

# The Case for Remaining Vigilant

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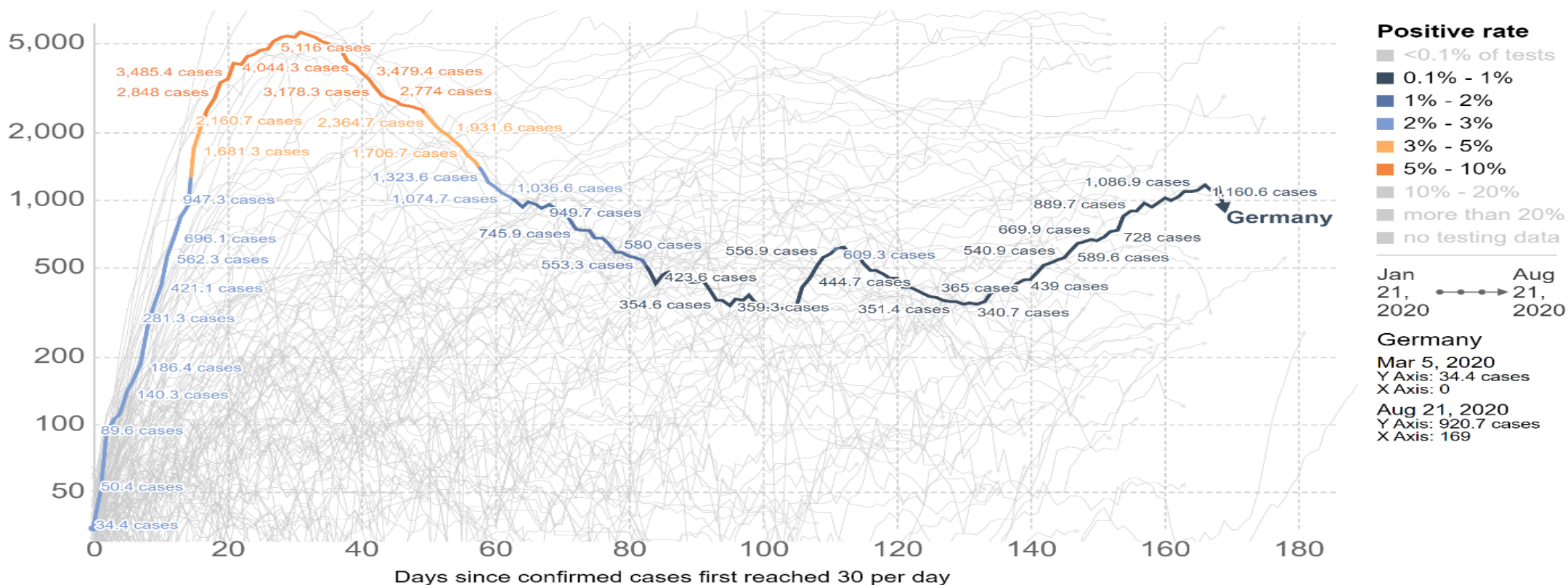


# This is the impact of being vigilant

## Daily new confirmed COVID-19 cases

Shown is the rolling 7-day average. The number of confirmed cases is lower than the number of actual cases; the main reason for that is limited testing.

