



Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Daily Situation Report of the Robert Koch Institute

18/02/2021 - UPDATED STATUS FOR GERMANY

Confirmed cases		7-day incidence (7-di)			Vaccination monitoring	DIVI-Intensive care register
Total ¹	Active cases ²	Total population	No. of districts with 7-di > 50/100,000 pop		No. of vaccinations reported in last 24h ⁴	Change to previous day for cases currently in ICU
+10,207 (2,360,606)	-1,600 [128,000]	57 cases/ 100,000 pop	-10 [218/412]		+89,940 +51,003	-74 [3,177]
Recovered ³	Deaths	60-79 years	80+ years	No. of districts with 7-di > 100/100,000 pop	Total no. of vaccinated with one/two vaccine dose/s and share of population ⁴	Completed ICU treatment; thereof deceased [%]
+11,300 (2,165,900)	+534 (66,698)	44 cases/ 100,000 pop	81 cases/ 100,000 pop	+3 [39/412]	N1: 2,991,792 (3.6%) N2: 1,580,628 (1.9%)	+344 28%

Numbers in () brackets show cumulative values, numbers in [] brackets show current values. Footnotes can be found in the Annex.

COVID-19 cases are notified to the local public health department in the respective districts, in accordance with the German Protection against Infection Act (IfSG). The data are further transmitted through the respective federal state health authority to the Robert Koch Institute (RKI). This situation report presents the uniformly recorded nationwide data on laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases transmitted to RKI. An overview of the weekly schedule of topics is available at: www.rki.de/covid-19-en

– Changes since the last report are marked **blue** in the text –

Summary (as of 18/02/2021, 12:00 AM)

- Currently, the number of transmissions in the population in Germany remains high. RKI assesses the level of threat to the health of the general population to be **very high**.
- Yesterday, **10,207** new laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases as well as **534** new deaths associated with COVID-19 were transmitted to the RKI. The national 7-day incidence is **57** cases per 100,000 population. The incidence in Saxony-Anhalt is moderately and in Thuringia considerably above the national incidence.
- In **218** of the 412 districts, the 7-day COVID-19 incidence is high (>50 cases/100,000 population). In **42** districts, the 7-day incidence is >100 cases/100,000 population and in **2** of these districts it is >250-500 cases/100,000 population.
- The 7-day incidence among people aged 60-79 years is currently **44** and among the age group ≥80 years **81** cases/100,000 population.
- The high nationwide number of cases is caused by increasingly diffuse transmission, with numerous clusters especially in households, occupational settings as well as nursing and long-term care homes.
- On **18/02/2021 (12:15 PM)** **3,251** COVID-19 patients were in intensive care. In the preceding 24 hours, **+344** existing patients had been discharged (**28%** of whom had died) and **+270** patients were newly admitted. The resulting number of cases under treatment was **74** less than the prior day.
- Since 26/12/2020 a total of **2,991,792** people in Germany have been vaccinated at least once (vaccination rate **3.6%**) and of those und **1,580,628** people twice (vaccination rate **1.9%**) against COVID-19 (<http://www.rki.de/covid-19-impfquoten>).
- In this situation report, the following additional information is given: **information from additional RKI based surveillance systems for acute respiratory illness, data on emergency department utilization**

Note: The report is a snapshot and is continuously updated.

Epidemiological Situation in Germany

In accordance with the international standards of WHO¹ and ECDC², the RKI classifies all cases of laboratory confirmation via SARS-CoV-2-nucleic acid based (e.g. PCR) detection or SARS-CoV-2 isolation as COVID-19 cases, regardless of the presence and severity of clinical symptoms. Thus, in the following report the term "COVID-19 cases" covers acute SARS-CoV-2 infections as well as cases of COVID-19 disease.

General current assessment

The decrease in the daily number of cases since mid-January 2021 currently seems to be slowing. The 7-day R-value has remained below 1 since the second week of January 2021. However, due to the occurrence of different virus variants (see below) there is an increased risk of a renewed increase in the number of cases.

