

w/c 1st March 2021

Produced by Health Evidence Matters

Public Health England

First real-world UK data shows Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine provides high levels of protection from the first dose

PHE has published the first independent analysis in the UK showing the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is effective against COVID-19 from the first dose.

Preprint: Effectiveness of BNT162b2 mRNA Vaccine Against Infection and COVID-19 Vaccine Coverage in Healthcare Workers in England, Multicentre Prospective Cohort Study (the SIREN Study)

Real-life UK healthcare worker data: Pfizer vaccine effectiveness against Covid infection 72% (95% CI 58-86) at 21 days after 1st dose and 86% (95% CI 76-97) at 7 days after second dose in those previously antibody-negative.

[Full text](#)

[Press release](#)

Cases of Variant of Concern first detected in Manaus, Brazil identified in England

Up to 6 cases of the Variant of Concern first identified in Manaus, Brazil (P.1) have been detected in the UK. Public Health England (PHE) has identified 3 cases of the Variant of Concern first identified in Manaus, Brazil (P.1). Two of the cases in England are from one household in South Gloucestershire with a history of travel to Brazil and there is a third, currently unlinked case.

[Details](#)

Physical activity: understanding and addressing inequalities

Evidence-based guidance for addressing inequalities in physical activity locally. This guidance can be used by local level practitioners and commissioners to begin tackling inequalities in physical activity across and within protected characteristic groups.

It presents the findings of a review, analysis and research aimed at understanding the enablers, barriers and opportunities for increasing physical activity across inequality groups.

[Details](#)

Vaping in England: evidence update February 2021

Seventh annual update of PHE's e-cigarette evidence review by leading independent tobacco experts. As the number of vapers in England plateaus, incorrect perceptions of its relative risks compared to smoking may be discouraging smokers from using vaping to quit.

The report takes an in-depth look at the latest evidence on the effectiveness of nicotine vaping products in helping people to stop smoking. The report also provides an update on the use of nicotine vaping products among young people and adults and examines the data on people's perception of risk.

[Details](#)

Fewer than 1 in 5 university students had COVID-19 by end of autumn term

A study conducted by PHE estimates that 17.8% of university students in England had COVID-19 antibodies. The COVID-19 university seroprevalence study was carried out among the student

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population in England. It was conducted between 2 to 11 December 2020 at five universities across the country, which had reported COVID-19 outbreaks during the autumn term. The study found that, overall, 17.8% of 17- to 25-year-old students had antibodies from prior COVID-19 infection.

[Details](#)

JCVI: updates on vaccine programme

JCVI has announced the next stage of the COVID-19 vaccine rollout will be based on age. Phase 2 begins with the oldest adults first, starting with those aged 40-49 and moving on to those 30-39 and 18-29. JCVI notes that although there is evidence that some occupations have an increased risk of morbidity due to COVID-19, a mass vaccination strategy centred specifically on occupational groups would be more complex to deliver and may require new vaccine deployment structures which would slow down vaccine delivery to the whole population. A DHSC response states that all 4 parts of the UK will follow this recommended approach, subject to the final advice given by the independent expert committee

[Details](#)

JCVI advice - inviting those on the learning disability for Covid vaccine

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) has advised the government to invite all people on the GP Learning Disability Register for COVID-19 vaccination.

The advice of the JCVI remains that adults with severe and profound learning disabilities, and those with learning disabilities in long-stay nursing and residential care settings, should be offered the vaccine in priority group 6 (people with Down's syndrome are included in group 4). Adults with less severe learning disabilities are not currently prioritised.

[Details](#)

Public Health Matters: COVID-19: Why continuing to follow the guidance after being vaccinated is so important

The COVID-19 vaccination programme is continuing to be rolled out at pace, but it's important we continue to reduce our risk of transmitting or catching the virus. This blog explains why this is so important.

[Details](#)

Public Health Matters: COVID-19: Science lessons – What We Know About COVID-19 in Schools

As all school children prepare to return to the classroom from the 8 March, read our blog on what we know about school safety.

[Details](#)

Public Health Matters: COVID-19: analysing first vaccine effectiveness in the UK

Since the beginning of the vaccination programme, PHE has been monitoring the effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines in the real world and has now published its first analysis of the impact of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine.