Our World in Data



Source: European CDC – Situation Update Worldwide – Last updated 21 August, 11:34 (London time), Official data collated by Our World in Data  
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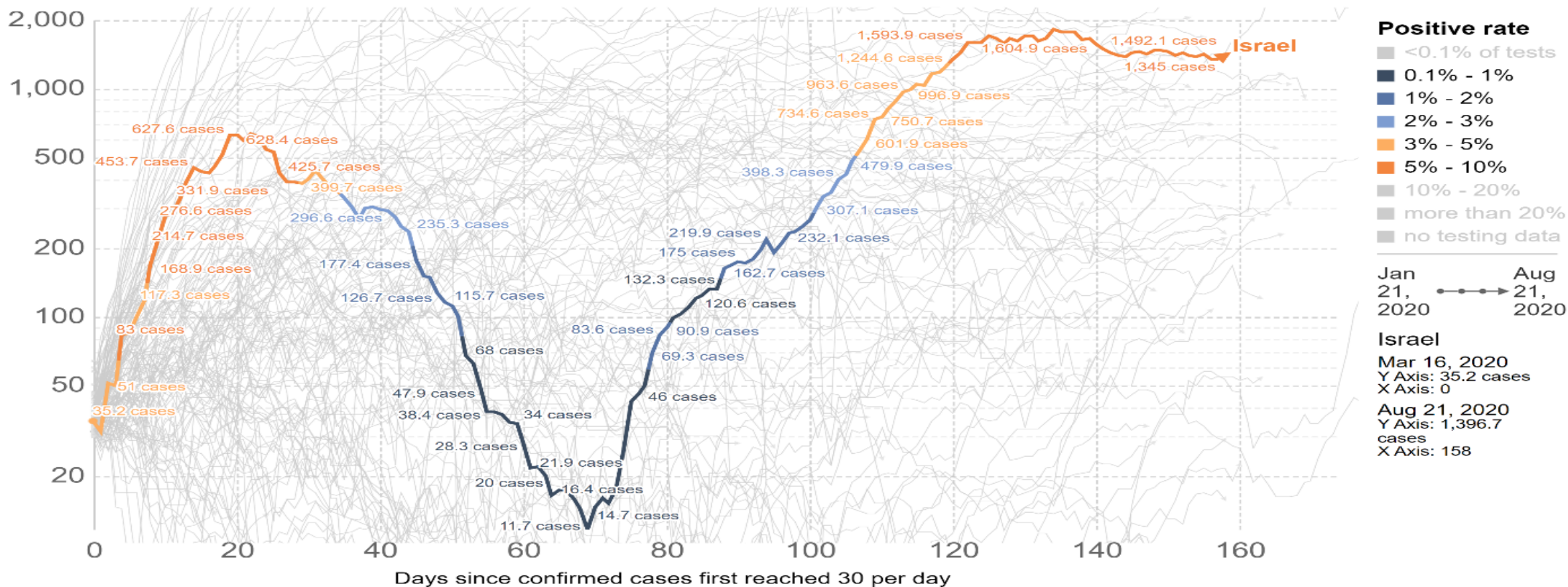


# This is where we could be if we do not remain vigilant

## Daily new confirmed COVID-19 cases

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## The case for remaining vigilant:

- Decisions to adjust public health measures should be based on scientific evidence and take into account other critical factors: Economic factors, security-related factors, human rights, food security, and public sentiment and adherence to measures (WHO guidance).
- Moving from risk-adjusted Level 3 to Level 2 - more opportunities for people to interact (at schools, university campuses, workplaces, leisure spaces, on public transport), and therefore increases risk of spreading.
- Risk for the spread no different between the two levels, but just that the health system is better prepared.

### **Country experiences:**

- A second surge after relaxing measures.
- Opening of sections of the economy at once (including theme parks) without insufficient time to assess effects.
- Resurgence due to behaviour: beaches open, young people partying without NPIs, holiday-makers from outside the country.
- Not implementing measures to reduce transmission or a breach in infection control procedures
- Being complacent on the adherence to NPIs.
- In countries the 2<sup>nd</sup> surge of infections was bigger than the 1<sup>st</sup> – (Israel and Australia).
- Other countries had to re-instate measures and isolated some communities (China and Uganda).



## The case for remaining vigilant:

- Countries advised to monitor the pandemic through surveillance and put in place the Public health and social measures.
- Known facts: reduce transmission as virus spreads from person-to-person - need to break the chains of transmission.
- Pharmaceutical interventions (e.g. therapies and vaccines) still under development and until then the non-Pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs) need to be implemented and adhered to correctly and vigilantly to prevent sparks of infection (small fires).
- This includes: To loosen or reinstate measures and personal protective measures
- NPIs remain the best and the only proven ways to disrupt transmission and reduce the spread of COVID-19;
- Types of NPIs – personal (e.g. physical distancing, frequent hand hygiene, proper wearing and handling of cloth masks); community (e.g. workplace closures, curfews restrictions in movement) environment (decontaminating surfaces) & travel-related measures

## The case for remaining vigilant:

- A second surge can (may) happen here as well, so adherence to NPIs is still essential. Complacency is not an option. The vulnerable and the susceptible have to be protected to minimise morbidity and mortality
- Extremely important to sustain behaviour change over time & sustained NPIs communication to encourage and support healthy behaviour which bear a positive outcome to COVID-19 and other illnesses
- As the WHO Director General emphasised “there are two essential elements to addressing the pandemic effectively: Leaders must step up to take action and citizens need to embrace new measures”.
- Adherence to NPIs helped reduce the number of cases and in Level 2 we must continue. Everybody must continue now more than ever.
- Collective outcome from every individual adhering to the NPIs and supporting each other as families and communities



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**Be the change. Stop the Spread**



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**THANK YOU**