Latest numbers on COVID-19 in the UK – 18 December 2020

The situation is deteriorating across the country.

Cases rising almost everywhere.

Hospital admissions are rising.

Tiers are performing poorly.

1. Cases
2. Tiers
3. Hospitalisations
4. Deaths
5. Vaccination data
6. Christmas

With many thanks to Bob Hawkins for his help in collating the data on positivity rates and tiers.
Cases
Number of new UK confirmed COVID-19 cases by reported date
(people who have had a positive test)

Data from https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk
Number of new confirmed COVID-19 cases / 100,000 people – UK nations – “specimen date”

Specimen date: Date someone **had a test**

Because it takes a few days for results to come through, can’t use most recent few days of data.

Data from [https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk](https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk)
Percentage positivity – UK nations – “specimen date”

Data from: https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/conditionsanddiseases/bulletins/coronaviruscovid19infectionsurveypilot/latest

Visualisation courtesy of Bob Hawkins
Weekly number of new confirmed COVID-19 cases / 100,000 people – England regions (specimen date)

Visualisation courtesy of Bob Hawkins
Weekly number of new confirmed COVID-19 cases / 100,000 people – England regions (specimen date)

Cases per 100,000 for All English Local Authorities
Comparison of week ending Dec 13 to prior week

Local Authorities Ranked by Cases

Visualisation courtesy of Bob Hawkins
Tiers
Cases per 100,000 for Tier 2 English Local Authorities
Comparison of week ending Dec 13 to prior week

Local Authorities Ranked by Cases

Visualisation courtesy of Bob Hawkins
Cases per 100,000 for Tier 3 English Local Authorities
Comparison of week ending Dec 13 to prior week

Visualisation courtesy of Bob Hawkins
Hospitalisations
Number of new hospital admissions with COVID-19 per day in England

Data from https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/
Daily hospital occupancy in England

Data from https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/
7-day average of daily number of new hospital admissions with COVID-19 per day / million people across different regions in England

Data from https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/covid-19-hospital-activity/
Deaths
Number of new UK deaths from COVID-19 per week

These are registered deaths where COVID-19 was mentioned on the death certificate, regardless of location.

About 90% are directly due to COVID.

Data from:
England and Wales: www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/bulletins/deathsregisteredweeklyinenglandandwalesprovisional/latest
Northern Ireland: www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/weekly-deaths
Number of deaths within 28 days of +ve COVID test reported per day in England

Data from https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/
Vaccination data
England: 108,000
Wales: 7,897
Northern Ireland: 4,000.
Scotland: 18,000
Total: 137,897
Christmas modelling
Summary

Case numbers rising across almost all regions.

Tiers 2 not enough to slow spread almost anywhere.

Tiers 3 not enough to slow spread in majority of regions.

Hospitalisations are rising almost everywhere.

Weekly deaths still high and beginning to increase again.

Vaccination – we need a joined up system.

Christmas – Take measures to protect yourself, your community and your loved ones this Christmas.
Rethinking Christmas

• The four nations have discussed the Christmas policy with respect to COVID-19. Unfortunately, they have decided to proceed with their overall approach, despite the situation worsening.

• The relaxation of restrictions over Christmas was a mistaken decision and Independent Sage has warned of the serious consequences that will result from gatherings across households and communities.

• We strongly advise the people of the UK to follow the advice that we have produced on how to keep themselves safe over Christmas. The next few months will be critical. We need to keep ourselves and our communities safe while the vaccination programme is rolled out.
Christmas advice

**HOW TO REDUCE COVID RISK AT CHRISTMAS**

"CAN ISN'T SHOULD"

- Reduce guests...
- ...or wait until March.

"OUTDOORS NOT INDOORS"

- Meet up outside
- Open the windows

"SAFE NOT SORRY"

- Self-isolate for 10 days before
- Socially distance

*SIMPLE COVID*

**SCIENCE MADE SIMPLE**

Adapted from Independent SAGE: Rethinking Christmas: A Three-Point Plan to Keep Families and Communities Safe

Graphic from SimpleCOVID https://simplecovid.org/
SAGE 26 November:
Reducing Risks of Social Interactions

- The safest interactions are online or outdoors
- Social interactions in the home increase the risk of infection

10 principles for reducing household transmission during social interactions

Household plan for putting the 10 principles into practice

SAGE: Making a Household Plan

Who should make a Household Plan?
Everyone who is planning for a social interaction with people from other households.

What should a Household Plan cover?
The plan should cover:
1) Who you will meet?
2) How often?
3) In what setting?
4) For how long each time?

It should also cover what you will do on each of these occasions to minimise the risk of infecting each other. This involves:
   a. Maximising spacing between people
   b. Ensuring enough ventilation
   c. Using face masks if it feels comfortable
   d. Making sure hands, objects and surfaces are regularly cleaned
   e. Planning your activities so that you limit those that have a higher risk of spreading the virus
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step 1:</th>
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<td>Arrange a discussion with the people who are within your household to prepare the plan.</td>
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<th>Step 2:</th>
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<td>Between you, make a list of the people you would like to meet up with. For each of these decide:</td>
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<td>1. How vulnerable you think they are because of age or health problems</td>
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<td>2. Their emotional need for support and contact</td>
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<th>Step 3:</th>
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<td>From that list decide who has top priority, balancing their vulnerability and need.</td>
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<td>Discuss by phone or online or outdoors with those who you decide to meet up with what their wishes are in terms of:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Whether and when to meet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. In what setting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. For what length of time</td>
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Use this to create a timetable. If you can meet up online instead of face to face, always choose that option. When it comes to setting always start with the safest options and only move to less safe ones if needed. Outdoors is safer than indoors. If meeting indoors, agree a time limit or break the time up with some outdoor activity allowing a refresh of the air in the space. When people are coming together from two or more households consider whether it is easier to maintain space in some houses than others - don’t just stick to tradition of “we always go to X’s house” or “it’s Y’s turn”. When it comes to mixing take special care to protect those most vulnerable to serious illness if they are infected. When meeting indoors, avoid having more people in a room than can be separated by at least 1 metre and ideally 2 metres when seated.
### Step 5:
Discuss the activities that you will do and how you can adjust them to reduce the risk of spreading the virus. For example, sharing dishes at a dinner table, playing games that involve lots of physical contact, singing or aerobic activities indoors are all activities that potentially increase transmission. Consider whether you can replace with lower risk alternatives or carry out some activities outdoors.

### Step 6:
Make a record of your decisions and check that everyone involved is happy with the plan.

### Step 7:
Make sure everyone does everything possible in the week before the visit to avoid getting infected, such as self-isolating if possible or at least minimising contact with others, wearing face masks in indoor public areas, always carrying hand sanitiser and using it regularly, not going to other gatherings.

### Step 8:
Make sure you are prepared for each visit in terms of:
1. Having cleaned surfaces and objects beforehand and making sure hand sanitiser is always to hand for yourself and guests
2. How you will ensure maximum spacing between people
3. How you will maximise the ventilation while keeping everyone comfortable

### Step 9:
Make sure all your guests and household members are familiar with the arrangements, paying special attention to people who might have difficulty understanding or adhering to the rules.

### Step 10:
Immediately before the visit check with everyone that they do not have any of the symptoms and have not knowingly been in contact with anyone with symptoms.