

Omicron Numbers: A Wave of Infections or a Wave of Testing

Country	UK	FRANCE	GERMANY	ITALY	SPAIN
Total Tests Per Million	6.5	3.4	1.4	2.8	1.1

UK has almost twice as many as the closest neighbour and 6 times as Spain, which is why we have so many infections. Thus, UK had a peak of Omicron infections at the beginning of January of just under 200,000 a day, and, ONS suggest that we should expect somewhere between 14 and 18 days from symptoms to death, so we have been having an average of c.350 deaths a day in the last ten days (18th-26th January) giving an average of 570 cases per death. Unfortunately, we cannot directly compare with other European countries: France, Italy and Spain do not yet appear to have reached their peak; and although Germany appeared to have a peak of cases late November followed by a peak of deaths mid-December, that has been followed by another rise in cases to nearly 200,000 from a trough of under 20,000 at Christmas 2021.

COVID 19-Where Have All Our Sage Experts Gone?

Data show that there was a peak of infections was Wed 29th Dec and Thurs 30th December at around 190,000 a day, but that was probably a Christmas effect, as infections decreased during the following week. The real peak was Tuesday 4th January at 195,000 infections. Since then the numbers have decreased by about 9,000 a day until today's(Monday 17th) figure of 85,000. Will we be receiving some shattering news from SAGE that the numbers are halving every fortnight that the numbers have been coming down steadily?

Previous experiences of spreads and contractions of pandemic viruses is that this will continue so that the SAGE scientists will indeed be shattered to find that they are out of a job by mid-February. It is interesting to note that Spain has now declared this is an endemic rather than a pandemic; shouldn't we do the same?