



THE UNIVERSITY  
*of* EDINBURGH

# Covid response and Covid recovery: looking ahead

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SAH 43<sup>rd</sup> Meeting

June 10th 2022

# Outline

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- Context: Covid-19
- A syndemic – indirect effects
- Recovery – public health and society
- Post-pandemic preparedness
- How do we sustain cross-sector collaborat



# Making it better through cross-sector collaboration

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- Covid-19 has forced people across the globe, including in the UK, assess the importance of collaboration for increasing societal resilience (South, 2021)
- Crisis response involves organisations pausing key activities to focus on addressing the crisis
- This has happened locally, nationally and also internationally through the role of inter-governmental organisations
- It has also occurred within the research community – with extensive interdisciplinary research at scale (Moradian et al, 2021)
- Covid recovery also requires cross-sector collaboration. Can we learn from working together during the pandemic?

# Current context: Covid-19

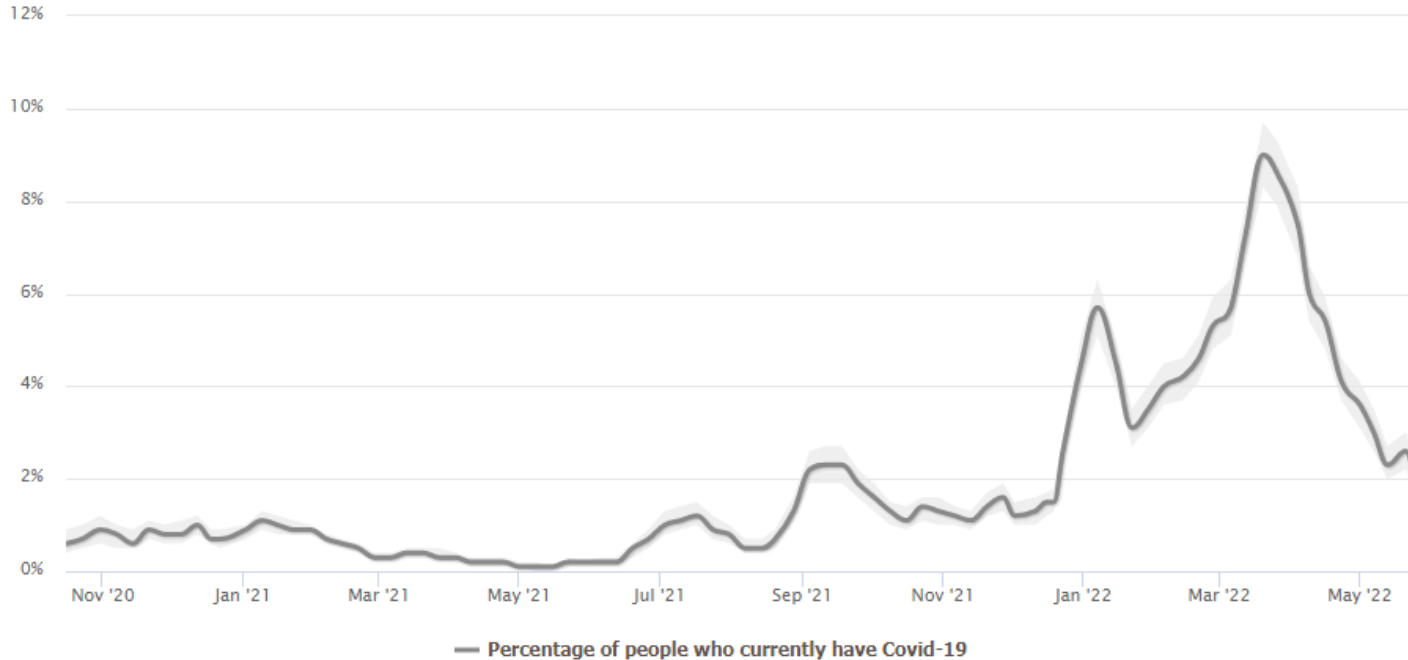
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# Recorded cases of Covid-19 in Scotland, March 2020 to June 2<sup>nd</sup> 2022



Source: <https://www.travellingtabby.com/scotland-coronavirus-tracker/> - original data from @Scotgov

# Modelled daily estimates of % of private residential population testing positive for C-19 in Scotland, ONS Infection Survey 26<sup>th</sup> May 2021 – 28<sup>th</sup> May 2022



Source: ONS (2022) Covid-19 Infection Survey, UK: June 1st 2022.

