COVID-19 recovery

4th December 2020

**Title**: UK authorises Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine

Department of Health and Social Care | 2nd December 2020

The Government has announced that it has authorised the first COVID-19 vaccine on independent advice of medicines regulator:

“The Government has today accepted the recommendation from the independent Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) to approve Pfizer-BioNTech’s COVID-19 vaccine for use. This follows months of rigorous clinical trials and a thorough analysis of the data by experts at the MHRA who have concluded that the vaccine has met its strict standards of safety, quality and effectiveness”.

“The Joint Committee on Vaccinations and Immunisations (JCVI) will shortly publish its final advice for the priority groups to receive the vaccine, including care home residents, health and care staff, the elderly and the clinically extremely vulnerable”.

“The vaccine will be made available across the UK from next week. The NHS has decades of experience in delivering large scale vaccination programmes and will begin putting their extensive preparations into action to provide care and support to all those eligible for vaccination.

Full detail: [UK authorises Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-authorises-pfizer-biontech-covid-19-vaccine)

**Title:** What impact has Covid-19 had on mental health services?

The Kings Fund | 30th November 2020

In this blog post Jenny Davies of The Nuffield Trust explores changes in symptoms of mental health conditions, such as increase in depressive symptoms and self-reported anxiety; and mental health service use during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Full detail: [What impact has Covid-19 had on mental health services?](https://www.nuffieldtrust.org.uk/news-item/what-impact-has-covid-19-had-on-mental-health-services)

**Title**: Urgent preparing for community pharmacy to contribute to a potential Covid-19 vaccination programme

NHS England | 27th November 2020

Due to their position in local communities, pharmacies are well placed to reach out to our diverse neighbourhoods and avoid inequalities in access. This means community pharmacy will have an important role in a potential COVID-19 vaccination programme. This letter to community pharmacies, contractors and the workforce outlines how stakeholders will be able to support the COVID19 vaccination service in the following ways, such as:

* Individuals who are able to support local workforce arrangements can do
so by joining the NHS COVID-19 vaccine team.
* Community pharmacy contractors can collaborate with their local Primary
Care Network to support them to deliver maximum vaccine uptake via the
GP Enhanced Service or with vaccination centres. This may be, for
example, to increase capacity or target certain populations such as care
homes by entering into a sub-contracting agreement. PCN groupings would
be responsible for meeting the costs of any additional paid workforce.
* NHS England and NHS Improvement regional teams will also commission
selected community pharmacy contractors who are able to meet the
requirements to provide a COVID-19 vaccination service from pharmacyled designated sites.

The letter also sets out a provisional timetable.

Full detail: [Urgent preparing for community pharmacy to contribute to a potential Covid-19 vaccination programme](https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/wp-content/uploads/sites/52/2020/11/C0912-urgent-preparing-for-community-pharmacy-to-contribute-to-a-potential-covid-19-19-vaccination-programme-2.pdf)

**Title**: Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation: advice on priority groups for COVID-19 vaccination

Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation | 2nd December 2020

This advice is provided to facilitate the development of policy on Covid-19 vaccination in the UK.

Full detail: [Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation: advice on priority groups for COVID-19 vaccination](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/940396/Priority_groups_for_coronavirus__COVID-19__vaccination_-_advice_from_the_JCVI__2_December_2020.pdf)

**Title:** The health, economic and social effects of COVID-19 and the tiered approach

Department of Health and Social Care | 30th November 2020

This paper provides an overview of the evidence and analysis in relation to coronavirus and the health, economic and social effects of the government’s tiered approach.

Full detail: [Analysis of the health, economic and social effects of COVID-19 and the approach to tiering](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/939876/Analysis_of_the_health_economic_and_social_effects_of_COVID-19_and_the_approach_to_tiering_FINAL__SofS_.pdf)

**Title**: Digital Health and Care and COVID-19

Professional Record Standards Body | 30th November 2020

This report examines the digital transformation of health and care services during the pandemic and recommends how the system can use the lessons from Covid-19 to advance digital change, while maintaining safety and prioritising citizen’s needs. The report is based on consultation with more than 100 PRSB members and partners including the Royal Colleges, social care system leaders, health care providers, patient groups, regulators and others.

