



w/c 9th November 2020

Produced by Health Evidence Matters

Public Health England

New HIV diagnoses in gay and bisexual men at their lowest in 20 years

A new report by Public Health England shows that for the first time the number of new HIV diagnoses in gay and bisexual men outnumber new diagnoses in heterosexual adults by only 100 cases.

[Details](#)

Public Health Matters: The importance of vaccinating children against flu

Protecting the population and the NHS from flu includes childhood flu vaccination programme. This blog looks at what is new for this year.

[Details](#)

Department of Health and Social Care

UK flu vaccination supply protected with new restrictions on exports

Due to a global spike in demand, and to mitigate against risk of flu vaccines being exported, the government has announced restrictions on their export to protect supplies for UK patients. There is sufficient national supply, with deliveries continuing over the coming months.

[Details](#)

Liverpool to be regularly tested for coronavirus in first whole city testing pilot

A new whole city testing approach is to launch in Liverpool from Friday with new, rapid turnaround tests deployed. Residents and workers will be offered repeat COVID-19 testing, even if asymptomatic, to find more positive cases and break chains of transmission.

[Details](#)

Clinically extremely vulnerable receive updated guidance in line with new national restrictions

Clinically extremely vulnerable people in England are strongly advised to stay at home at all times, unless for exercise or doctors' appointments, following further guidance on keeping safe during COVID pandemic, under new national restrictions.

[Details](#)

New guidance to support safe care home visits during lockdown

All care home residents in England should be allowed to receive visits from their family and friends in a COVID-secure way – with social distancing and PPE – following new guidance to be used while national restrictions are in place from Thursday 5 November.

[Details](#)

Social media giants agree package of measures with UK Government to tackle vaccine disinformation

Platforms and UK government agree a package of measures to reduce vaccine disinformation

[Details](#)

Caveat: Content of these briefings has not been critically appraised! Apply your appraisal skills to articles referenced!
Health Evidence Matters provides clinical and public health evidence reviews and training in evidence-based practice skills.

Government Office for Science

The R number and growth rate in the UK

Last updated on Friday 6 November 2020.

Latest R number range for the UK

1.1-1.3

Latest growth rate range for the UK

+2% to +4% per day

NHS England

CVDPREVENT - a national primary care audit

This audit will extract routinely held GP data covering diagnosis and management of 6 high risk conditions that cause stroke, heart attack and dementia: atrial fibrillation, hypertension, hyperlipidaemia, diabetes, non-diabetic hyperglycaemia and chronic kidney disease.

The audit will provide data to highlight gaps, identify inequalities and monitor improvement and impact on inequalities, as well as enabling and guiding opportunities for improvement.

It will generate quarterly, anonymised data at national, regional, PCN and CCG practice level, across a broad range of metrics.

Locally based QI audit tools based on the CVDPREVENT business rule set will enable practices and primary care networks to systematically identify individuals whose clinical risk factors are sub-optimally managed so that they can be offered treatment that will minimise their risk of life changing heart attack or stroke.

[Details](#)

NHS response to the Prime Minister's announcement 31 October 2020

In his response, NHS Medical Director, Professor Stephen Powis highlighted that daily hospital COVID admissions are now higher and more COVID patients are being treated than at the peak of the first wave. However, the NHS is better prepared for the second wave.

[Details](#)

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence

NICE to become single point of access for Covid-19 guidance and advice

NICE will host a new, single point of access to national advice on the clinical management of Covid-19 to support frontline health and care staff across the country, including NHS England and NHS Improvement's specialty guides and NICE Covid-19 rapid guidelines.

[Details](#)

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

JAMA: Effect of an Online Weight Management Program Integrated With Population Health Management on Weight Change: A Randomized Clinical Trial

Cluster RCT (840 overweight people with diabetes or hypertension) found an online programme improved weight loss vs usual care (-1.9kg for the online programme, -3.1 kg vs the online programme plus additional support, vs -1.2 kg for usual care; $p < 0.05$ for both vs usual care).

