

Result

Early 2022 (Omicron variant)

Policy measures eased	Impact
face covering, event cancelling and work-from-home	significantly increased spread
Opening schools and lifting international travel restrictions	no measurable direct impact

Policies were lifted individually in mid-2021 (Delta variant)

Event cancelling, work-from-home	no measurable direct impact (face covering requirement still in place)
Face covering (reduced, not lifted)	no measurable direct impact

This suggests: Keeping some form of masking requirement made a difference.

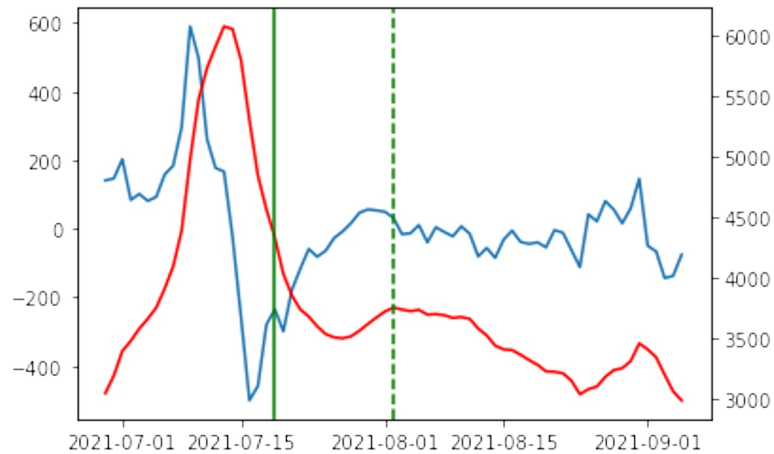
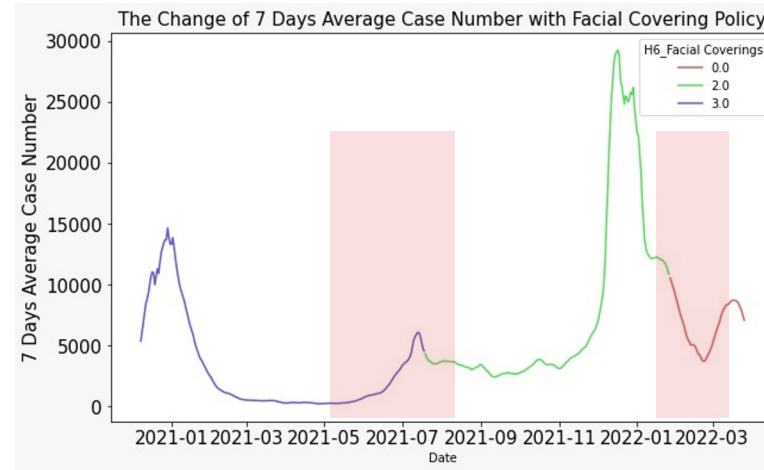
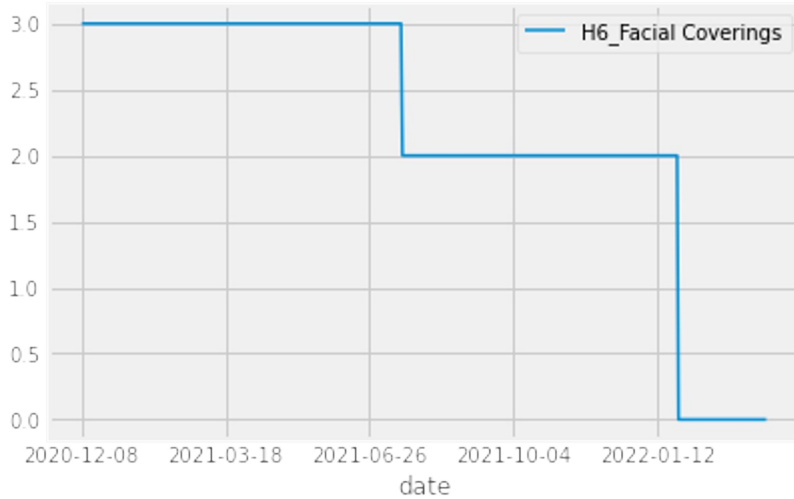
Takeaways

1) Lifting mask requirements completely, together with other measures, with a more transmissible variant in winter, significantly increased spread.