Full report: [Digital Health and Care and COVID-19](https://theprsb.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Digital-Health-and-Covid-19-v0.1.pdf)

See also: [PRSB reports on lessons from the pandemic on the future of digital care](https://theprsb.org/2020/11/prsb-reports-on-lessons-from-the-pandemic-on-the-future-of-digital-care/)

**Title:** Vaccinating the UK against covid-19

BMJ | 2020; 371: m4654 | 30th November 2020

The global covid-19 pandemic has led to over 50 000 deaths in the UK, disrupted health services, and led to massive increases in unemployment and government debt. Following the government’s failure to implement an effective test, trace, and isolate programme, mass vaccination against covid-19 offers us the best way to finally bring the pandemic under control.

This editorial states thatit is essential that the covid-19 vaccination programme is implemented well and avoids the many mistakes made during other components of the government’s response to covid-19.

Full editorial: [Vaccinating the UK against Covid-19](https://www.bmj.com/content/371/bmj.m4654)

**TITLE:** CONCERNS PERSIST ABOUT PURPOSE, ETHICS, AND EFFECT OF RAPID TESTING IN LIVERPOOL

BMJ | 2020; 371: m4690 | 2nd December 2020

The government is hailing Liverpool’s testing pilot as a great success and plans to offer rapid lateral flow tests to other areas with high rates of covid-19. But this analysis from the BMJ suggests the scheme raises more questions than answers.

Full detail: [Concerns persist about purpose, ethics, and effect of rapid testing in Liverpool](https://www.bmj.com/content/371/bmj.m4690)

**Title:** The All Party Parliamentary Group on Coronavirus Interim Report

The All Party Parliamentary Group on Coronavirus | December 2020

The UK is currently experiencing a second wave of Covid-19. After listening to experts, frontline workers and organisations representing some of those most affected by Covid-19, the APPG believes that there are measures that the UK government can implement to reduce the impact of the pandemic.

By providing better protection and support to those most affected, by empowering local authorities to assist in the management of the crisis, by recognising and mitigating against the unequal impact that Covid-19 has had on our society, we can reduce the scars of Covid-19, thereby helping us to come out of this period more united and more resilient.  The report contains 71 key findings and 41 recommendations.

Full report: [The All Party Parliamentary Group on Coronavirus Interim Report December 2020](https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/marchforchange/pages/326/attachments/original/1606989975/APPG_on_Coronavirus_Interim_Report_December_2020__%282%29.pdf?1606989975)

**Title:** Community testing to help lift restrictions in highest tiers

Department of Health and Social Care | 30th November 2020

Details of a new community testing offer have been set out by the Government to help local areas detect asymptomatic cases, suppress the virus and offer a route out of the toughest restrictions.

Local authorities will determine the best way to focus testing, suppress the virus and ensure their communities benefit, with potential models including whole population testing of all non-symptomatic individuals over 11 years old, testing targeted on specific geographic areas, such as those with high prevalence, or highly targeted testing on specific locations, employment sectors, or workplaces where there is a high risk.

Local Directors of Public Health will be supported to develop approaches that work for their community, backed by national support and funding. Central government will provide operational

support for the design and delivery of community testing programmes, and funding available to local authorities will be estimated based on the number of tests they aim to deliver over the 6 week programme.

Full detail: [Community testing to help lift restrictions in highest tiers](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/community-testing-to-help-lift-restrictions-in-highest-tiers)

**TITLE:** DESIGNATED SETTINGS FOR COVID-19 PATIENTS LEAVINGHOSPITAL

Care Quality Commission | 1st December 2020

The CQC is working with the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), local authorities and individual care providers to provide assurance of safe and high-quality care in designated settings, which are part of a scheme to allow people with a COVID-positive test result to be discharged safely from hospitals.

These settings are admitting people who are discharged from hospital with a COVID-positive test who will be moving or going back into a care home setting. This is to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 (coronavirus) in care homes and will allow for a focus on the care that people who have contracted COVID-19 need.