[Details](#)

COVID-19 vaccination programme: Information for healthcare practitioners - update

Advice on allergy and vaccinating those with a history of reaction to the first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine has been updated (in line with updates to the Green Book). Vaccine specific information about the Moderna vaccine has been added, and the pregnancy section updated.

[Details](#)

SACN annual report 2020

The Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition (SACN) annual report for the calendar year 2020.

[Details](#)

National flu and COVID-19 surveillance report: 25 February 2021 (week 8)

Department of Health and Social Care

Cabinet Office: Roadmap out of lockdown

Before proceeding to the each step, the Government will examine the data to assess the impact of previous steps. This assessment will be based on four tests:

- The vaccine deployment programme continues successfully.
- Evidence shows vaccines are sufficiently effective in reducing hospitalisations and deaths in those vaccinated.
- Infection rates do not risk a surge in hospitalisations which would put unsustainable pressure on the NHS.

Our assessment of the risks is not fundamentally changed by new Variants of Concern.

[Details](#)

Rapid lateral flow testing for households and bubbles of school pupils and staff

Find out who is eligible for twice-weekly testing and how to get tested if you do not have symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19). This guidance is for people without symptoms.

[Details](#)

All households with children of school age to get 2 rapid COVID-19 tests per person per week

Whole families and households with primary school, secondary school and college age children, including childcare and support bubbles, will be able to test themselves twice every week from home as schools return from 8 March. Tests can easily be ordered and collected from local sites, or administered through workplace testing programmes.

[Details](#)

Essential workers prioritised for COVID-19 testing

This guidance lists the essential workers who are prioritised for PCR testing if they have symptoms of coronavirus.

[Details](#)

UK charities join together to boost vaccine drive

Sixteen frontline charities have formed a new partnership to encourage those with long-term health conditions and their carers to get the COVID-19 vaccine.

[Details](#)

New campaign encourages the nation to keep going and stay at home

Everyone across the UK is being reminded of the importance of staying at home and the risks in relaxing their behaviour at this crucial point, in a new advertising campaign.

While transmission rates decline, vaccines continue to be rolled out and the roadmap out of lockdown has been published, the campaign is encouraging people to 'keep going'. It acknowledges how difficult

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lockdown has been but highlights its effectiveness with falling infection rates and successful vaccine roll-out.

[Details](#)

COVID-19 alert level: update from the UK Chief Medical Officers (25 February 2021)

A joint statement from the UK Chief Medical Officers (CMOs) recommending that the UK COVID-19 alert level move from level 5 to level 4.

[Details](#)

UK to strengthen its ethical approach to the international recruitment of health and care workers

UK aligns with World Health Organization's advice on ethical recruitment to promote effective, fair and sustainable international recruitment practices.

[Details](#)

Social work and autistic young people: an exploratory study

Study by the Chief Social Workers for Adults and the Chief Social Worker for Children and Families to improve the quality of autistic people's lives and social work practice.

[Details](#)

Coronavirus cases by local authority: epidemiological data, 25 February 2021

Weekly watchlist giving epidemiological coronavirus (COVID-19) data for each lower-tier local authority (LTLA) in England.

[Details](#)

Government Office for Science

Latest R number and growth rate

Last updated on 26th February 2021.

Latest R number range for the UK

0.6 to 0.9

Latest growth rate range for the UK

-6% to -2% per day

[Details](#)

Rebuilding a resilient Britain: summary report

A summary of the work of the Areas of Research Interest working groups.

[Details](#)

[Evidence gaps and knowledge exchange opportunities](#)

Futures thinking and foresight: a brief guide

Tips, advice and guidance to help policymakers embed long-term thinking and external insight into policy making.

[Details](#)

Independent SAGE

Strategy for COVID-19: Maximum Suppression or Mere Containment?

The UK Government's Roadmap for England for Spring 2021 has some welcome elements:

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(a) Measures introduced in 5-week phases, with time gaps built-in for data-informed reviews against four tests (relating to vaccination rollout and efficacy – and viral spread and mutation).

