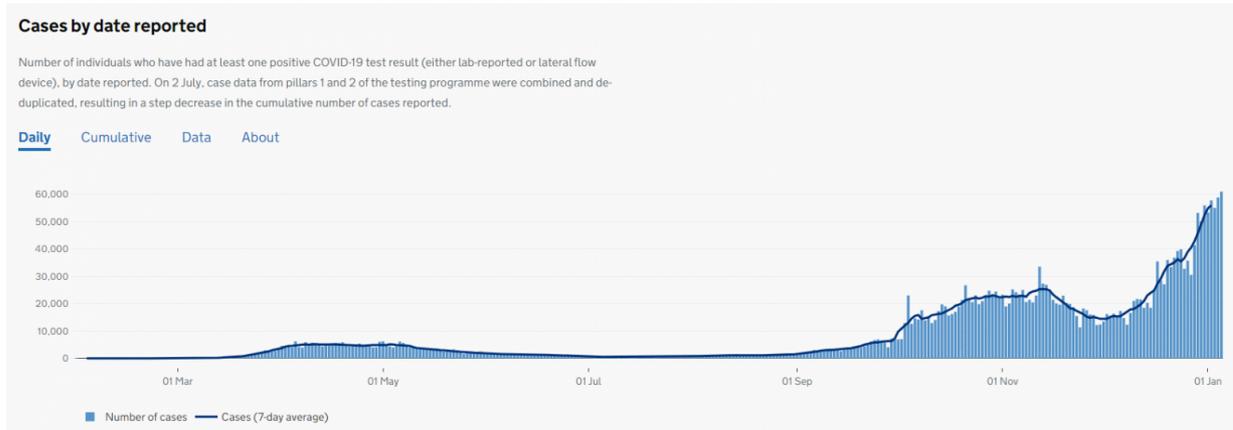


# Where's the Pandemic?

6 January 2021 at 09:52

## Where's the Pandemic?



*UK individuals with at least one positive test result. Source: [UK Government](#)*

Cases are soaring, with a record 60,916 new cases reported yesterday. Hospital admissions for Covid are going up and up. Deaths are in the hundreds per day and increasing. Only an idiot would doubt we're in the midst of a serious pandemic, right?

Except all these figures that show there's a deadly pandemic raging are based on mass testing using PCR and more recently lateral flow tests. Cases are just positive tests. Hospital admissions are just people in hospital who test positive (and all patients are tested). Deaths are just people who die of any cause within 28 days of a positive test.

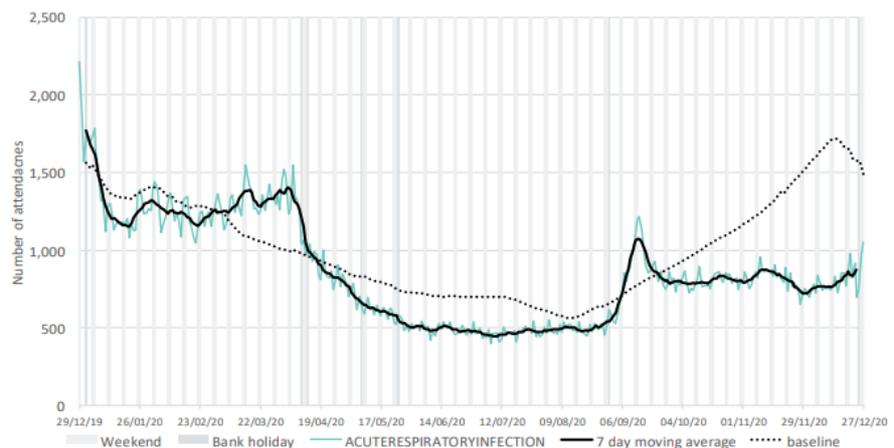
To get a true picture of what's going on you have to

look at data that are independent of PCR tests. So overall hospital and ICU occupancy, excess deaths, emergency calls for flu-like symptoms and so on. Strikingly, these data all speak in unison and tell a very different story.

Look at the graph below of A&E attendances in England for acute respiratory infections (which include COVID-19). It's trending well below baseline and, save for a September spike leading into elevated winter levels, been almost flat since the spring.

**5: Acute Respiratory Infection.**

Daily number of all attendances recorded as acute respiratory infection attendances across the EDSSS network.