Outbreaks are being reported from various districts throughout Germany, currently particularly in nursing and long-term care homes, occupational settings, and households. Additionally, in many districts, there is an increasingly diffuse spread of SARS-CoV-2 without traceable transmission chains.

Since patients in older age groups more often suffer from more severe illness due to COVID-19, the number of serious cases and deaths remains at a high level. These can only be avoided if all persons prevent the spread of the SARS-CoV-2 virus with the help of infection control measures.

It is therefore still necessary for the entire population to be committed to infection prevention and control, e.g. by consistently observing rules of distance and hygiene - also outdoors -, by ventilating indoor spaces and, where indicated, by correctly wearing a surgical mask or FFP2 mask (or N95 or KN95 respectively). Crowds of people - especially indoors - should be avoided.

Several variants of SARS-CoV-2 are currently being detected worldwide. Since mid-December 2020 there have been reports of the increasing spread of a new virus variant (B.1.1.7) in the United Kingdom. There is increasing clinical-diagnostic as well as epidemiological evidence of increased infectiousness of this variant. Additionally, there are initial indications from the United Kingdom that infections with variant B.1.1.7 may lead to more severe diseases. Moreover, in December 2020, an increased occurrence of a SARS-CoV-2 variant in South Africa (B.1.351) was reported, which has displaced other variants. Therefore, an increased infectiousness is conceivable. Preliminary laboratory studies indicate that the efficacy of the licensed mRNA vaccines is apparently not substantially affected by the variants B.1.1.7. and B.1.351. Additionally, a SARS-CoV-2 variant derived from line B.1.1.28 is circulating in the Brazilian state of Amazonas. Non-essential travel should be avoided – especially due to the circulation of variants of concern.

All three variants have already been detected in Germany. With increased sequencing and data acquisition in the German Electronic Sequence Data Hub (DESH - https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/InfAZ/N/Neuartiges_Coronavirus/DESH/DESH.html) the infection process is increasingly monitored through integrated molecular surveillance.

¹ World Health Organization, https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-2019-nCoV-Surveillance_Case_Definition-2020.1

² European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/covid-19/surveillance/case-definition>

Geographical distribution of cases

Epidemiological analyses are based on validated cases notified electronically to the RKI in line with the Protection Against Infection Law (Data closure: 12:00 AM daily). Since January 2020, a total of **2,360,606 (+10,207)** laboratory-confirmed cases of COVID-19 have been reported to and validated by the RKI (Table 1).

Table 1: Number and cumulative incidence (per 100,000 population) of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths for each federal state electronically reported to RKI, Germany (18/02/2021, 12:00 AM). The number of new cases includes positive cases notified to the local health department at the same day, but also at previous days.

Federal State	Cumulative cases			Last 7 days		Cumulative deaths	
	Total number of cases	Number of new cases	Cases/100,000 pop.	Cases in the last 7 days	7-day incidence/100,000 pop.	Number of deaths	Number of deaths/100,000 pop.
Baden-Wuerttemberg	308,077	911	2,775	4,609	42	7,856	70.8
Bavaria	424,534	1,721	3,235	7,257	55	11,945	91.0
Berlin	125,726	452	3,426	1,759	48	2,670	72.8
Brandenburg	74,065	392	2,937	1,702	67	2,874	114.0
Bremen	17,170	97	2,521	448	66	317	46.5
Hamburg	49,553	234	2,683	1,114	60	1,206	65.3
Hesse	182,385	862	2,900	3,467	55	5,598	89.0
Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania	22,822	197	1,419	1,034	64	664	41.3
Lower Saxony	155,840	940	1,950	4,844	61	3,977	49.8
North Rhine-Westphalia	514,947	2,068	2,869	10,246	57	12,424	69.2
Rhineland-Palatinate	98,759	368	2,412	1,866	46	2,945	71.9
Saarland	27,850	127	2,822	574	58	835	84.6
Saxony	188,956	702	4,640	2,694	66	7,294	179.1
Saxony-Anhalt	57,479	394	2,619	1,840	84	2,221	101.2
Schleswig-Holstein	40,273	232	1,387	1,521	52	1,190	41.0
Thuringia	72,170	510	3,383	2,550	120	2,682	125.7
Total	2,360,606	10,207	2,838	47,525	57	66,698	80.2

Quality checks and data cleaning by the health authorities and regional offices can lead to corrections to cases previously transmitted (e. g. detection of duplicate reports). This can occasionally lead to negative values for the number of new cases.