(b) Prioritising school opening and then outdoor activity, the latter being associated with at least 20x less risk than indoor activity.

However, there are clear deficits in the approach, which endanger its overall ambition of ensuring that the route out of lockdown is ‘one-way’ and irreversible. These include:

- The absence of an overall strategy for pandemic control over and above vaccination
- Opening of schools and colleges on a single date (March 8th) without sufficient mitigating or compensatory measures
- Insufficient focus on addressing inequality, thus risking turning COVID into a disease of the poor.

This paper addresses these three areas with links to Independent SAGE’s previous report, which sets out recommendations for a sustainable suppression strategy for keeping society open.

[Details](#)

Independent SAGE Statement on Universities and Colleges Winter-Spring 2021 in the Context of SARS-CoV-2 and the UK Government “Roadmap”

Independent SAGE has consistently recommended that UK universities should keep open safely during the pandemic by moving teaching and learning online. SAGE made the same recommendation in September 2020. Independent SAGE recommends that, for most students, this continues until the end of the academic year. Online learning is not solely about reducing staff/student or student/student transmission in classrooms: it is the hub around which other mitigation and suppression strategies revolve and upon which they are dependent.

Following on from previous Universities reports, this statement covers

- The COVID-19 context and current Department for Education guidance.
- Why Independent SAGE recommends maximising online learning during the pandemic.
- Issues around online learning and student mental health and wellbeing.
- Working in collaboration with other education sectors.
- Looking ahead to Autumn 2021 and funding and future of universities in the UK.

[Details](#)

NHS England

NHS gives women Human Papillomavirus Virus (HPV) home testing kits to cut cancer deaths

Women in areas of London where screening attendance is low will be offered test kits that can be self-administered at home, as part of an NHS England trial. This is NOT cervical screening and not a smear test, as is being reported by some newspapers and some Health Ministers..., but self-sampling for HPV from a vaginal swab.

The scheme will see more than 19 000 women aged 25 to 64 and who are 15 months overdue for a check sent a kit, while 12 000 women who attend a GP appointment for another reason and are at least six months overdue will also be offered a kit.

[Details](#)

Supporting care homes with pulse oximetry

NHS England is working with care homes to ensure they feel supported to provide oximetry to residents who have been diagnosed with coronavirus.

For more information on pulse oximetry for care homes the Care Provider Alliance have recently published their guide online. New e-learning materials can be accessed via e-Learning for Healthcare, and a recording of a webinar is also available. To contact the national team or to request pulse

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oximeters for use in care homes (which should be via CCGs and coordinated by PCN clinical leads) email england.home@nhs.net.

[Details](#)

Supporting CCGs to address vaccine inequalities

This letter describes further national action to enable and locally deliver community activity and engagement to support COVID-19 vaccination access and uptake, building on the vaccine uptake strategy.

[Details](#)

Partner with community venues to deliver temporary vaccination clinics

NHS England has written to colleagues working across commissioning, public health and primary care about further opportunities to reach out to communities with lower uptake levels by operating temporary vaccination clinics in community venues.

[Details](#)

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence

NICE to launch new 5-year strategy

NICE's new strategic plan will set out how it plans to be more dynamic and responsive in its work. Find out more details at a virtual launch event on Monday 19 April 2021.

[Details](#)

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

BMJ Open: Smoking cessation in individuals who use vaping as compared with traditional nicotine replacement therapies: a systematic review and meta-analysis

No difference was found in smoking cessation, harms and smoking reduction between e-cigarette and NRT users. However, the quality of the evidence was low.

[Full text](#)

Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews: Vitamin D supplementation for term breastfed infants to prevent vitamin D deficiency and improve bone health

For breastfed infants, vitamin D supplementation for up to six months increases levels and reduces vitamin D insufficiency, as does maternal vitamin D supplementation in higher-risk breastfed infants but there was insufficient evidence to determine an effect on bone health.

[Full text](#)

Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews: Interventions to reduce tobacco use in people experiencing homelessness

This review (10 studies; n=1634) found there is insufficient evidence to assess the effects of any tobacco cessation interventions specifically in people experiencing homelessness. High quality studies addressing additional ways to engage and support this group are needed.