[Abstract](#)

BMJ Open: Changing mortality trends in countries and cities of the UK: a population-based trend analysis

Findings suggest the timing, geography and socioeconomic gradients associated with the changes appear to support suggestions that they may result, at least in part, from UK Government 'austerity' measures which have disproportionately affected the poorest.

[Full text](#)

Cochrane: Electronic cigarettes for smoking cessation

This systematic review (50 studies; n=12,430) found moderate-certainty evidence that electronic cigarettes (ECs) with nicotine increase quit rates compared to ECs without nicotine and compared to NRT, and maybe compared to usual care. More studies are needed to confirm the degree of effect

[Full text](#)

The Lancet: Height and body-mass index trajectories of school-aged children and adolescents from 1985 to 2019 in 200 countries and territories: a pooled analysis of 2181 population-based studies with 65 million participants

This pooled analysis (65 million participants) found the height and BMI trajectories over age and time of school-aged children and adolescents are highly variable across countries, indicating heterogeneous nutritional quality and lifelong health advantages and risks.

[Full text](#)

The Lancet: Announcing the Lancet Commission on stigma and discrimination in mental health

[Details](#)

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

BMJ: Risk of hospital admission with coronavirus disease 2019 in healthcare workers and their households: nationwide linkage cohort study

Healthcare workers and their households contributed a sixth of covid-19 cases admitted to hospital. Although the absolute risk of admission was low overall, patient facing healthcare workers and their household members had threefold and twofold increased risks of admission with covid-19.

[Full text](#)

[Linked editorial](#)

BMJ: Mortality due to cancer treatment delay: systematic review and meta-analysis

In review of 34 studies for 17 indications (n=1,272,681), data consistently show 4 week treatment delay linked to increased mortality; this association was significant (p<0.05) for 13 indications. These data have implications in light of coronavirus 2019 (covid-19) pandemic.

[Full text](#)

An editorial notes this new work reinforces the critical need for system level efforts to minimise waiting times for cancer treatments, and these data, by quantifying relative impact of treatment delays, can be used as a resource for modelling studies exploring how future treatment delays could influence absolute measures such as years of life lost to patients with cancer or, in pandemics, the balance of risk and benefit associated with pandemic measures at the population level.

[Editorial](#)

Caveat: Content of these briefings has not been critically appraised! Apply your appraisal skills to articles referenced!
Health Evidence Matters provides clinical and public health evidence reviews and training in evidence-based practice skills.

www.healthevidencematters.co.uk

enquiries@healthevidencematters.co.uk

[@HealthEvMatters](https://twitter.com/HealthEvMatters)

MedRxiv: Lessons from applied large-scale pooling of 133 816 SARS-CoV-2 RT-PCR tests

To assess the efficiency and sensitivity of pooled testing, researchers tested 133 816 swab samples collected between April and September 2020. Samples from symptomatic and hospitalised patients were tested individually for SARS-CoV-2, while samples from screened asymptomatic individuals, such as hospital staff and nursing homes residents, were pooled.

Results show that 32 466 RT-PCR tests were used, meaning the pooled approach saved 101 350 (76%) RT-PCR reactions compared with individual testing. The team reported a clinically insignificant sensitivity loss of three cycle thresholds, and a false positive rate between 3.9% and 5.3%.

[Full text](#)

MedRxiv: Validation of home oxygen saturations as a marker of clinical deterioration in patients with suspected COVID-19

First paper examining home oxygen saturation in COVID confirms cases as a trigger for initial hospital assessment. The lower a patient's blood oxygen level in acute Covid-19, the more urgently s/he needs to be sent to hospital.

[Full text](#)

bioRxiv (preprint): Robust SARS-CoV-2-specific T-cell immunity is maintained at 6 months following primary infection

The study of 100 non-hospitalised individuals showed that all had a cellular immune response against SARS-CoV-2 six months after infection although the size of response was 50% higher in those who had experienced symptomatic disease.

