Latest numbers on COVID-19 in the UK – 9th April 2021

Things are continuing to get better but clear North / South difference in England.

1. Cases
2. Hospitalisations & Deaths
4. Vaccinations
5. Schools
6. Mass testing

With many thanks to Bob Hawkins and Catherine Finnecy for their help in collating the data and discussions on interpretation.
Cases
Number of tests performed each day by LFD or PCR type

Data from https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk
Number of new UK confirmed COVID-19 cases by reported date (people who have had a positive test)

New confirmed cases

Lockdown (England)

7-day centred rolling average

Lockdown + schools open (England)

Data from https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk
Positivity rates – UK nations – by date of test to 3rd April

% of people tested who are positive

Data from:
Scotland: https://www.opendata.nhs.scot/dataset/covid-19-in-Scotland

Excellent news

Visualisation courtesy of Bob Hawkins
In terms of people testing positive overall, we are back where we were mid September 2020, but still almost ten times higher than the lowest point last July.
Regional distribution of cases – Imperial REACT study (England)

Chart from https://spiral.imperial.ac.uk/bitstream/10044/1/87351/2/react1_r10_preprint.pdf

**Figure 2.** Weighted prevalence of swab-positivity by region for rounds 9 and 10. Bars show 95% confidence intervals. See Table 4.
Deprived areas have much higher rates of Covid-19 as we emerge from lockdown

Cases per 100,000 people per week

Sources: Covid Daily Update and Deprivation Data provided by Tom Worth
Thank you to Bob Hawkins for the chart
Hospitalisations and Deaths
Number of people in hospital per million people – UK nations to 6 April

Data from https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk.
Number of people in hospital per million people – UK nations to 6 April

Data from [https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk](https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk).
Hospital admission rates: English regions (to 5th April)

Admissions per million people (7 day rolling average)

Data from https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/covid-19-hospital-activity/
Hospitalisations by age group, England to 28 March

Hospitalisations in under 50s overtake older age groups for the first time (end Feb)

Number of new UK deaths from COVID-19 per week to week ending 26th March

Data from:
England and Wales: www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/bulletins/deathsregisteredweeklyinenglandandwalesprovisional/latest
Northern Ireland: www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/weekly-deaths
Deaths compared to what you might expect given infections – Imperial REACT study 8 April 2021

This deviation means that fewer people are dying than you would have expected - > likely the vaccine impact!

Chart from https://spiral.imperial.ac.uk/bitstream/10044/1/87351/2/react1_r10_preprint.pdf
Vaccination data
Number of 1\textsuperscript{st} and 2\textsuperscript{nd} doses given by day in the UK to 7\textsuperscript{th} April

1.6 million people received a jab in the week to 7\textsuperscript{th} April.

Data from https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/
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Expect April and May to be mainly 2\textsuperscript{nd} doses, but should be able to do all over 40s by end of May.

Data from https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/
Thanks to Bob Hawkins for the chart
Proportion of adults given at least one dose over time for each nation to 17th March

Data from https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/
Thanks to Bob Hawkins for the chart
Proportion of adults fully vaccinated over time for each nation to 17th March

Data from https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/
Thanks to Bob Hawkins for the chart
First and Second Dose Coverage by Age for England to Apr 4

Thanks to Bob Hawkins for the chart
First Dose Coverage by Deprivation for over 55s for England to Apr 1

Data from http://opensafely.org/research/2021/covid-vaccine-coverage
Thanks to Bob Hawkins for the chart
First Dose Coverage by Ethnicity for over 55s for England to Apr 1

Data from http://opensafely.org/research/2021/covid-vaccine-coverage
Thanks to Bob Hawkins for the chart
The ethnicity gap should be addressable as attitudes are changing

**Would you take a vaccine against COVID-19? By ethnicity**

If a vaccine against COVID-19 was available for anyone who wanted it, how likely or unlikely would you be to take the vaccine?