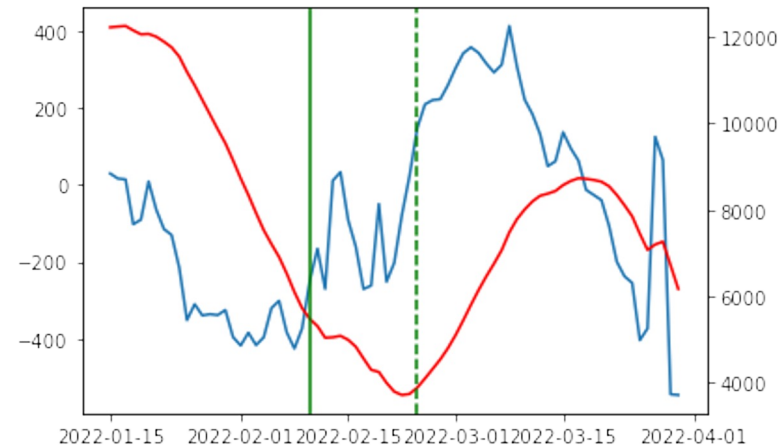
2) Lifting the same restrictions in summer with a less transmissible variant and some mask requirements remaining, did not significantly increase spread.

3) School openings and allowing international travel had no direct measurable impact (early 2022).

Change of facial covering policy



Delta 2021 summer



Omicron 2022 spring

Key

Three levels of face covering policy:

