Latest numbers on COVID-19 in the UK – 28 April 2023

1. Vaccines
2. Hospitalisations and deaths
3. State of the NHS
4. Other ways of monitoring prevalence
5. Variant update
6. Work absence 2022

With many thanks to Bob Hawkins for his help in collating the data
Vaccines
Total Number of Spring 2023 Booster Doses Given by Category
England: Week Ending 9 Apr – 23 Apr 2023
(Source: UKHSA Flu and Covid surveillance report using NIMS population estimates)

Thank you to Bob Hawkins for the chart
Coverage of Spring 2023 Booster Doses by Category
England: Week Ending 9 Apr – 23 Apr 2023
(Source: UKHSA Flu and Covid surveillance report using NIMS population estimates)

Thank you to Bob Hawkins for the chart
Hospitals and deaths
Hospital testing & potential impact on recorded admissions (and Within-hospital infections)

Apr 2022:
No more testing for visitors to hospitals
Big shift to LFDs instead of PCR tests
End of free tests for general public

Sept 2022:
Most asymptomatic testing within hospitals stopped
Asymptomatic staff testing stopped

Apr 2023:
Pre admission patient testing stopped even if symptomatic
No testing for within hospital transfer
Most healthcare staff who have symptoms of a respiratory infection no longer asked to test

Still tested: anyone admitted *for* Covid symptoms or anyone who develops symptoms in hospital where Covid would affect their medical management

Number of daily hospital admissions with Covid in England Mar 2022 to 24 April 2023

87,500 admissions this year so far (minimum)
~ 25,000 of which caught in hospital.

Data from https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/covid-19-hospital-activity/
Number of deaths with Covid on the death certificate by week registered in England and Wales July 2021 to 14 April 2023

Data from: England and Wales: [ons.gov.uk](http://ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/bulletins/deathsregisteredweeklyinenglandandwalesprovisional/latest)
State of NHS
Percent of A&E attendances greater than 4 hours from arrival to admission, transfer or discharge for England: Nov 2010 – Mar 2023
(Source: NHS Monthly A&E Attendances and Emergency Admissions)

550,567 A&E Patients (29%) waited longer than four hours from arrival to admission, transfer or discharge in March 2023

Thanks to Bob Hawkins for the chart
Number of Patients Waiting for Treatment in England (Jan 2016 to Feb 2023)
(Source: NHS Monthly A&E Attendances and Emergency Admissions)

One in Eight People were Waiting to Start Treatment in February 2023 in England

Thanks to Bob Hawkins for the chart
Percent of Patients Waiting Longer than Two Months to Start Cancer Treatment following an Urgent GP Referral by Month: England (Jan 2016 to Feb 2023)
(Source: NHS Monthly Cancer Waiting Times Report)

Thanks to Bob Hawkins for the chart
One in seven UK-trained doctors has left to practise in another country, and this figure continues to trend upwards

Share of doctors trained in each country who are practising overseas* (%)
Nurses and junior doctors have suffered much steeper declines in real-terms pay than the average British worker.

Change in real-terms pay relative to March 2009 (%)

All workers, all sectors

Nurses

Junior doctors

Source: FT analysis of ONS average weekly earnings, CPI and NHS Staff Earnings Estimates
FT graphic: John Burn-Murdoch / @jburnmurdoch
© FT
British nurses’ salaries have been overtaken by many countries, and UK nurses’ pay relative to other jobs is also among the lowest.

Source: FT analysis of OECD remuneration of health professionals and average annual wages
FT graphic: John Burn-Murdoch / @jburnmurdoch
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NHS staff retention

Pay is actually some way down the list of reasons doctors leave the UK

Share of doctors who have left the UK who listed each reason as a contributing factor

- Dissatisfaction with role / place of work / NHS culture: 30%
- Returned to country of previous residence: 25%
- Burnout/work related stress: 20%
- Desire to move abroad: 15%
- Financial reasons: 10%

Source: Completing the Picture Survey (by Shift Insight, for the General Medical Council)
FT graphic: John Burn-Murdoch / @burnmaddock
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Wastewater
Viral load of Covid RNA in wastewater in Scotland Autumn 2021 to 14 April 2023

From https://scotland.shinyapps.io/phs-respiratory-covid-19/
Viral load of Covid RNA in wastewater in Wales Nov 2022 to 17 April 2023

Viral load of Covid RNA in wastewater in England...

Data showing the concentration of SARS-CoV-2 RNA and variants of concern (VOC) and variants under investigation (VUI) detected in wastewater by the Environmental Monitoring for Health Protection (EMHP) wastewater monitoring programme.

The EMHP SARS-CoV-2 wastewater monitoring programme was scaled down and paused at the end of March 2022. Wastewater Based Epidemiology is likely to be of significant importance in the future, both domestically and internationally, and we are exploring further opportunities for this technology.

These publications are therefore being discontinued. Transparency data covering the time period up to the end of March 2022 is included in this publication after which regular publications will cease. Any future ad-hoc transparency publications will be announced in advance on this page and on the Statistics at UKHSA page.

Viral load of Covid RNA in wastewater in England...

Variant surveillance was also possible

Variant update
Last routine UKHSA report
Current lineages in the UK: UKHSA variant report

Omicron XBB lineages dominate. Growing are XBB.1.9* and XBB.1.16 (“Arcturus”).

XBB.1.16 (“Arcturus”) shows modest advantage over XBB.1.5. So does XBB.1.9.2.
XBB.1.16 spotted in all regions except North East.
Unlikely to be more than a modest wave given previous XBB wave.

Work absence 2022
UK Sickness Absence Rate: 2000 to 2022
(Source: Sickness absence in the UK labour market report, April 2023)

https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/employmentandemployeetypes/datasets/sicknessabsenceinthelabourmarket

Thank you to Bob Hawkins for the chart
Main Reasons for Sickness Absences in the UK for 2022
(Source: Sickness absence in the UK labour market report, April 2023)

- Minor illnesses: 29%
- Other - Including Covid: 24%
- Musculoskeletal problems: 11%
- Respiratory conditions: 8%
- Mental health conditions: 8%
- Gastrointestinal problems: 5%
- Prefers not to give details: 5%
- Headaches and migraines: 4%
- Eye/ear/nose/mouth/dental problems: 2%
- Heart, blood pressure, circulation: 2%
- Genito-urinary problems: 2%

https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/employmentandemployeetypes/datasets/sicknessabsenceinthelabourmarket
UK Sickness Absence Rate by Age: 2019 to 2022
(Source: Sickness absence in the UK labour market report, April 2023)
UK Sickness Absence Rate by Industry: 2020 to 2022
(Source: Sickness absence in the UK labour market report, April 2023)

https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/employmentandemployeetypes/datasets/sicknessabsenceinthe labourmarket
Statutory Sick Pay as a Percent of Earnings by Country
(Source: The Compensation Expert Report, May 2021)

Memo. (a) Ireland currently has no Statutory Sick Pay but pays a Covid sickness benefit

https://the-compensation-experts.co.uk/news/european-sick-pay/
Thanks to Bob Hawkins for the chart
SUMMARY

- Spring boosters are underway for the over 75s and immunocompromised

- Looks as if we are on a downward trend right now. “Arcturus” variant is here and growing, but slowly at the moment. Unless that changes, unlikely to cause a big wave.

- NHS still in a bad place

- Scotland and Wales are continuing wastewaster monitoring for Covid-19 which can be helpful in spotting waves. England stopped in 2022. NI doesn’t seem to be doing it either.

- 2022 saw highest rate of workforce sickness in almost 20 years.