

COVID-19 research on the London network

Death rates among bus workers disproportionately high

In UK on 4th April 2020:

- 64.24 per million confirmed cases
- 13.26 per million confirmed deaths
- National lockdown in place for 10 days

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Coronavirus: Five London bus workers die, union confirms

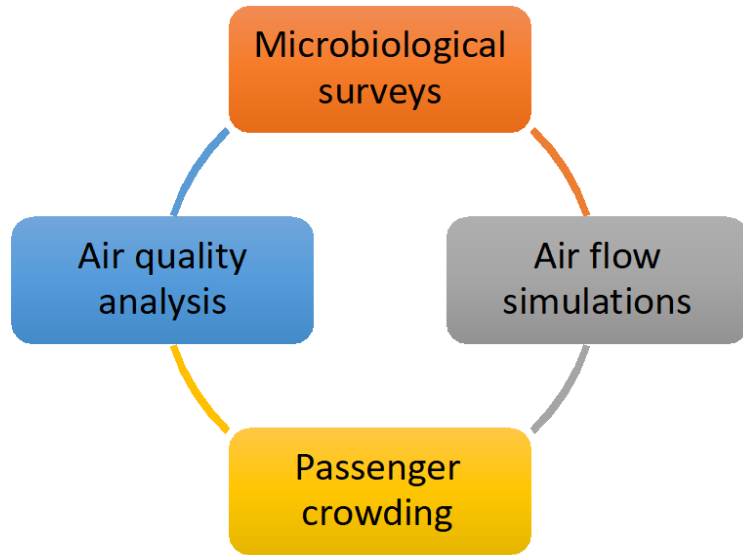
🕒 4 April 2020

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Five London bus workers have died after being diagnosed with coronavirus

UCL VIRAL:

Reducing the Risk of Virus
Transmission on London's Public
Transport Vehicles



www.bit.ly/uclviral

@UCLViral

On the London public transport network

Worked with Transport for London to identify how, where and when to carry out sampling

Identified high touch surface locations and piloted sampling methods

Collected surface and air samples from eight live carriages on each of three lines

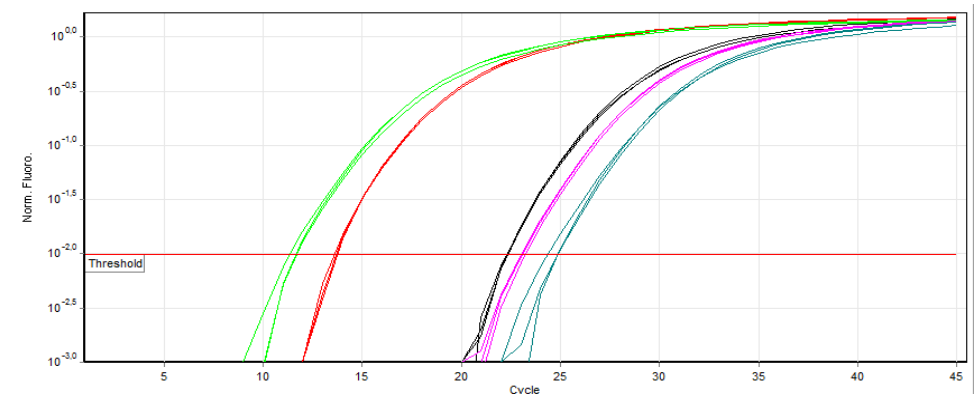
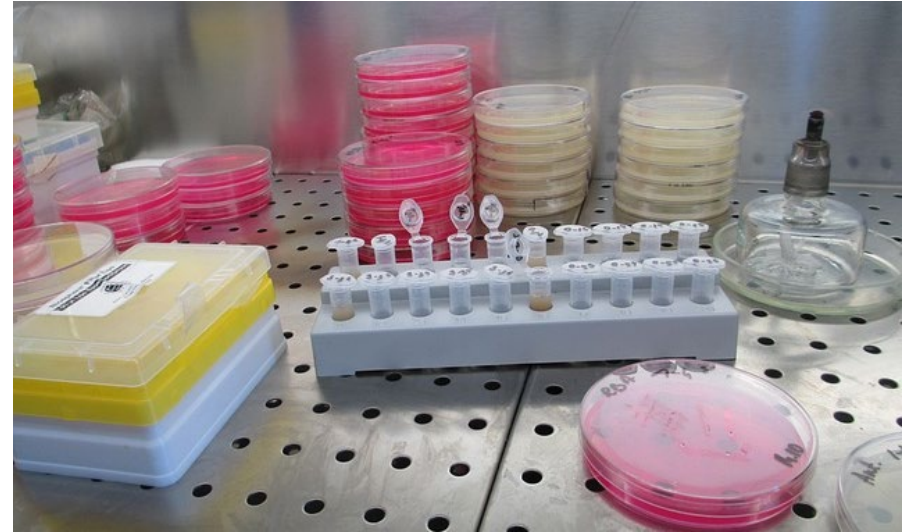


