COVID-19 weekly update

September 24th 2021

clinical management

**Title:** New NHS clinical leadership to support post-COVID challenges

NHS England | 21st September 2021

Leading clinicians from across the health service have been appointed to new national clinical roles to help lead action on post-COVID challenges facing patients and staff.

The five new clinical leads – covering urgent and emergency care, elective care and long COVID – will provide expert advice to the NHS Medical Director, Professor Stephen Powis, and to the programme teams working to support local NHS teams improve services for patients in these areas.

Full detail: [New NHS clinical leadership to support post-COVID challenges](https://www.england.nhs.uk/2021/09/new-nhs-clinical-leadership-to-support-post-covid-challenges/)

**Title:** Thousands of patients to benefit from life-saving COVID-19 treatment

Department of Health and Social Care | 17th September 2021

Thousands of vulnerable NHS patients in hospital due to COVID-19 are set to benefit from a groundbreaking new antibody treatment, the government has announced. Ronapreve, a combination of 2 monoclonal antibodies, will be targeted initially at those in hospital who have not mounted an antibody response against COVID-19. This includes people who are immunocompromised, for example those with certain cancers or autoimmune diseases, and therefore have difficulty building up an antibody response to the virus, either through being exposed to COVID-19 or from vaccination.

The government has taken action to secure supply of the new therapeutic for NHS patients across the 4 nations, buying enough to treat eligible patients in hospital from next week. Guidance will shortly be going out to clinicians so they can begin prescribing the treatment as soon as possible.

Full detail: [Thousands of patients to benefit from life-saving COVID-19 treatment](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/thousands-of-patients-to-benefit-from-life-saving-covid-19-treatment)
See also:

* [Monoclonal antibody treatment to be rolled out to hospital patients with no antibody response](https://www.bmj.com/content/374/bmj.n2319) | BMJ
* [Ronapreve: 'Most vulnerable' to get new Covid drug](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-58602999?at_medium=RSS&at_campaign=KARANGA) | BBC News

**Title:** Risk prediction of covid-19 related death and hospital admission in adults after covid-19 vaccination: national prospective cohort study

BMJ | 2021; 374: n2306 | 17th September 2021

In this paper researchers from the University of Oxford reported on their updated QCovid tool, which identifies vaccinated people who are at greatest risk of severe covid-19 leading to hospital admission or death from 14 days after their second dose.

It highlighted an elevated risk among people who are immunosuppressed as a result of chemotherapy, a recent bone marrow or solid organ transplantation, or HIV and AIDS; people with neurological disorders, including dementia and Parkinson’s; care home residents; and people with chronic disorders, including Down’s syndrome.

Julia Hippisley-Cox, professor of clinical epidemiology and general practice at Oxford and coauthor of the paper, said that the tool could be used to help identify patients at highest risk of serious outcomes despite vaccination for targeted intervention.

Full paper: [Risk prediction of covid-19 related death and hospital admission in adults after covid-19 vaccination: national prospective cohort study](https://www.bmj.com/content/bmj/374/bmj.n2244.full.pdf)

Related:

* [Tool identifies vaccinated groups at highest risk of severe COVID-19](https://www.nihr.ac.uk/news/tool-identifies-vaccinated-groups-at-highest-risk-of-severe-covid-19/28711) | NIHR
* [How is vaccination affecting hospital admissions and deaths?](https://www.bmj.com/content/374/bmj.n2306) | BMJ
* [Hospital Admission for COVID-19 and impact of vaccination: analysis of linked data from the National Immunisation Management Service (NIMS) and the Coronavirus Clinical Information Network (CO-CIN)](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1018555/S1363_Hospital_Admission_for_COVID-19_and_impact_of_vaccination.pdf) | Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies

**Title:** The search for antivirals for covid-19

BMJ | 2021; 374: n2165 | 20th September 2021

Antiviral drugs are among the most researched tools for treating covid-19. They either prevent a virus entering a host cell or prevent it from being able to replicate once it is inside. And yet, as this BMJ Feature piece reports, over 18 months into the pandemic, finding ones that are effective against SARS-CoV-2 has proved challenging.

