

International Horizon Scanning and Learning to Inform Wales' COVID-19 Public Health Response and Recovery

Report 8, 11/06/2020



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World Health Organization
Collaborating Centre on
Investment for Health and Well-being



Overview

The International Horizon Scanning and Learning work stream was initiated following and informing the evolving coronavirus (COVID-19) public health response and recovery plans in Wales. It focuses on COVID-19 international evidence, experience, measures, transition and recovery approaches, to understand and explore solutions for addressing the on-going and emerging health, wellbeing, social and economic impacts (potential harms and benefits).

The learning and intelligence is summarised in weekly reports to inform decision-making. These may vary in focus and scope, depending on the evolving COVID-19 situation and public health / policy needs.

This work is aligned with and feeding into the Welsh Government Office for Science and into Public Health Wales Gold Command. It is part of a wider Public Health Wales' systematic approach to intelligence gathering to inform comprehensive, coherent, inclusive and evidence-informed policy action, which supports the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act and the Prosperity for All national strategy towards a healthier, more equal, resilient, prosperous and globally responsible Wales.

In focus this week

-  **Pre-school childcare**
-  **The 'social bubble' approach**
-  **Re-opening public transport**
-  **Outbreak epidemiology update**

Contents

At a glance: summary of international learning on COVID-19	3
Pre-school childcare	4
The 'social bubble' approach.....	10
Re-opening public transport	12
Outbreak epidemiology update.....	19

At a glance: summary of international learning on COVID-19

*“In countries seeing positive signs, the biggest threat now is complacency”
Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General*

Pre-school childcare

- ✚ COVID-19 pandemic and related measures is having a **significant impact** on childcare
- ✚ **Accessibility and affordability** of childcare has decreased due to COVID-19, restricting the ability of women / families to work and earn an income
- ✚ COVID-19 is likely to have **greater impact on women and children**, also in the long-run, due to disproportionate risk; lack of social and labour protections in the informal job sector; and more women having childcare responsibilities
- ✚ The **use of grandparents as carers** has been mostly stopped / reduced; however, it **remains a concern**, as many parents have been forced to continue using them in order to continue working, especially key / essential workers
- ✚ Many countries have provided **financial assistance for childcare** to parents and pre-school settings, especially to key essential workers
- ✚ **Implementing and adherence to infection prevention and control measures** is essential to allow young children to return to their childcare arrangements
- ✚ **Social distancing** should not be expected between children, but implemented to limit interaction between parents and carers (e.g. in a childcare settings)
- ✚ **Childcare ‘buddies’** can be a useful approach to address critical needs of key workers, single parents and children with special needs

More information is summarised **on pp.4-9**

The social bubble approach

- ✚ Aims at **easing emotional distress** caused by physical separation from loved ones
- ✚ As virus transmission slows, **bubbles can expand** and merge in order to meet care and support needs
- ✚ **Communication** is key for compliance and should encourage people to view this as an opportunity for building connections, relationships and showing compassion and kindness

More information is summarised **on pp.10-11**

Re-opening public transport

- ✚ **Infection prevention and control measures**, including personal protection (e.g. physical distancing, hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, wearing masks) and regular environmental cleaning and disinfection, are essential to maintain and scale up transport systems
- ✚ COVID-19 recovery presents an **opportunity for building more sustainable** transport systems with **lower carbon emissions**, and **enhancing job creation** towards ‘**greener and healthier economies**’
- ✚ A number of countries have **initiated activities and allocated funding to developing sustainable travel post-lockdown**

More information is summarised **on pp.12-18**

Pre-school childcare

Overview and definitions

- **Childcare models vary** between countries, depending on social and cultural influences and government provision
- **Childcare for 0 to 5 years old** is provided primarily **not in educational settings, formally or informally**, usually by a childminder or a family member
- Definitions:
 - 1) **Formal childcare** definition vary – from childcare that is **registered and paid for**, such as registered childminders for under 8 years of age; to childcare that is **‘formalised’ by payment but unregistered**, such as unregistered childminders and nannies
 - 2) **Informal childcare** definition also vary – including **unpaid** care, provided by family members, such as grandparents, siblings or friends (usually not including care given by parents). Alternatively, it can also include **unregistered even if paid for** childcare, including babysitters/nannies and unregistered childminders, because the arrangements are not formalised with contracts or employment rights¹

International typology of childcare services for 0 to 3 years of age is outlined in *Table 1*.

COVID-19 implications for childcare across countries

- COVID-19 pandemic and related measures is having a **significant impact** on childcare²
- Families across Europe have seen a **complete breakdown** in usual care provision for children of all ages
- It is **challenging to determine local-level activity** due to the nature of the work and personal relationships
- The **use of grandparents as child carers** is common across Europe:
 - ✓ It has been stopped / reduced in many countries, due to the high risk and shielding for over 70 years of age
 - ✓ It remains a concern due to lack of alternatives and many parents have been forced to continue using them, especially key workers
- Many households and women are dependent on **accessibility and affordability of childcare**, which has decreased, restricting their ability to work and earn an income
- COVID-19 is likely to have **greater impact on women and children**, also in the long-run, due to:
 - ✓ Disproportionate risk in the informal economy, including domestic work, childcare, agriculture or family business where they may be the first to lose their job
 - ✓ Women bear more childcare responsibilities than men due to persistent unequal gender norms across all countries
 - ✓ Lack of social and labour protections that characterise the informal economy³
- Many countries have provided **financial assistance for childcare** to parents and pre-school settings, especially to key (essential / health sector) workers

¹ <https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/nationalaccounts/satelliteaccounts/compendium/householdsatelliteaccounts/2005to2014/cha-pter2homeproducedchildcareservices>

² <https://www.bma.org.uk/media/2446/bma-briefing-on-covid-19-and-childcare-may.pdf>

³ https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---gender/documents/genericdocument/wcms_737555.pdf

- Many countries are currently allowing young children to return to their childcare arrangements, provided that **infection prevention and control measures** are in place and adhered to
- **Social distancing** should not be expected between children; but measures must be implemented to limit interaction between parents and carers

UK childcare provision and impact of COVID-19

- Childcare in the UK is usually undertaken through **private arrangements** and has **increased in demand** from 28 billion hours in 2005 to more than 32 billion hours in 2014⁴ (Figure 1)
- The UK has the **highest childcare cost** across OECD countries⁵ (Figure 2) with many households dependent on accessibility and affordability of childcare, which has currently decreased
- One in five key worker families (20%) with pre-school children makes use of **informal care by grandparents**, which is currently unavailable, due to the COVID-19 social-distancing (shielding) advice for those over 70 years of age⁶