Distribution of cases over time

The first COVID-19 cases in Germany were notified in January 2020. Figure 1 shows COVID-19 cases transmitted to RKI according to date of illness onset from 01/03/2020 onwards. Of these cases, the onset of symptoms is unknown for 1,189,130 cases (50%) thus their date of reporting is provided in Figure 1.

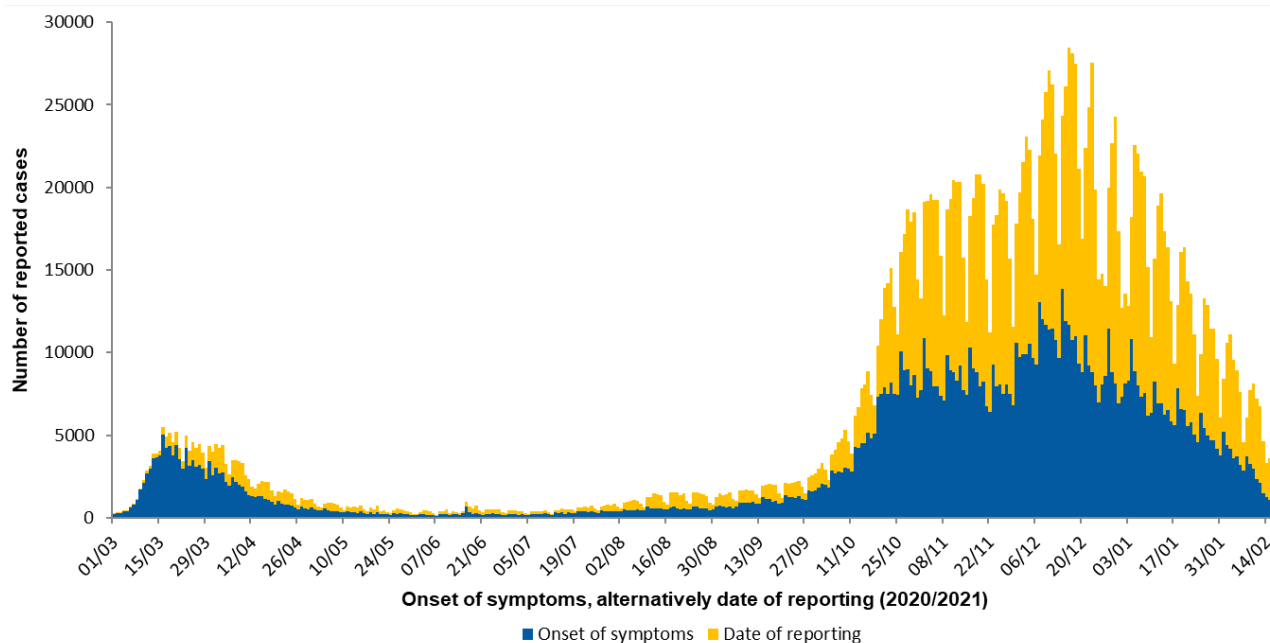


Figure 1: Number of COVID-19 cases in Germany electronically reported to the RKI by the date of symptoms onset or – if unknown – alternatively by date of reporting since 01/03/2020 (18/02/2021, 12:00 AM).

Estimation of the reproduction number (R)

The reproduction number, R , is defined as the mean number of people infected by one infected person. The estimation of the R -value is based on the so-called nowcasting (Figure 2), a statistical procedure that shows the development of the number of cases after the onset of the disease and also forecasts it for the last few days. This forecast is subject to uncertainty, which is also reflected in the prediction intervals given for the R -value. After further case reports have been received at the RKI, the R -value is adjusted for the past days and, if necessary, corrected upwards or downwards. In recent weeks, values reported at the beginning of a week were typically corrected slightly upwards. They had thus slightly underestimated the real COVID-19 events in Germany, while values estimated towards the end of a week were more stable. The currently estimated course of the R -value is shown in Figure 3.