Full detail: [The search for antivirals for covid-19](https://www.bmj.com/content/374/bmj.n2165)

**Title:** Antibody and cellular therapies for treatment of covid-19: a living systematic review and network meta-analysis

BMJ | 2021; 374: n2231 | 23rd September 2021

The objectives of this living systematic review and network meta-analysis are to evaluate the efficacy and safety of antiviral antibody therapies and blood products for the treatment of novel coronavirus disease 2019 (covid-19).

The study concludes that in patients with non-severe covid-19, casirivimab-imdevimab probably reduces hospitalisation; bamlanivimab-etesevimab, bamlanivimab, and sotrovimab may reduce hospitalisation. Convalescent plasma, IVIg, and other antibody and cellular interventions may not confer any meaningful benefit.

Full paper: [Antibody and cellular therapies for treatment of covid-19: a living systematic review and network meta-analysis](https://www.bmj.com/content/bmj/374/bmj.n2231.full.pdf)

**Title:** Impact of COVID-19 and other infectious conditions requiring isolation on the provision of and adaptations to fundamental nursing care in hospital in terms of overall patient experience, care quality, functional ability, and treatment outcomes: systematic review

Journal of Advanced Nursing | 23rd September 2021

This systematic review identifies, appraises and synthesizes the evidence on the provision of fundamental nursing care to hospitalized patients with a highly infectious virus and the effectiveness of adaptations to overcome barriers to care.

Four main themes (and 11 sub-themes) were identified. Barriers to delivering fundamental care were wearing personal protective equipment, adequate staffing, infection control procedures and emotional challenges of care. These barriers were addressed by multiple adaptations to communication, organization of care, staff support and leadership.

Full article: [Impact of COVID- 19 and other infectious conditions requiring isolation on the provision of and adaptations to fundamental nursing care in hospital in terms of overall patient experience, care quality, functional ability, and treatment outcomes: systematic review](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1111/jan.15047)

**Title:** Venous thromboembolism is linked to severity of disease in COVID-19 patients

International Journal of Clinical Practice | 22nd September 2021

Coronavirus disease-2019 (COVID-19) may predispose to venous thromboembolism (VTE) and arterial thromboembolism due to excessive inflammation, hypoxia, immobilization and diffuse intravascular coagulation. The understanding of the association might be helpful in early vigilant monitoring and better management of COVID-19 patients at a high risk. Thus, in this meta-analysis the authors aim to assess the association of venous thromboembolism with severity of COVID-19 disease.

The findings suggest that venous thromboembolism either deep vein thrombosis or pulmonary embolism may have a negative effect on the health status of COVID-19 patients. The study highlights the need to consider measures for reducing thromboembolism risk among COVID-19 patients.

Full article: [Venous thromboembolism is linked to severity of disease in COVID-19 patients: A systematic literature review and exploratory meta-analysis](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1111/ijcp.14910)

**Title:** The Suppressor of Cytokine Signalling family of proteins and their potential impact on COVID-19 disease progression

Reviews in Medical Virology | 22nd September 2021

The family of Suppressor of Cytokine Signalling (SOCS) proteins plays pivotal roles in cytokine and immune regulation. Despite their key roles, little attention has been given to the SOCS family as compared to other feedback regulators.

To date, SOCS proteins have been found to be exploited by viruses such as herpes simplex virus (HSV), hepatitis B virus (HBV), hepatitis C virus (HCV), Zika virus, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), Ebola virus, influenza A virus (IAV) and SARS-CoV, just to name a few.

The hijacking and subsequent upregulation of the SOCS proteins upon viral infection, suppress the associated JAK-STAT signalling activities, thereby reducing the host antiviral response and promoting viral replication. Two SOCS protein family members, SOCS1 and SOCS3 are well-studied and their roles in the JAK-STAT signalling pathway are defined as attenuating interferon (IFN) signalling upon viral infection.

