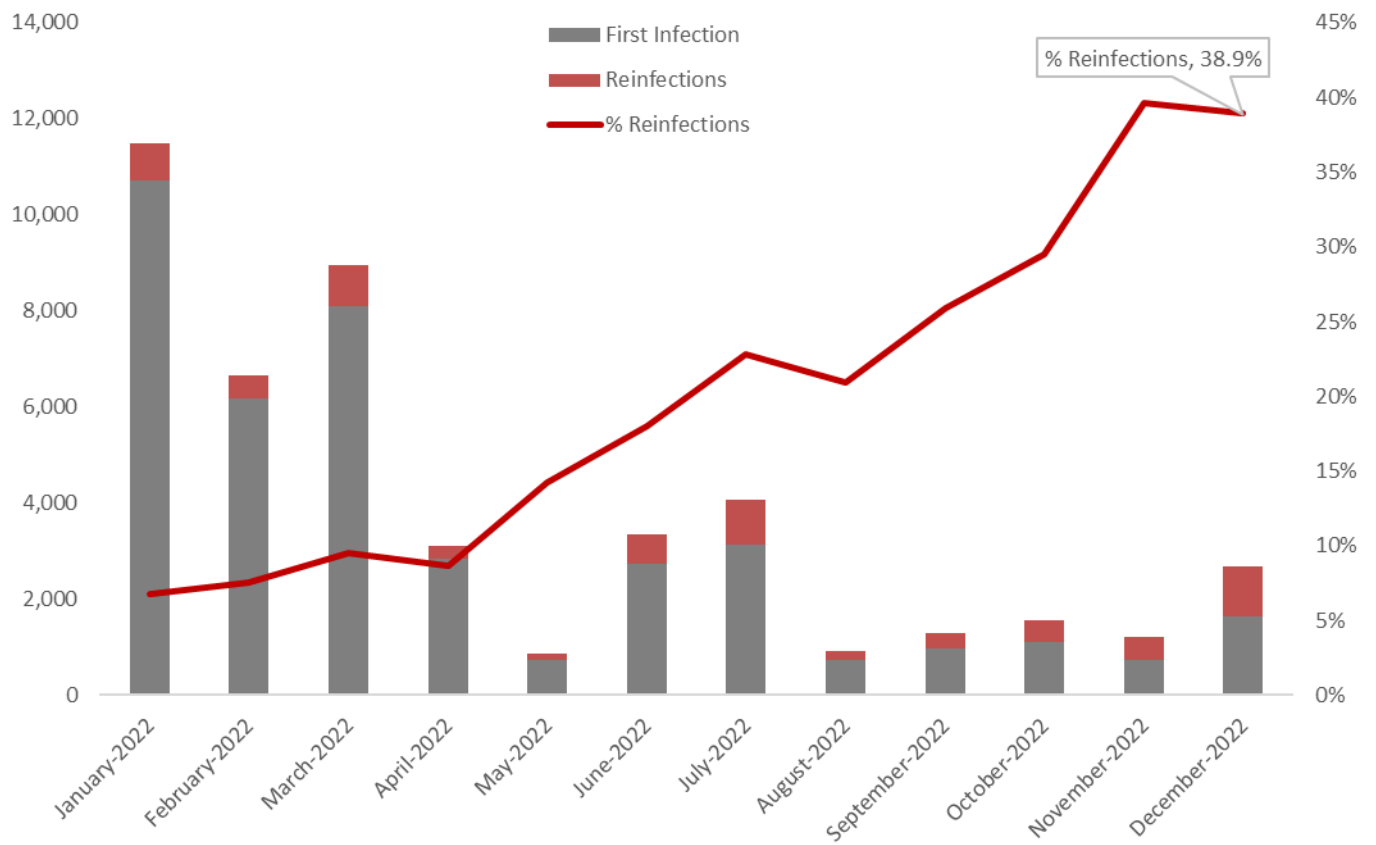
Note that some countries, including England, count Lateral Flow Device tests in their total testing figures. Jersey currently counts PCR and DiaSorin antigen tests only.

Figure 3: Weekly test positivity rate



Source: ECDC, UK Government, and Government of Jersey

Figure 4: Probable reinfections in Jersey over the past 12 months. Number of monthly positive cases, with the percent which are probable reinfections



Source: Government of Jersey