

w/c 26th October 2020

Produced by Health Evidence Matters

Public Health England

HPV vaccination coverage in adolescent females and males in England: 2019 to 2020

Data are presented for human papillomavirus vaccine coverage for vaccinations received by Year 8 and Year 9 females and males, by local authority and NHS England local team, in the academic year 2019 to 2020.

[Details](#)

World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW) & European Antibiotic Awareness Day (EAAD): Resources toolkit for healthcare professionals in England in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic

This year the focus will be on Health and Social Care Workers. In view of the challenges of responding to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, a scaled back approach to WAAW local campaigns has been considered in this updated toolkit with a focus on digital means of communicating.

[Details](#)

Weekly national flu and COVID-19 surveillance report published (week 43)

Several surveillance indicators suggest COVID-19 activity at a national level has continued to increase during week 42, though infection rates may have started to decline in some age cohorts. Flu activity remains low, with vaccine uptake higher compared to this time last year.

[Details](#)

Public Health Matters: How local tracing partnerships are supporting NHS Test and Trace

Since July, 100 local authorities have worked in partnership with NHS Test and Trace to provide local tracing partnerships which combine national scale and data with local knowledge. Deborah Harkins, Calderdale's Director of Public Health, discusses how it is working in her area.

[Details](#)

Public Health Matters: COVID-19 dashboard: a design and feature evolution

Blog explaining changes to the recently launched a refreshed COVID-19 dashboard design with some new features.

[Details](#)

Department of Health and Social Care

A reminder that all government articles on Covid-19 can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Full list of local COVID alert levels by area

The areas in England listed as local COVID alert level high and local COVID alert level very high

[Details](#)

Lower tier local authority watchlist: epidemiological data, 23 October 2020

Weekly report giving epidemiological coronavirus (COVID-19) data for each local authority in England.

[Details](#)

Office for National Statistics recommendation for publishing data at small geographies for NHS Test and Trace

Assessing disclosure issues, especially of low counts, alongside the practical use of providing these counts publicly.

[Details](#)

New measures to support roll-out of vaccines in the UK

Changes to Human Medicines Regulations 2012, effective from 16th October 2020, now allow independent nurses, allied healthcare professionals, paramedics, physiotherapists, pharmacists and student nurses and doctors to administer flu and COVID-19 vaccines with appropriate training. The changes will also allow the MHRA to exceptionally grant temporary authorisation, pending the granting of a licence, for new vaccines and treatments needed to tackle public health threats - provided they meet the highest safety, quality and effectiveness standards and there's a significant public health justification for doing so.

[Details](#)

UK pandemic preparedness

This document sets out how the UK prepares for and responds to an infectious disease pandemic, particularly a potential outbreak of pandemic influenza, and how exercises carried out as part of pandemic preparedness have informed UK's COVID-19 response.

[Details](#)

Human challenge studies of COVID-19

Experts from the NHS, academia and the private sector are joining forces with the government to explore and establish human challenge trials in the UK to speed up the development of a COVID-19 vaccine.

In human challenge studies, a vaccine candidate that has proven to be safe in initial trials is given to a small number of carefully selected healthy adult volunteers who are then exposed to the virus in a safe and controlled environment. Medics and scientists then closely monitor the effect on volunteers to see exactly how the vaccine works and to identify any side effects

[Details](#)

[BMJ article](#)

Health Secretary warns of long-term effects of COVID-19 as new film released

The Health Secretary is urging the public – and especially young people – to follow the rules and protect themselves and others from COVID-19, as new data and a new film released today reveal the potentially devastating long-term impact of the virus.

A study from King's College London (see below) shows 1 in 20 people with COVID-19 are likely to have symptoms for ≥8 weeks and long COVID affects around 10% of 18 to 49 year olds who become unwell with COVID-19.

[Details](#)

Sewage signals early warning of coronavirus outbreaks

A government-led programme has proven that fragments of genetic material from Covid-19 can be detected in wastewater. The data from such testing, which has been rolled out to over 90 treatment sites, will be shared with NHS Test and Trace, providing an early warning of outbreaks.

[Details](#)

Millions of extra flu jabs available to support largest UK vaccination programme

More than 30 million people will be vaccinated this year to protect them from flu, with priority being given to the most vulnerable, elderly and children. To support this, millions of doses of Flublok® have been authorised for supply by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency as part of the response to the ongoing public health crisis after it met the standards of safety, quality and effectiveness.