The upregulation of SOCS protein by SARS-CoV during the early stages of infection implies strong similarity with SARS-CoV-2, given their closely related genomic organisation. Thus, this review aims to outline the plausibility of SOCS protein inhibitors as a potential therapeutic regimen for COVID-19 patients. The authors also discuss the antagonists against SOCS protein to offer an overview on the previous ‘successes’ of SOCS protein inhibition in various viral infections that may portray possible clues for COVID-19 disease management.

Full paper: [The Suppressor of Cytokine Signalling family of proteins and their potential impact on COVID-19 disease progression](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1002/rmv.2300)

**Title:** The critical role of mesenchymal stromal/stem cell therapy in COVID-19 patients: An updated review

Cell Biochemistry & Function | 20th September 2021

New coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), as a pandemic disaster, has drawn the attention of researchers in various fields to discover suitable therapeutic approaches for the management of COVID-19 patients. Currently, there are many worries about the rapid spread of COVID-19; there is no approved treatment for this infectious disease, despite many efforts to develop therapeutic procedures for COVID-19.

Emerging evidence shows that mesenchymal stromal/stem cell (MSC) therapy can be a suitable option for the management of COVID-19. These cells have many biological features (including the potential of differentiation, high safety and effectiveness, secretion of trophic factors and immunoregulatory features) that make them suitable for the treatment of various diseases.

However, some studies have questioned the positive role of MSC therapy in the treatment of COVID-19. Accordingly, in this paper, we will focus on the therapeutic impacts of MSCs and their critical role in cytokine storm of COVID-19 patients.

Full article: [The critical role of mesenchymal stromal/stem cell therapy in COVID-19 patients: An updated review](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1002/cbf.3670)

**Title:** The predictive power of serum vitamin D for poor outcomes in COVID-19 patients

Considering the high prevalence of vitamin D deficiency worldwide and its relationship with immune response to viral infections, this study attempted to identify the predictive power of serum vitamin D for poor outcomes among the COVID-19 patients.

The authors conclude that Vitamin D deficiency can be considered as a predictor of poor outcomes and mortality in COVID-19 patients. Therefore, checking serum 25 (OH) D on admission and taking vitamin D supplements according to the prophylactic or treatment protocols is recommended for all COVID-19 patients.

Full article: [The predictive power of serum vitamin D for poor outcomes in COVID-19 patients](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1002/fsn3.2591)

**Title:** Mechanical ventilation in COVID-19: A physiological perspective

Experimental Physiology | 19th September 2021

Severe respiratory failure from COVID-19 pneumonia not responding to non-invasive respiratory support requires mechanical ventilation. While ventilation can be a life-saving therapy, it can cause further lung injury if airway pressure, flow and their timing are not tailored to the individual patient's respiratory system mechanics.

Understanding the underlying pathophysiology, duration of symptoms, radiological characteristics and lung mechanics at the individual patient level is crucial for the appropriate choice of mechanical ventilation settings to optimise gas exchange and prevent further lung injury.

By critically analysing the literature, the authors propose fundamental physiological and mechanical criteria for the selection of ventilation settings for COVID-19 patients in intensive care units.

In particular, the choice of tidal volume should be based on obtaining a driving pressure < 14 cmH2O, ensuring the avoidance of hypoventilation in patients with preserved compliance, and excessive strain in patients with smaller lung volumes and lower lung compliance. The level of positive end-expiratory pressure (PEEP) should be informed by the measurement of the potential for lung recruitability, where patients with greater recruitability potential may benefit from higher PEEP levels.

Prone positioning is often beneficial and should be considered early. The rationale for the proposed mechanical ventilation settings criteria is presented and discussed.

Full article: [Mechanical ventilation in COVID-19: A physiological perspective](https://physoc.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/pdf/10.1113/EP089400)

recovery

**Title:** Record number of children and young people referred to mental health services as pandemic takes its toll

The Royal College of Psychiatrists | 23rd September 2021

Record numbers of children and young people are being referred to mental health services for crisis and non-crisis care, as the toll of the pandemic on the country’s mental health is revealed in a new analysis by the Royal College of Psychiatrists.