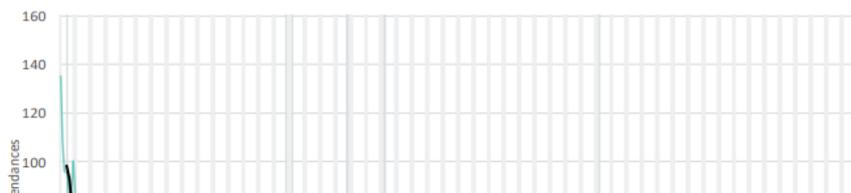


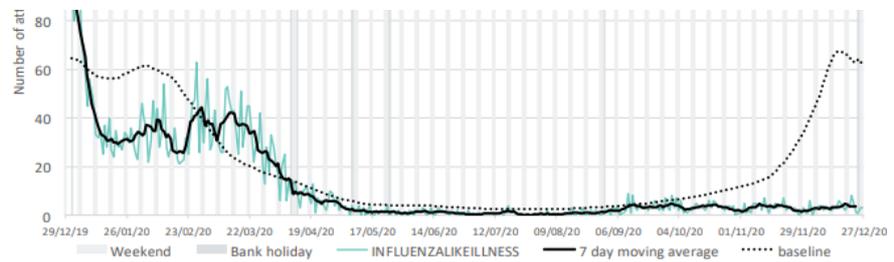
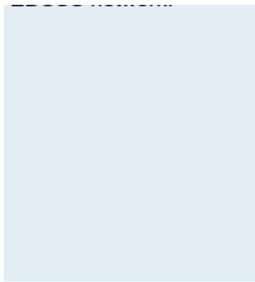
Source: [Public Health England](#)

What about flu-like illness? Flat and well below baseline since spring.

**7: Influenza-like illness.**

Daily number of attendances recorded as influenza-like illness attendances across the EDSSS network





Source: [Public Health England](#)

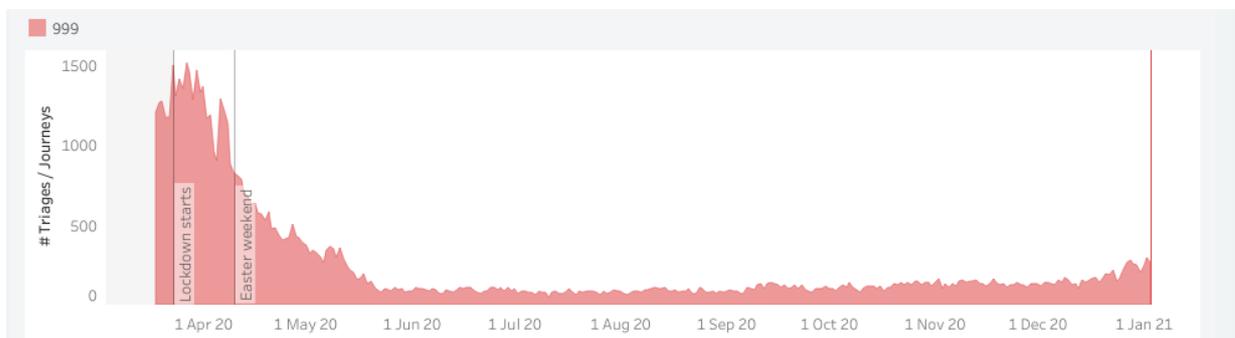
Pneumonia? Also flat and well below baseline.

**8: Pneumonia.**  
Daily number of attendances recorded as pneumonia attendances across the EDSSS network.



Source: [Public Health England](#)

999 calls for Covid-like symptoms? Largely flat since spring, though up a little in the last few weeks.