[Details](#)

Quarterly report on progress to address Covid-19 health inequalities

This report summarises the work undertaken by the Minister for Equalities and government departments on Covid-19 disparities.

[Details](#)

Independent review of NHS hospital food

Findings and recommendations of the independent review of NHS hospital food.

[Details](#)

[New blueprint for better hospital food](#)

Government Office for Science

The R number and growth rate in the UK

The latest reproduction number (R) and growth rate of coronavirus (COVID-19) in the UK.

Last updated on Friday 23 October 2020.

Latest R number range for the UK

1.2-1.4

Latest growth rate range for the UK

+3% to +6%

[Details](#)

NHS England and NHS Improvement

The NHS Innovation Accelerator has launched a COVID-19 response microsite showcasing evidence-based innovations ready to be implemented across the health and social care system.

The site can be filtered by key themes (e.g. managing the backlog, virtual care, self-management) and is a simple way to identify innovations that have been assessed, are already in use and have demonstrated impact

[Details](#)

Research and analysis from academic journals and preprints – coronavirus-related

BMJ Open: Deaths in people from Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities from both COVID-19 and non-COVID causes in the first weeks of the pandemic in London: a hospital case note review

Case review found deaths in patients from BAME communities in pandemic period increased both in the COVID-19 group (n=243; OR=2.43, 95% CI=1.60–3.68, p<0.001) and the non-COVID group (n= 136; OR=1.76, 95% CI=1.09–2.83, p=0.02) vs all deaths same 6 weeks in 2019 (n=194).

[Full text](#)

MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep: Risk for In-Hospital Complications Associated with COVID-19 and Influenza—Veterans Health Administration, United States, October 1, 2018–May 31, 2020

Patients who had been admitted to hospital with covid-19 had many more complications, and more serious ones, than patients with influenza. Patients with covid-19 were more likely than flu patients to need treatment in intensive care, had longer hospital stays, and were more likely to die.

[Full text](#)

Medrxiv: Attributes and predictors of Long-COVID: analysis of COVID cases and their symptoms collected by the Covid Symptoms Study App (preprint)

Data from 4182 incident cases of COVID-19 who logged their symptoms prospectively in the COVID Symptom Study app showed that 558 (13.3%) had symptoms lasting >28 days, 189 (4.5%) for >8 weeks and 95 (2.3%) for >12 weeks.

Long-COVID was characterised by symptoms of fatigue, headache, dyspnoea and anosmia and was more likely with increasing age, BMI and female sex. Experiencing more than five symptoms during the first week of illness was associated with Long-COVID.

[Full text](#)

Diabetology & Metabolic Syndrome: Severity and mortality of COVID 19 in patients with diabetes, hypertension and cardiovascular disease: a meta analysis

Meta-analysis (40 articles; n=18,012) showed that diabetes, hypertension and especially cardiovascular disease, are important risk factors for severity and mortality in COVID-19 infected people, but use of ACEI/ARB, was not associated with severity of COVID-19.

[Full text](#)

The Lancet Respiratory Medicine: Cytokine elevation in severe and critical COVID-19: a rapid systematic review, meta-analysis, and comparison with other inflammatory syndromes

Review (25 studies; n=1245) found that although cytokine (CK) levels are elevated in patients with severe and critical COVID-19, degree of cytokinaemia is markedly less than in other disorders with elevated CKs, suggesting alternative mechanisms of COVID-19 linked organ dysfunction

[Full text](#)

JAMA: Cytokine Levels in Critically Ill Patients With COVID-19 and Other Conditions

Study (n=46) found circulating cytokine (CK) levels that were lower compared with patients with bacterial sepsis and similar to other critically ill patients, suggesting COVID-19 may not be characterised by CK storm and thus unclear whether antiCK therapies will be of benefit.

[Full text](#)

British Journal of General Practice Excess mortality in the first COVID pandemic peak: cross-sectional analyses of the impact of age, sex, ethnicity, household size, and long-term conditions in people of known SARS-Cov-2 status in England

Study noted mortality peaked in week 16, with people living in households ≥ 9 having 5-fold increase in relative mortality. Male sex, population density, black ethnicity (vs. white), and people with long-term conditions, including learning disability had higher odds of mortality.