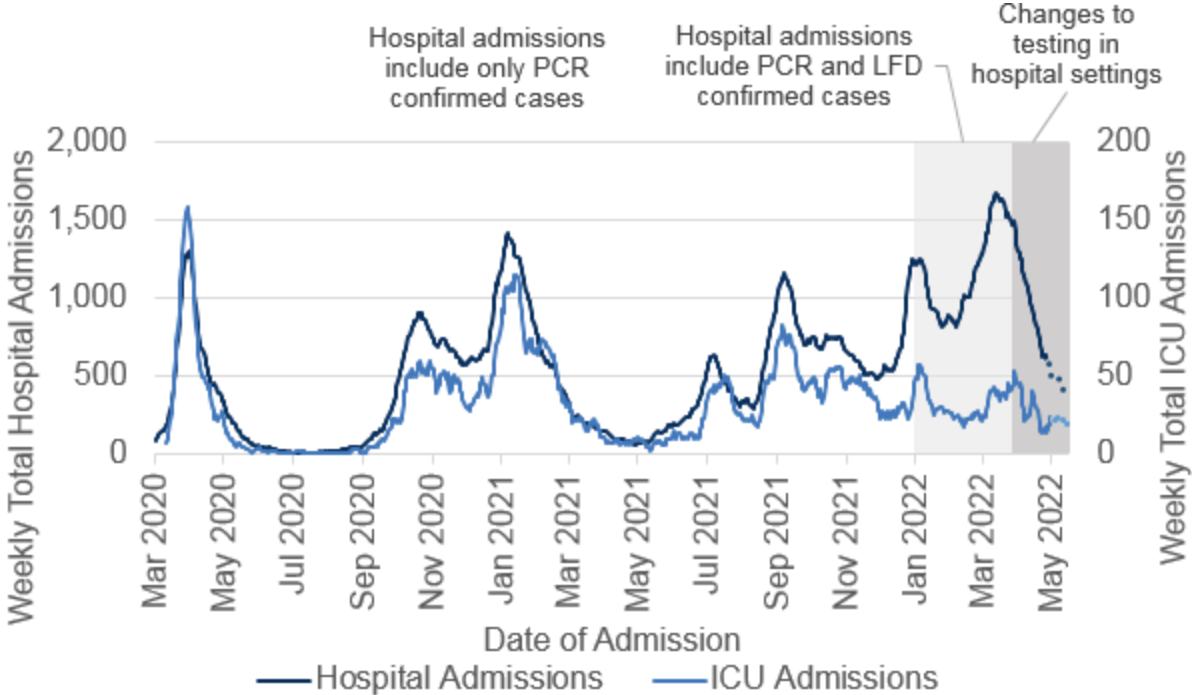
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/conditionsanddiseases/bulletins/coronaviruscovid19infectionsurveypilot/1june2022>

# Cumulative Incidence & Antibodies

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- The ONS Infection Survey produces estimates of cumulative incidence over time. Latest results are from September 2020 to February 11<sup>th</sup> 2022.
- In Scotland, **51.5%** of the population are estimated to have had at least one infection during that period (90% credible intervals: 40.5% to 63.6%). This is lower than all other UK nations (i.e. England 70.7%). The figure will now be even higher.
- ONS also provides antibody estimates based on a blood sample taken from participants.
- In the week up to 28<sup>th</sup> March 2022, 99% of the population of Scotland aged 16+ are estimated to have antibodies against SARS-CoV-2 (similar levels across the UK). This will be from vaccination, prior infection or both.
- For children those aged 8 and above are included. In Scotland, 85.9% have antibodies against SARS-CoV-2 aged 8-11 years, and 97.6% of those aged 12-15 years.