Eighteen months after the first lockdown and after warnings from the mental health sector about the long-lasting mental health impact of the pandemic, the Royal College of Psychiatrists’ analysis of NHS Digital data found that:

* 190,271 0–18-year-olds were referred to children and young people’s mental health services between April and June this year, up 134% on the same period last year (81,170) and 96% on 2019 (97,342).
* 8,552 children and young people were referred for urgent or emergency crisis care between April and June this year, up 80% on the same period last year (4,741) and up 64% on 2019 (5,219).
* 340,694 children in contact with children and young people’s mental health services at the end of June, up 25% on the same month last year (272,529) and up 51% on June 2019 (225,480).

Further detail: [Record number of children and young people referred to mental health services as pandemic takes its toll](https://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/news-and-features/latest-news/detail/2021/09/23/record-number-of-children-and-young-people-referred-to-mental-health-services-as-pandemic-takes-its-toll)

See also: [Children’s NHS mental health referrals double in pandemic](https://www.theguardian.com/society/2021/sep/23/childrens-nhs-mental-health-referrals-double-in-pandemic) | The Guardian

**Title:** Green shoots: creating the conditions for health care innovation to flourish

The Health Foundation | 14th September 2021

During the hard days of the pandemic, many people have found it restorative to look for ‘green shoots’ in their surroundings, both literal and more metaphorical. In the context of health, we might see such green shoots in the impressive COVID-19 vaccination programme and the discovery of innovative ways to provide high-quality care – the rapid rollout of the [COVID Oximetry @home](https://www.england.nhs.uk/nhs-at-home/covid-oximetry-at-home/) and [COVID virtual ward](https://www.england.nhs.uk/nhs-at-home/covid-virtual-wards/) programmes, for example. These are just some of many green shoots that provide hope for the future amid the devastating impact of COVID-19 on lives and livelihoods.

Further detail: [Green shoots: creating the conditions for health care innovation to flourish](https://www.health.org.uk/news-and-comment/blogs/green-shoots-creating-the-conditions-for-health-care-innovation-to-flourish)

**Title:** Building back cancer services in England

Institute for Public Policy Research | 24th September 2021

The pandemic has severely disrupted cancer services in England. While Covid-19 might not have caused our health service to ‘collapse’ rapidly, it has forced us to take previously unthinkable steps like cancelling cancer treatments. There have been widespread disruptions across the cancer care pathway – screening, referrals, diagnostic and treatment services have all seen reductions in activity.

This report suggests that unmitigated, the consequences will be severe.

The government recently announced a three-year funding plan for the health service. They have said the funding will allow the NHS to aim for highly ambitious activity increases, but there is more to be done to ‘build back batter’ cancer care. To that end, this report recommends a new three-part cancer pledge for the country.

Full report: [Building back cancer services in England](https://www.ippr.org/files/2021-09/building-back-cancer-services.pdf)

See also:

* [Covid: Cancer backlog could take a decade to clear](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-58670553?at_medium=RSS&at_campaign=KARANGA) | BBC News
* [Cancer backlog could take till 2033 to clear without more consultants, says report](https://www.bmj.com/content/374/bmj.n2352) | BMJ

**Title:** recovery of NHS hospital services

Care Quality Commission | 22nd September 2021

During the pandemic, hospital capacity has been under pressure, resulting in the suspension of some elective care. Other challenges that hospitals have had to factor in include wider infection and control measures, increased cleaning procedures and the use of personal protective equipment, and enhanced testing.

This report looks at how NHS trusts are planning for people’s care while tackling a backlog of treatment caused by COVID-19.

In May and June 2021, the CQC asked 73 trusts about their approaches to longer waiting lists and how they are considering people’s care in a fair and equal way.

The trusts told the CQC about new and innovative examples of people receiving care. This included developing 'waiting well' packages of support, emphasising the importance of keeping people up-to-date while waiting for elective operations. Another example involved establishing a ‘virtual ward’ in a patient’s home following their surgery, with regular visits from specialist nurses and therapists, plus virtual consultations with doctors.