[Full text](#)

Annals of Internal Medicine: Ethical Framework for Assessing Manual and Digital Contact Tracing for COVID-19

This article analyses technical and ethical issues regarding new smartphone apps that facilitate contact tracing and exposure notification, and presents a framework for assessing contact tracing, whether manual or digital.

[Full text](#)

Annals of Internal Medicine: COVID-19 Mortality Risk in Down Syndrome: Results From a Cohort Study Of 8 Million Adults

Study of 8.26 million adults in England of whom 4053 had Down syndrome, estimated 4-fold increased risk for COVID-19 related hospitalisation and a 10-fold increased risk for COVID-19 related death, in persons with Down syndrome, a group that is currently not strategically protected

[Full text](#)

British Journal of Psychiatry: Mental health and wellbeing during the COVID-19 pandemic: longitudinal analyses of adults in the UK COVID-19 Mental Health & Wellbeing study

In study, 3077 adults completed survey at wave 1 (31 Mar to 09 April); suicidal ideation was found to have increased over time; symptoms of anxiety, levels of defeat and entrapment decreased across waves whereas levels of depressive symptoms did not change significantly.

[Full text](#)

BMJ: Living risk prediction algorithm (QCOVID) for risk of hospital admission and mortality from coronavirus 19 in adults: national derivation and validation cohort study

In cohort study (1205 general practices), QCOVID population based risk algorithm performed well, showing very high levels of discrimination for covid-19 deaths and hospital admissions. Absolute risks will change in line with infection rate & extent of social distancing measures.

[Full text](#)

JAMA: Herd Immunity and Implications for SARS-CoV-2 Control

Article discusses herd immunity in context of the pandemic and explains its threshold as a function of transmissibility (R_0), the role of an effective vaccine and vaccination program in sustaining it, and the risks of an infection-based herd immunity approach.

[Full text](#)

BMJ News: Covid-19: Second wave death rate is doubling fortnightly but is lower and slower than in March

Covid-19 deaths are now more than doubling fortnightly (a rate of 2.2). However, the rate of increase is currently lower and slower than in March 2020, when it was initially 10-fold

[Full text](#)

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BMJ News: Covid-19: Government shelves plans to invest £100bn in mass testing

According to a report by the BMJ, legal documents have shown that the government has abandoned plans for its 'Operation Moonshot' mass Covid-19 testing of the population, which was intending to provide 10 million tests a day by 2021.

[Full text](#)

BMJ Feature: Will covid-19 vaccines save lives? Current trials aren't designed to tell us

BMJ Feature notes none of the trials currently under way are designed to detect a reduction in any serious outcome such as hospital admissions, use of intensive care, or deaths, nor are the vaccines being studied to determine whether they can interrupt transmission of the virus.

[Full text](#)

[Editorial: Covid-19 vaccine trial protocols released](#)

Editorial notes that following months of campaigning for greater openness, four manufacturers have made their full study protocols publicly available, thus creating a rare opportunity for "real time transparency" in which the conduct of clinical trials is opened to public scrutiny while the studies are still under way.

NIHR Dissemination Centre

NIHR Alert: Sharing electronic records with patients led to improved control of type two diabetes

Expert commentary is provided on analysis of pooled data from 20 studies that showed sharing electronic records with patients with type 2 diabetes helped them to reduce blood sugar levels; some of studies also found link to reduced anxiety, cardiac symptoms and cholesterol levels

[Details](#)

Office for National Statistics (ONS)

Deaths involving COVID-19 (published 20th October)

- There were 438 deaths involving COVID-19 in England and Wales in the week ending 9 October 2020, the highest weekly figure since the week ending 3 July 2020. This was 4.4% of all deaths registered.
- The total number of deaths across England and Wales in the week ending 9 October 2020 was 9,954. This figure is above the five-year average for the eighth time in the past nine weeks.

[Details](#)

COVID-19 Infection Survey (published 23rd October)

The number of people with the coronavirus in England has risen to around 433,000 in the most recent week, or around 1 in 130 people.

There has been growth in COVID-19 infection rates in all age groups in England over the past two weeks including those aged over 70 years, with the current rates highest in older teenagers and young adults.

[Details](#)

Coronavirus and the social impacts on Great Britain: 23 October 2020

The weekly ONS survey from 14 to 18 October asks people to look back over the previous seven days. This week, for the first time, we asked adults how their children's schools been handling the return to school this term.

