The feared September coronavirus resurgence is likely to emerge across the UK if England and Wales follow the trajectory seen in Scotland, i analysis of case rates has found.  
Covid-19 cases among those aged under 18 in Scotland have skyrocketed as children return to school, data shows.  
Most children in Scotland returned to school around three weeks ago, and now cases among those in school account for over 11 per cent of cases, with little indication that this will fall.

The number of cases amongst those under the age of 18 in Scotland are already almost double what they were at the height of the last peak.   
The rise in cases among those in school raises questions about what might happen in the rest of the UK, as most schools in England and Wales are scheduled to start again at the beginning of next week.

Rowland Kao, a mathematical biologist at the University of Edinburgh, said: “There are people who haven’t been vaccinated, people who are immunocompromised as well as the possible effects of declining immunity and so you have a combination of things that will make the upcoming period extremely volatile.”

In England, cases of Covid-19 have hovered at around 25,000 cases a day, from a height of almost 50,000 in mid-July. Teaching unions have suggested that if cases do continue to rise, they may reintroduce some social distancing measures off their own bat.  
Kevin Courtney, Joint General Secretary of the National Education Union, said: “The Government's own contingency framework sets a very high threshold for the numbers of cases sufficient to trigger extended safety measures. School leaders will want to consider continuing with face coverings in secondary schools, social distancing where possible, and special arrangements for vulnerable staff.”

The UK’s decision not to vaccinate those under the age of 16, unlike Italy, Belgium and France among others, also means that school children are particularly susceptible to Covid-19, unlike most other age groups.

Rowland Kao said: “As long as things were heading in the right direction the risk to children and the risk they pose to others would not be high. With the rising number of infections and with the knowledge that even with vaccination there is still the possibility of reinfection, vaccinating more people and at younger ages would seem to make sense.”

The Covid-19 jab has recently been rolled out to those between the age of 16 and 17 and although take-up in Scotland has been high, it’s likely this will only have a marginal impact. A consensus report by SAGE earlier this month noted that, “vaccination will have made almost no difference in these population groups over the summer holidays.”