# Weekly total of C-19 admissions to hospital & ICU with a +Covid test to 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2022

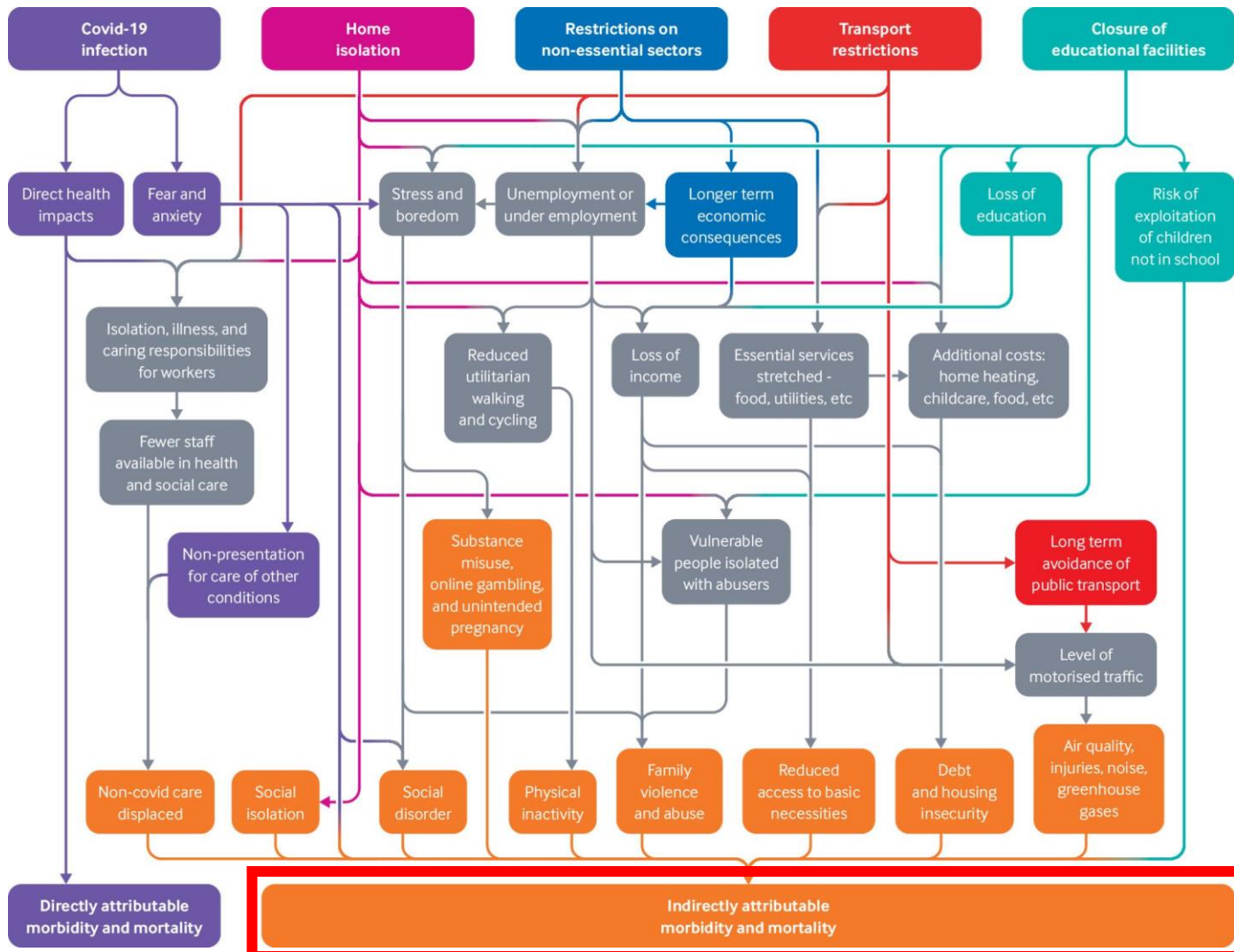


Source: Scottish Government (2022) State of the Epidemic in Scotland (May 26th) <https://www.gov.scot/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-the-state-of-the-epidemic/>



