# Scotland Covid-19 cases

An analysis of Covid-19 data by The I has shown that Covid-19 cases among those aged under 18 in Scotland have skyrocketed as children return to school.

Most children in Scotland have returned to school around two weeks ago, and now cases among those in school account for over 11 per cent of cases, with little indication that this will fall.

Chart, line chart

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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. In terms of the raw number of cases, it is already almost double the number during the peak of the last wave.

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Covid-19 cases in Scotland were already rising before schools returned and are now doubling each week as most social distancing restrictions eased on August 9.

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.

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. There are fears that the return of schools could lead to a considerable increase in cases, especially as most social distancing measures in schools have been abandoned. Teaching unions have suggested that if cases do continue to rise, they may reintroduce some social distancing measures.

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.

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The Covid-19 jab has recently been rolled out to those between the age of 16 and 17 and take-up in Scotland has been high, almost half of that age group have already got their first dose but 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.”