We also asked people to tell us if they were in a local lockdown area, to identify if this resulted in significant differences in experiences and behaviours. Responses to this survey were taken after the UK government announced the introduction of local COVID alert levels in England on 12 October 2020. We continued to ask about people's social and working lives, personal wellbeing and precautions they were taking to prevent the spread of the virus.

Findings include:

- Those in local lockdown areas were less likely to socialise indoors: 17% of those in a local lockdown area said they had not met up indoors with anyone, compared with 11% not in local lockdown.
- Only 4% of adults had met up indoors in a group with more than six people, and of these, 11% met up with only people from their household. More than half (56%) of those meeting up with more than six people indoors did so for events such as, worship service, sports or exercise or child's activity class.

[Details](#)

Monthly mortality analysis, September 2020

Mortality rates for deaths in September 2020 due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) have increased for the first time since the peak in April 2020.

Our monthly mortality analysis of provisional death registration data in England and Wales in September 2020 shows there were 39,827 deaths registered in England, 2,568 deaths more than the five-year average for September; in Wales, there were 2,610 deaths registered, 135 deaths more than the five-year average.

The leading cause of death in September 2020 was dementia and Alzheimer's disease in England (accounting for 11.2% of all deaths) and in Wales (11.1% of all deaths). The coronavirus (COVID-19) did not feature in the top 10 leading causes of death in September 2020, neither in England nor in Wales.

[Details](#)

A Wealth of Data: New Insight on Economic Inequality

Statistics on household finances have historically focused on either income, spending, or wealth. While each of these individual measures provides important insight, we can have a greater understanding of economic well-being when they are assessed together. Dominic Webber discusses a new experimental dataset that does just that.

[Details](#)

World Health Organization

WHO reports interim results of Solidarity Trial of COVID-19 drugs

Interim results suggest that remdesivir, hydroxychloroquine, lopinavir/ritonavir and interferon have had little or no effect on mortality, ventilation and duration of hospital stay. Only corticosteroids have been proven effective against severe and critical COVID-19.

[Details](#)

NHS Digital

Mental Health of Children and Young People in the Pandemic

Research on the effect of the pandemic on the mental health of children and young people in England, published in collaboration with the Office for National Statistics, NatCen Social Research, University of Cambridge and University of Exeter. The report, which also examines experiences of family life, education and services, and worries and anxieties during the COVID-19 pandemic, found that the

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proportion of children experiencing a probable mental disorder has increased over the past three years, from one in nine in 2017 to one in six in July this year.

[Details](#)

The Children's Society

Moving, always moving: the normalisation of housing insecurity among children in low income households in England

This report looks at the impact of insecure housing on children and young people. It reviews previous studies on the impact on health and finds that children who frequently move home are likely to have worse health outcomes (both physical and mental) and that this can follow through to adulthood.

[Details](#)

IPPR and Runnymede Trust

Ethnic inequalities in Covid-19 are playing out again – how can we stop them?

This long read from the IPPR and Runnymede Trust explores why ethnic minority groups are still looking to be most in danger as a second wave of the coronavirus pandemic hits, and asks what can be done to better understand and reduce these inequalities.

[Details](#)

Institute for Employment Studies

Health and wellbeing interventions in healthcare: a rapid evidence review

NHS Employers commissioned the Institute for Employment Studies to investigate the evidence base of health and wellbeing interventions used in health care and their implications for wellbeing outcomes. The findings add to current knowledge about wellbeing interventions that are commonly implemented, if there is any evidence of their efficacy, and what future research still needs to be undertaken in this area.

[Details](#)

Think Local Act Personal

A telling experience: understanding the impact of Covid-19 on people who access care and support – a rapid evidence review with recommendations

This report aims to identify what worked well, and to highlight areas that people found difficult, both generally and in relation to social care during the first phase of the coronavirus pandemic, seen through the lens of personalisation.

[Details](#)

CLOSER

Understanding human behaviour: the case of physical activity

Physical activity is widely considered a key factor to address many prevailing and emerging public health challenges, including the obesity epidemic, the worsening mental health of young people, and population ageing.

In this blog, Dr David Bann discusses the field and recent work from a CLOSER-funded project that has resulted in the creation of a comprehensive guide of the measures used to assess physical activity across six longitudinal studies.