# A syndemic – indirect effects

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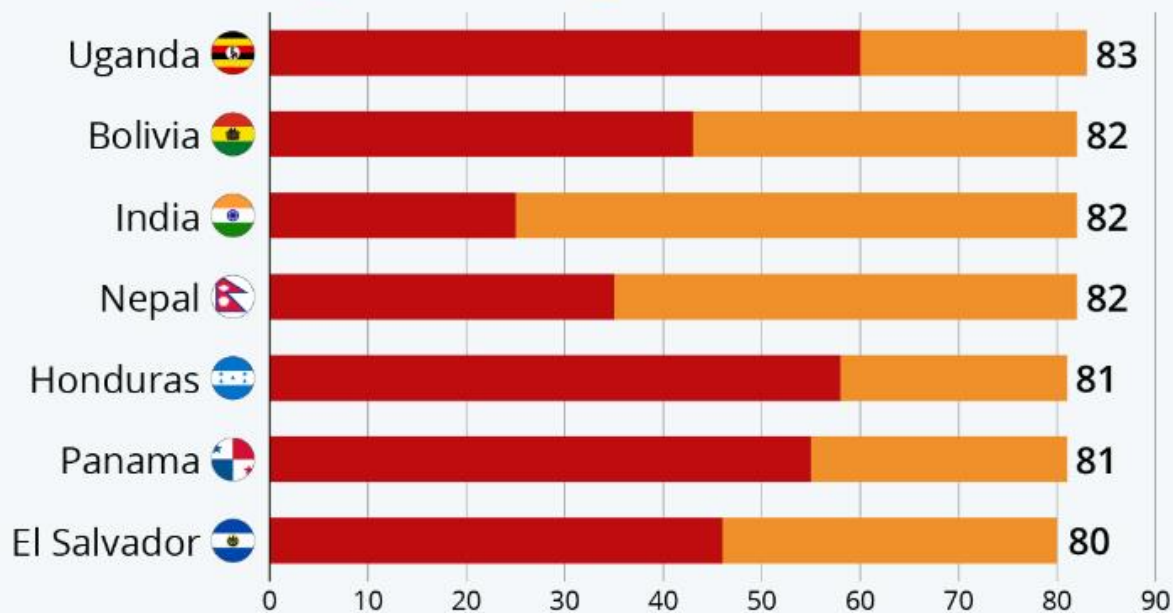
Source: Douglas et al,  
<https://www.bmj.com/content/369/bmj.m1557>

# The Longest School Closures of the Pandemic

Longest school closures due to Covid-19, by country (in weeks)\*



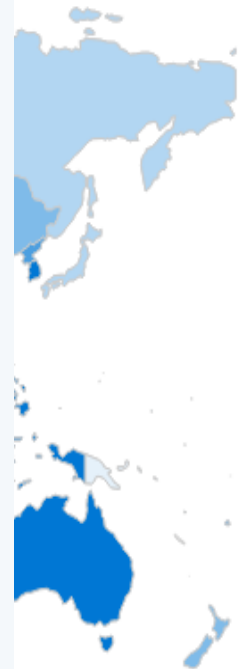
■ Full closure ■ Partial closure



- 0 weeks
- 1-10 weeks
- 11-20 weeks
- 21-30 weeks
- 31-40 weeks
- 41+ weeks
- No data

\* between Feb 16, 2020, and Oct 31, 2021

Source: UNESCO



# Public Health Scotland Education Surveillance

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## Routine surveillance reports

- COVID-19 public facing Education dashboard
- Weekly MI reports to CERG, ALRG, DsPH
- Updates to Workforce Interest Group, Schools Asymptomatic Testing Programme Board, COVID Impact Group, NIMT