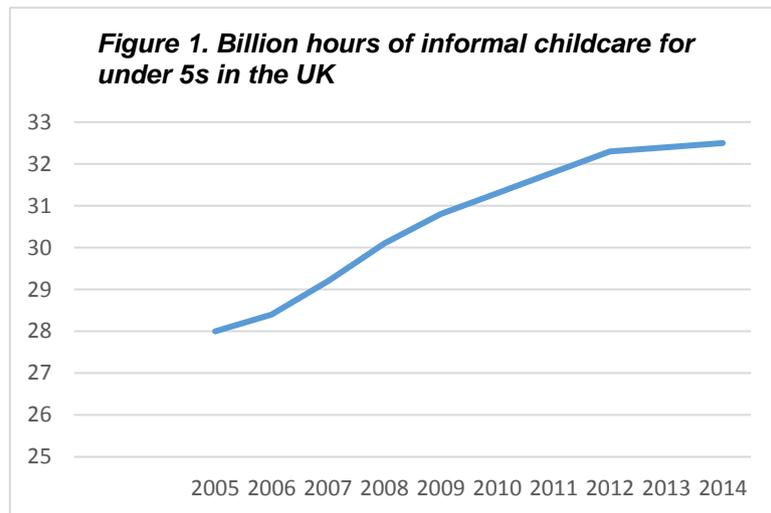
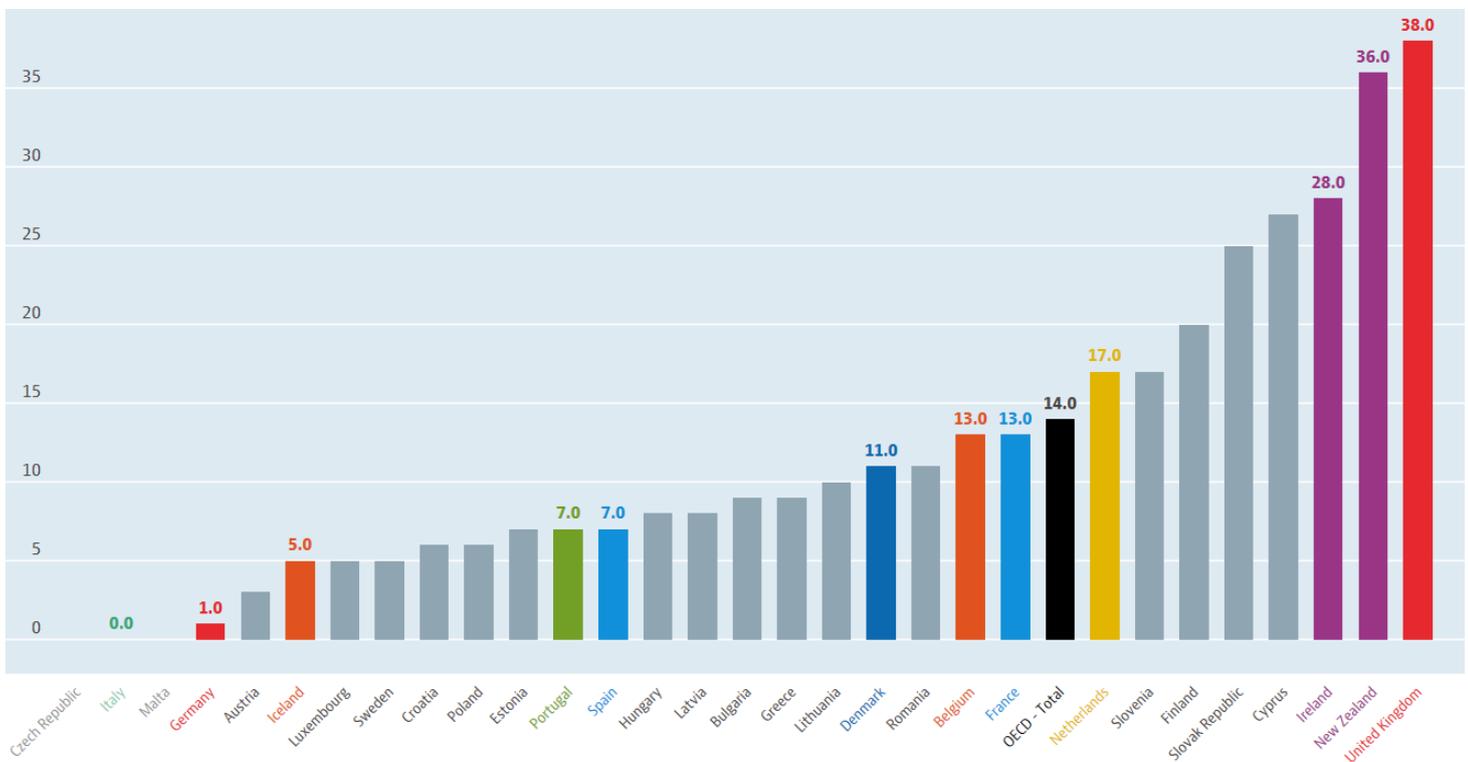


Figure 2. Net childcare costs across OECD countries (% average wage, 2019 or latest available)



⁴<https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/nationalaccounts/satelliteaccounts/compendium/householdsatelliteaccounts/2005to2014/cha-pter2homeproducedchildcareservices>

⁵<https://data.oecd.org/benwage/net-childcare-costs.htm>

⁶<https://www.bma.org.uk/media/2446/bma-briefing-on-covid-19-and-childcare-may.pdf>

Table 1. International typology of childcare services available for children aged 0-3 years⁷

Type of Childcare Provision	Registered / Unregistered	Employment status of childcare workers	Financing modality of childcare centre
Home-based childcare service ¹	Unregistered	informal own-account workers informal waged or salaried workers contributing family workers unpaid volunteer workers ²	user fees in-kind transfers
Home-based childcare service	Registered	informal/formal own-account workers informal/formal waged or salaried workers contributing family workers unpaid volunteer workers	user fees public subsidies
Private for-profit centre	Unregistered Registered	own-account workers informal/formal waged or salaried workers unpaid volunteer workers	user fees in-kind transfers
Community/NGO centre	Unregistered Registered	informal/formal waged or salaried workers unpaid volunteer workers	user fees in-kind transfers public subsidies donor funding
Cooperative	Registered	informal/formal waged or salaried workers unpaid volunteer workers	user fees in-kind transfers membership dues cooperative profits public subsidies donor funding
Employer-supported centres	Registered	informal/formal waged or salaried workers unpaid volunteer workers	user fees corporate profits public subsidies social insurance (social security contributions)
Public centres	Registered	informal/formal waged or salaried workers unpaid volunteer workers	user fees national revenues (public funding) municipal revenues (public funding) social insurance (social security contributions) donor funding

Country example: Scotland⁸

Scotland is taking a phased approach to easing lockdown, outlined in the *Scottish Government COVID-19 route map*⁹, currently in Phase One (see below on page 7).

On 3rd June 2020 the Government announced that **childminders can operate with the following requirements:**

1. Childminders must limit the number of households for whom they provide childcare to a maximum of four, in addition to children of their own household, at any one time.
2. Childminders must follow public health advice. A risk assessment must be carried out before reopening, giving consideration to this guidance document.

