

ASPHER Report: COVID-19 Situation Reporting across Europe

Week of December 6th, 2021

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This is ASPHER's weekly surveillance report. We hope it is complementary to other resources such as ECDC and Our World in Data, where the reader can go for more detailed information. Please give us your feedback: is the presentation helpful to you and your colleagues? What other information would you like to see in it?

Key messages

- EU/EEA countries are experiencing a high and rapidly increasing case notification rate and a low but slowly increasing death rate ([link](#)).
- The ensemble model forecasts predict continued increases in cases and deaths, and the ECDC model predicts increases in hospitalisations and ICU admissions over the coming weeks ([link](#)).
- There is preliminary evidence suggesting that Omicron may have potential immune escape and/or possibly higher transmissibility, as compared to previous VOCs, that could lead to further surges ([link](#)).

ASPHER recognizes the importance of following [non-pharmacological interventions](#) as well as achieving a high level of vaccine uptake. Vaccine hesitancy is a major pitfall stemming from the improvement in the vaccination rate particularly in Eastern parts of Europe. Mistrust in vaccines and false information are the driving factors for the population's low vaccine uptake. It is vital to address distrust to better handle the low vaccination rate. The decision regarding the idea of implementing mandatory vaccine passports and validation of these certificates should be made more clearer for the smooth operation of the process.

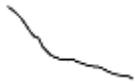
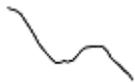
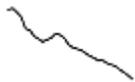
The current situation demands international consensus on a long-term strategy to minimize the transmission of virus variants, not only by rapid vaccination but also by increasing vaccine confidence and improving accessibility to vaccines to prevent further waves. Despite vaccination status, non-pharmaceutical interventions which complement vaccination must be followed.

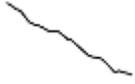
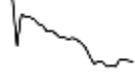
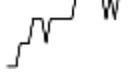
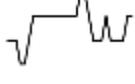
ASPHER remains concerned that countries are unprepared and complacent about the responses that will be needed by health services and public health authorities this autumn. Read our statement [here](#).

Rolling 7-day average of latest daily newly confirmed coronavirus cases, deaths, and proportion of people fully vaccinated against COVID-19 in the countries of the WHO-Europe region ([data](#)).

