

“Lockdown-2” – how deep, how long?

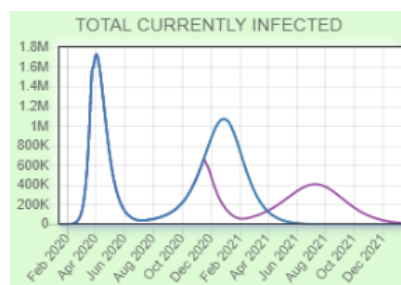
Enter this Competition to explore the answer for *your* area and submit your answer to a panel of Expert Judges for a chance to win a cash prize

We are all being told in England to lock down for another month, to stop the “second wave” of the COVID-19 outbreak getting too large, risking overwhelming the healthcare system, yet again delaying treatment for other urgent medical care and potentially causing suffering and deaths of many thousands more Covid 19 victims as well as others who have had urgent medical treatment delayed.

We are in a multi faceted health crisis, not just Covid 19 but the Covid 19 pandemic is at the root of it.

The Lockdown was announced and approved by Parliament on Thursday as a blanket measure for 4 weeks. There is uncertainty about how long it will need to last

The answer is “it depends”. The conditions across the UK are not the same everywhere. In fact there are radical differences neighbourhood by neighbourhood. And it is abundantly clear that nobody wants the lockdown to last any longer than necessary. The situation here in England is a study in contrasts. Just one illustrative example of many:



1. In some areas where infections exploded in March and April a very large number of people were infected and many died. The survivors may have a form of immunity. Not all but many may.
2. On the other hand in some other areas, fortunately, very few people were infected, but this creates another kind of problem: a very large number are still susceptible.

The strategy in the first group of locations is massively impacted by a relatively lower number of people who can still be infected by Covid 19 and especially if new cases are not growing quickly: a lockdown could turn the tide quickly and the people in that local area could return to a less restricted situation. On the other hand if infections are exploding in an area with a very large number of susceptible people it may take much longer to get the outbreak under control.

We have used our model to investigate this issue in dozens of locations around the world. By localising the the model to the specific conditions in each local area it can help answer the question:

How long does the lockdown need to be in your local area?

We believe this is a crucial question and we believe young people are an underserved group who are simultaneously the least directly affected by Covid 19 because very few young become severely unwell or die; however, **precisely because of this and the huge level of asymptomatic infections young people can be the most dangerous to others.**

We, The Covid 19 Localisation Modelling Group, believe it is self-evidently a good thing for young people to have the incentive and opportunity to understand Covid 19 better. That is why we are running this competition with prizes for the best analysis of a local area using our Covid 19 Localisation Model

So, how “locked down” do we need to be, and for how long, to make a big-enough difference? Do you have to see other people 80% less than normal, 90% less, or more – and if there are still cases around when Lockdown-2 ends, could there be a 3rd big wave?

This is what we are asking you to make a case for in your local area. Here is what you need to do to enter the competition:

Register your team in one of two age categories on the Course site

- 19 and under. These teams if they have contestants younger than 18 must have adult supervision to receive the cash prize
- 24 and under.

A youth-teams contest with our free localised-COVID-19 model

The challenge:

- Teams of up to 5 young people (under 21) enter the competition
- Teams get a coupon to access all of our localised COVID modeling courses
- Learn how to use the model by taking the Thinkific Course (free with a coupon for all contestants)
- Set up our localised COVID19 model to reflect your own town, city, borough or county (*our short courses show you how*)
- Analyse why the local outbreak got to where it is today
- ... and what could happen out to mid-2021, depending on how much Lockdown-2 cuts contact-rates in that area and the timing and speed with which it ends
- What to say to local people to give them the best chance of keeping each other safe out into 2021?

Prizes for the best analyses

An independent panel of expert judges will assess the entries and pick the winners who offer the most insightful and useful findings and recommendations. Prize values will grow in proportion to the amount of funding raised on the GoFund me Site (please encourage your friends and family to make any donation they can). Prizes in each age group will be:

1st-prize winners minimum £300

2nd-prize winners minimum £200

3rd-prize winners minimum £100

Winners will be assessed on the basis of a written paper and online-team-interview. The judges' decision will be final!

What to do?

- Find a team! The team leader must be 18 years or older.
- Go to GoFundMe and make an optional donation to boost the prize fund and help share these courses and the model with young people throughout the world
- Register for the courses under the team-leader's name and email address. Verification of age is required