⁷https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dqreports/---gender/documents/genericdocument/wcms_737555.pdf

⁸<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-childminder-services-guidance/>

⁹<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-framework-decision-making-scotlands-route-map-through-out-crisis/>

3. In order to reduce indirect transmission, enhanced cleaning and hygiene measures must be put in place.
4. Physical distancing will not be expected between children, but measures must be put into place to limit additional parents/carers entering the childminding setting and to maintain physical distancing when adults may interact, for example at pick up and drop off times, or if the childminder employs an assistant that is not a member of their household.
5. The restrictions on childminder capacity are expected to be lifted during Phase 3, depending on the public health advice.

There are 26 registered fully outdoor nurseries and 1 fully outdoor out of school care setting operating in Scotland. These settings have been permitted to open.

Scottish Government COVID-19 Routemap

	Lockdown	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4
	Lockdown restrictions:	As with previous phase but with the following changes:	As with previous phase but with the following changes:	As with previous phase but with the following changes:	As with previous phase but with the following changes:
 Schools, childcare and other educational settings	<p>Schools and childcare services closed.</p> <p>Measures in place to support home learning and to provide outreach services to vulnerable children.</p> <p>Critical childcare provision for key workers and vulnerable children provided through hubs, nurseries and childminding services.</p> <p>Universities and colleges closed – remote learning and research.</p>	<p>School staff return to schools.</p> <p>Increased number of children accessing critical childcare provision.</p> <p>Re-opening of childminding services and fully outdoor nursery provision.</p> <p>Transition support available to pupils starting P1 and S1 where possible.</p>	<p>On campus university lab research restarted subject to physical distancing.</p>	<p>Children return to school under a blended model of part-time in-school teaching and part-time in-home learning. Public health measures (including physical distancing) in place.</p> <p>Subject to the progress of the scientific evidence, schools are expected to open on this basis on 11 August.</p> <p>All childcare providers reopen subject to public health measures, with available capacity prioritised to support key worker childcare, early learning and childcare (ELC) entitlement and children in need.</p> <p>Universities and colleges phased return with blended model of remote learning and limited on campus learning where priority. Public health measures (including physical distancing) in place.</p>	<p>Schools and childcare provision, operating with any necessary precautions.</p> <p>College and university campuses open – including key student services with any necessary precautions.</p>

Country status overview of pre-school childcare

Country	Date eased	Guidance	Financial assistance	Home-based care
UK ¹⁰	1 June	Childminders can look after children of all ages, in line with their current Ofsted registration, and within usual limits on the number of children they can care for.	Some funding available from the Coronavirus Childcare Assistance Scheme (C-CAS) Private childcare settings will be eligible for a business rates holiday for one year.	Nannies permitted to work, practising hand hygiene and social distancing where necessary, unless they work in a household that is isolating or shielding. Nannies can give emergency childcare if a young child would be left unattended in this circumstance.
Ireland ¹¹	29 June	Nannies of non-essential workers can return to work ¹² . All early years settings remain closed, apart from those open for essential workers' children, until September 2020.	COVID-19 unemployment payment offered to those without work and parents who have lost their jobs due to childcare may benefit from it.	Included in the essential services list is "non-centre based childcare for those providing essential services" If a nanny is going to the home of a key worker, they must have a letter confirming this status.
Italy ¹³	Closed	Nurseries remain closed despite parents returning to work. Parents forced to leave children with family members, some elderly and at high risk, due to lack of childcare options.	The Government is providing: a) additional 15 days of annual parental leave; b) a single use voucher for 600 EUR towards childcare when the parent returns to work	Grandparents usually the primary caretakers of children – a challenge during lockdown. Families who employed nannies prior to the lockdown, can continue to use them provided all guidelines are adhered to.
France ¹⁴	11 May	Crèche facilities have 10 cradles maximum or groups of 10 cradles as conditions/space allow Compulsory for all staff to wear masks.	'Work stop scheme' for those unable to find childcare: up to 84% of net wage or 100% if on minimum wage (employer has to place the parent on partial activity before 1 st May)	No information found
Germany ¹⁵	11 May	Day-care centres (Kitas) in most states only available for key workers (emergency) or in some cases, for single parents. Pre-school children return to private day care centres with up to 10 pupils permitted per class ¹⁶	The <i>German Infection Protection Act</i> allows state-funded compensation claims for those unable to work due to the lack of childcare / schools as a result of the pandemic ¹⁷	Regular care by nannies or childminders recommenced region by region, following the reduction in the rate of infection.

¹⁰ <https://gov.wales/coronavirus-childcare-under-five-year-olds-providers-guidance>

¹¹ https://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/education/pre_school_education_and_childcare/childcare_and_covid19.html

¹² <https://www.nannypayroll.ie/covid-19.html>

¹³ <http://www.trovanorme.salute.gov.it/norme/renderNormsanPdf?anno=2020&codLeg=73981&parte=1%20&serie=null>

¹⁴ <https://www.gouvernement.fr/info-coronavirus>

¹⁵ https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/Infekt/EpidBull/Archiv/2020/19/Art_03.html?nn=13490888

¹⁶ <https://www.nordkurier.de/mecklenburg-vorpommern/kitas-in-mv-sollen-schon-bald-schrittweise-oeffnen-0539274105.html>

¹⁷ <https://blogs.orrck.com/employment/2020/04/03/covid-19-update-germany-to-give-working-parents-state-funded-compensation-claim-during-closure-of-childcare-and-schools/>

Belgium¹⁸	Open	Nannies, childminders and other private child care allowed to operate, adhering to guidance. Nurseries open and staff only permitted to wear face masks around other adults; it is advised to remove the mask when engaging with children.	Parents who keep their children at home for either compulsory or voluntary reasons, will not have to pay for the absence until the 30 th June.	Childminders are permitted to operate Grandparents without underlying health conditions and younger than 65 years of age allowed to take care of their grandchildren (as part of a social bubble)
Spain¹⁹	1 June	Children of key workers, under 6 years of age, able to go to nurseries and primary schools	No information found	Nannies / au pairs employed prior to lockdown can continue to work if all guidelines are adhered to.
Portugal²⁰	18 May	Crèches, nurseries and childminders allowed to operate if adherence to guidelines maintained, such as compulsory masks for all staff.	No information found	Childminders are permitted to operate again.
Denmark²¹	April	Early years settings reopened on the condition of smaller study groups (3 to 6 children) and adherence to strict drop off/pick up procedures.	No information found	Nannies, childminders and au pairs still able to work during lockdown, provided the household was symptom free and guidance adhered to where possible
Iceland²²	4 May	Private education settings open with guidance adherence at all times. Restrictions to extra-curricular activities lifted.	No information found	All home-based childcare continues whilst adhering to the new safety and social distancing guidelines.
New Zealand²³	9 June	All services resumed normal working.	Government funding home-based childcare for key workers who can't arrange their own ²⁴ . COVID-19 wage subsidy for eligible services paid upfront a lump sum to cover 12 weeks ²⁵	Key workers allowed to continue using existing home care, e.g. a neighbour, relative, friend or current carer / nanny, provided they follow guidance ²⁶
Singapore²⁷	1 June	Childcare centres and kindergarten reopen with strict social distancing and hygiene guidelines.	Fees for childcare reduced by 50% for all parents due to closure of early years settings. From 8 th June one-off funding support for tools/equipment available to pre-schools in the implementation of COVID-Safe Behaviours upon reopening ²⁸ .	Families instructed not to allow small children to be looked after by their grandparents. Only families where both parents are key workers were exempt, although guidelines still need to be adhered to. ²⁹ Nannies could continue to work in homes. ³⁰

