

Deaths involving coronavirus (COVID-19) in Scotland

Week 4 (24 January 2022 to 30 January 2022)



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This statistical report includes provisional statistics on the number of deaths associated with coronavirus (COVID-19) and the total number of deaths registered in Scotland

Key Findings

Deaths involving COVID-19, weekly registrations

- As at the 30th of January 2022, there have been a total of 12,946 deaths registered in Scotland where the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) was mentioned on the death certificate. In week 4 there were 121 deaths involving COVID-19 (down by 25 on the previous week).
- Of deaths involving COVID-19 in the latest week:
 - 59 were male, 62 were female.
 - 15 deaths were aged under 65, 22 were aged 65-74 and there were 84 deaths in people aged 75 or over.
 - Glasgow City (16 deaths), Fife (13 deaths) and North Lanarkshire (12 deaths) had the highest numbers of deaths at council level. In total, 29 (out of 32) council areas had at least one death last week.
 - 75 deaths were in hospitals, 35 were in care homes, 10 were at home or in a non-institutional setting and there was 1 death in another institutional setting.

Deaths from all causes, weekly registrations

- The total number of deaths registered in Scotland in week 4 of 2022 was 1,248 (8% below average).
- In week 4 there were 37 excess deaths at home or in non-institutional settings (10% above average), 118 fewer deaths in hospitals (18% below average) and 37 fewer deaths in care homes (12% below average) compared to the five-year average.
- Deaths from respiratory causes (65 fewer deaths), circulatory causes (20 fewer deaths), cancer (20 fewer deaths) and from dementia/Alzheimer's (18 fewer deaths) were below average for this time of year. There were 9 excess deaths from other causes. The number of deaths where COVID-19 was the underlying cause was 78.

Five year average for calculation of 2022 excess deaths

2022 deaths are being compared against a five year average of the years 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2021. This approach is also being used by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA).

The reasons for this choice are laid out in a paper on the [NRS Website](#).

Figure 1: Weekly deaths involving COVID-19 in Scotland, week 12 2020 to week 4 2022