4-day R-value	7-day R-value
0.87	0.94
(95%-prediction interval: 0.74 – 1.03)	(95%-prediction interval: 0.87 – 1.02)

Delays in reporting of case numbers at weekend days can lead to cyclical fluctuations of the 4-day R -value. The 7-day R -value is less affected because all week days are used to determine the value.

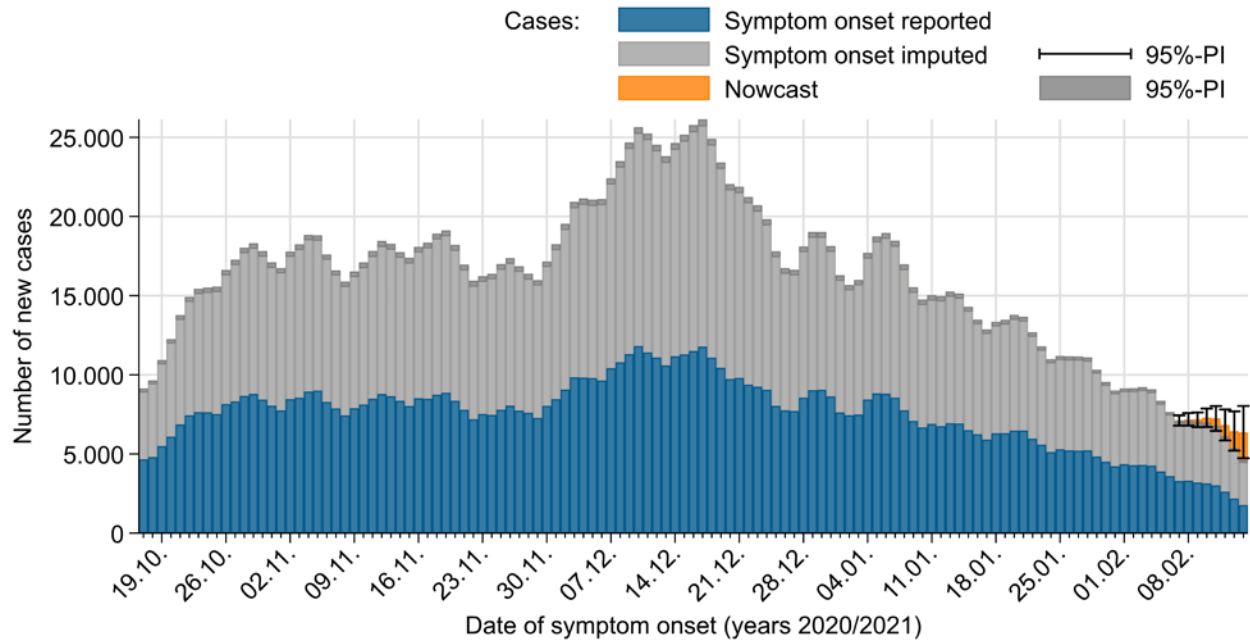


Figure 2: Number of notified COVID-19 cases with known date of illness onset (dark blue), estimated date of illness onset for cases without reported date of onset (grey) and estimated number of not yet notified cases according to illness onset electronically reported to RKI (orange) (as of 18/02/2021, 12 AM, considering cases up to 14/02/2021).

