COVID-19 Short Term Forecast
10 August 2020

Short term forecast

The prediction model assumes growth over a 7 day period, based on case information from the previous 14 days. The prediction model does not incorporate changes in behaviour, testing patterns, case definitions or other nuances of how these numbers are calculated and as such should be recognised as a simplistic projection of forward numbers and not as an accurate means of determining reality. It is for this reason that it is important to routinely evaluate the model against what is actually being observed.
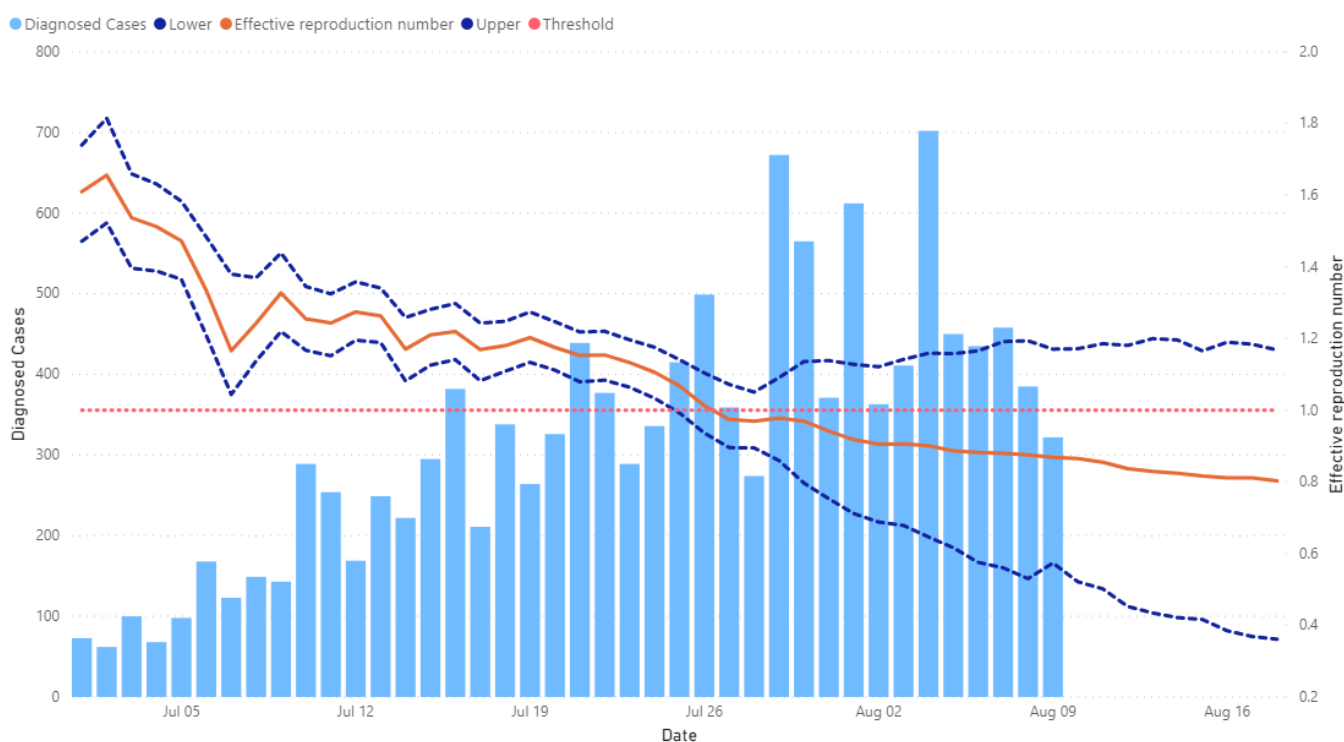
Forecast for the week ahead

Figure 14: Effective reproduction number, R_{eff}, against cases. If R_{eff} is less than one, the epidemic will wave. If it is above one, it will grow.

Figure 14 shows the effective reproduction number, R_{eff}. This week represents the first time in many weeks that R_{eff} has crossed the critical 1.0 threshold. The current estimated value of R_{eff} is 0.97 (CI 0.89-1.05).

The predictions for the week ahead are shown in Figure 15. By the end of next week (15-08-2020), the model predicts 302 confirmed cases per day (95% CI [274, 331]).
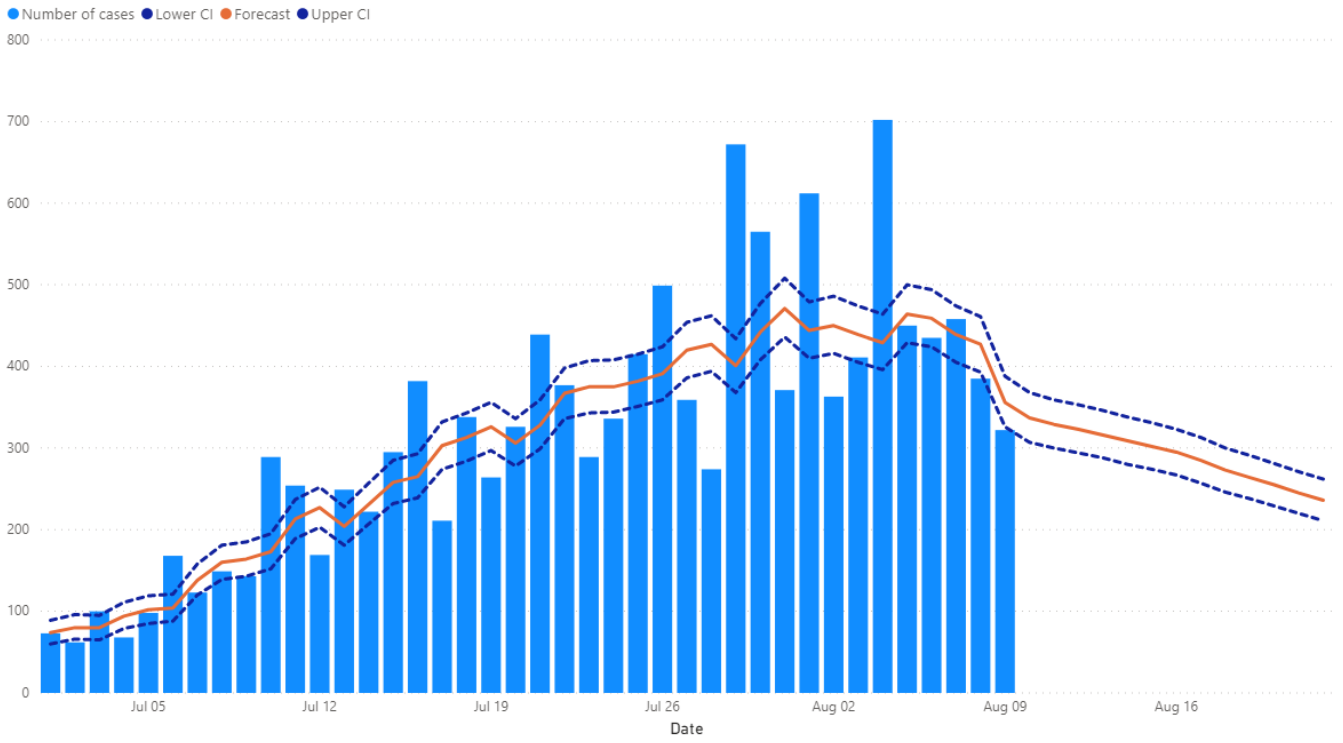
Figure 15: Forecasts for the predicted number of cases for the next 7 days.