¹⁸ <https://www.kindengezin.be/img/draaiboek-corona-opvang-benp-20200520.pdf>

¹⁹ https://www.mscbs.gob.es/profesionales/saludPublica/ccayes/alertasActual/nCov-China/documentos/Plan_Transicion_Guia_Fase_2.pdf

²⁰ <https://www.dgs.pt/directrizes-da-dgs/orientacoes-e-circulares-informativas/orientacao-n-0252020-de-13052020-pdf.aspx>

²¹ <https://www.uvm.dk/aktuelt/i-fokus/information-til-uddannelsesinstitutioner-om-coronavirus-covid-19/spoergsmaal-og-svar/genaabning>

²² <https://www.covid.is/english>

²³ <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus>

²⁴ https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=12319791

²⁵ <https://mailchi.mp/764a3e26282b/special-bulletin-30-march-covid-19-and-employment-relationships-715165>

²⁶ <https://us10.campaign-archive.com/?u=373954a1e5499801180060837&id=0e906215d7>

²⁷ <https://www.moh.gov.sg/covid-19/past-updates>

²⁸ <https://www.ecda.gov.sg/PressReleases/Pages/Covid-Safe-Preschools-Fund.aspx>

²⁹ <https://www.moh.gov.sg/news-highlights/details/changes-to-childcare-arrangements-during-circuit-breaker>

³⁰ <https://www.mom.gov.sg/passess-and-permits/work-permit-for-confinement-nanny/covid-19-precautionary-measures-for-confinement-nannies>

The 'social bubble' approach

Overview

- The 'social bubble' approach has been applied by countries during easing of lockdown
- The general principle is that each household is allowed to interact with a limited number of other households
- This aims to ease emotional distress caused by physical separation from one's loved ones



Scenes from an animated GIF created by microbiologist Siouxsie Wiles and illustrator Toby Morris highlight the importance of containment and the fragility of 'the bubble'.

Country examples

New Zealand³¹

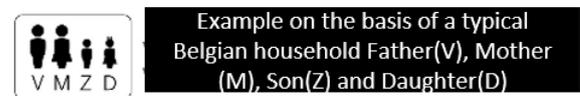
- Introduced the 'social bubble' approach as part of the initial 'Level 4' lockdown
- It began as a small exclusive bubble, typically centred on a single household
- Those who had to go to work were allocated to 'work bubbles', effectively small exclusive groups of colleagues, to ensure that workplaces became sites of virus containment rather than untrammelled transmission
- As transmission slowed, bubbles were permitted to expand and merge in order to meet care and support needs
- Compliance with bubble regulations has been high, even as bubbles have been allowed to expand
- Communication has been key - messages encouraged people to view this as an opportunity for connection, building relationships, and emphasising the importance of showing compassion and kindness towards those sharing a bubble at a difficult time, rather than an instruction for necessity or an imposition



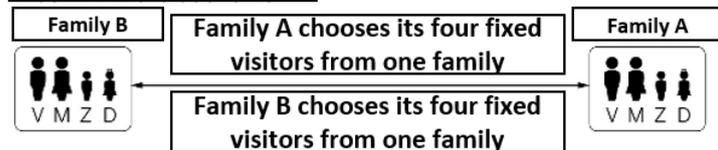
³¹<http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/104421/>

- **Lockdown and childcare buddies**³² have been introduced, for example, for people living alone, when key workers must go to work (when schools were closed), if single parents, or if children had complex medical needs. They were not allowed to have other contacts beyond the household in which they were providing childcare. A survey found:
 - ✓ Nearly half (46.2%) of the respondents eligible for a childcare buddy brought one into their bubble, most often one of the grandparents, or a co-parent who lived apart;
 - ✓ These respondents found it easy to settle with a buddy, and felt that their experience of lockdown would have been significantly worse had they not been allowed a buddy;
 - ✓ 40% indicated that their experience would have been better had they been allowed a second buddy, but 50% felt an additional buddy would have made no difference;
 - ✓ The prospect of pairing up with an entire household attracted support - two thirds of respondents thought it would have made their situation better;
 - ✓ Whilst buddies could help with the care of children, they did not, by their very nature, allow children access to playmates of the same age: an especially acute need for children without siblings;
 - ✓ The most common reasons for not having a childcare buddy were respondents: feeling they could cope without one; they didn't know anyone suitable; they didn't want to be a burden; and they were worried about transmitting coronavirus to their buddy. The latter was a particular concern for key workers.

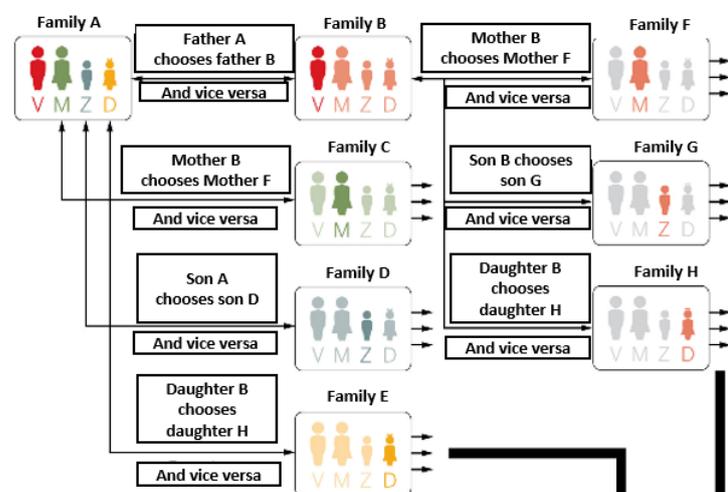
The four person rule



The minimum scenario



The maximum scenario



Also the other three family members of families C, D and E each choose one family member from another family and those families do the same....

Also the other three family members of families F, G and H each choose one family member from another family and those families do the same....

Belgium³³³⁴³⁵

- Since 14th May grandparents without underlying health conditions and younger than 65 years of age are allowed to take care of their grandchildren, as long they are, or could become, part of a social bubble³⁶
- A household is able invite up to four guests from another household into their homes – an indicative number referring to the typical size of a family and also referred to as the “four-person puzzle”. The image shows an example of the social bubble in Belgium.