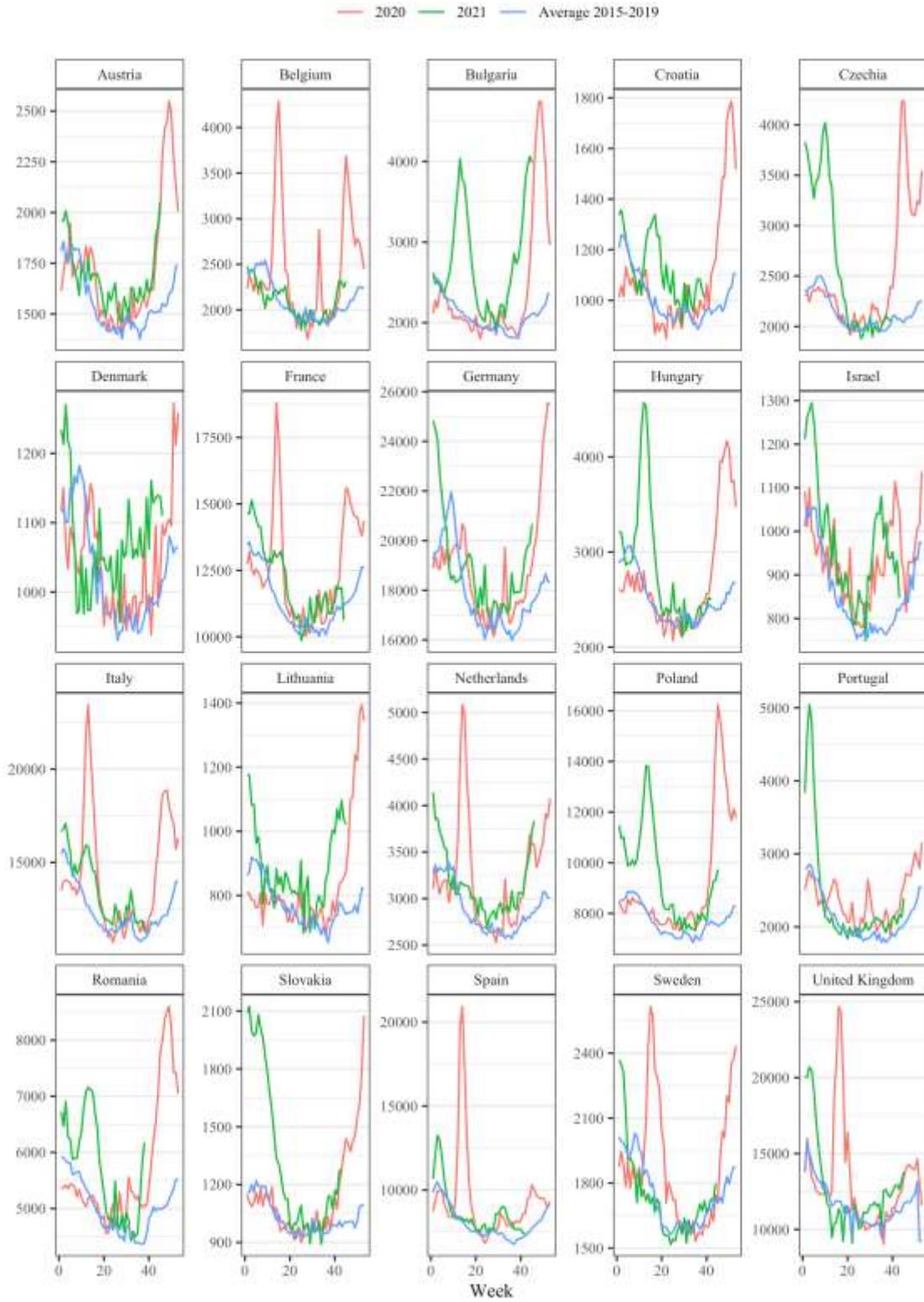
| WHO Europe region | Rolling 7-day average of daily newly confirmed COVID-19 cases/million people | 30-day trend in cases | Rolling 7-day average of daily newly confirmed deaths/million people | 30-day trend in deaths | Share of the population fully vaccinated against COVID-19 (%) |
|-------------------|--|---|--|---|---|
| Andorra | 3,544.00 |  | 3.69 |  | 64.04 |
| Slovakia | 1,967.69 |  | 14.62 |  | 43.03 |
| Czechia | 1,527.70 |  | 11.18 |  | 59.82 |
| Belgium | 1,466.81 |  | 4.34 |  | 74.90 |
| Netherlands | 1,266.72 |  | 2.95 |  | 74.08 |
| Switzerland | 1,020.99 |  | 2.05 |  | 65.59 |
| San Marino | 999.71 |  | 4.20 |  | 65.80 |
| Croatia | 959.62 |  | 15.51 |  | 48.49 |
| Georgia | 950.45 |  | 15.54 |  | 25.60 |
| Ireland | 931.87 |  | 1.58 |  | 76.23 |
| Hungary | 902.30 |  | 19.05 |  | 60.90 |
| Slovenia | 853.96 |  | 7.63 |  | 55.70 |
| Denmark | 825.03 |  | 1.79 |  | 76.78 |

| WHO Europe region | Rolling 7-day average of daily newly confirmed COVID-19 cases/million people | 30-day trend in cases | Rolling 7-day average of daily newly confirmed deaths/million people | 30-day trend in deaths | Share of the population fully vaccinated against COVID-19 (%) |
|-------------------|--|---|--|---|---|
| Austria | 810.31 |  | 6.62 |  | 66.92 |
| United Kingdom | 690.79 |  | 1.78 |  | 68.21 |
| Lithuania | 627.54 |  | 7.60 |  | 66.58 |
| Germany | 620.42 |  | 3.22 |  | 68.39 |
| Poland | 618.76 |  | 10.00 |  | 54.29 |
| France | 613.69 |  | 1.11 |  | 70.01 |
| Luxembourg | 607.38 |  | 2.48 |  | 67.69 |
| Monaco | 592.83 |  | 0.00 |  | 58.98 |
| Cyprus | 586.41 |  | 1.28 |  | 65.30 |
| Greece | 550.52 |  | 8.94 |  | 64.25 |
| Estonia | 370.19 |  | 2.91 |  | 59.89 |
| Iceland | 362.80 |  | 0.00 |  | 81.96 |
| Montenegro | 349.84 |  | 7.05 |  | 41.31 |
| Portugal | 346.48 |  | 1.70 |  | 88.56 |