Full report: [Recovery of NHS hospital services](https://www.cqc.org.uk/sites/default/files/20210920%20COVID%20IV%20Insight%20number%2013.pdf)

Press release: [The recovery challenges for NHS hospital services](https://www.cqc.org.uk/news/stories/recovery-challenges-nhs-hospital-services)

Infection control

**Title:** NHS rolls out COVID-19 jab to children aged 12 to 15

NHS England 20th September 2021

The NHS has started to roll out the COVID-19 jab to school children aged 12 to 15. Almost three million children in this age group are eligible for one dose of the Pfizer vaccine following the government’s acceptance of the UK Chief Medical Officers’ recommendation.

Jabs will start in hundreds of schools across the country this week with the NHS vaccination programme rolling out to others in the coming weeks.

Like the flu and human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccines, COVID-19 jabs will be delivered by local school age immunisation services (SAIS) who will work closely with schools to identify all eligible children.

In line with standard practice for vaccinations in schools, consent letters are being sent out to parents and guardians with information on the COVID-19 vaccination.

Full detail: [NHS rolls out COVID-19 jab to children aged 12 to 15](https://www.england.nhs.uk/2021/09/nhs-rolls-out-covid-19-jab-to-children-aged-12-to-15/)

**Title:** RPS position on vaccinating healthy children 12-15 years

Royal Pharmaceutical Society | 20th September 2021

This statement outlines the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's (RPS) supportive position on vaccinating healthy children 12-15 years. RPS supports the proactive immunisation of healthy children aged between 12 years to 15 years in order to reduce the transmission of coronavirus. This will be beneficial not only to this age group of but also to the wider population.

Further detail: [RPS position on vaccinating healthy children 12-15 years](https://www.rpharms.com/about-us/news/details/rps-position-on-vaccinating-healthy-children-12-15-years)

**Title:** Covid-19 vaccines for teenagers: conversations and consent

BMJ | 2021; 374: n2312 | 22nd September 2021

On 13 September, the UK chief medical officers recommended that all 12-15 year olds be offered a single dose of Pfizer-BioNTech covid-19 vaccine. This followed a previous recommendation by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation not to offer covid-19 vaccines to healthy 12-15 year olds. The UK now joins a growing list of countries offering vaccination to those aged 12 and over, but it is providing only one dose rather than the two given in other countries because of concerns about rare side effects such as heart inflammation.

The health benefits of covid-19 vaccination are small in this age group since covid-19 infection is not a serious threat to their health.However, the chief medical officers’ decision was influenced by the wider benefit of reducing further disruption to education. Parents are understandably concerned about vaccine safety.

This BMJ editorial suggests that whatever teenagers and families decide, their views must be heard and respected.

Full editorial: [Covid-19 vaccines for teenagers: conversations and consent](https://www.bmj.com/content/374/bmj.n2312)

**Title:** Booster shots for COVID-19—the debate continues

The Lancet Infectious Diseases | October 2021

As a minority of countries consider offering booster doses of COVID-19 vaccines to their citizens, the majority are yet to vaccinate their entire populations with a single dose, as this article reports.

Full detail: [Booster shots for COVID-19—the debate continues](https://www.thelancet.com/action/showPdf?pii=S1473-3099%2821%2900574-0)

**Title:** First UK manufactured rapid tests deployed across England

Department of Health and Social Care | 22nd September 2021

The first UK-manufactured rapid tests – otherwise known as lateral flow devices or LFDs – are being rolled out to universities across England.

As the government continues to back companies and technologies working to help break chains of COVID-19 transmission, these new tests will bolster efforts to detect asymptomatic cases of COVID-19, and support more than 370 jobs in the Midlands.