## Living evidence review

- Rapid evidence reviews on the current knowledge of COVID-19 in CYP
- Evidence reviews on long COVID

## Record linkage

- University accommodation analysis
- Data linkage study to compare the risk of COVID-19 in teachers to others
- Pupil transmission study
- Linkage of absences and prior infection levels by school

## CASS

- COVID-19 antibody survey of education Staff



# Views from young people in Scotland who took part in the 'Lockdown Lowdown' study

It's been difficult with friends, not being able to see them or go around their house. But we have kept in touch online through zoom and stuff

I had to do zoom calls in my bedroom but I share with my sister still, so it was hard to get privacy. I've two little sisters, they come into my room randomly at any point, so there were times I had to sit in the bathroom because there was nowhere else in my house that would be free.

I've had to put my plans on hold to meet new people and this year everything has stopped. I did have friends before, but they're in other countries so it's difficult to see them

It's difficult to get internet signal when every member of your family is using the internet

Everyone is spending way too much time on their phones... A lot of friendships have ended... someone is different in real life from online

Lack of access to technology set back a lot of people .. it's been really difficult for a lot of people, missing big chunks of their education because of it

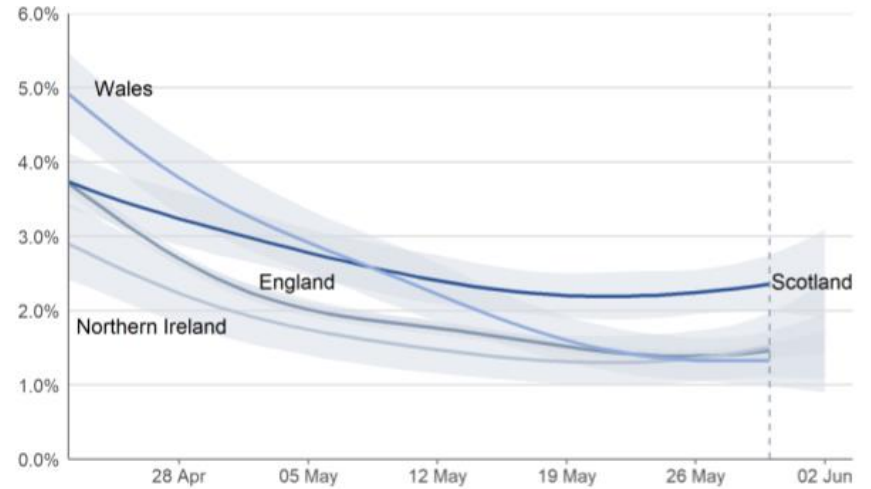
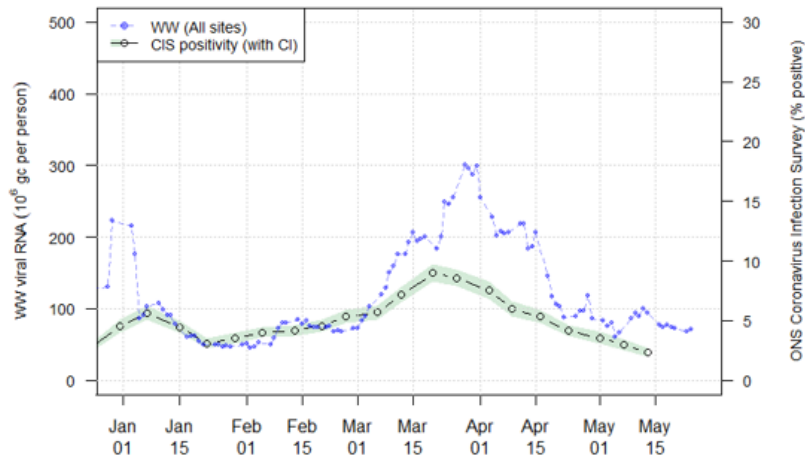
For college, with a lot of our work we have to write down and then take a photo of it and send it in. It's doubling our workload in a way. We'd be one week in, one week out, so we take our work and hand it in the following week