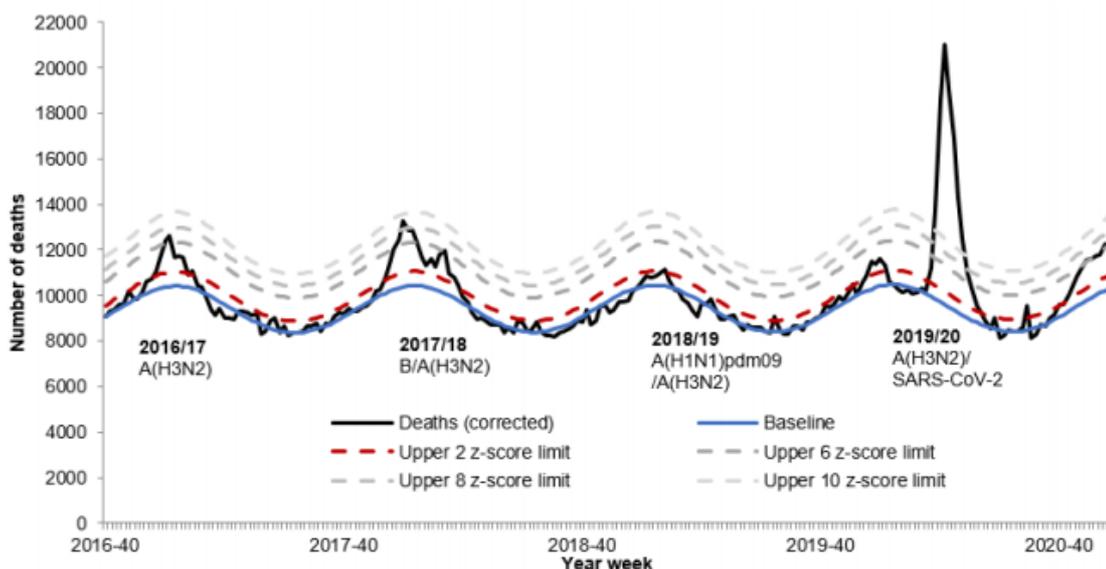


999 calls for Covid-like symptoms. Source: [NHS](#)

Deaths? Nothing out of the ordinary for winter. As PHE state in their most recent [report](#): “In week 52 2020 in England, no statistically significant excess ... 11”

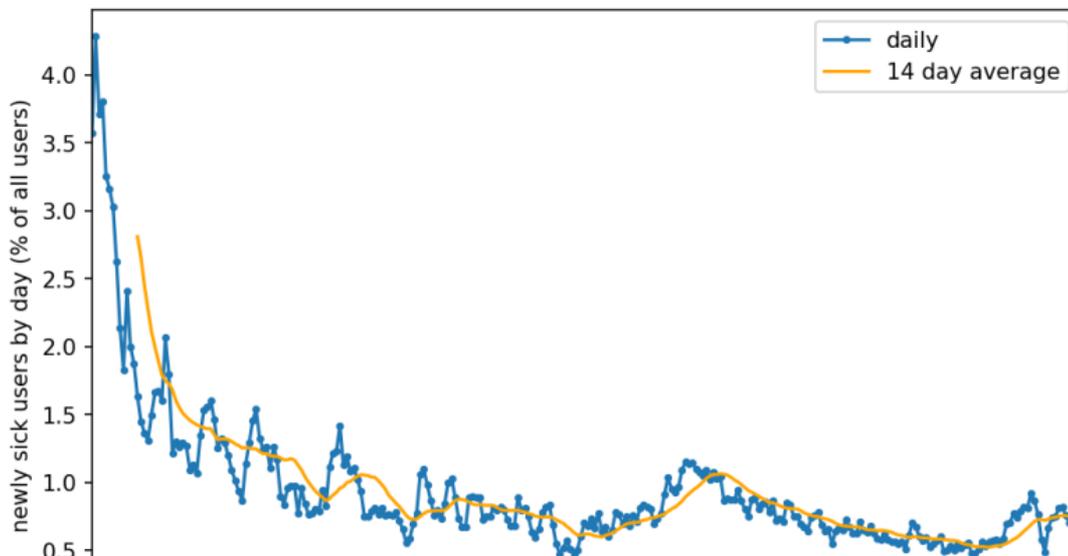
mortality by week of death... was seen overall .

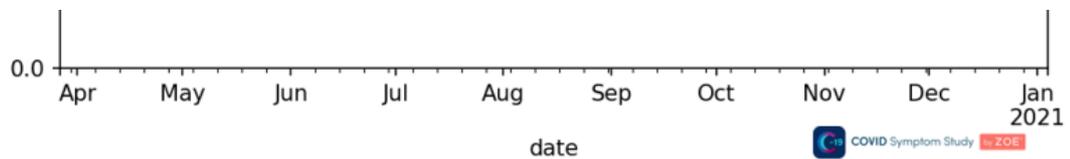
**Figure 1: Weekly observed and expected number of all-cause deaths in all ages, with the dominant circulating respiratory virus, England, 2016 to week 52 2020**



Source: [Public Health England](#)

There are also the reports of Covid-like symptoms that users of the [ZOE app](#) send in each day, prior to any PCR tests being carried out. Like the other symptom-based data, these are largely flat since spring.





Much is being made of the current pressure on the NHS, but in reality there is a winter beds crisis in the NHS almost every year, and hospital occupancy rates this winter are similar to previous years. Some areas like London are currently under pressure, but that is mainly due to staff shortages – up to a third are off sick or self-isolating – and additional Covid constraints that have reduced the availability of beds and increased staff workloads.