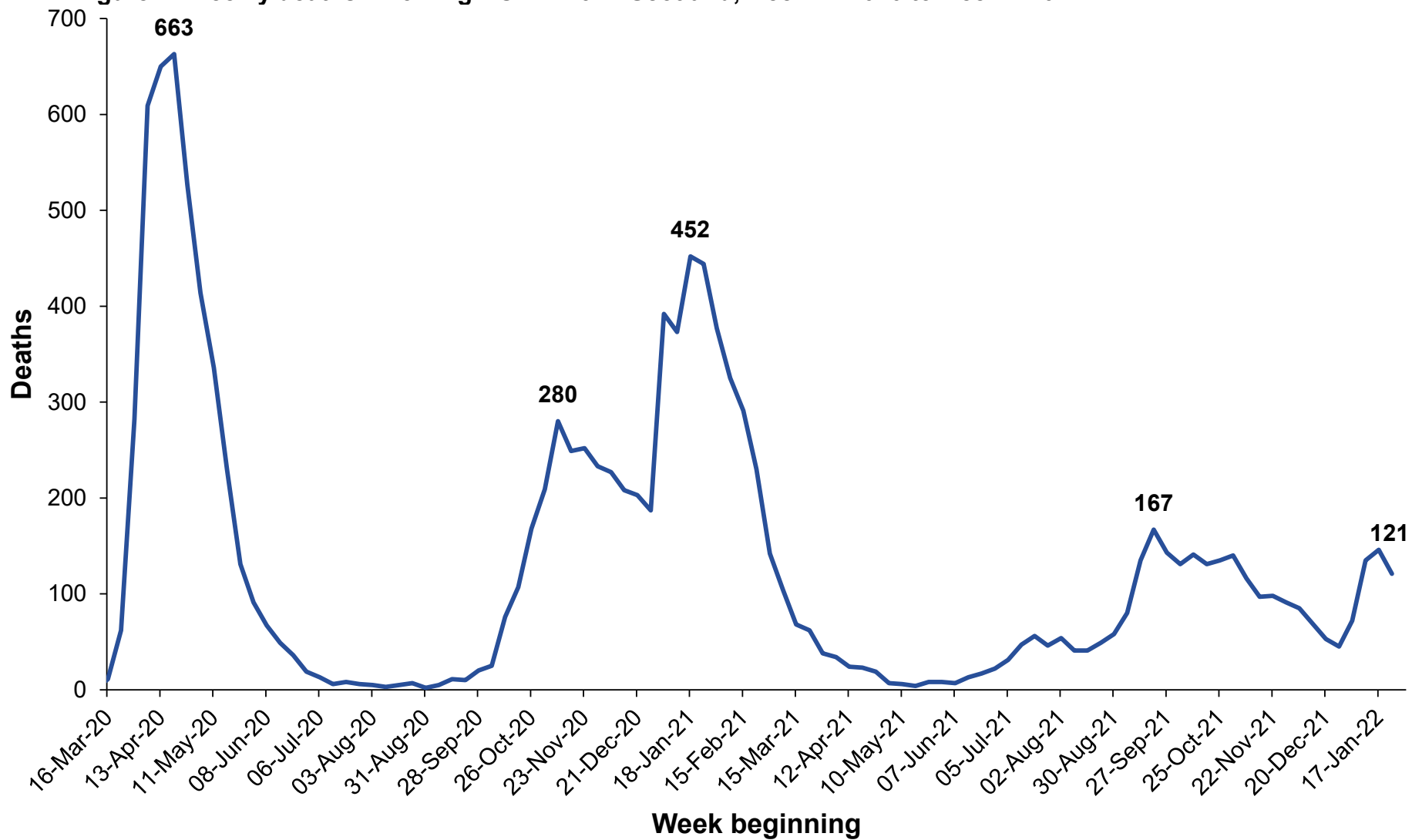
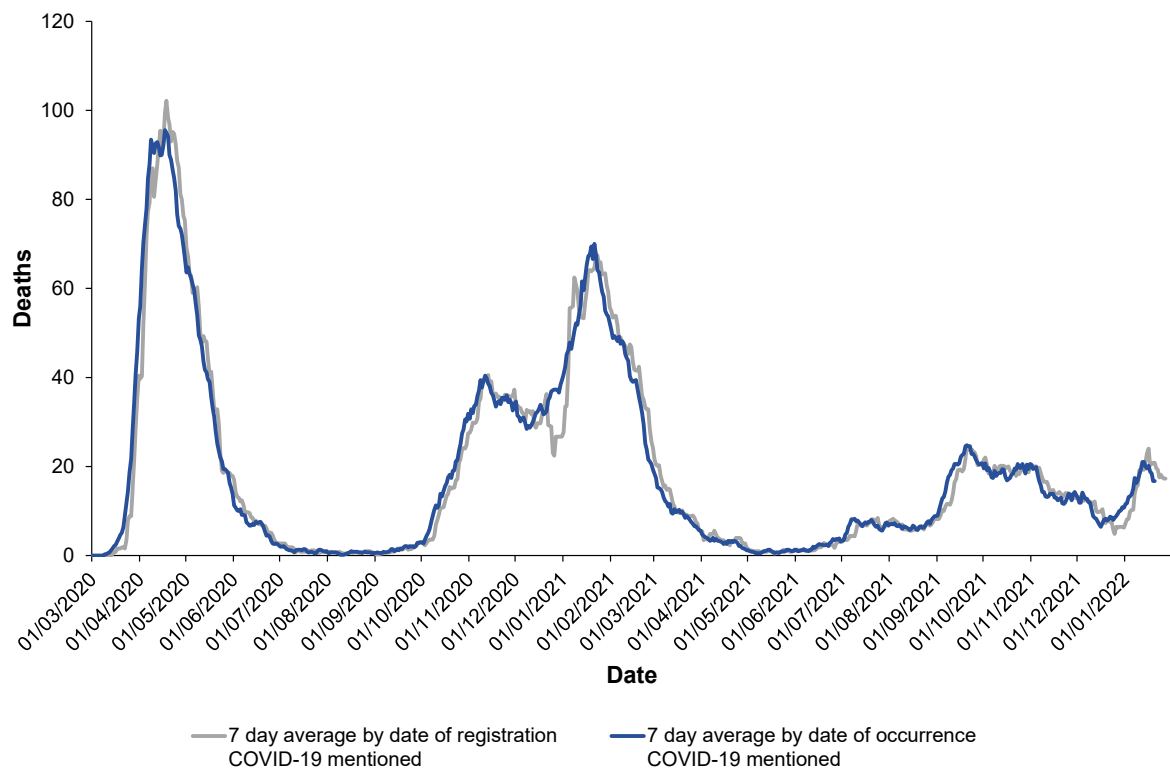


Figure 2: Deaths involving COVID-19, Date of Occurrence vs Date of Registration



The figures throughout this report are based on the date a death was registered rather than the date the death occurred. When someone dies, their family (or a representative) have to make an appointment with a registrar to register the death. Legally this must be done within 8 days, although in practice there is, on average, a 3 day gap between a death occurring and being registered. This gap can be greater at certain times of the year such as Easter and Christmas when registration offices are closed for public holidays.

In general, the trend in COVID-19 deaths by date of registration (the NRS headline measure) has a lag of around 3 days when compared with the figures on date of death.

Daily deaths fell from October onwards, reaching their lowest level of 6 deaths per day in mid-December. Deaths began to rise from mid-December and reached an average of 21 per day by mid-January before decreasing to a level of 17 per day by late January.