# Recovery: public health and society

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# Importance of ongoing C-19 Surveillance

## Examples: Wastewater Monitoring and Population Studies (i.e. ONS)



Source: Scottish Government (2022) State of the Epidemic in Scotland (March 25th) <https://www.gov.scot/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-the-state-of-the-epidemic/>

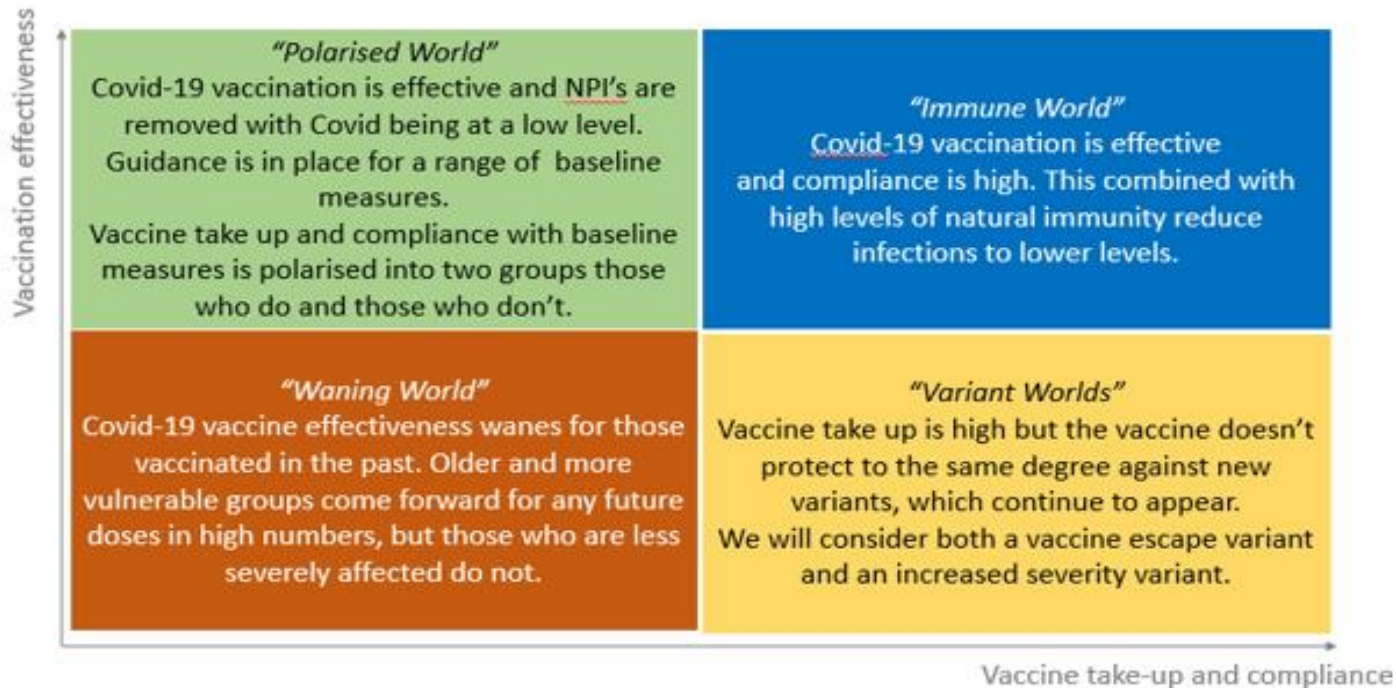
# Tracking and identifying virus variants

## A UK-wide collaborative network for SARS-CoV-2 genomics, research and training





# Possible future scenarios: 'Four worlds'



Source: Scottish Government (2022) Evidence paper to accompany Strategic Framework <https://www.gov.scot/publications/evidence-paper-accompany-coronavirus-covid-19-scotlands-strategic-framework-update-february-2022/>