³² http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/104421/4/Living_in_Bubbles_2020_Final_public_version.pdf

³³ <https://covid19.who.int/region/euro/country/be>

³⁴ <https://www.demorgen.be/nieuws/alle-vlaamse-en-federale-maatregelen-tegen-coronavirus-dit-betekenen-ze-concreet-b76d13d1/>

³⁵ <https://www.info-coronavirus.be/nl/news/nvr-0306/> (Dutch)

³⁶ <https://www.knack.be/nieuws/belgie/corona-updates-89-nieuwe-gevallen-13-overlijdens-in-ziekenhuizen/live-normal-1575193.html>

Re-opening public transport

Overview

- The transport sector has been regarded as an **essential service** during the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak
- Most **public transport** across the world, including buses, trams and trains, have **reduced sharply** their services during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic
- **Mobility behaviour has changed** with reduced number of public transport passengers; and increased individual forms of mobility, such as walking, cycling and driving
- With lockdown measures gradually easing around the world, public transport systems are **beginning to re-open**
- **Potential risk** of infection depends on how crowded the services are, whether social distance measures can be maintained and how regularly cleaning procedures are applied
- Implementing **public health measures** is essential, especially social distancing, hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette, in order to scale up and maintain transport systems³⁷

Key infection prevention and control measures for public transport³⁸

A. Personal protective measures

- Inform the passengers about the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and advise that they should not use public transport if showing symptoms³⁹
- Ensure physical distancing for service staff at booths, ideally behind glass or plastic panels
- Consider using protective barriers for the driver, when the driving compartment is not physically separated from the travellers⁴⁰
- Display infographics in waiting areas, platforms and docks, explaining the importance of preventative measures, such as hand washing⁴¹
- Consider making alcohol-based hand-rub solutions available on the vehicles and at transport hubs⁴⁰
- Facilitate social/physical distancing through:
 - ✓ Prevent crowding on public transport and in waiting areas by providing sufficient vehicles; enhancing the service during rush hours; and reducing the maximum number of passengers per vehicle/wagon
 - ✓ Only allow the use of every other seat when on the vehicle/wagon/boat
 - ✓ Introduce boarding from the rear doors on buses to ensure physical distancing from the driver, if the driving compartment is not physically separated from the travellers
- Ensure proper ventilation at all times, avoiding re-circulating air and encouraging the use of windows, skylight panels and fans to increase replacement with fresh air
- Ensure availability of face masks for staff⁴⁰ who are not physically separated from travellers
- Consider the **use of face masks** (medical/non-medical) for passengers, particularly if physical distancing cannot be ensured, paying attention to proper mask use and disposal⁴¹

³⁷ <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/strengthening-preparedness-for-covid-19-in-cities-and-urban-settings>

³⁸ <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/COVID-19-public-transport-29-April-2020.pdf>

³⁹ <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/covid-19/questions-answers>

⁴⁰ https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/communication-a_european_roadmap_to_lifting_coronavirus_containment_measures_0.pdf

⁴¹ <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/COVID-19-use-face-masks-community.pdf>

B. Cleaning and disinfection procedures⁴² (Table 2)

- Ensure regular cleaning and disinfection, particularly of frequently touched surfaces (e.g. handles, rails, etc.) in a conveyance after each trip, using the recommended approach and products
- Ensure careful cleaning of public toilets, bathroom sinks and sanitary facilities used by several people (e.g. in underground stations and on board of trains and boats)
- Staff performing cleaning activities should wear personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Cleaning material must be disinfected at the end of each cleaning session and hand hygiene must be ensured by cleaning staff each time PPE, such as gloves, is removed
- Waste material, produced during the cleaning, should be placed in the unsorted garbage
- Risk is higher in areas with sustained community transmission (e.g. on board of a conveyance or in a closed waiting area, such as subway platform). These areas should be kept well ventilated with fresh air as much as possible, and frequently and carefully cleaned with a neutral detergent, followed by decontamination of surfaces using a disinfectant effective against viruses

Table 2. Cleaning options for different settings (S: suggested, O: optional)

	Healthcare setting	Non-healthcare setting	General settings
Surfaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neutral detergent AND • Virucidal disinfectant OR • 0.05% sodium hypochlorite OR • 70% ethanol <p>[S]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neutral detergent AND • Virucidal disinfectant OR • 0.05% sodium hypochlorite OR • 70% ethanol <p>[S]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neutral detergent <p>[S]</p>
Toilets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virucidal disinfectant OR • 0.1% sodium hypochlorite <p>[S]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virucidal disinfectant OR • 0.1% sodium hypochlorite <p>[S]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virucidal disinfectant OR • 0.1% Sodium hypochlorite <p>[O]</p>
Textiles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hot-water cycle (90°C) AND • regular laundry detergent • alternative: lower temperature cycle + bleach or other laundry products <p>[S]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hot-water cycle (90°C) AND • regular laundry detergent • alternative: lower temperature cycle + bleach or other laundry products <p>[S]</p>	n/a
Cleaning equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single-use disposable OR • Non-disposable disinfected with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virucidal disinfectant OR • 0.1% sodium hypochlorite <p>[S]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single-use disposable OR • Non-disposable disinfected with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virucidal disinfectant OR • 0.1% sodium hypochlorite <p>[O]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single-use disposable OR • Non-disposable cleaned at the end of cleaning session <p>[S]</p>
PPE for cleaning staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surgical mask • Disposable long-sleeved water-resistant gown • Gloves • FFP2 or 3 when cleaning facilities where AGP have been performed <p>[S]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surgical mask • Uniform and plastic apron • Gloves <p>[S]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uniform • Gloves <p>[S]</p>
Waste management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infectious clinical waste category B (UN3291) <p>[S]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In a separate bag in the unsorted garbage <p>[S]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unsorted garbage <p>[S]</p>

⁴² https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/Environmental-persistence-of-SARS_CoV_2-virus-Options-for-cleaning2020-03-26_0.pdf