| WHO Europe region | Rolling 7-day average of daily newly confirmed COVID-19 cases/million people | 30-day trend in cases | Rolling 7-day average of daily newly confirmed deaths/million people | 30-day trend in deaths | Share of the population fully vaccinated against COVID-19 (%) |
|------------------------|--|---|--|---|---|
| Bulgaria | 273.63 |  | 15.22 |  | 26.14 |
| Serbia | 263.09 |  | 6.61 |  | 45.65 |
| Ukraine | 257.76 |  | 10.94 |  | 27.21 |
| Turkey | 253.28 |  | 2.32 |  | 59.56 |
| Italy | 243.24 |  | 1.30 |  | 73.14 |
| Finland | 232.14 |  | 1.24 |  | 73.07 |
| Russia | 220.50 |  | 8.10 |  | 40.23 |
| Malta | 189.89 |  | 0.00 |  | 83.87 |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | 187.88 |  | 9.85 |  | 22.08 |
| Sweden | 186.96 |  | 0.35 |  | 70.66 |
| Belarus | 178.55 |  | 1.65 |  | 28.72 |
| North Macedonia | 156.05 |  | 6.11 |  | 37.93 |
| Spain | 149.85 |  | 0.46 |  | 80.55 |
| Azerbaijan | 144.39 |  | 2.10 |  | 44.93 |

| WHO Europe region | Rolling 7-day average of daily newly confirmed COVID-19 cases/million people | 30-day trend in cases | Rolling 7-day average of daily newly confirmed deaths/million people | 30-day trend in deaths | Share of the population fully vaccinated against COVID-19 (%) |
|-------------------|--|---|--|---|---|
| Armenia | 129.86 |  | 7.51 |  | 14.72 |
| Moldova | 129.26 |  | 5.47 |  | 23.48 |
| Albania | 107.01 |  | 1.14 |  | 33.83 |
| Romania | 65.68 |  | 5.76 |  | 39.25 |
| Israel | 56.80 |  | 0.22 |  | 62.23 |
| Kazakhstan | 39.24 |  | 0.98 |  | 43.05 |
| Kyrgyzstan | 7.84 |  | 0.37 |  | 13.79 |
| Uzbekistan | 6.28 |  | 0.09 |  | 17.33 |
| Kosovo | 4.49 |  | 0.16 |  | 42.96 |
| Tajikistan | 0.00 |  | 0.00 |  | 26.21 |

Weekly deaths in 2021 and 2020 compared to the average in 2015-2019 in selected countries ([data](#)).



Country situation reports

Czech Republic

In the Czech Republic in the last seven days 109735 new cases were detected. On 7.12.2021 the prevalence of 6670 persons were reported hospitalised (411 new admissions 66% unvaccinated), and among them 981 in ICU. There is a slow decline in notification of new cases. Among new cases about 66% are unvaccinated. Related R0 is now 0.9. Still rising number of hospitalised cases is expected reflecting the week – two weeks lag in dynamics of the notification rates. First two cases of COVID-19 Omicron VOC have been detected. First one is an imported case and the second one is her contact. Completed vaccination or recovery (up to 180 days after) from the COVID-19 disease are the two only accepted proof of protection. Face masks are required in inner spaces including public transport. Mass testing is ongoing in schools every Monday. Government banned Christmas markets. Restrictions are on hotels, restaurants and sport facilities and events. Decree on obligatory vaccination of selected professions and population over 60 years is prepared by MOH.

Germany

Number of reported cases stabilized at a very high level. Strong regional differences with parts of the country with very high incidences and over-stretching of the health care system. The first Omicron-Cases have been identified.