- Already had the vaccine/appt. booked
- Definitely/probably would take it
- Probably/definitely would not take it

**Among White Britons**

- Mar 2021: 62% Definitely/probably would take it, 32% Probably/definitely would not take it, 5% Already had the vaccine/appt. booked
- Jan 2021: 15% Definitely/probably would take it, 77% Probably/definitely would not take it, 7% Already had the vaccine/appt. booked

**Among Ethnic Minority Britons**

- Mar 2021: 42% Definitely/probably would take it, 50% Probably/definitely would not take it, 6% Already had the vaccine/appt. booked
- Jan 2021: 13% Definitely/probably would take it, 64% Probably/definitely would not take it, 22% Already had the vaccine/appt. booked

Including adults who are White Britons (7819) and ethnic minority Britons (451) in latest wave.

KnowledgePanel®

Ipsos MORI Attitudes to Vaccines KnowledgePanel Wave 10 PUBLIC
Schools
Modelled age distribution of Covid in Scotland (ONS infection survey)

Proportion of age group with Covid

20th February
Primary schools opened partially 22nd February

Data from https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/conditionsanddiseases/datasets/coronaviruscovid19infectionsurveydata
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Age distribution of confirmed cases (from testing) in Scotland over past month

This shows the 7-day average number of new cases found each day in each age group, per 100k population, since the start of the year. Figures are based on specimen date, and exclude the 3 most recent days as these will be incomplete. You can use the drop down box to view a specific age group in more detail.

Chart from https://www.travellingtabby.com/scotland-coronavirus-tracker/
Percentage of population testing positive by age in England (to 3rd April) (ONS infection survey)

Estimated percentage of the population testing positive for the coronavirus (COVID-19) on nose and throat swabs, daily, by age group since 21 February 2021, England

Chart from https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/conditionsanddiseases/bulletins/coronaviruscovid19infectionsurveypilot/latest
Age distribution of cases – Imperial REACT study (England)

Figure 4. Weighted prevalence of swab-positivity by age groups for rounds 9 and 10. Bars show 95% confidence intervals. See Table 4.

Chart from https://spiral.imperial.ac.uk/bitstream/10044/1/87351/2/react1_r10_preprint.pdf
Mass testing
Covid: Tests to be offered twice-weekly to all in England

3 days ago
Testing in England (to 7th April)

Number of tests performed each day by LFD or PCR type

Data from https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk
Government is changing policy on Lateral Flow Device tests (LFDs):

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2 – All adults to be encouraged to do twice weekly LFDs at home – this has many potential problems:
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   - Tests are unpleasant and difficult to do properly – little incentive to test if you feel fine -> risks use being among a motivated subset and then for new symptoms
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   - There are about 44 million adults in England. Even if most people don’t do it, that’s potentially 20 million tests twice a week in people who don’t have Covid. Of those 20 million, there could be somewhere between 6,000-20,000 false positive tests –

*assumes specificity of 99.9% - 99.97% (maximum govt estimate).
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     • If used as intended, there will be 1-4 days of isolation for false positives while they wait confirmatory PCR.
   - Will there be financial compensation? Support for suddenly disrupted plans?

Guidance from https://publichealthmatters.blog.gov.uk/2021/03/30/covid-19-reintroducing-confirmatory-pcr-testing/
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It’s not over yet
World cases of Covid October 2020 – April 2021

Weekly confirmed COVID-19 cases
Weekly confirmed cases refer to the cumulative number of confirmed cases over the previous week.

Source: Johns Hopkins University CSSE COVID-19 Data

Graphs from https://ourworldindata.org/
Summary

Cases, hospitalisations and deaths are flat or falling in all nations.

As we emerge from lockdown, the most deprived areas have case rates almost 3 times higher than the least deprived areas.

Vaccination going well – mostly second doses until end of May. Disparities by deprivation and ethnicity persist.

There was a rise in cases in school age children after school reopened – these likely to reduce over Easter holidays.

The government’s mass testing initiative has a lot problems.

As government announces plans for foreign holidays, the world is experiencing another Covid surge.