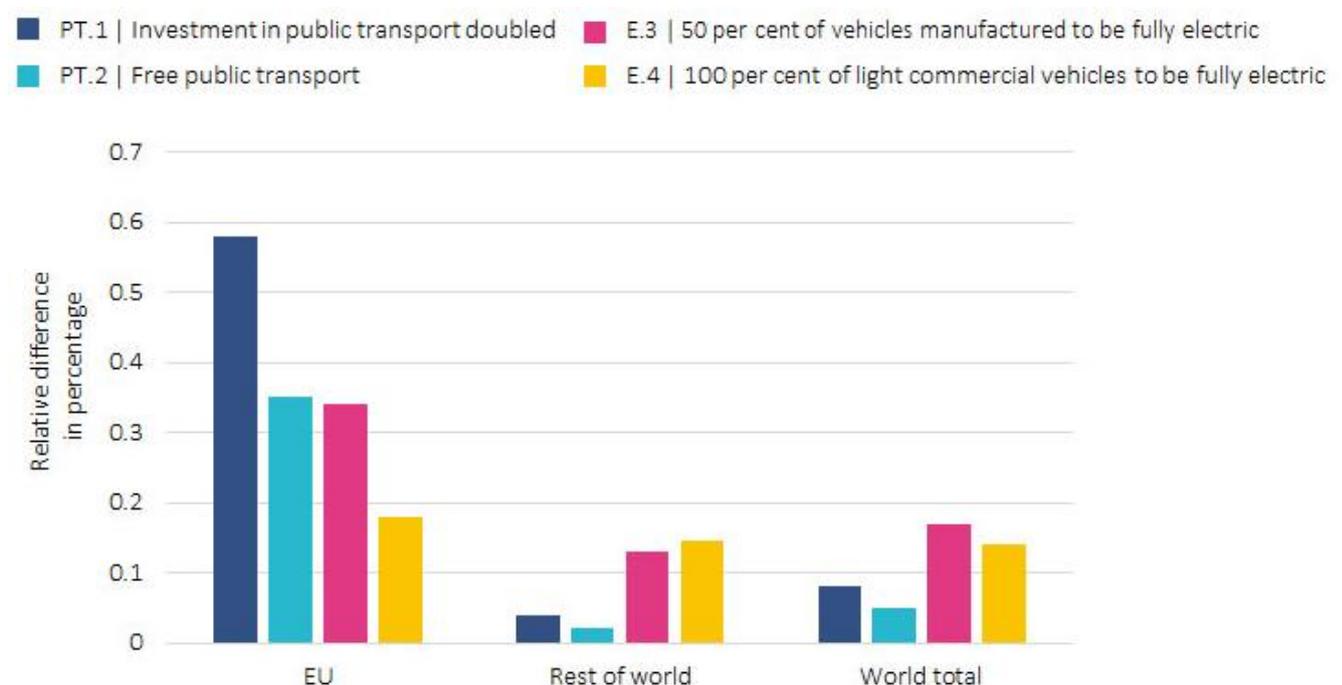
Opportunity for sustainable, greener, healthier economies

COVID-19 impact on the transport sector presents an **opportunity** to re-think, plan and build **more sustainable and ‘greener’** transport systems for people and communities⁴³:

- Ensuring a **more ‘environmentally-friendly’ transport**⁴⁴ with **lower carbon emissions** through alternatives to cars, such as better infrastructure for bicycles, and car sharing
- **Enhancing job creation**⁴⁵ with a **potential to generate up to 15 million new jobs worldwide** and support countries to move to ‘greener and healthier economies’

A modelling of four scenarios, compared to business as usual, shows positive impact of each scenario on employment levels in Europe and globally (*Figure 3*).

Figure 3. Relative difference (%) in employment levels between modelled scenarios, compared with business-as-usual (baseline) across European Union countries and the world



Summary of re-opening transport across countries

- All countries have increased cleaning in public transport, with the best practice of cleaning the vehicles after every completed trip
- Most countries are protecting drivers by: allowing passengers to board using only rear doors; limiting the use of cash payments; and encouraging pre-purchase of tickets
- In countries with large transport hubs, such as Madrid and Singapore, vending machines have been installed to sell face masks and hand sanitizer for passengers
- Passengers may be refused admission if they do not have face-masks or face-coverings

⁴³ <https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/05/1064382>

⁴⁴ <http://www.unece.org/info/media/presscurrent-press-h/transport/2020/lets-make-post-covid-19-mobility-more-sustainable-unece-issues-guidance-on-reducing-car-use-in-cities/doc.html>

⁴⁵ United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. International Labour Organization. Jobs in green and healthy transport, Making the green shift: https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/---publ/documents/publication/wcms_745151.pdf

Country examples

Germany (Berlin)⁴⁶

A ‘pop-up’ cycling infrastructure has been created, allowing for safe cycling and maintaining social distance. An online survey explored the perceptions towards the new cycle lanes. Supporters of the new bike paths (mostly cyclists) indicated greater security and more space as advantages; while opponents (mostly drivers) criticised the restriction of motorized road users. In addition, ‘pedestrians’ and ‘public transport users’ had mostly positive view.

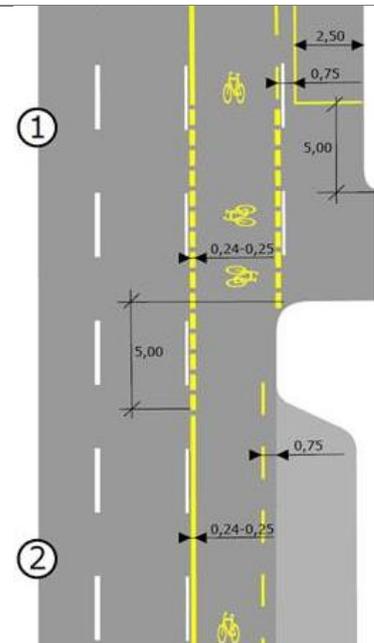
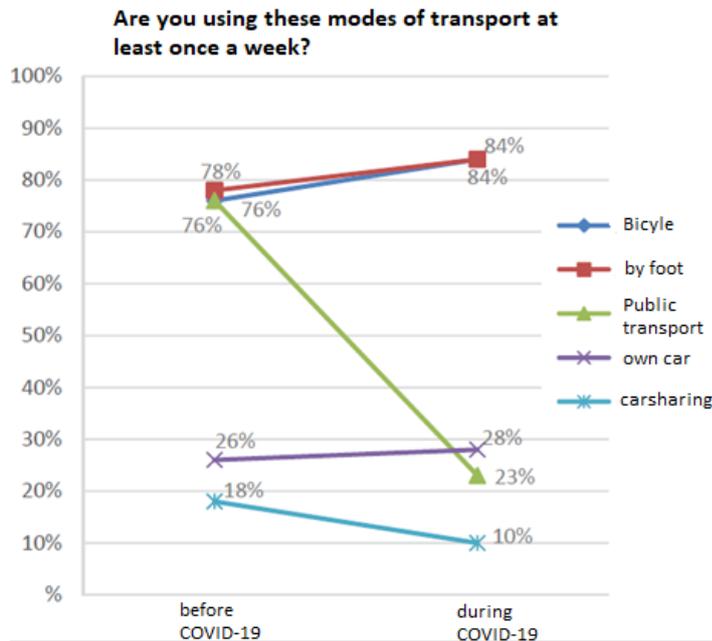
Survey results, changes to the mode of transport, as well as re-modelling plans for extending cycle lanes in Berlin, are presented below.