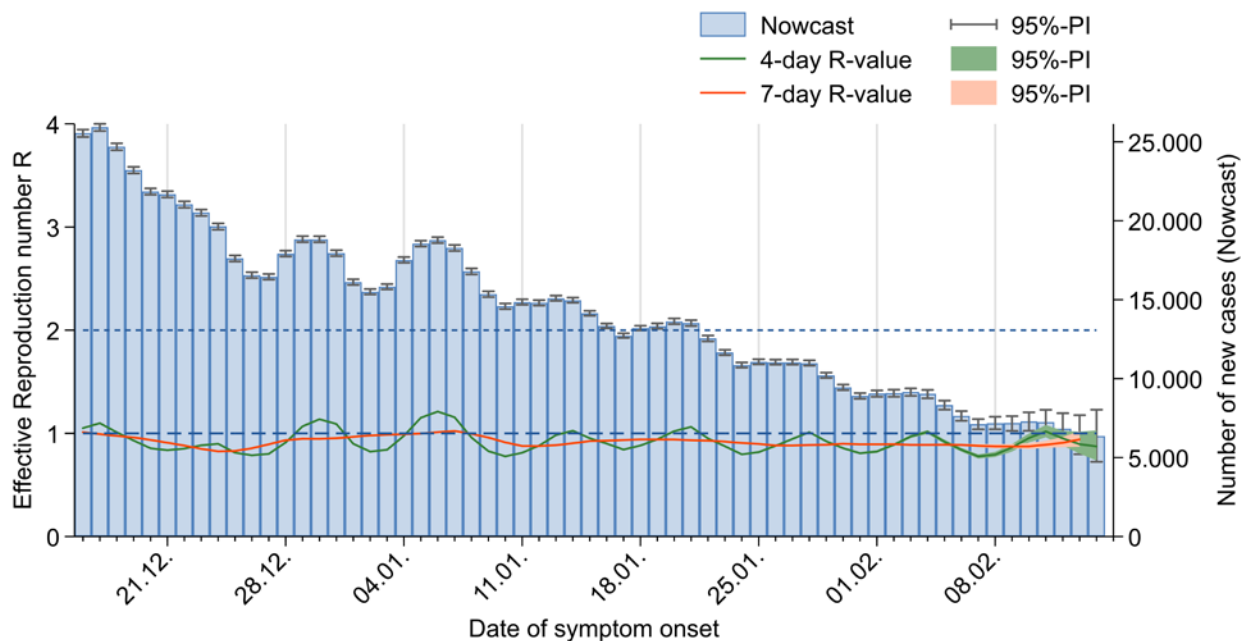


Figure 3: The estimated R-values (in green and orange) over the last 60 days, against the background of the estimated number of COVID-19 cases according to illness onset (as of 18/02/2021, 12 AM, considering cases up to 14/02/2021).

The 7-day R-value has remained below 1 since the second week of January 2021. However, due to the occurrence of different virus variants (see below) there is an increased risk of a renewed increase in the number of cases.

Sample calculations as well as an excel sheet presenting both R-values with daily updates can be found under <http://www.rki.de/covid-19-nowcasting>. A detailed description of the methodology is available at https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/Infekt/EpidBull/Archiv/2020/17/Art_02.html (Epid. Bull, 17 | 2020 from 23/04/2020).

DIVI intensive care register

The German Interdisciplinary Association for Intensive and Emergency Medicine (DIVI) has in collaboration with RKI established a registry to document the number of available intensive care beds as well as the number of COVID-19 cases treated in participating hospitals on a daily basis. Since 16/04/2020, all hospitals with intensive care beds are required to report (<https://www.intensivregister.de/#/index>).

As of 18/02/2021, a total of **1,279** hospitals reported to the DIVI registry. Overall, **26,906** intensive care beds were registered, of which **22,328** (83%) are occupied, and **4,578** (17%) beds are currently available. The number of COVID-19 cases treated in participating hospitals is shown in Table 2.

Table 2: COVID-19 patients requiring intensive care (ICU) recorded in the DIVI register (18/02/2021, 12:15 PM).

		Number of patients	Change to previous day*
Currently	Currently in ICU	3,177	-74
	- thereof with invasive ventilation	1,806 (57%)	-36
	New admissions to ICU		+270
Total	Discharged from ICU	73,287	+344
	- thereof deaths	20,936 (29%)	+98 (28%)

*The interpretation of these numbers must consider the number of reporting hospitals and therefore the number of reported patients may change from day to day. On certain days, this can explain an occasionally important decrease or increase in the cumulative number of discharged patients or deaths compared with the day before.