[Full text](#)

The Lancet Infectious Diseases: The scientific and ethical feasibility of immunity passports

In Personal View, author suggests increasing understanding of neutralising antibody response to COVID-19 might make identifying members of community at low risk of contracting and transmitting COVID-19 possible. A response to ethical arguments against the passports is also provided

[Full text](#)

British Journal of Psychiatry: Omega-3 and polyunsaturated fat for prevention of depression and anxiety symptoms: systematic review and meta-analysis of randomised trials

Review of 31 trials of long-chain omega-3 (n = 41,470), one of alpha-linolenic acid (n=4837), one of total polyunsaturated fat (n=4997) and none of omega-6, concludes long-chain omega-3 supplementation probably has little or no effect in preventing depression or anxiety symptoms.

[Abstract](#)

BMJ Review: Vaccines for older adults

This article reviews improvements in immunization for the three most important vaccine preventable diseases of aging - Influenza, herpes zoster, and pneumococcal infections.

[Full text](#)

The Lancet: 50th anniversary of the Inverse Care Law

Professor Sir Muir Gray discusses the continuing importance of the Inverse Care Law, and notions of value and quality in health care.

[Podcast](#)

[Editorial](#)

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

NEJM: BNT162b2 mRNA Covid-19 Vaccine in a Nationwide Mass Vaccination Setting

Data from a case control study from Israel's largest health care organization (n=596,618 vaccinated, n=596,618 controls [unvaccinated]), show a high effectiveness of the BNT162b2 vaccine for preventing symptomatic Covid-19 in a non-controlled setting, similar to vaccine efficacy reported in RCT.

[Full text](#)

The Lancet: Effect of previous SARS-CoV-2 infection on humoral and T-cell responses to single-dose BNT162b2 vaccine

Individuals with previous SARS-CoV-2 infection generate strong humoral and cellular responses to one dose of BNT162b2 vaccine, with evidence of high titres of in-vitro live virus neutralisation. In contrast, most individuals who are infection-naïve generate both weak T-cell responses and low titres of neutralising antibodies. Does this raise issues about delaying 2nd dose of Pfizer vaccine especially in high-risk groups/those over 50 who have not had Covid?

[Full text](#)

The Lancet: Antibody response to first BNT162b2 dose in previously SARS-CoV-2-infected individuals

A second paper shows that antibody response to first vaccine dose is similar to having had natural infection. The analysis also found that anti-S titres after one vaccine dose in those who had previously been infected (mild or asymptomatic) were increased more than 140-fold from pre-vaccination levels, and this appears to be at least one order of magnitude greater than reported after a conventional prime-boost vaccine strategy in previously uninfected individuals.

[Full text](#)

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Authorea (preprint): Single-dose BNT162b2 vaccine protects against asymptomatic SARS-CoV-2 infection

Results (not peer reviewed) from a 2-week study of asymptomatic Covid-19 screening (PCR) of healthcare workers at Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust found positive tests in 0.80% of unvaccinated staff and 0.20% of those who had been vaccinated >12 days previously

[Full text](#)

MedRxiv (preprint): FDA-authorized COVID-19 vaccines are effective per real-world evidence synthesized across a multi-state health system

The preliminary results of a US retrospective analysis, not yet peer reviewed, estimated administration of two doses of Covid-19 vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna) was 88.7% (95% CI 68.4-97.1%) effective in preventing Covid-19 infection with onset at least 36 days after the first dose.

[Full text](#)

MedRxiv (preprint): Obesity May Hamper SARS-CoV-2 Vaccine Immunogenicity

Results from an Italian study involving healthcare workers indicate that the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine may be less effective in people with obesity, with those with obesity producing only about half the amount of antibodies in response to a second dose of the jab compared with healthy people.

[Full text](#)

MMWR: Suspected Recurrent SARS-CoV-2 Infections Among Residents of a Skilled Nursing Facility During a Second COVID-19 Outbreak — Kentucky, July–November 2020

This CDC report highlights that asymptomatic or mildly symptomatic infections do not always produce sufficient immune response to prevent reinfection. Report of nursing facility found 5 people reinfected ~3 months after initial infection. All 5 had more severe symptoms 2nd time around, one death.

