1. Hospitals
2. Deaths
3. Prevalence of Covid
4. Impact of recent waves on NHS & education
5. IFS report on Long Covid

With many thanks to Bob Hawkins for his help in collating the data
Hospitals
Number of people in hospital with Covid per million people – UK nations
7 day rolling average to 27 July 2022

Data from https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk.
Number of daily hospital admissions with Covid in England to 25 July 2022

Data from https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/covid-19-hospital-activity/
Deaths
Number of deaths with Covid on the death certificate by week registered in England & Wales to 15 July 2022

Data from https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/bulletins/deathsregisteredweeklyinenglandandwalesprovisional/weekending15july2022
Number of deaths with Covid on the death certificate by week registered in Scotland to 15 July 2022

Number of deaths with Covid on the death certificate by week registered in N Ireland to 15 July 2022

Data from https://datavis.nisra.gov.uk/vitalstatistics/weekly-deaths-dashboard.html
Prevalence of Covid
Percent of population testing positive each week by nation:
1 Aug 2020 to 20 July 2022
ONS Infection Survey (random testing)

Scotland, England and Wales have all peaked.
NI uncertain.
Prevalence remains very high everywhere.

Data from https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/conditionsanddiseases/datasets/coronaviruscovid19infectionsurveydata.
Percent Testing Positive by Age for England: Recent Trend
(Source: ONS Coronavirus (COVID-19) Infection Survey results)

Thanks to Bob Hawkins for the chart
This wave was not a surprise

6 May 2022

Prof. Christina Pagel 🇭🇺 @chrischlrp - May 6
They all have advantage over BA.2 - don't seem more severe but likely to cause a new wave - perhaps small, perhaps large (depends on how our prev omicron immunity holds up + boosters + summer).

But all 3 currently growing here but still v early days. 12/14

23 May 2022

Prof. Christina Pagel 🇪🇸 @chrischlrp
I think England first country to have equal proportion of both BA.4 and BA.2.12.1 so not clear which will win or what it means for wave size.

But I think v likely there will be a wave in 2nd half June/early July. Hopefully smaller than recent two omicron waves but we'll see. 3/3

2:03 PM - May 23, 2022 - Twitter Web App
Current proportion of sequenced cases by variant (COG UK)

Makes data hard to interpret. Likely due to increasing complexity in variant assignment and fewer resources at COG

Mostly BA.5 & subvariants

- BA.5.2
- BA.5.1
- BA.5
- BA.4
- BA.2
- Unassigned
- Other
Impact on sickness absence in schools and NHS
Percent of Students Absent from All State Schools in England from Sep 9, 2021 to Jul 21, 2022
(Source: Attendance in education and early years settings during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak)
Number of Teachers in All State Schools absent in England from Sep 9, 2021 to Jul 21, 2022
(Source: Attendance in education and early years settings during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak)

No. of Absences 26,696
Percent Absences 5.5%

NHS England Staff Sickness Absence Rates
Jan 2018 – Mar 2022
(Source: NHS Sickness Absence Rates Reports)

NHS England Staff Sickness Absence Rates due to Covid Mar 2020 – Mar 2022
(Source: NHS Sickness Absence Rates Reports)

NHS England Staff Sickness Absence Rates by Top 6 Reasons for Absence: Jan 2021 – Mar 2022
(Source: NHS Sickness Absence Rates Reports)

Long Covid new data:
Institute for Fiscal Studies:
Long Covid 27 July 2022
Two papers
Age Profile of People Living With and Without Long Covid
Sep 2021
(Source: Institute of Fiscal Studies Long COVID and the labour market Briefing Note – Jul 2022)

https://ifs.org.uk/publications/16121
Health and Poverty Status of People Living With and Without Long Covid: Sep 2021
(Source: Institute of Fiscal Studies Long COVID and the labour market Briefing Note – Jul 2022)

https://ifs.org.uk/publications/16121
Impact of Long Covid on Labour Market Outcomes
Sep 2021
(Source: Institute of Fiscal Studies Long COVID and the labour market Briefing Note – Jul 2022)

At current levels the aggregate impact is equivalent to 110,000 workers being off sick with a loss in earnings up to almost £1.5 billion per year

https://ifs.org.uk/publications/16121
New Nature paper from UK GP database

They looked at GP records of 486K people with confirmed Covid but not hospitalised in the months after Covid and 1.9 million “matched” people without confirmed Covid.

They found 62 symptoms significantly associated post Covid infection, which fell into three clusters, 80% in “Class 1”.

While many limitations to this study, it is yet more evidence of the wide and long lasting impact Covid can have.

Subramanian et al. https://www.nature.com/articles/s41591-022-01909-w
New BMJ paper on loss of taste and smell

They combined 18 studies involving 3,699 patients.

Of people who lost their taste and/or smell, about three quarters recovered it within 30 days and 96-98% within 180 days.

They estimate that about 5% have long lasting (at least 6 months to a year) loss of taste or smell.

Caveat: Largely pre vaccination era and also Omicron is less associated with loss of taste/smell than previous variants
**SUMMARY**

- The BA.5 wave has now peaked across the UK and cases and hospital admissions are falling reasonably rapidly.

- Registered deaths are lagged and still increasing. Should start to fall again soon. Lower than previous peaks (spring booster effect?)

- NHS remains under *extreme* pressure. Staff off sick adds to that pressure.

- Sickness absence has been increasing rapidly in schools, but thankfully now school holidays – join us next week for a schools discussion!

- More and more evidence from different perspectives about the clinical, personal and economic impact of Long Covid.