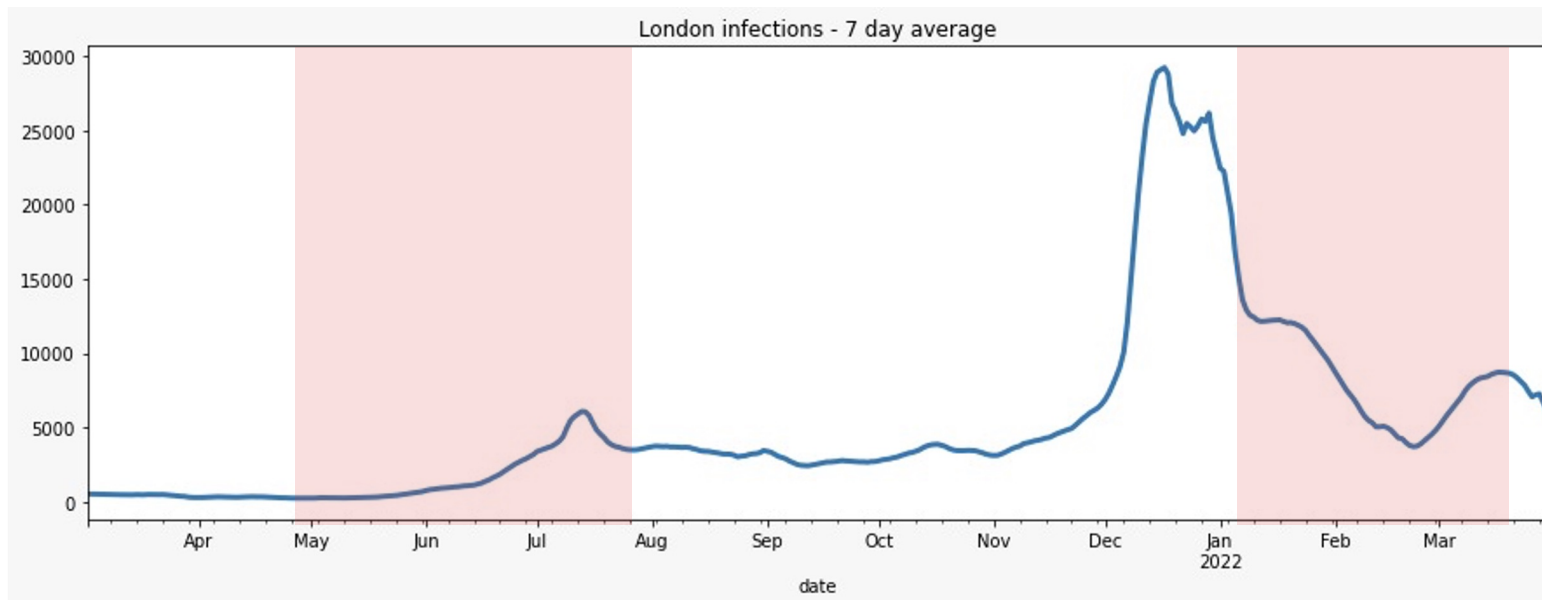
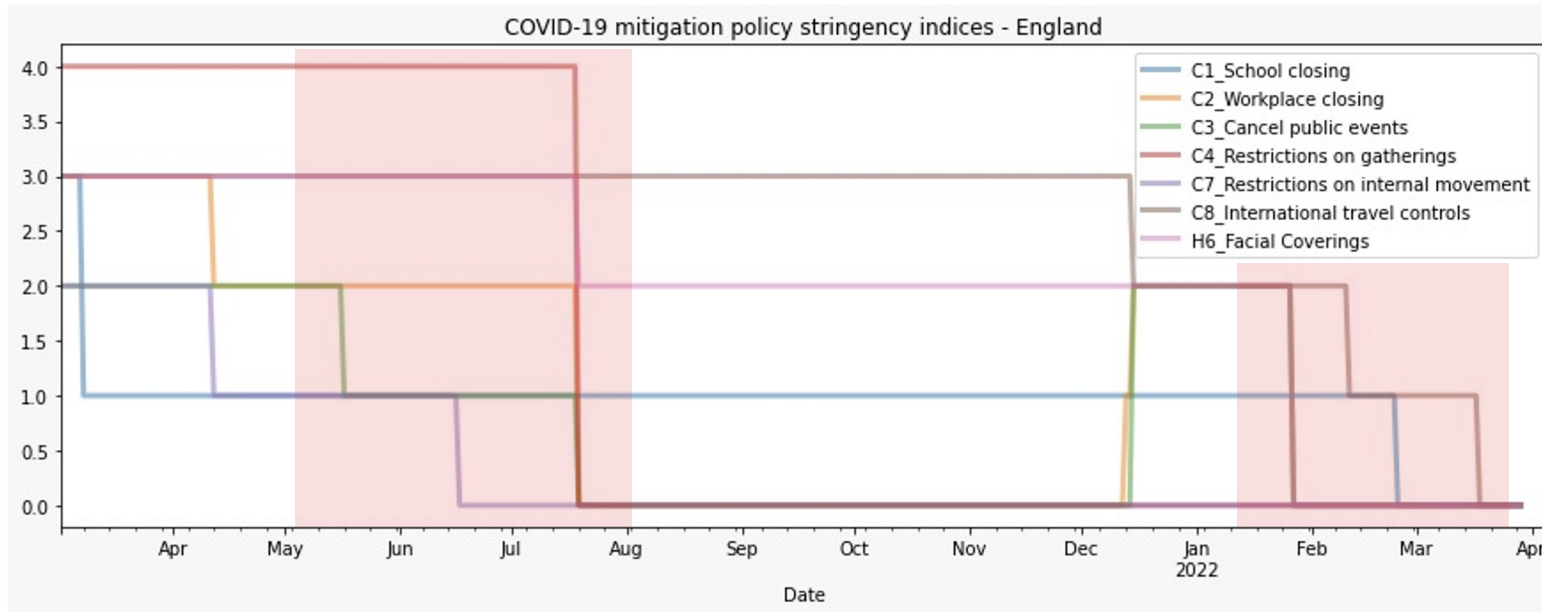
- 0 - no mask
- 2 - more masks
- 3 - mask mask mask!

Methodology:
Interrupted time series regression

No. of Cases —

Slope of Cases —

$p < 0.05$



Policy and Wave

Delta 2021 summer :

- Intensity of many policies decreased ✓
- Case number rises again ✗
- Lift of policies significantly increased spread ✗

Omicron 2022 spring :

- Intensity of many policies decreased ✓
- Case number rises again ✓
- Lift of policies significantly increased spread ✓