# Covid-19 Recovery Scotland – initial work

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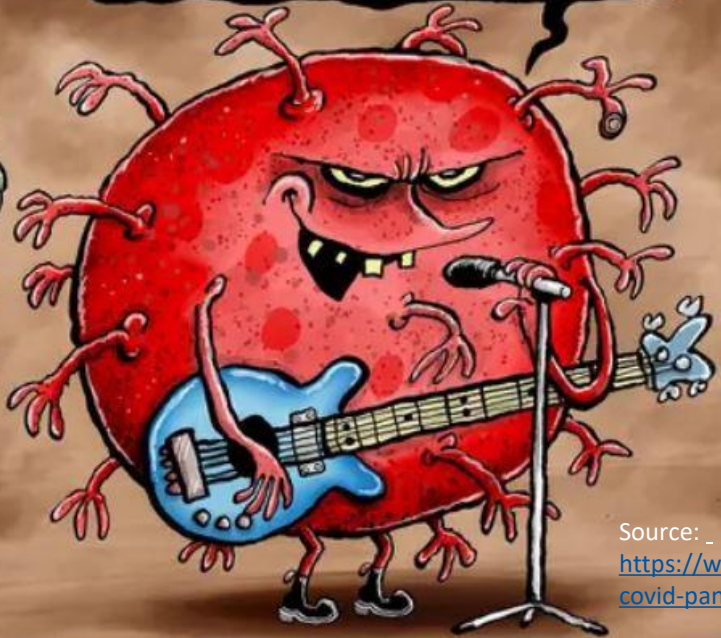
- NHS Recovery plan, National Strategy for Economic Transformation, Education Recovery measures
- Covid Recovery Strategy speaks to the ‘syndemic’ I mentioned above.
- Priorities:
  - Financial security for low income households
  - Wellbeing of children and young people
  - Fair work and environmental issues
  - Rebuilding public services

# Post pandemic preparedness

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AND IN OTHER NEWS...

ENCORE ANYONE?



TONIGHT  
BACK BY NO DEMAND WHATSOEVER  
OMICRON & THE SUBVARIANTS

Source: <https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/editorials/covid-pandemic-masks-testing-b2040433.html>

# What will drive future waves

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- How durable our immunity will be – against infection but more importantly against severe disease
- How quickly SARS-CoV-2 evolves and how our immune defences respond to new variants



Number of sources for these questions but short explainer from Prof Aris Katzourakis here:  
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2022/jun/01/covid-pandemic-end-vaccinated-countries-disease?>

# Standing Committee on Pandemics, Scotland

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- Many countries around the world are recognising that pandemic preparedness needs to be strengthened
- Countries that experienced SARS and MERS, as well as Ebola in Africa, were better prepared for SARS-CoV-2 than the UK
- The Scottish Government has established a Standing Committee on Pandemics and at UK level,
- Other countries are also actively planning programmes of work

# Standing Committee on Pandemics, Scotland

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- Like other countries, Scotland and the UK needs to consider key areas such as:
  - Surveillance and Zoonoses (including data and analytics)
  - Diagnostics, Vaccines and Therapeutics
  - Resilience and Health Systems
  - Behavioural Interventions and Community Engagement
  - Governance and International Engagement
  
- Initial work need to focus on public health and health system preparedness but all countries need to consider how many other sectors can prepare and contribute.

# Sustaining cross-sector collaboration

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# Sustaining cross-sector collaboration

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- There are opportunities now to continue collaborations that were initiated or accelerated over the past two years
- The literature on sustaining cross-sector collaboration suggests at least three challenges to keep in mind:
  - Knowledge uncertainty
  - Value conflict
  - Dynamic complexity
- Along with ongoing constrained resources

Extensive literature on this, one example: Dentoni et al (2018) Harnessing wicked problems in multi-stakeholder partnerships, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10551-018-3858-6>

# Examples of reports from here in Scotland that we can draw on

## Connections and cross-sector working during coronavirus (COVID-19)

Report for the Scottish Voluntary and Communities Sector Resilience Advisory Group



Cathy Sharp Research for Real May 2021





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# Thank You

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