Full detail: [Designated settings for COVID-19 patients leaving hospital](https://www.cqc.org.uk/news/stories/designated-settings-covid-19-patients-leaving-hospital)

**Title:** Care home residents to be reunited with families by Christmas

Department of Health and Social Care | 1st December 2020

New guidance will safely allow indoor visits to care homes across England as the country moves back into tiered restrictions.

* Visits out to family homes or outdoor spaces like parks may also be possible for some care home residents under 65
* Safe care home visits to be supported by the provision of over a million rapid tests and free personal protective equipment (PPE)

Full detail: [Care home residents to be reunited with families by Christmas](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/care-home-residents-to-be-reunited-with-families-by-christmas?utm_source=1e3dde46-9d0e-4ab0-bc84-90ab4ff929db&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate)

**Title:** A rapid review of mental and physical health effects of working at home: how do we optimise health?

BMC Public Health | November 30th 2020

BACKGROUND**:** The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has resulted in changes to the working arrangements of millions of employees who are now based at home and may continue to work at home, in some capacity, for the foreseeable future. Decisions on how to promote employees' health whilst working at home (WAH) need to be based on the best available evidence to optimise worker outcomes. The aim of this rapid review was to review the impact of WAH on individual workers' mental and physical health, and determine any gender difference, to develop recommendations for employers and employees to optimise workers' health.

METHOD: A search was undertaken in three databases, PsychInfo, ProQuest, and Web of Science, from 2007 to May 2020. Selection criteria included studies which involved employees who regularly worked at home, and specifically reported on physical or mental health-related outcomes. Two review authors independently screened studies for inclusion, one author extracted data and conducted risk of bias assessments with review by a second author.

RESULTS: Twenty-three papers meet the selection criteria for this review. Ten health outcomes were reported: pain, self-reported health, safety, well-being, stress, depression, fatigue, quality of life, strain and happiness. The impact on health outcomes was strongly influenced by the degree of organisational support available to employees, colleague support, social connectedness (outside of work), and levels of work to family conflict. Overall, women were less likely to experience improved health outcomes when WAH.

CONCLUSIONS: This review identified several health outcomes affected by WAH. The health/work relationship is complex and requires consideration of broader system factors to optimise the effects of WAH on workers' health. It is likely mandated WAH will continue to some degree for the foreseeable future; organisations will need to implement formalised WAH policies that consider work-home boundary management support, role clarity, workload, performance indicators, technical support, facilitation of co-worker networking, and training for managers.

Full document: [A rapid review of mental and physical health effects of working at home: how do we optimise health?](https://bmcpublichealth.biomedcentral.com/track/pdf/10.1186/s12889-020-09875-z.pdf)

**Title**: Supporting recovery from COVID-19

British Journal of Nursing | November 26th 2020

COVID-19 is a new disease. Most research into the disease has focused on prevention of viral spread and treatment, but little is known about how patients recover. Nurses, whether in hospital, the community or in primary care, have a key role in supporting recovery from COVID-19.

In this article, direct evidence from studies of COVID-19, and indirect evidence from studies of infections caused by other coronaviruses (eg SARS, MERS) and of the ICU experience are explored to identify the potential course of recovery and areas where nurses can help. Most people will have an uncomplicated recovery. However, it appears that a more complicated recovery is likely to be associated with severe disease. A minority, possibly those needing hospitalisation, and/or with pre-existing physical or psychological comorbidities, may experience long-term physical effects, fatigue and mental health difficulties.

The support that nurses, as part of a multidisciplinary team, can provide to facilitate recovery is discussed.

Further detail: [Supporting recovery from COVID-19](https://www.magonlinelibrary.com/doi/pdf/10.12968/bjon.2020.29.21.1272)

We

[TRFT Library & Knowledge Service](https://www.trftlibraryknowledge.com/) aim to bring together the latest guidelines, research and news on Covid-19 through our [Covid-19 portal](https://www.trftlibraryknowledge.com/coronavirus.html). For daily updates on Covid-19 visit our '[Latest Health](https://trfthealthweeklydigest.wordpress.com/)' newsfeed, or use the hashtag [#covid19rftlks](https://twitter.com/hashtag/covid19rftlks?src=hashtag_click) to see our latest tweets on Covid-19 research, guidelines and news.

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