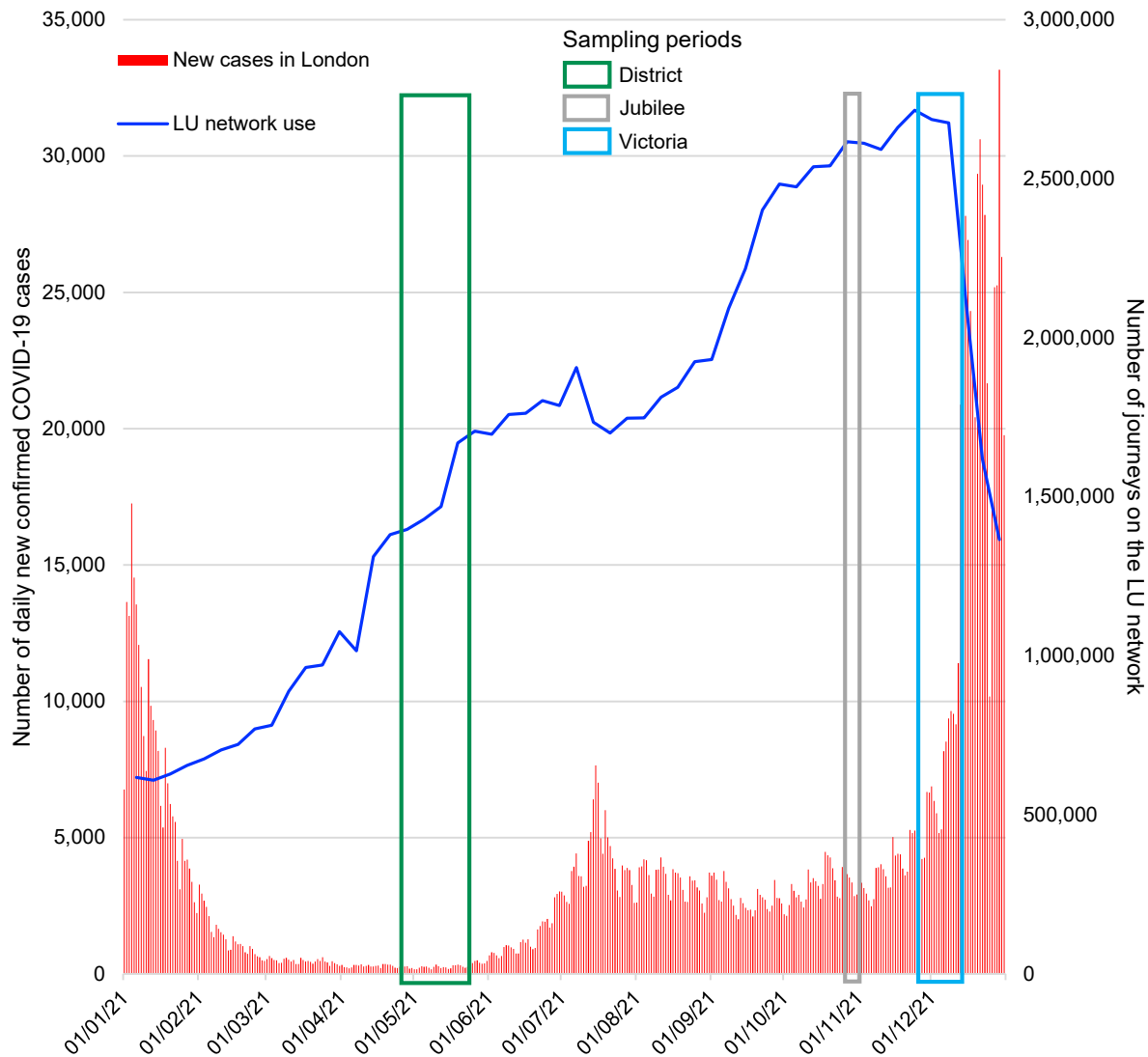
In the laboratory

Quantified bacterial colony forming units and SARS-CoV-2 RNA copies in each of the samples, either per 100 cm² or m³

Correlated this with:

- Observed passenger numbers;
- Observed surface touches;
- LU network use;
- New confirmed COVID-19 cases in London





Our results

Bacterial contamination was consistent across all lines and over time

SARS-CoV-2 RNA was detected in higher concentrations when community cases were high:

- Up to 10^7 copies/100 cm² on surfaces
- Up to 10^5 copies/m³ of air

Our results

SARS-CoV-2 RNA surface contamination correlated with number of observed touches

SARS-CoV-2 RNA air contamination correlated with the number of passengers using the LU network

Much higher concentrations of SARS-CoV-2 RNA when cases were lower but no masks compared to when cases were higher but with masks



Covid: Travel and mask rules tightened over Omicron variant

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Watch Boris Johnson set out new measures after two cases of the Omicron variant were found in the UK