This report includes all deaths which were registered by 30th January. There will, however, be deaths which occurred before this date but were not yet registered. In order to include a more complete analysis based on date of occurrence, we need to wait an additional week to allow the registration process to fully complete. The trend based on date of occurrence therefore only includes deaths which occurred by 23rd January as the majority of these are likely to have been registered by now.

How do NRS compile these statistics?

- Weekly figures are based on the date of registration. In Scotland deaths must be registered within 8 days but in practice, the average time between death and registration is around 3 days.
- Figures are allocated to weeks based on the ISO8601 standard. Weeks begin on a Monday and end on a Sunday. Often weeks at the beginning and end of a year will overlap the preceding and following years (e.g. week 1 of 2020 began on Monday 30 December 2019) so the weekly figures may not sum to any annual totals which are subsequently produced.
- Deaths involving COVID-19 are defined as those where COVID-19 is mentioned on the death certificate, either as the underlying cause of death or as a contributory cause. Cause of death is coded according to the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Conditions 10th Revision (ICD-10). The relevant codes included in this publication are U07.1, U07.2, U09.9 and U10.9.
- Figures include deaths where ‘suspected’ or ‘probable’ COVID-19 appears on the death certificate.
- From the week beginning 22 March 2021, new ICD-10 codes issued by the World Health Organisation (WHO) were also used to code deaths involving COVID-19. U09.9 is used for ‘post-COVID’ conditions, when death occurred after acute or ongoing COVID-19. U10.9 is used in the rare cases where ‘Kawasaki-like’ syndrome is caused by COVID-19. Data back to March 2020 has been recoded to ensure consistency of the time series.
- Data are provisional and subject to change in future weekly publications. 2021 data will be finalised in summer 2022. Reasons why the data might be revised later include late registration data being received once the week’s figure have been produced or more information being provided by a certifying doctor or The Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) on the cause of death.
- Certain user enquiries for ad-hoc analysis related to COVID-19 deaths have been published on our [website](#).
- The weekly publication includes breakdowns by sex, age, health board, local authority and location of death. It also includes an analysis of excess deaths by location and broad cause of death. We also publish a comprehensive and detailed analysis of mortality on a monthly basis.
- NRS mortality data (COVID-19 and excess deaths) continue to be made available on a weekly basis through the [Scottish Government’s COVID-19 dashboard](#)

Index of available analysis on registered deaths involving COVID-19

Breakdown	Frequency	When Added	Latest Period Covered	Date Last updated
Age group	Weekly	8 th April 2020	Week 4	2 nd February 2022
Sex	Weekly	8 th April 2020	Week 4	2 nd February 2022
Location	Weekly	15 th April 2020	Week 4	2 nd February 2022
Health Board	Weekly	8 th April 2020	Week 4	2 nd February 2022
Local Authority	Weekly	22 nd April 2020	Week 4	2 nd February 2022
Excess deaths by cause	Weekly	22 nd April 2020	Week 4	2 nd February 2022
Excess deaths by cause and location	Weekly	17 th June 2020	Week 4	2 nd February 2022
Age-standardised mortality rates – Scotland	Monthly	13 th May 2020	December 2021	19 th January 2022
Age-standardised mortality rates – sub-Scotland	Monthly	17 th June 2020	March 2020 – December 2021	19 th January 2022
Leading causes of death	Monthly	13 th May 2020	December 2021	19 th January 2022
Pre-existing conditions	Monthly	13 th May 2020	December 2021	19 th January 2022
Deprivation	Monthly	13 th May 2020	March 2020 – December 2021	19 th January 2022
Urban Rural	Monthly	13 th May 2020	March 2020 – December 2021	19 th January 2022
Daily occurrences by location of death	Monthly	13 th May 2020	December 2021	19 th January 2022
Occupation	Monthly	17 th June 2020	March 2020 – December 2021	19 th January 2022
Intermediate Zone	Monthly	17 th June 2020	March 2020 – December 2021	19 th January 2022
Deaths by ICD-10 codes	Monthly	16 th June 2021	March 2020 – December 2021	19 th January 2022
Ethnic Group	Occasional	8 th July 2020	March 2020 – September 2021	17 th November 2021
Disability	One-off	24 th March 2021	March to Jan	24 th March 2021

National Records of Scotland

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Recording the present – At our network of local offices, we register births, marriages, civil partnerships, deaths, divorces and adoptions in Scotland.

Informing the future – We are responsible for the Census of Population in Scotland which we use, with other sources of information, to produce statistics on the population and households.

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We also provide information about future publications on our website. If you would like us to tell you about future statistical publications, you can register your interest on the Scottish Government ScotStat website.

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Enquiries and suggestions

Please get in touch if you need any further information, or have any suggestions for improvement.

For media enquiries, please contact communications@nrscotland.gov.uk

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