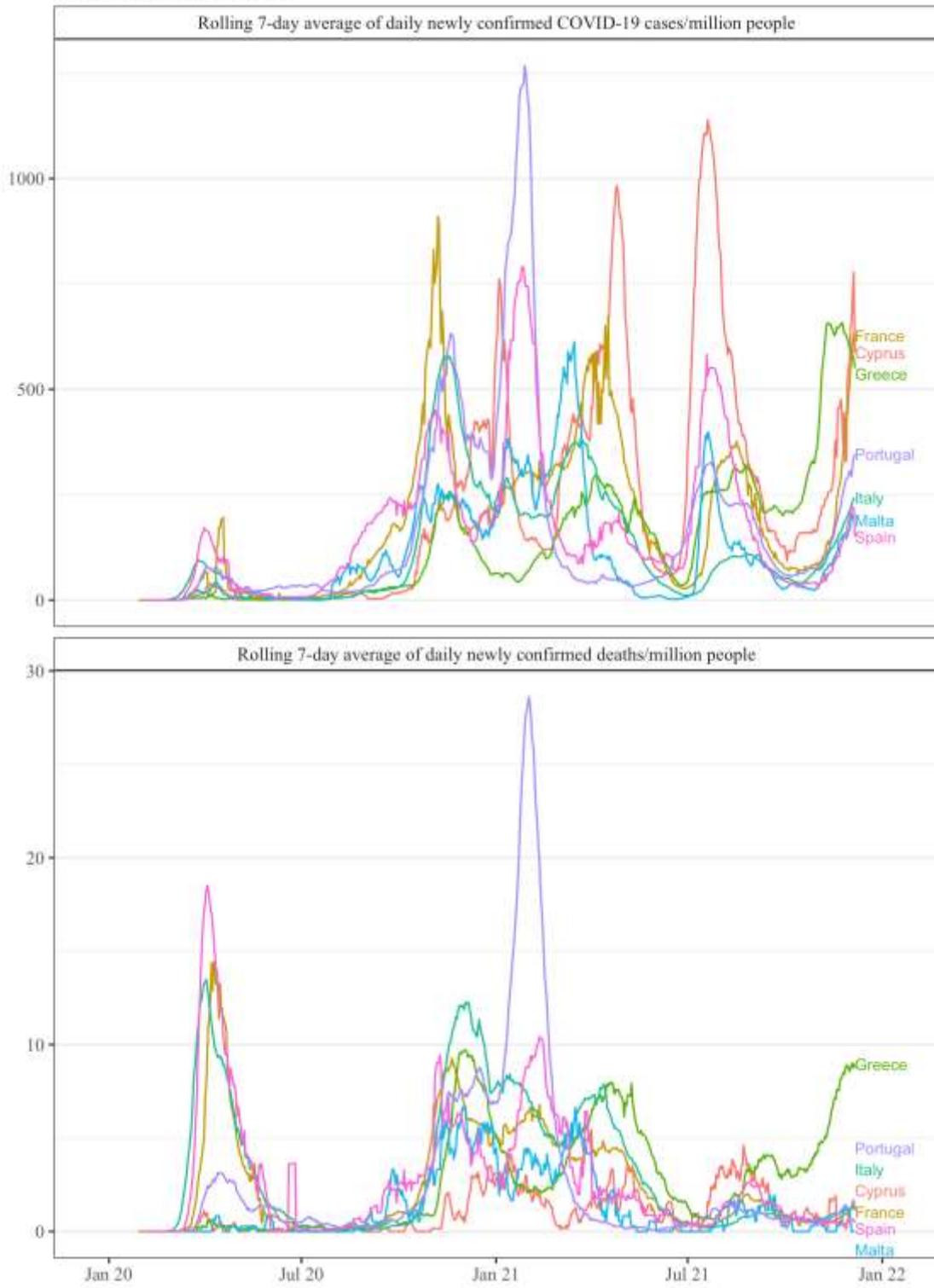
United Kingdom

The percentage testing positive increased in England, Northern Ireland and Scotland, but the trend was uncertain in Wales. In England, the percentage of people testing positive increased in the North East, Yorkshire and The Humber and London. The positivity rate increased in those aged 2 years to school Year 6 and those aged 35 to 49 years. ([link](#)) In Wales, there is an ongoing examination of impact of COVID-19 and recovery against the Wellbeing of future generations act.