[Full text](#)

PNAS: Vaccinating the oldest against COVID-19 saves both the most lives and most years of life

This analysis shows that vaccinating oldest people first saves both highest number of lives and saves most YEARS of life despite limited life expectancy.

[Full text](#)

BMJ: Excess mortality in Wuhan city and other parts of China during the three months of the covid-19 outbreak: findings from nationwide mortality registries

This review of over 300 million people found no increase in overall mortality during the three months of the COVID-19 outbreak in China except Wuhan. Lower death rates from certain non-COVID-19 related diseases may be due to the associated behaviour changes during lockdown

[Full text](#)

The BMJ interview: Behind the scenes of the Pfizer BioNTech covid-19 vaccine trial

Interview with Stephen Thomas, lead principal investigator of the Pfizer BioNTech vaccine trial, the first approved for Covid-19.

[Full text](#)

BMJ Editorial: Closing schools is not evidence based and harms children

Experts argue that keeping schools open should be the UK's top priority and discuss the evidence behind children and school being drivers of transmission

[Full text](#)

BMJ Editorial: Covid-19 vaccine hesitancy among ethnic minority groups

Tackling the reasons for hesitancy requires engagement, understanding, and trust

[Full text](#)

BMJ news: Covid-19: Vaccine success drives England's lockdown exit

BMJ looks at the science driving the government's plans for easing of restrictions

[Full text](#)

Eeek!

This article by Rupert Beale, clinician scientist group leader at the Francis Crick Institute, explains the different Covid variants, possible impacts on vaccine effectiveness and future of the pandemic.

Recommended by Christina Pagel, Director, Clinical Operational Research Unit at UCL and member of Independent SAGE

[Details](#)

Imperial College

REACT-2 Round 5: increasing prevalence of SARS-CoV-2 antibodies demonstrate impact of the second wave and of vaccine roll-out in England

Study of 155,000 people has shown that around 14% of England's population has evidence of antibodies against the coronavirus, either from having had COVID-19 or a coronavirus vaccine.

Of those who had been vaccinated, overall 91% had antibodies after two doses of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine, rising to 95.5% in people under 60. For individuals who received a single dose of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine after 21 days, the proportion testing positive for antibodies was high (94.7%) in those under 30, but lower at older ages (e.g. 34.7% in those aged 80 and over), consistent with existing research that suggests those aged over 80 take longer to develop an antibody response to infection and the immune response is not as strong.

[Preprint](#)

[Press release](#)

[DHSC link](#)

Reuters Health

Pfizer-BioNTech testing booster of their COVID-19 vaccine in new trial

Pfizer and BioNTech are testing a third dose of their COVID-19 vaccine to better understand the immune response against new variants of the virus. In the first stage, a third dose will be given to up to 144 people who received the vaccine in the original Phase I safety trial.

[Full text](#)

NIHR Dissemination Centre - February Alerts

People in the most deprived groups were least likely to take part in the exercise referral scheme, study finds

This study (n=84,000) evaluated the Welsh National Exercise Referral Scheme. Using linked electronic records of the people taking part in an exercise referral scheme, it found that people in the most deprived groups are least likely to be referred and least likely to take part in the scheme. Those referred for a mental health problem are also less likely to take part than those with physical conditions.

[Details](#)

Lonely young people have an increased risk of mental health problems years later: research suggests lockdown could have a long-term effect

A rapid systematic review has found that loneliness and social isolation increase the long-term risk of depression and anxiety in children and teenagers. It included studies carried out before the current pandemic and found that negative impacts on mental health were evident up to nine years later.

[Details](#)

Young offenders with undiagnosed language problems are twice as likely to reoffend within a year

In a study of 145 young offenders recruited through the youth justice service, three in five were found to have developmental language disorder (DLD) and none had been diagnosed before the study.

[Details](#)

Men who have sex with men are less likely to use drugs to prevent HIV if they are young, unemployed or have a low disposable income, research finds

Research carried out between 2013 and 2018, before pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) was widely available in England through the NHS, found that there was unequal knowledge and use of PrEP among men. Younger men, those who were unemployed and those with lower disposable incomes were less likely than others to use PrEP. One in five (22%) men at high risk through having sex with multiple partners, were not using PrEP.