Full details: [First UK manufactured rapid tests deployed across England](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/first-uk-manufactured-rapid-tests-deployed-across-england)

**Title:** Efficacy of the mRNA-1273 SARS-CoV-2 Vaccine at Completion of Blinded Phase

New England Journal of Medicine | September 22nd 2021

The mRNA-1273 vaccine was approved for emergency use in December 2020; trial participants who received placebo were informed of the results and offered vaccination. At the close of the blinded phase of the trial, the vaccine efficacy in preventing Covid-19 illness was 93.2%, and the efficacy against severe disease was 98.2%. No new safety issues were identified.

Full article: [Efficacy of the mRNA-1273 SARS-CoV-2 vaccine at completion of blinded phase](https://www.nejm.org/doi/pdf/10.1056/NEJMoa2113017?articleTools=true)

**Title:** Effectiveness of mRNA Covid-19 Vaccine among U.S. Health Care Personnel

New England Journal of Medicine | September 22nd 2021

In a test-negative case–control study involving 1482 vaccinated health care workers and 3449 controls, the BNT162b2 and mRNA-1273 SARS-CoV-2 vaccines were 88.8% and 96.3% effective, respectively, at preventing symptomatic Covid-19. Efficacy was similar in subgroups according to age (<50 or ≥50 years), racial and ethnic groups, underlying conditions, and various levels of patient contact.

Full article: [Effectiveness of mRNA Covid-19 vaccine among U.S. Health Care personnel](https://www.nejm.org/doi/pdf/10.1056/NEJMoa2106599?articleTools=true)

**Title:** Infections, hospitalisations, and deaths averted via a nationwide vaccination campaign using the Pfizer–BioNTech BNT162b2 mRNA COVID-19 vaccine in Israel

The Lancet Infectious Diseases | 22nd September 2021

On Dec 20, 2020, Israel initiated a nationwide COVID-19 vaccination campaign for people aged 16 years and older and exclusively used the Pfizer–BioNTech BNT162b2 mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (tozinameran). This study provides estimates of the number of SARS-CoV-2 infections and COVID-19-related admissions to hospital (ie, hospitalisations) and deaths averted by the nationwide vaccination campaign.

Without the national vaccination campaign, Israel probably would have had triple the number of hospitalisations and deaths compared with what actually occurred during its largest wave of the pandemic to date, and the health-care system might have become overwhelmed. Indirect effects and long-term benefits of the programme, which could be substantial, were not included in these estimates and warrant future research.

Full article: [Infections, hospitalisations, and deaths averted via a nationwide vaccination campaign using the Pfizer–BioNTech BNT162b2 mRNA COVID-19 vaccine in Israel: a retrospective surveillance study](https://www.thelancet.com/action/showPdf?pii=S1473-3099%2821%2900566-1)

**Title:** The BNT162b2 vaccine effectiveness against new COVID-19 cases and complications of breakthrough cases

EBioMedicine | 16th September 2021

The rapid vaccination campaign against COVID-19 in Israel relied on the BNT162b2 vaccine. The authors of this study performed a longitudinal analysis of multiple cohorts, using individual data, to evaluate the effectiveness of the vaccine against new and breakthrough cases.

The BNT162 vaccine is highly effective in preventing new SARS-CoV-2 cases. Among ≥80 year old individuals, high effectiveness develops more slowly. In breakthrough cases, vaccination reduces complications and death.

Full article: [The BNT162b2 vaccine effectiveness against new COVID-19 cases and complications of breakthrough cases: A nation-wide retrospective longitudinal multiple cohort analysis using individualised data](https://www.thelancet.com/action/showPdf?pii=S2352-3964%2821%2900367-4)

**Title:** Compulsory covid vaccination: Loss of care home workers puts beds and care at risk, warn unions and providers

BMJ | 2021; 374: n2318 | 21st September 2021

Social care of elderly and vulnerable people, a sector that currently has an estimated 120 000 vacancies, could be severely hit as thousands of care home workers face losing their jobs for failing a legal requirement to have covid vaccinations, trade unions and care home providers have warned.

Staffing problems could see some homes having to shut and others offering fewer beds or risk offering substandard care, they said.