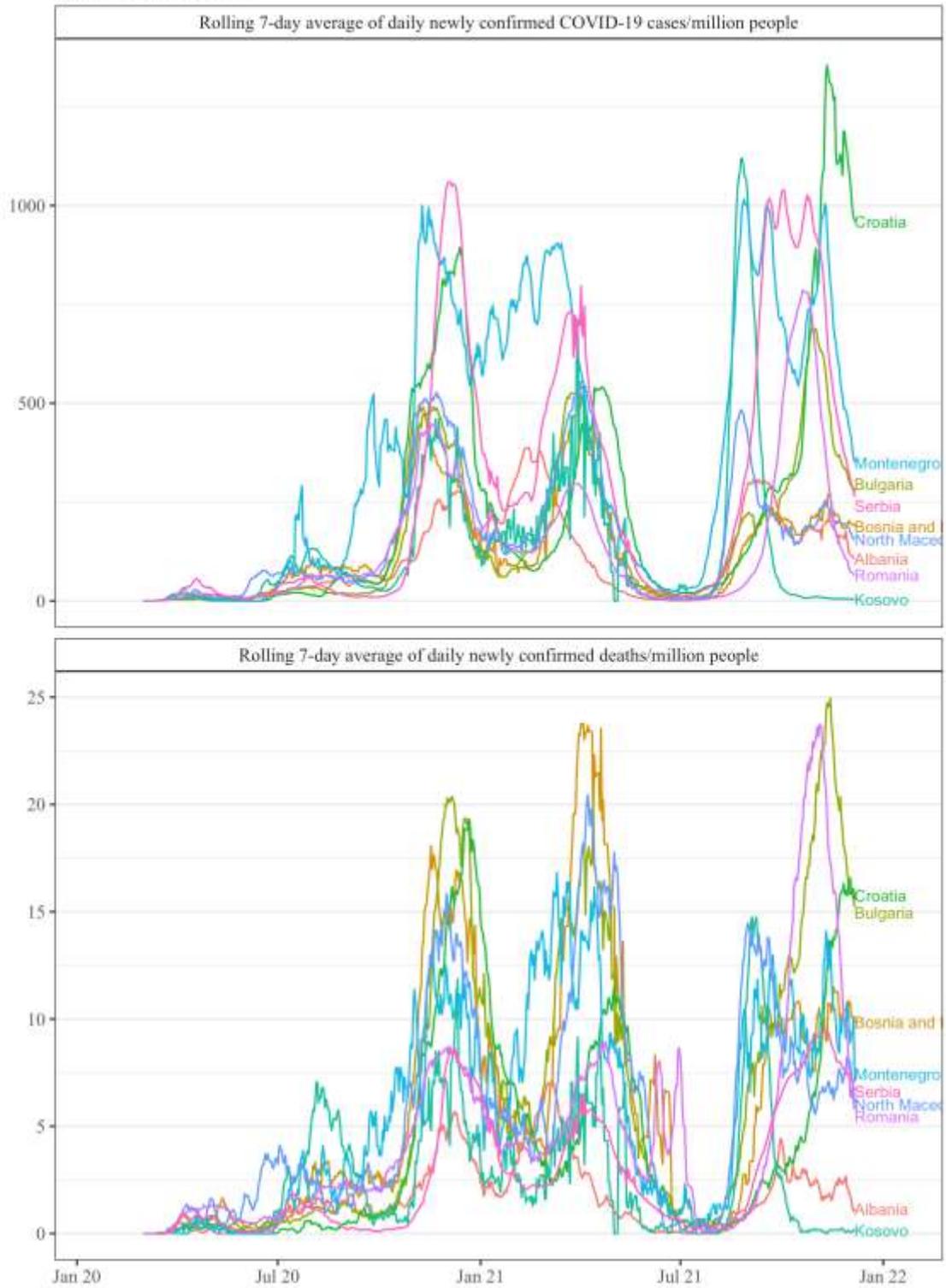
In Scotland, work from home will continue at least until mid-January. There has been a reinforcement of need to adhere to public health protections (language change success achieved by public health colleagues). Vaccine passports and negative lateral flow tests are required for access to venues (negative flow tests if exempt from vaccination or not had 2nd dose) ([link](#)). Cases in Scotland are still increasing with a rise in paediatric admissions and admissions in those aged over 80 ([link](#)). In the last week all Omicron cases were linked to discrete events, but now there is evidence of wider community transmission. Vaccination rates for two doses remains under 80% (78%) in the under 40s and under 90% (88%) in the under 50s. Teenagers started much later so only around 25% have had two doses. Booster programme is ongoing, interval for 3rd dose has been shortened to 3 months and online booking is available. Mobiles are available for first and second doses. Test Ed programme of mass testing of consenting students and staff - supported by survey data - won the University Principal's Medal ([link](#)).