[Details](#)

Office for National Statistics

Fewest number of COVID-19 deaths in six weeks

23 February 2021

There were 5,691 deaths involving the coronavirus (COVID-19) in England and Wales in the week ending 12 February 2021 – the fewest since the week ending 1 January 2021.

Deaths from all causes also decreased in the most recent week, despite remaining above average for this time of year. In total, there were 15,354 deaths in England and Wales in the week ending 12 February, of which 37.1% involved COVID-19.

[Details](#)

The percentage of people in patient-facing jobs testing positive has decreased

24 February 2021

There is evidence that the percentage testing positive for the coronavirus (COVID-19) has decreased in patient-facing jobs, alongside a fall among those in non-patient-facing jobs, in England.

In the week ending 6 February 2021, the percentage of the population testing positive decreased in both groups. This contrasts with analysis for the week ending 9 January 2021, where the percentage of

the population testing positive for the coronavirus (COVID-19) had decreased in non-patient-facing job roles but had increased amongst those in patient-facing roles.

The analysis shows the number of socially distanced and physical contacts that adults and school age children had with people outside their household decreased in January 2021, when England went into lockdown, and remains low in February 2021.

[Details](#)

COVID-19 death rate rose in January 2021 but remained lower in England than in April 2020

25 February 2021

The coronavirus (COVID-19) was the leading cause of death in England and Wales in January 2021, for the third consecutive month.

COVID-19 was the underlying cause of death for 37.4% of all deaths registered last month in England, and 35.2% of all deaths registered in Wales, the highest proportions since the pandemic began.

A total of 68,796 deaths from all causes were registered in January 2021 in England, 29.5% higher than the five-year average for the same month (2015 to 2019). There were 4,431 deaths registered in Wales, 25.6% more than the five-year average for January. The five years used for the average are from 2015 to 2019, to compare with the number of deaths expected in a usual (non-pandemic) year.

[Details](#)

Shopping for things other than food and medicine increased by 2%

25 February 2021

Of the 92% of adults in Great Britain who left home in the last seven days, the proportion who shopped for things other than food and medicine increased by 2%.

In the week ending 21 February 2021, the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (OPN) found that the proportion of adults who shopped for things other than food and medicine increased from the previous week to 9%; this continues the steady increase seen over the past four weeks from 5%.

Of the adults that reported they had left home in the last seven days, the proportion that did so to shop for food and medicine remained unchanged compared with the previous week at 76%.

[Details](#)

The percentage of people testing positive in every UK nation has continued to decrease

26 February 2021

An estimated 1 in 145 people tested positive for the coronavirus (COVID-19) within the community population in England during the week ending 19 February 2021, equating to 373,700 people, or 0.69% of the community population.

This is lower than the week ending 12 February 2021, when 481,300 people (0.88%) were estimated to have COVID-19 in England.

The estimated percentage of people in the community – those in private homes and excluding hospitals, care homes or other institutional settings – testing positive continued to decrease in every nation.

[Details](#)

More than 3 in 10 adults have had a COVID-19 vaccine dose

26 February 2021

Over a third of adults in Great Britain (35%) said they had received at least one dose of the coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine, according to this week's Opinions and Lifestyle Survey.

Among those aged 70 years and over, that vaccination proportion increased to 97% of adults surveyed.

The survey figures are from a sample of the population that does not include care homes and other establishments and may differ from official figures on vaccination rates.

This week, 94% of adults said they had either had the vaccine, were waiting to have a vaccine appointment, or would be likely to accept the vaccine if offered, an increase from 91% reported last week.

[Details](#)

Association of Directors of Public Health

Guidance: Living Safely with Covid: Moving toward a Strategy for Sustainable Exit from the Pandemic

New guidance for Directors of Public Health on moving toward a strategy for sustainable exit from the pandemic.

[Details](#)

The King's Fund

Integrated care systems in London: challenges and opportunities ahead

Commissioned by the Greater London Authority, this report looks at how the five integrated care systems in London were developing before Covid-19 and how this has changed as a result of the response to the pandemic.