Opinion towards ‘pop-up cycling paths’	Regular / preferred mode of transport			
	By foot	Cycling	Public transport	Car
Supporters	75.2%	94.1%	79.2%	14.8%
Opponents	21.1%	3.3%	15.1%	79.3%
No opinion	3.7%	1.8%	4.7%	5.9%
No statement	0%	0.8%	1.1%	0%

Changes to the modes of transport before / during the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak in Berlin⁴⁷

Re-modelling plans to extend cycling paths using car parking slots in Berlin⁴⁸:



⁴⁶ <https://www.internationales-verkehrswesen.de/iass-und-tu-berlin-pop-up-radwege-bringen-mehr-sicherheitsgefuehl/>

⁴⁷ https://www.iass-potsdam.de/sites/default/files/2020-06/IASS_Study_Pop-Up-Radwege.pdf

⁴⁸ <https://nationaler-radverkehrsplan.de/de/node/22085>

France

A zonal approach implemented to easing lockdown and re-opening transport, including:

- Travellers must respect barrier measures / physical distancing
- Drivers are protected - separated from passengers by a distance of at least one meter (e.g. a row left behind the driver); only rear bus doors used; not possible to buy a ticket on board (e.g. tickets need to be bought in advance online, on a machine, or by SMS)
- Wearing a face mask is compulsory on all public transport, including for young people
- Travel more than a 100 km is not allowed, unless within the same region
- Interregional travel for business is allowed only with a reservation and a special certificate
- Travellers must not take public transport during peak hours, unless travelling for a medical consultation, going to work, school or place of care

Île-de-France special case: during peak hours (6:30am-9:30am / 4:00pm-7:00pm), access to public transport is reserved for people with a travel certificate from their employer, e.g. for work, child care and other essential activities.

Encouraging sustainable travel post-lockdown

- Introducing a **€20 million scheme** to get more people cycling, in order to cut air pollution and aid safe travel
- **Cyclists can benefit** from: a) subsidy for bike repair (up to 50EUR or up to 50% of the invoice excluding tax); b) free training to learn to ride safely; c) temporary parking spaces
- **In Paris:** creating 650km of cycle lanes, including a number of pop-up 'corona cycle ways' and the banning of cars on Rue de Rivoli
- **116 towns / cities** are building temporary cycle lanes to facilitate travel
- Temporary pedestrian facilities are being set up
- Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, 60% of journeys in France were less than 5km, which makes bicycles 'a real transport solution'

Italy

- Reopened its borders unilaterally and ended regional travel restrictions on 3rd June 2020
- Dedicated entrances and compulsory temperature measurement at high-speed railway stations for all passengers boarding on long-distance trains (if higher than 37.5°C access not be allowed)

Encouraging sustainable travel post-lockdown

- To **facilitate the use of bicycles**, the Highway Code will be modified, providing for the creation of special bike lanes
- **'Mobility vouchers'** introduced for residents of cities/municipalities with a population greater than 50,000 - up to €500 (up to 60% of the expenses) for the purchase of bicycles (including pedal-assisted bikes); vehicles for electric micro mobility, such as scooters, hover-boards and Segway's; or for the use of sharing mobility services (until 31st Dec 2020)

- From January 2021, under the Climate Decree, the mobility voucher will remain as an incentive for scrapping of polluting motor vehicles and motorcycles. Also, an incentive of 1,500EUR for each scrapped vehicle; and 500EUR for each scrapped motorcycle⁴⁹
- **In Rome:** local government has painted bike lane lines on up to 150 kilometres of road for commuters⁵⁰
- **In Milan:**
 - ✓ 70 % of residents back the Mayor's plan to switch 35km of road to prioritise bicycles and pedestrians. Previously the new lanes have caused conflict.
 - ✓ Temporary new bicycle lanes have been introduced to ease the pressure on the city's public transport system

Demark

[corona | covid-19]

Recommendations for travellers using public transport

Hotline: +45 7020 0233 | coronasmitte.dk

 <p>Walk or cycle</p> <p>If you are planning a short journey, please consider whether it would be possible to walk or bike. This way, you avoid coming into close contact with others during your journey and will allow more room for others, who do not have any alternatives, when taking public transport.</p>	 <p>Travel outside rush hours</p> <p>During rush hour, passengers using public transport might have to stand very close to each other on busses, trains and the metro. Consider if it would be possible to travel outside rush hour by, for instance, re-scheduling your appointment or coming in to work a bit earlier or later than usual.</p>	 <p>Show consideration for other passengers</p> <p>Do not cough or sneeze in the direction of other passengers. If you need to cough or sneeze, please cover your face with your sleeve or a paper handkerchief. Please be particularly careful not to cough or sneeze near elderly passengers.</p>	 <p>Remember good hand hygiene</p> <p>Observing good and thorough hand hygiene is an effective way to prevent infections. Please be aware of this when having been in direct contact with touch surfaces in common areas, such as handles, straps, stop buttons, etc.</p>	 <p>Do not use public transport if you are ill or suspect that you might be infected</p> <p>If you are ill, or you suspect that you might be infected, do not use public transport.</p>
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Hotline: +45 7020 0233
coronasmitte.dk



⁴⁹ <http://www.mit.gov.it/comunicazione/news/sostenibilita-fino-500-euro-per-buono-mobilita>

⁵⁰ <https://newseu.cqtn.com/news/2020-05-11/Bike-or-walk-don-t-drive-European-citizens-urged-after-lockdown-QnUQAoOtKU/index.html>

Country comparison of unlocking transport

Country	Date eased	Action taken								
		Face mask / covering	↑ cleaning	No ticket / cash sales on board	↑ passenger barrier messaging	Social distancing	Temperature checking on boarding	↑ frequency of services to reduce congestion	Rear door boarding only	Other
Belgium ⁵¹⁵²	04/05	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	Taxis operate with social distancing
Denmark ⁵³⁵⁴⁵⁵	14/04	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	✓		All tickets are refundable without charge
France	11/05	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	Business travellers must have a certificate
Germany	10/05	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	
Ireland ⁵⁶	08/06	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	Transport only used by key workers or for essential journeys
Italy ⁵⁷⁵⁸	03/06	✓	✓	✓ (desirable)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Spain ⁵⁹⁶⁰	04/05	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Vending machines with masks and hydrogel in some stations
Portugal ⁶¹⁶²	04/05	✓	✓	✓ (desirable)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Iceland ⁶³⁶⁴⁶⁵	04/05	-	✓	✓ (desirable)	✓	✓	-	✗	✓	Maximum of 30 passengers
Singapore ⁶⁶	Open	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	-	-	Masks and hydrogel sold in all stations
New Zealand ⁶⁷⁶⁸	Fully open	✗	✓	✓	-	✗	-	-	-	30% discount on public transport in Auckland for off-peak journeys

⁵¹ <https://www.info-coronavirus.be/en/faq/>

⁵² http://www.stib-mivb.be/article.html?l=en&_guid=002eeb34-334b-3810-aea3-aa16619abec2

⁵³ <https://politi.dk/en/coronavirus-in-denmark/controlled-reopening-of-denmark>

⁵⁴ <https://politi.dk/-/media/mediefiler/corona/infografikker/recommendations-for-travellers-using-public-transport.png?la=da&hash=8B69B69793B333FA678AD6200CE92AE1DF83AAE>

