

RSS Topic Meeting on R

From Ian Reynolds

I think that the presence of asymptomatic cases is a real problem for R. They affect both the numerator and the denominator of R.

It is highly likely that age affects asymptomatic cases with younger persons more likely to be so. Hence over time, as vaccination is concentrated on the older members of the population, then the proportion of asymptomatic cases will be increasing.

More testing may have the same or the opposite effect.

So complex statistical projections of R are pointless. We should ignore R and concentrate on tested cases, hospital admissions and deaths albeit a number of the latter are “with Covid” rather than “as a result of Covid.”

9 June 2021