Rolling 7-day average of daily new confirmed COVID-19 cases and daily new confirmed COVID-19 deaths in sub-regions of Europe from until 6th December 2021 ([data](#)).

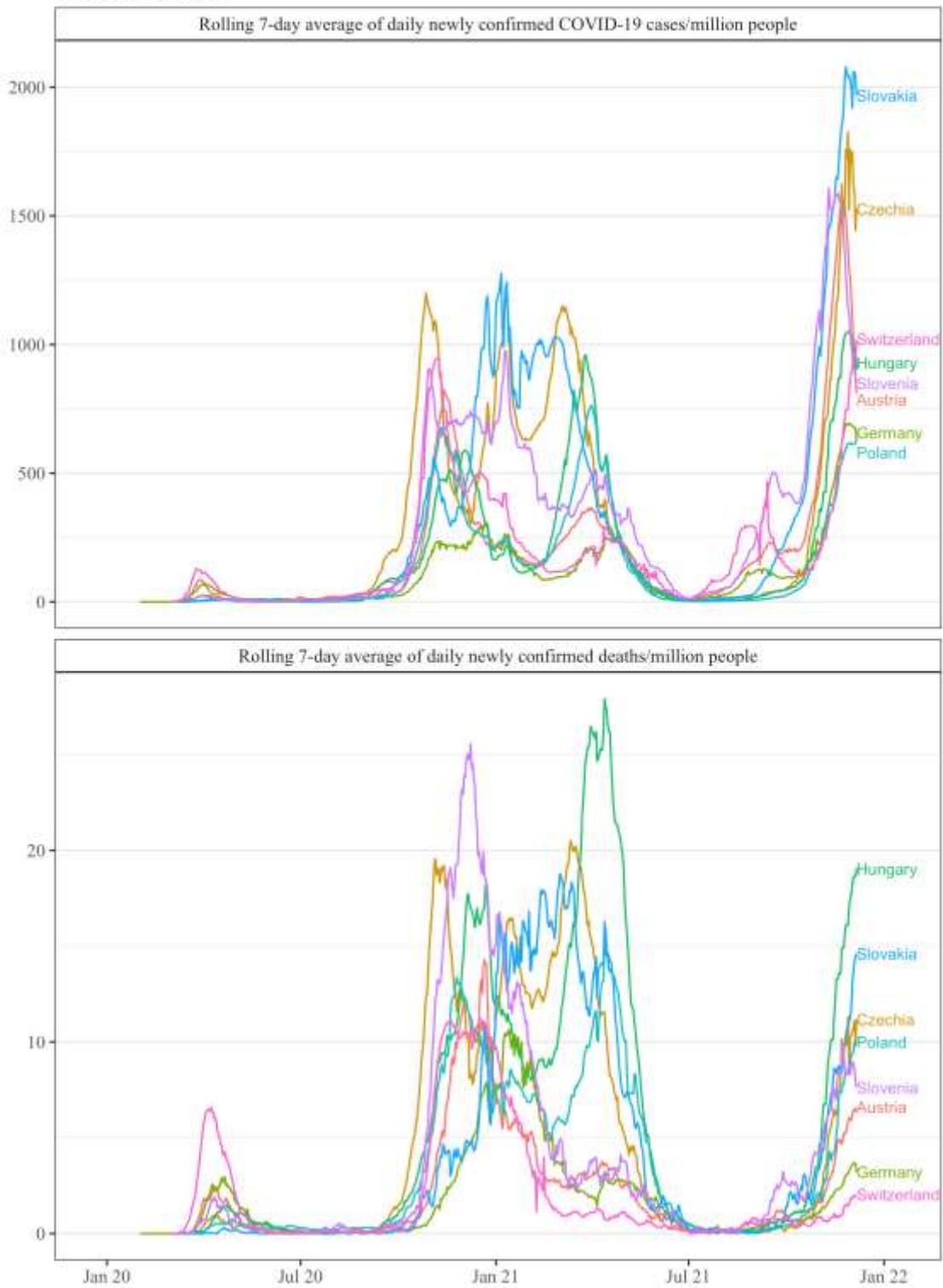
Mediterranean region



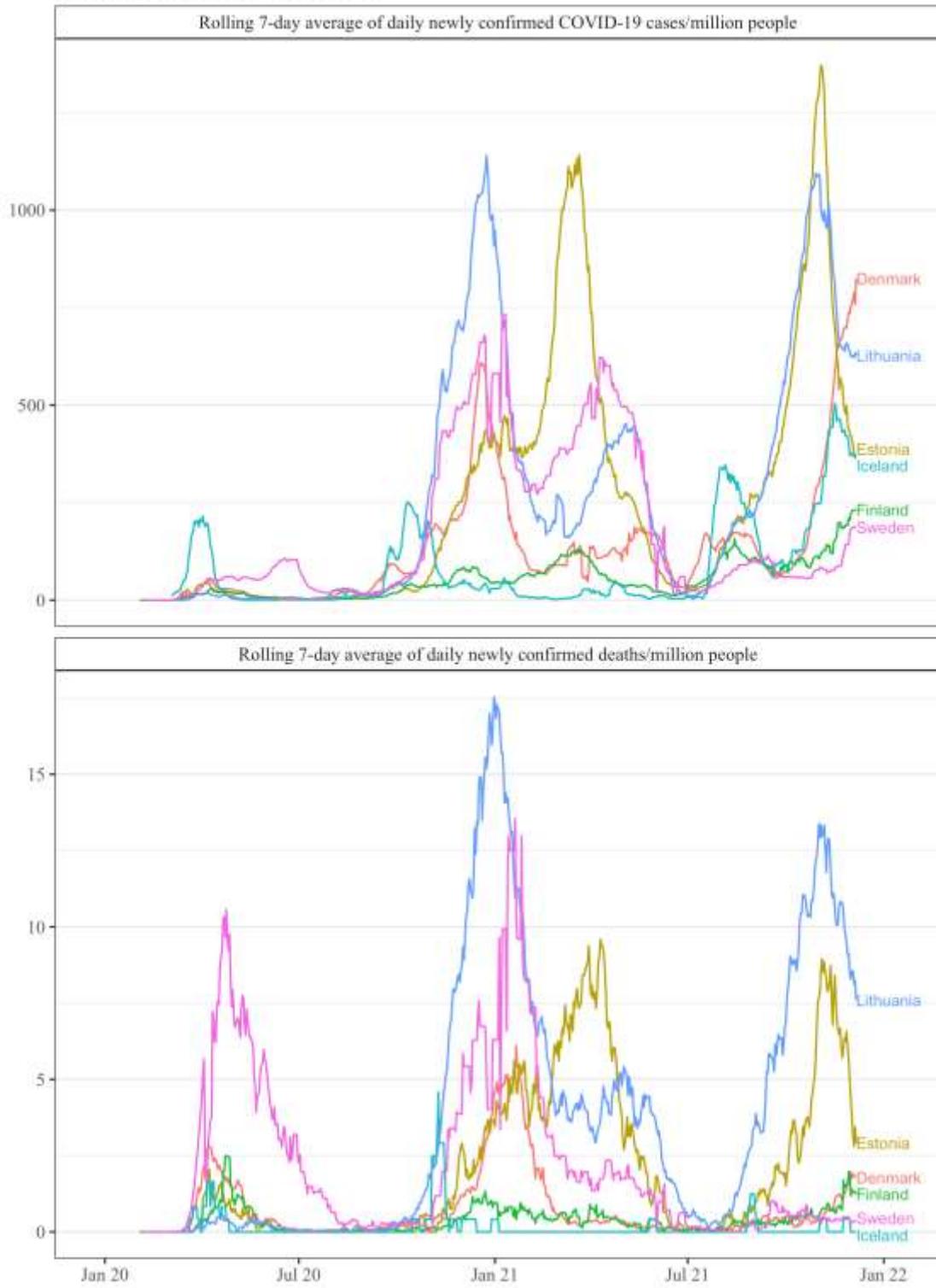