Information from additional RKI based surveillance systems for acute respiratory illnesses

GrippeWeb ("FluWeb") is a web interface at RKI for monitoring the activity of acute respiratory illness (ARI), utilizing information from the population. In **week 6, 2021**, the rate of ARI ("ARI rate") **increased markedly**. **Despite the increase**, the ARI rate **is still** below the level of the previous years. Further information can be found under <https://grippeweb.rki.de/>.

The Influenza Working Group (AGI) monitors ARI through a sentinel network of physicians in private practices. In **week 6, 2021**, the overall number of patients visits due to acute respiratory infections (ARI rate) **remained stable**. Since week 2, 2021, the ARI rate has been on a markedly lower level compared to previous years, especially in children under 15 years of age. Within the viral surveillance of the AGI, respiratory viruses were detected in **29** of **147** sentinel samples (**20%**) in **week 6, 2021**. Among those, rhinovirus was identified in **15** samples (**10%**), SARS-CoV-2 in **11** samples (**7%**) and human seasonal coronavirus (hCoV) was found in **4** samples (**3%**). Since week 40, 2020, SARS-COV-2 has been found in **185** (8%) of **2,236** samples. Sporadic human seasonal coronaviruses (hCoV) have been identified since week 2, 2020. Influenza virus or Respiratory Syncytial Virus have been detected none of the **2,243** samples tested since week 40, 2020. Further information can be found under <https://influenza.rki.de/>.

A third, ICD-10 code-based system monitors severe acute respiratory illness (SARI) in hospitalized patients (ICD-10 codes J09 to J22: primary diagnoses influenza, pneumonia or other acute infections of the lower respiratory tract). In **week 5, 2021**, the overall number of SARI cases decreased **further**. **The number of SARI**

cases aged below 80 years were markedly lower than usual at this time of the year. The SARI case numbers in the age group 80 years and above were still comparable to the case numbers of previous years.

Since week 45, 2020, more than half of the reported SARI cases per week have been diagnosed with COVID-19 (ICD-10 code U07.1!) (Figure 4). The proportion of COVID-19 infections has decreased in recent weeks to 60% in week 5, 2021. Due to low case numbers, proportions of COVID-19 cases in different age groups were not calculated. Please note that due to data availability only patients with an ICD-10 Code for SARI as the main diagnosis and hospitalisation duration of up to one week were included in this analysis.

