

The start of the anticipated winter wave of COVID-19

National flu and COVID-19 surveillance report indicators suggest that, at a national level, COVID-19 activity has increased in most indicators in week 38 of 2022.

Dr Mary Ramsay, Director of Public Health Programmes at the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), said:

- It is clear now that we are seeing an increase which could signal the start of the anticipated winter wave of COVID-19 – so the time to boost your protection with a vaccine if you're eligible is now. Cases have started to climb and hospitalisations are increasing in the oldest age groups.
- In the coming weeks, we expect a double threat of low immunity and widely circulating flu and COVID-19, creating an unpredictable winter and additional pressure on health services. While COVID-19 and flu can be mild infections for many, we must not forget that they can cause severe illness or even death for those most vulnerable in our communities.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/national-flu-and-covid-19-surveillance-reports-published>