[Full text](#)

Wellcome Open Research (in press): Implication of backward contact tracing in the presence of overdispersed transmission in COVID-19 outbreaks

Modelling showed that in the presence of overdispersion (large variation in # transmissions per person), contact tracing towards the upstream of transmission chains (backward tracing) is likely to find more cases than towards downstream (forward tracing)

[Full text](#)

The Lancet Infectious Diseases: SARS-CoV-2 seroprevalence and transmission risk factors among high-risk close contacts: a retrospective cohort study

Study (n=7,770, Singapore) reports targeted community measures should include physical distancing and minimising verbal interactions; and testing of all household contacts, including asymptomatic individuals, is warranted. Results of the study showed that among 7518 (96.8%) of the 7,770 close contacts with complete data, the secondary clinical attack rate was 5.9% (95% CI 4.9–7.1) for 1779 household contacts, 1.3% (0.9–1.9) for 2231 work contacts, and 1.3% (1.0–1.7) for 3508 social contacts.

[Full text](#)

The Lancet: Challenges in creating herd immunity to SARS-CoV-2 infection by mass vaccination

Commentary notes taking novel vaccines successfully through phase 1 to 3 trials within a year has been outstanding achievement, but equally challenging over coming year will be persuading governments & populations to use vaccines effectively to create herd immunity to protect all

[Full text](#)

The BMJ interview: Chris Whitty, England's chief medical officer, on covid-19

In a rare interview, England's CMO speaks to The BMJ's editor in chief, Fiona Godlee, about the pandemic and what it's like to be a physician in Whitehall. He finishes with view that the virus is unlikely to disappear, but medical countermeasures will make this a manageable problem.

[Full text](#)

BMJ analysis: Harms of public health interventions against covid-19 must not be ignored

BMJ analysis notes public health policies to combat SARS-CoV-2 mostly rely on models designed to predict their benefits, but these models often ignore potential harms that arise from these policies and short and long term adverse health effects of measures need to be evaluated

[Full text](#)

Lancet Child & Adolescent Health: Growing up in the shadow of COVID-19

Editorial argues that the UK Government's inadequate consideration of young people in the COVID-19 response is causing lasting harm to a whole generation

[Full text](#)

BMJ news: Covid-19: second wave could last until April in the UK, experts warn

The Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE) produced a now-leaked report outlining the second wave worst case scenario for the government on 30 July. The document, published by the *Spectator*, said that there could be 85 000 deaths across the UK between 1 July 2020 and 31 March 2021, with daily deaths exceeding 500 for at least 90 days. The modelling paper also predicted 356 000 cases requiring admission to hospital and that the peak weeks will begin in early January 2021 and continue "past the end of the scenario on 31 March 2021."

[Full text](#)

BMJ news: Covid-19: Experts debate merits of lockdowns versus "focused protection"

Three experts with widely differing viewpoints regarding appropriate public health measures to control the spread of covid-19 weighed in on lockdowns during a debate sponsored by Johns Hopkins University.

The experts represented viewpoints ranging from advocacy for "focused protection" as described in the Great Barrington Declaration to recommendations for population-wide mandates as described in the John Snow Memorandum.

[Full text](#)

BMJ news: Covid-19: Experts question evidence behind prime minister's promise of rapid tests

Experts question the evidence-base for such tests and whether they used to be used for nation policy-making

[Full text](#)

BMJ news: Covid-19: GPs are told to be ready to deliver vaccine from next month

CEO, NHS England, Simon Stevens says that the NHS had reached an agreement with general practice leaders to mobilise now and be ready to start delivering a vaccine to patients in December. While it was most likely that a vaccine would be available in early 2021, he said, NHS England was writing to general practices this week to ensure that they are ready.

[Full text](#)

BMJ opinion: John Ashton: Covid-19—Getting a grip on the second wave

[Full text](#)

Biospace Inc.

Oxford-AstraZeneca's Phase III COVID-19 vaccine data could be available by December

University of Oxford says it hopes to present interim data of its COVID-19 vaccine candidate AZD1222 to regulators by as early as next month and it could be one of first vaccines submitted for regulatory approval, alongside Pfizer and BioNTech's vaccine candidate BNT162b2.

If approved, the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine could possibly roll out by late December or early 2021.

AstraZeneca has said it plans to produce two billion doses of AZD1222 pending regulatory approval.

Approximately 400 million doses are slated for the U.S. and UK.