[Details](#)

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Equality and Human Rights Commission

How coronavirus has affected equality and human rights

This report summarises evidence that helps in understanding the effects of the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic on different groups in society. It highlights potential long-term risks to equality and human rights covering key issues in the areas of: work; poverty; education; social care; and justice and personal security. It makes targeted recommendations for the UK, Scottish and Welsh governments to ensure equality and human rights considerations are integrated into the policy response to the pandemic.

[Details](#)

Doctors of the World

Delays and destitution: an audit of Doctors of the World's Hospital Access Project (July 2018–20)

This report finds that migrants living in extremely vulnerable circumstances in England are waiting up to 224 weeks to receive medical care because of laws forcing hospitals to carry out immigration checks and withhold care from patients deemed not eligible for free NHS treatment – even when the patient has no income, or the upfront payment would push them into severe debt or further poverty.

[Details](#)

New Economics Foundation

Patients not passports: learning from the international struggle for universal healthcare

This report focuses on the set of policies introduced as part of the government's Hostile Environment immigration policies – which restrict access to public services and criminalise everyday activities – to expand border enforcement into the NHS and restrict access to health care. To understand what might happen if the government continues to restrict access to health care in this way, the report explores what can be learnt from international practice, describing levels of migrant access to health care across Europe and the impact of different policies and practices.

[Details](#)

Kidney Care UK

Out of sight, out of mind: the continuing impact of Covid-19 on people living with kidney disease

This report (compiled using 860 responses from an online survey open from 28 August to 21 September 2020) finds that the majority of kidney patients have been expected to return to work once shielding ended and the furlough scheme ends. Nearly two-thirds of respondents (63%) said they were concerned for their safety but had to return regardless. Almost one in five (19%) said that their employer has been 'very unhelpful' or 'unhelpful' in their return. The report states the government needs to take immediate and long-term action to protect the wellbeing of around 70,000 vulnerable kidney patients.

[Details](#)

Carers UK

Caring behind closed doors: six months on

Carers UK carried out an online survey of 5,904 carers and former carers between 11–28 September 2020. It finds that carers are desperately worried about how they will continue to care safely through the coming winter, and that they are already exhausted and close to burn-out. Without urgent action from the government, many carers simply do not think they will be able to cope in the coming months.

[Details](#)

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Age UK

The impact of Covid-19 to date on older people's mental and physical health

This research finds that some older people are coping with the pandemic, but a sizeable minority are finding life incredibly tough. Those who are not very well and have long-term health conditions were particularly likely to report that this is an extremely challenging time for them. The research was made up of a survey of older people, their friends, families, and loved ones (promoted across the Age UK social media channels for two weeks in August 2020 and completed by 569 people) and representative online polling of 1,364 people over the age of 60, conducted by Kantar Polling in September 2020.

[Details](#)

What Works Centre for Wellbeing

The impacts of volunteering on the subjective wellbeing of volunteers: a rapid evidence assessment

There is a growing body of research on the links between volunteering and wellbeing. This review (co-published with Spirit of 2012, and in partnership with the Institute of Volunteer Research) brings together the most relevant studies. It focuses on the experience of adult formal volunteers, and looks at the key factors involved in improving wellbeing through volunteering.

[Details](#)

Independent Age

Minds that matter: understanding mental health in later life

This report looks at the life events and circumstances that can affect people's mental health in later life, including bereavement, loneliness, ill health and caring responsibilities. Focusing mainly on anxiety and depression, the report also describes people's mixed experiences of seeking support from GPs, therapists and other services. It highlights the common barriers and makes recommendations for what needs to change to improve support for older people and ensure they can live a mentally healthy later life.

[Details](#)

Care Quality Commission

Out of sight – who cares? Restraint, segregation and seclusion review

This report looks at use of restraint, seclusion and segregation in care services for people with a mental health condition, a learning disability or autistic people. A number of recommendations to improve care are made, including renewed attempts to reduce restrictive practice.

[Details](#)

Sport England

Active Lives Adult Survey May 2019/20 report

This Active Lives Adult Survey report presents data from the Active Lives Adult Survey for the period mid-May 2019 to mid-May 2020. Data is presented for people aged 16 and over in England. This report should be read in conjunction with the special coronavirus (Covid-19) report, which looks at how people's activity habits were affected during lockdown.

[Report](#)

[Covid-19 report](#)