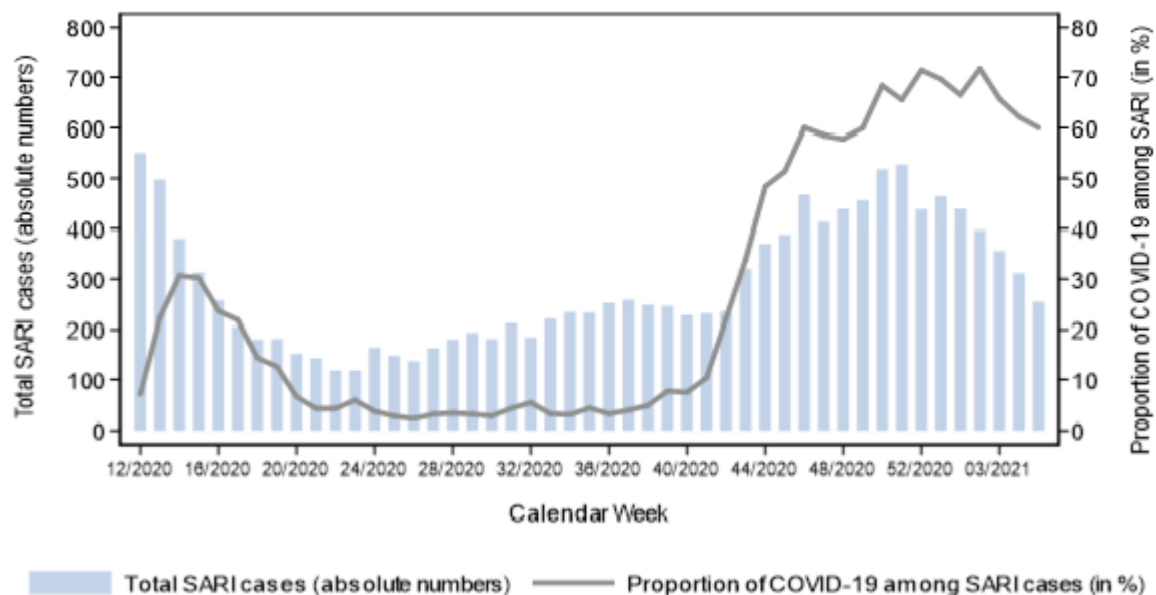


Figure 4: Weekly number of SARI cases (ICD-10 codes J09-J22) and proportion of cases with a diagnosis of COVID-19 (ICD-10 code U07.1!) among SARI cases with duration of hospitalization of up to one week and with date of admission in weeks 12 to 5, 2021, from 72 sentinel hospitals

Data on emergency department utilization

In collaboration with the National Emergency Department Register AKTIN (<https://www.aktin.org/en/>), and with the ESEG project partners (https://www.rki.de/EN/Content/infections/epidemiology/ESEG/ESEG_node.html), the RKI analyses emergency department utilisation, and prepares weekly situation report: <https://www.rki.de/EN/Content/Institute/DepartmentsUnits/InfDiseaseEpidem/Div32/sumo/sumo.html>

Within the emergency department situation report of the 17 February 2021, data from 22 emergency departments have been included from 01 January 2019 up to and including 14 February 2021. In week 6-2021, 11,790 admissions were recorded; which was a +4.1% change compared to last week, and a -29.1% average change compared to the mean of the pre-pandemic year 2019 (see Figure 5).

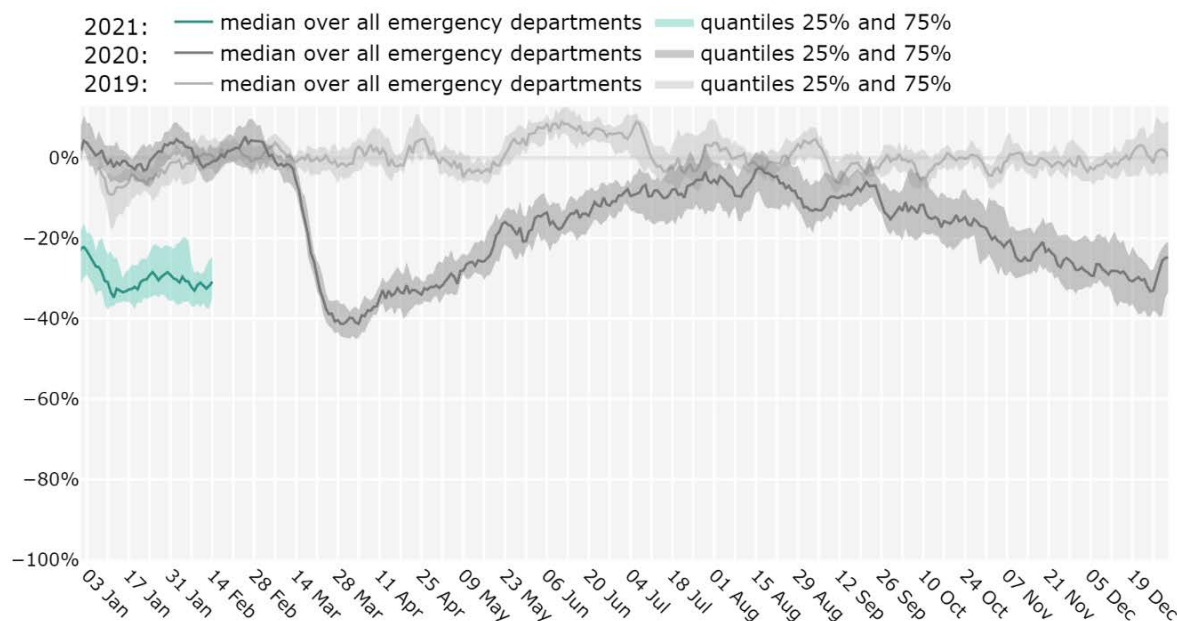


Figure 5: Relative deviation of admissions in each emergency department compared to its mean in 2019, from January 2019 to January 2021 (as of 17 February 2021), averaged over all emergency departments.