[Details](#)

NHS Digital

Statistics on NHS Stop Smoking Services in England April 2020 to September 2020

Highlights from this dataset include: 58.2% (47,333/81,280) of people successfully quit (self-reported) and 2.6% of these had their results confirmed by Carbon Monoxide verification. Additionally, 48.1% of pregnant women who set a quit date successfully quit (4,335/9005).

[Details](#)

World Health Organization Europe

In the wake of the pandemic: preparing for long Covid

This policy brief highlights areas where policy-makers can take action to meet the challenge of post-Covid conditions based on what is currently known. It addresses the need for multidisciplinary, multispecialty approaches to assessment and management; development of new care pathways and contextually appropriate guidelines for health professionals; and the creation of appropriate services, including rehabilitation and online support tools.

[Details](#)

Local Government Association

LGA/ADPH Annual Public Health Conference 2021: Rising to the challenge

Tuesday 23 March and Wednesday 24 March 2021

Booking is open for this free event.

The opening session is led by Prof Chris Whitty. This will be followed by a session on public opinion and public health, exploring how communities have engaged with Public Health messages. The first afternoon session covers ensuring health inequalities are at the centre of the recovery and will debate how we do this in a time of economic uncertainty. The second day begins with the latest exit strategy and will discuss the future of public health and the wider health and care system with Maggie Rae,

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Joanne Roney and Dido Harding. The final session of the conference will explore how the pandemic has played out on a global level and look to the future of collaboration, recovery and international politics.

[Details](#)

British Fertility Society

FAQ: Covid-19 vaccines and fertility

This FAQ document from the British Fertility Society and Association of Reproductive and Clinical Scientists addresses questions about Covid-19 vaccines and fertility and confirms that COVID-19 vaccination does not affect fertility.

[Details](#)

Office of Health Economics

Resource allocation in public sector programmes: does the value of a life differ between governmental departments?

This research paper examines whether value of a life estimates used in economic evaluation differs between government departments in a selection of developed countries: Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, the Netherlands and the UK. It finds that generally estimates used in transport and the environment exceeded those used in health, which suggests that health may be undervalued by departments of health compared with departments of transport or environment.

[Details](#)

Realising the value of vaccines in the UK: ready for prime time?

Health technology assessment approaches in the UK (as well as some other countries) limit themselves to evaluating health benefits that accrue to treated individuals and resource use within the health care system. As a result, vaccines and other technologies that generate broader benefits – such as maintaining health care capacity or labour productivity – may be undervalued and underused. This report on the broader value of vaccines (commissioned by the ABPI Vaccines Group) sets out actionable short- and long-term recommendations on how to drive change towards recognising and rewarding the broader value of vaccines in the UK.

[Details](#)

London School of Economics

The Conservative governments' record on social policy from May 2015 to pre-Covid 2020: policies, spending and outcomes

This overview report provides an assessment of social policy developments under the three Conservative Governments that were in power between May 2015 and the eve of the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020. The report provides a comprehensive examination of developments in ten major areas of social policy (social security; employment; early childhood; compulsory school age education; higher education; health; social care; physical safety and security; homelessness / complex needs; and social mobility) over this period. In assessing social policies and social inequalities on the eve of the pandemic, we identify five key cross-cutting major weaknesses and structural limitations of the welfare state and public services. In assessing outcomes across different social policy areas, we find there is overwhelming evidence that a break in social progress across multiple critical areas of life had already occurred prior to the public health emergency and the economic and social shocks that it triggered. Across the social policy areas that we examine, many key indicators of social progress had already slowed down, stalled or gone into reverse prior to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Finally,

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looking forward, and as an input into broader discussions and debates about what is needed as the country transitions into the recovery phase from COVID-19, we set out five key cross-cutting social policy challenges for the 2020s..

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Wilmington Healthcare

Looking ahead 2021: reset, partnerships, recovery

This report investigates the emerging trends and policy that will come to fruition in 2021 and that will transform the NHS landscape. Integration, collaboration, digital transformation, out-of-hospital care and home care are now widely used concepts. The report explores how they will transform systems in 2021 and what these developments mean for industry. Free registration required to access this paper.

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