Latest numbers on COVID-19 in the UK – 3 March 2023

1. Prevalence
2. Hospitalisations and deaths
3. Vaccines & one myth busted
4. Variant update
5. New Long Covid research

With many thanks to Bob Hawkins for his help in collating the data
Prevalence
Percent Testing Positive by Home Nation: Recent Trend
(Source: ONS Coronavirus (COVID-19) Infection Survey results)

Thanks to Bob Hawkins for the chart
Hospitals and deaths
Number of people in hospital with Covid per million people – UK nations
7 day rolling average to 2 March 2023

NB: Wales data weekly

Data from https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk.
Number of daily hospital admissions with Covid in England to 27 Feb 2023

Where ONS infection survey goes up to

Data from https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/covid-19-hospital-activity/
Weekly Influenza and Covid Hospital Admission Rate (per 100K) for England: Oct 31 2021 – Feb 19 2023
(Source: Weekly National Influenza and COVID-19 Surveillance Data Report)


Thank you to Bob Hawkins for the chart
Number of deaths with Covid on the death certificate by week registered in the UK 13 August 2021 to 17 February 2023

[Graph showing deaths by week with different Omicron variants]

Most recent week was first week in a long time that we didn’t see Excess deaths in England & Wales

Data from:
- England and Wales: [www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/bulletins/deathsregisteredweeklyinenglandandwalesprovisional/latest](http://www.ons.gov.uk)
- Northern Ireland: [www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/weekly-deaths](http://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/weekly-deaths)
Vaccines
ONS deaths involving Covid in vaccinated (at least 1 dose) and unvaccinated people from Apr 2021 to Dec 2022

Age-standardised mortality rate / 100,000 person-years

https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/datasets/deathsbyvaccinationstatusengland
ONS deaths NOT involving Covid in vaccinated (at least 1 dose) and unvaccinated people from Apr 2021 to Dec 2022

Age-standardised mortality rate / 100,000 person-years

https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/datasets/deathsbyvaccinationstatusengland
7-day rolling average of number of daily vaccines given by date administered in England 25 Sept 2022 to 1 March 2023


Thanks to Bob Hawkins for the chart
Percent Vaccinated in the Last 3 Months, 3 to 6 Months, More than 6 Months, and Unvaccinated: England Sep 4 – Feb 27, 2023
(Source: National Influenza and COVID-19 Surveillance Data Report based on NIMS Population Estimates)


Thanks to Bob Hawkins for the chart
What’s coming: variants
Omicron variants in England 1 Jan 2022 - 7 Jan 2023
CH.1.1 and XBB.1.5 now both being monitored by UKHSA

Data from COG UK: https://www.cogconsortium.uk/tools-analysis/public-data-analysis-2/
New Long Covid Research
Does previous infection protect against new Long Covid on reinfection?

ONS looked at Infection survey participants reporting having Long Covid symptoms **20 weeks** (~5 months) after infection and reinfection.

For ADULTS – previous infection protected against Long Covid.

Source: Office for National Statistics – Coronavirus (COVID-19) Infection Survey

https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/conditionsanddiseases/bulletins/newonsetselfreportedlongcovidaftercoronaviruscovid19reinfectionintheuk/23february2023
Does previous infection protect against new Long Covid on reinfection? ONS infection survey data

ONS looked at Infection survey participants reporting having Long Covid symptoms 20 weeks (~5 months) after infection and reinfection.

For CHILDREN – NO EVIDENCE of previous infection protecting against Long Covid.

Source: Office for National Statistics – Coronavirus (COVID-19) Infection Survey

https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/conditionsanddiseases/bulletins/newonsetselfreportedlongcovidaftercoronaviruscovid19reinfectionintheuk/23february2023
Does vaccination help prevent Long Covid?

Two new studies published this week say yes...!

**First**: A review concludes that vaccination does seem to reduce chance of getting Long Covid if infected – the more doses the better. Three dose effect looks quite a bit higher than that from previous infection.

But studies this review is based on still too different in methodology and results to pin down exactly the extent of reduction.


**Second**: If you *do* develop Long Covid, vaccination significantly reduces the severity and duration of the symptoms and its impact on your life.

SUMMARY

• Coming down from the most recent wave

• Nothing particularly scary on the variant front

• New data shows vaccines protect against not just deaths and hospitalisations, they also protect against Long Covid.

• Booster programme has ended – primary programme has not!!

How to get a 1st and 2nd dose of the coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine

If you have not had a 1st or 2nd dose yet, you're still eligible and can get them anytime.
SUMMARY

• Coming down from the most recent wave

• Nothing particularly scary on the variant front

• New data shows vaccines protect against not just deaths and hospitalisations, they also protect against Long Covid.

• Booster programme has ended – primary programme has not!!

• Myths above vaccines just one element of the disinformation that has made pandemic response so much harder.