Reuters reports that the timetable for delivery of this vaccine candidate has slipped, with UK only receiving 4 million doses this year. The UK Vaccine Taskforce Chair said that the vaccine was being made in bulk first, known as "drug substance", but could not yet be put into vials until more was known on the timing of late-stage trial data.

[Details](#)

NIHR Dissemination Centre

NIHR Alert: British-Bangladeshi parents offer better nutrition to their children when interventions involve the community

Study shows that efforts to help parents feed and care for young children should be developed with the input and assistance of relevant ethnic communities. Different generations within the British-Bangladeshi population of East London offered key information that is helping public health researchers reach and influence new parents.

The study examined features of this community and environment that influence parents' approaches to caring for their infants. These include a widespread belief that a chubby baby is a healthy baby, as well as the availability of fast food and a tendency to over-feed.

The information is being used to tailor community interventions with parents that aim to improve nutrition for pre-school children, and, in the long term, to tackle rising rates of obesity.

[Details](#)

NIHR Alert: National infection control campaigns led to a rapid decline in superbug infections in UK intensive care units

Expert commentary is provided on research that found a 97% reduction in MRSA bloodstream infections in ICU patients between 2007 and 2016, and a 78% decrease in bloodstream infections overall, demonstrating the success of the national drive to control infection.

[Details](#)

Office for National Statistics

Deaths involving COVID-19 increased for the seventh consecutive week (published 3rd November)

There were 978 deaths involving the coronavirus (COVID-19) in England and Wales in the week ending 23 October 2020, the highest weekly figure since the week ending 12 June 2020.

By region, the highest number of COVID-19 deaths was reported in the North West (325 deaths), followed by Yorkshire and The Humber (159) and the North East (114).

In total, there were 10,739 deaths across England and Wales in the week ending 23 October 2020, 9.1% of which involved COVID-19. Deaths in the latest week remained higher than normal for this time of year.

[Details](#)

Number of COVID-19 infections continues to increase across UK (published 6th November)

The number of people with the coronavirus (COVID-19) in England and Wales continues to increase but the rate of increase is slower than it has been in recent weeks.

We estimate 618,700 people in England had the coronavirus in the most recent week, or 1 in 90 people.

[Details](#)

How the ONS crime figures help us to better understand the risks to children

In 2018 the Children's Commissioner's Office in England highlighted the need for better data on the numbers of children living in households where adult domestic abuse, mental ill-health or substance misuse may be present. Sophie Sanders explains how the Office for National Statistics has developed its first analysis to help better understand how the presence of these issues could impact on childhood vulnerability.

[Details](#)

Coronavirus and the social impacts on Great Britain: 6 November 2020

Findings include:

- People in the North West region were most likely to report living in the highest restrictions with 77% in Tier 3. Across England, people living in Tiers 2 and 3 were less likely to say they had enough information about government plans to manage the coronavirus pandemic: 37% and 34% respectively, compared with 45% of those living in Tier 1.
- Support for the use of targeted lockdown measures for local areas has been declining since September, but 71% adults in Great Britain strongly support or tend to support the approach. Support is lower (65%) among adults in England Tier 3 areas.

[Details](#)

World Health Organization (WHO)

SARS-CoV-2 mink-associated variant strain – Denmark

There have been recent reports of the mink farm related outbreak in Denmark which has received attention in the media, and has concerned many scientists, and health organisations. Early reports from the WHO suggest that these may be less susceptible to neutralising antibodies and could have implications for developing vaccines

[Details](#)

UK Statistics Authority

Office for Statistics Regulation calls for UK governments to provide more transparency around COVID data

The Office for Statistics Regulation is urging all UK governments to address the way they communicate COVID-19 data to the public. A statement details key practices that should be followed, focusing on importance of sharing data in a way that promotes transparency and clarity.