South-East region



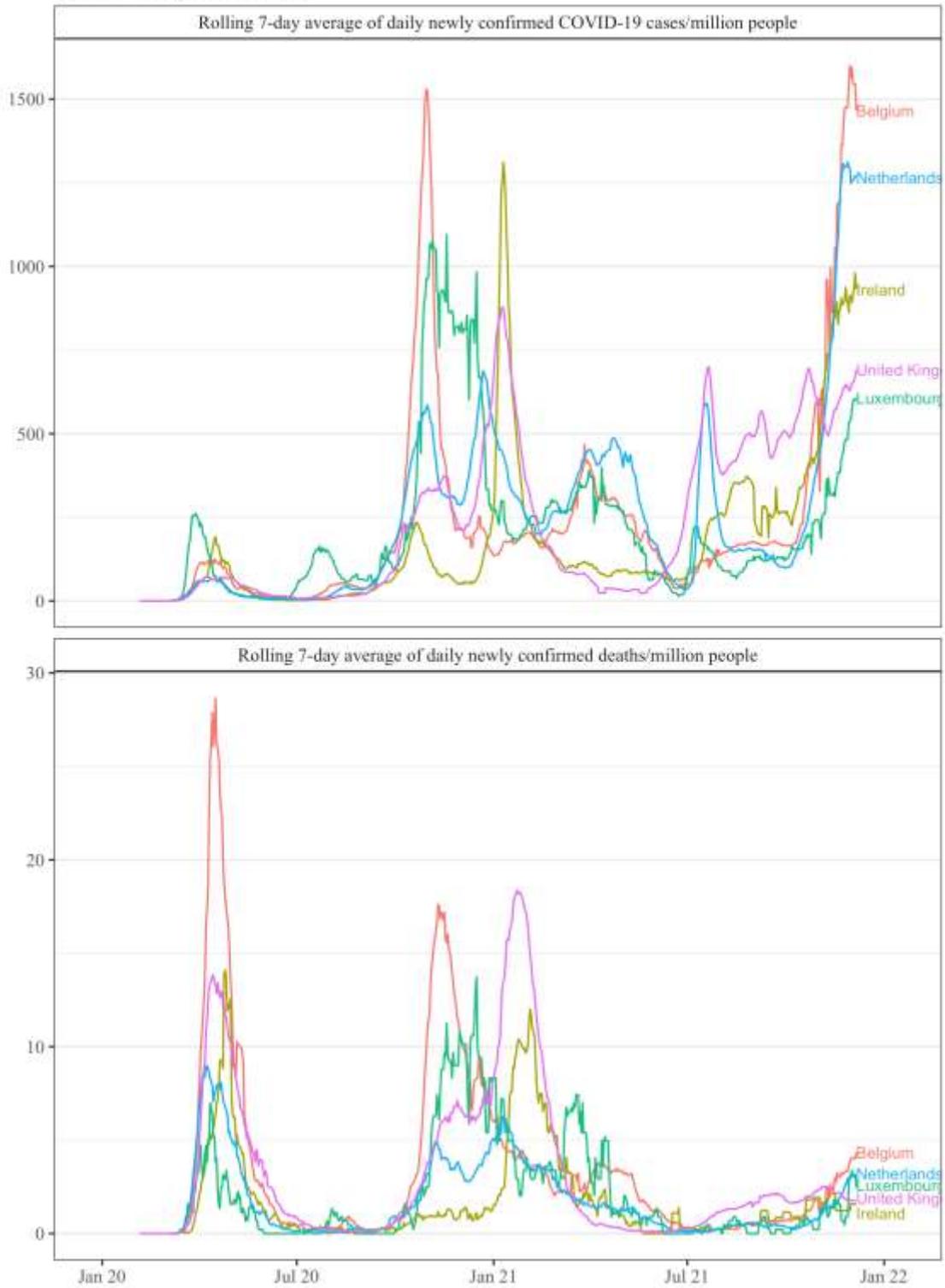
Central Europe



Baltics and Nordic Countries



North-Western Europe



Central Asia