Risk Assessment by the RKI

In view of persistently high case numbers, the RKI currently assesses the threat to the health of the general population to be **very high**. The revised version highlights the ongoing community transmission of SARS-CoV-2 as well as the occurrence of outbreaks especially in nursing and senior care homes, households, and occupational settings.

Against the background of rising occurrence of variants of concern (VOC) with higher infectiousness, a rigorous reduction of physical contacts, usage of protective measures as well as intensive efforts to contain outbreaks and chains of infections are necessary to reduce the number of new infections and to protect vulnerable persons.

On 12/02/2021, the risk assessment was updated with reference to the new SARS-CoV-2 variants. The current version can be found here: www.rki.de/covid-19-risikobewertung (in German).

Measures taken in Germany

- Report of SARS-CoV-2 variants in Germany, especially of VOC B.1.1.7 (Update 17/02/2021, in German) https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/InfAZ/N/Neuartiges_Coronavirus/DESH/Berichte-VOC-tab.html
- Information on the designation of international risk areas (05/02/2021) https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/InfAZ/N/Neuartiges_Coronavirus/Risikogebiete_neu.html
- Seroepidemiological studies in Germany (04/02/2021) www.rki.de/covid-19-serostudies-germany
- Entry restrictions to Germany for travelers from countries designated as regions with variants (30/01/2021; in German)

https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/InfAZ/N/Neuartiges_Coronavirus/Transport/CoronaSchV_Mutationen.pdf?blob=publicationFile

- German electronic Sequencing-Data-Hub (DESH, Deutscher elektronischer Sequenzdaten-Hub) https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/InfAZ/N/Neuartiges_Coronavirus/DESH/DESH.html (21.01.2021, *in German*)
- Recommendations on COVID-19-vaccination (*in German*) <https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/Infekt/Impfen/ImpfungenAZ/COVID-19/Impfempfehlung-Zusfassung.html>
- Further governmental resolutions regarding additional containment measures (Lockdown, *in German*) <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-de/themen/coronavirus/mpk-beschluss-corona-1834364>
- Vaccination started in Germany on the 26th of December 2020 (*in German*) <http://www.rki.de/covid-19-impfquoten>
- Regulation to entry to Germany (13/01/2021, *in German*) https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/fileadmin/Dateien/3_Downloads/C/Coronavirus/Verordnungen/Corona-Einreiseverordnung_BAnz.pdf
- National Testing Strategy – who will be tested for SARS-CoV-2 in Germany (*in German*) https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/InfAZ/N/Neuartiges_Coronavirus/Teststrategie/Nat-Teststrat.html
- Important information and guidance on SARS-CoV-2 for returning travellers (*in German*) https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/InfAZ/N/Neuartiges_Coronavirus/Transport/BMG_Merkblatt_Reisende_Tab.html
- Selected and regularly updated information on COVID-19 <https://www.rki.de/covid-19-en>
- The ministry of health has published a record of all measures implemented in Germany since 27/01/2020 (*in German*) <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/coronavirus/chronik-coronavirus.html>
- Information from the Ministry of Health for travellers entering Germany: Frequently asked questions and answers (*in German*) <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/coronavirus-infos-reisende/faq-tests-einreisende.html>
- Corona-Warn-App www.rki.de/covid-19-warnapp-en
- Information on additional regulations at the regional level regarding control measures such as physical distancing or quarantine regulations for persons entering from other countries can be accessed here (*in German*): <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-de/themen/coronavirus/corona-bundeslaender-1745198>

Annex

- ¹ The difference to the previous day is based on the date cases are received at RKI. Due to delay in data transmission, cases from preceding days may be included.
- ² Active cases were calculated from the number of transmitted cases minus deaths and the estimated number of recovered cases.
- ³ The algorithm for estimation of recovered cases considers information on disease onset and hospitalization, but not for late effects, because such data are not recorded regularly.
- ⁴ Data on COVID-19 vaccinations are only updated on weekdays. On Sundays, updated figures are not reported.