[Details](#)

Caveat: Content of these briefings has not been critically appraised! Apply your appraisal skills to articles referenced!
Health Evidence Matters provides clinical and public health evidence reviews and training in evidence-based practice skills.

www.healthevidencematters.co.uk

enquiries@healthevidencematters.co.uk

[@HealthEvMatters](https://twitter.com/HealthEvMatters)

Institute for Government

Performance tracker 2020: how public services have coped with coronavirus

This report analyses the disruptions in hospitals, general practice, adult social care, schools and criminal courts, and the changes made in response. It finds that coronavirus has resulted in backlogs across public services and calls for reviews of the impact of remote general practice and hospital appointments.

[Details](#)

Co-ordination and divergence: devolution and coronavirus

This report warns that poor communication and a failure to share information have led the four governments of the United Kingdom to make decisions without considering the impact of their actions on other parts of the UK. Politicians must be sure that they do not forgo the potential benefits of co-ordinating their divergence – in terms of lives saved – because they are unwilling to reach consensus on the best way forward for the whole of the UK.

[Details](#)

National Centre for Social Research (NatCen)

British Social Attitudes 37: key time series

This research, taken from the 37th annual British Social Attitudes report, charts key trends in public attitudes towards welfare, government spending, national identity and immigration, central issues for society and the economy as Britain navigates the Covid-19 pandemic and its departure from the single market and customs union. Despite a decline in support since 2017, the research finds that health still dominates the spending agenda with 65 per cent of respondents naming health as one of their top two priorities.

[Details](#)

British Social Attitudes 37: social inequality in England and Scotland

This report seeks to understand the differences and similarities in attitudes to social inequality in England and Scotland. It reveals the levels of pessimism in both Scotland and England about current levels of social inequality, but finds that people in Scotland are slightly more 'left wing' than in England.

[Details](#)

Nuffield Trust

Covid-19 cases: a Q&A

As England begins a new national lockdown, a Q&A from Sarah Scobie answers important questions on Covid-19 cases. She analyses how the second wave numbers so far compare with the first wave earlier this year, explains the key sources of data and how best to interpret them, and discusses the impact on health services.

[Details](#)

How has the use of urgent care changed during Covid-19?

This chart looks at patients' use of urgent care during the pandemic. The changes seen may be less dramatic than early headlines indicated, but could have a more significant impact in the long term – resulting in moves away from face-to-face services, particularly those provided in hospital.

[Details](#)

Caveat: Content of these briefings has not been critically appraised! Apply your appraisal skills to articles referenced!
Health Evidence Matters provides clinical and public health evidence reviews and training in evidence-based practice skills.

www.healthevidencematters.co.uk

enquiries@healthevidencematters.co.uk

[@HealthEvMatters](https://twitter.com/HealthEvMatters)

Centre for Health Economics

The relationship between social care resources and healthcare utilisation by older people in England: an exploratory investigation

This report links data on spending on adult social care, staffing and use of health care for 150 councils and studies the impact of changes in spending on older people, and changes in social care staff numbers. It finds no conclusive proof that reductions in social care budgets have led to the expected rises in hospital admissions, hospital stays or uptake of NHS Continuing Health Care. However, it finds some evidence that councils who employ more frontline social care staff may be more successful in helping their clients to access NHS Continuing Health Care.

[Details](#)

Centre for Ageing Better

Community of practice resource library

This resource library brings together a catalogue of reports, studies and infographics on areas of interest to those interested in evidence around ageing better. It covers subjects such as designing age-friendly homes, maintaining physical activity, supporting social connections and more.

[Details](#)

The King's Fund

Does social prescribing actually work?

Social prescribing enables GPs, nurses and other primary care professionals to refer people to a range of local, non-clinical services to support their health and wellbeing. This explainer looks at the evidence of effectiveness and how social prescribing fits in with wider health and care policy

[Details](#)

Public health: our position

With increases in life expectancy significantly slowing, health inequalities widening and years of cuts to public health funding taking a toll on vital services, urgent action is needed to support public health services and improve health outcomes.

[Details](#)

Virtual conference - Prevention in mental health

Young people's mental health

King's Fund are holding a virtual conference on Prevention in mental health which includes a session that explores young people's mental health.

In this session, members of the Off the Record team in Bristol will explore how to support young people who will never make it to structured mental health services and how to tailor intervention approaches around the individual.

[Details](#)