⁵⁵ <https://intl.m.dk/travel-information/coronavirus-covid-19/>

⁵⁶ <https://www.transportforireland.ie/news/covid-19-information/>

⁵⁷ <https://www.trasporti-italia.com/citta/trasporto-pubblico-covid-19-ecco-le-nuove-linee-guida-in-vigore-dal-18-maggio/42658> ; <http://www.mit.gov.it/comunicazione/news/coronavirus/covid-19-aggiornate-le-linee-guida-sul-tpl-vista-delle-prossime#>

⁵⁸ https://www.mit.gov.it/sites/default/files/media/notizia/2020-04/MIT_LINEE_GUIDA_INFORMAZIONE_UTENTI_TPL.pdf ; <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/COVID-19-public-transport-29-April-2020.pdf>

⁵⁹ <https://www.metromadrid.es/es/buscar?text=covid-19>

⁶⁰ <https://www.metromadrid.es/es/nota-de-prensa/2020-05-12/la-comunidad-de-madrid-prepara-la-desescalada-en-metro-con-nueva-senalizacion-que-informa-a-los-usuarios-de-las-condiciones-de-viaje>

⁶¹ [Order No. 3547-A / 2020 of 22 March](https://www.govt.nz/covid-19/)

⁶² <https://covid19estamoson.gov.pt/medidas-excepcionais/#infraestruturas-e-servicos-de-transporte>

⁶³ <https://www.covid.is/faq>

⁶⁴ <http://www.publictransport.is/about/>

⁶⁵ <https://straeto.is/en/covid-19>

⁶⁶ <https://www.ptc.gov.sg/covid-19>

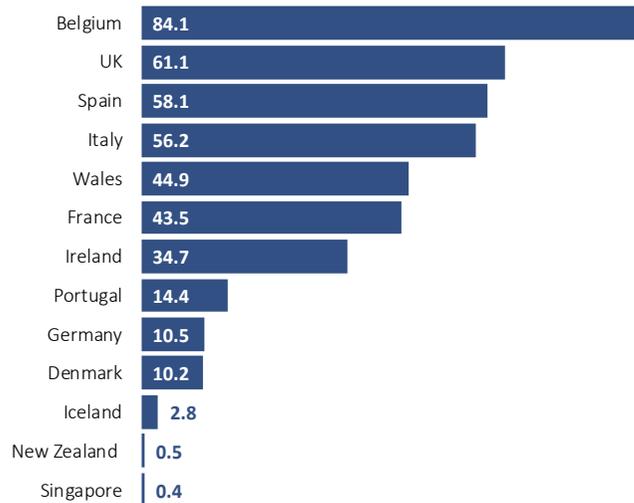
⁶⁷ <https://at.govt.nz/covid-19/>

⁶⁸ <https://www.nzta.govt.nz/about-us/coronavirus-disease-covid-19-services-update/>

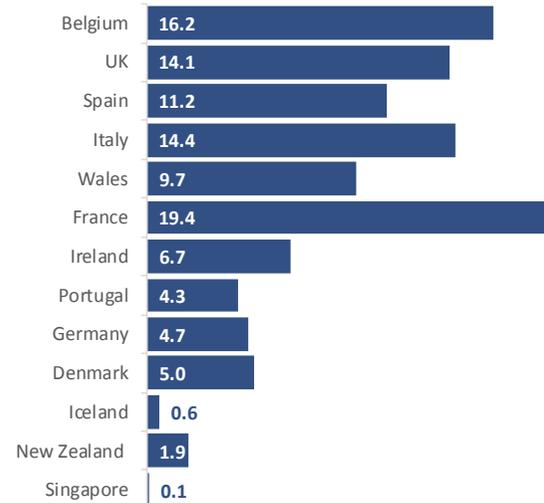
Outbreak epidemiology update

Comparison between COVID-19 cumulative death rates, percentage died COVID-19 cases, cases' and testing rates across selected countries

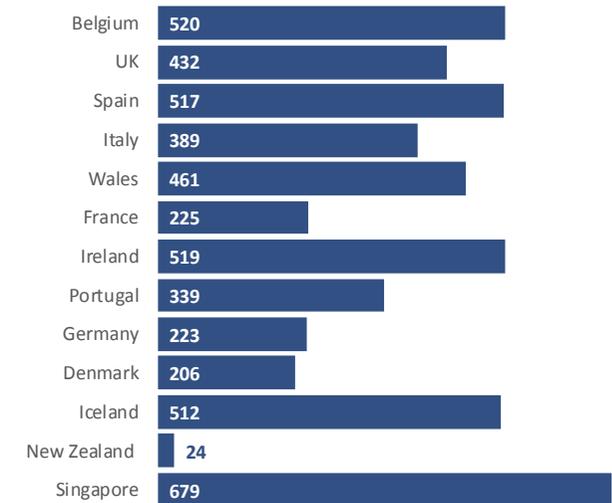
Cumulative death rate per 100,000



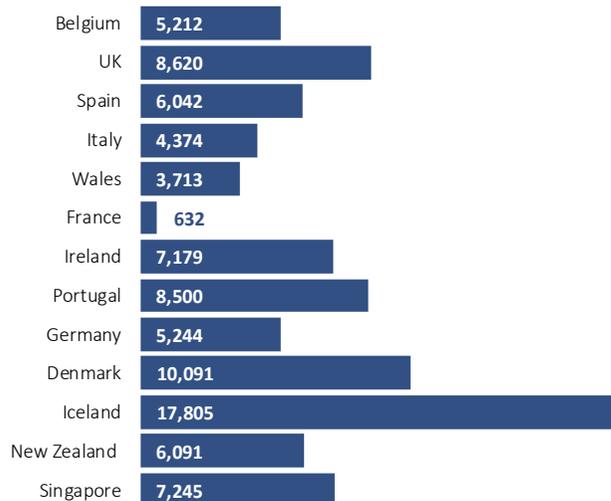
% COVID-19 cases died



Cases, rate per 100,000



COVID-19 tests, rate per 100,000



Sources:

Cases/deaths

WHO Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Dashboard. Available at: <https://covid19.who.int/>

Public Health Wales Rapid COVID-19 surveillance. Available at:

<https://public.tableau.com/profile/public.health.wales.health.protection#!/vizhome/RapidCOVID-19virology-Public/Headlinesummary>

Population data

Population, Total, The World Bank. Available at: <https://datacatalog.worldbank.org/population-total>

Population estimates for the UK, England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, provisional Statistical bulletins, Office for National Statistics. Available at:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/bulletins/annualmidyearpopulationestimates/previousReleases>

All data relating to cases, deaths and population sizes extracted 9 June 2020

Testing

Data on testing has been extracted from the Ministry of Health website for the respective country on 8 June 2020

Data for Iceland and Portugal is based on the number of samples, rather than the number of tests carried out

The International Horizon Scanning and Learning reports are developed by the International Health Team (the International Health Coordination Centre, IHCC) at the WHO Collaborating Centre on Investment for Health and Well-being (WHO CC), Public Health Wales.

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