Full detail: [Compulsory covid vaccination: Loss of care home workers puts beds and care at risk, warn unions and providers](https://www.bmj.com/content/374/bmj.n2318)

**Title:** Rich countries’ booster plans will impede global vaccination, experts say

BMJ | 2021; 374: n2353 | 23rd September 2021

A summit convened alongside the UN’s annual meeting in New York, bringing 80 governments together to discuss the global response to the covid-19 pandemic, is expected to end with a collective endorsement of the US president’s call for 70% of people in countries of all income levels to be vaccinated by the time the UN General Assembly meets again 12 months from now.

But this goal will not be met, experts warned, unless rich countries change course now, releasing the stocks they are currently hoarding.

Full detail: [Rich countries’ booster plans will impede global vaccination, experts say](https://www.bmj.com/content/374/bmj.n2353)

workforce wellbeing

**Title:** The experiences of student nurses in a pandemic: A qualitative study

Nurse Education in Practice | Volume 56, October 2021

The aim of this study was to record and learn from the experiences of students working on clinical placement in a pandemic. In March of 2020, final and second year student nurses in England were given the option to join the Covid-19 pandemic work-force, paid as high-level health care assistants.

Using qualitative methods and rapid analysis techniques, this study gathered the unique experiences of 16 final year students, from all fields of nursing at a University in the East of England, who chose to complete their final extended placement in a diverse range of clinical placements at the height of the first wave of the pandemic.

Five key themes were identified across our data: rationale for undertaking the extended placement, role tensions, caring for patients and their families, the impact on teaching and learning, and personal health and wellbeing.

While participants reported largely positive experiences including a perceived heightened preparedness for qualification, their experiences provide important insights for nurse educators for the education and support of future students going into similar situations, in particular relating to welfare and support, preparation for placement, resilience, e-learning and learning on the front line.

Full paper: [The experiences of student nurses in a pandemic: A qualitative study](https://reader.elsevier.com/reader/sd/pii/S1471595321002225?token=31957C8FFECF71024362570AABBF96F4AFCFD805D277A0065B3E13526A81C351001890B73F358E9218233B05FAFC068C&originRegion=eu-west-1&originCreation=20210923122115)

other

**Title:** What’s Health Data Research UK doing to help tackle covid-19?

BMJ | 2021; 374: n2280 | 22nd September 2021

The UK’s national institute for data science wants datasets to be more accessible to researchers in order to improve patient outcomes. This BMJ briefing asks the following:

* What has HDR UK been doing during the pandemic?
* What progress has been made?
* How are patients involved?
* Why was HDR UK created?
* What is the Health Data Alliance?
* How else can health data sharing be improved?

Full detail: [What’s Health Data Research UK doing to help tackle covid-19?](https://www.bmj.com/content/374/bmj.n2280)

**Title:** Changes in Activity Levels, Physical Functioning, and Fall Risk During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Journal of the American Geriatrics Society | 18th September 2021

Physical function worsens with older age, particularly for sedentary and socially isolated individuals, and this often leads to injuries. Through reductions in physical activity, the COVID-19 pandemic may have worsened physical function and led to higher fall-related risks.

This study found that COVID-19 pandemic was associated with worsened physical functioning and fall outcomes, with the greatest effect on individuals with reduced physical activity and social isolation. Public health actions to address reduced physical activity and social isolation among older adults are needed.

Full paper: [Changes in activity levels, physical functioning, and fall risk during the COVID-19 Pandemic](https://agsjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1111/jgs.17477)

**Title:** Coronavirus and the social impacts on Great Britain: 24 September 2021

Office for National Statistics | 24th September 2021

Indicators from the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey covering the period 8 to 19 September 2021 to understand the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on people, households and communities in Great Britain.

Full detail: [Coronavirus and the social impacts on Great Britain: 24 September 2021](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/healthandwellbeing/bulletins/coronavirusandthesocialimpactsongreatbritain/24september2021)

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.

We also produce a range of subject-specific news feeds to ensure our clinical and professional teams stay up to date with developments in their work areas. Please visit our [website](http://www.trftlibraryknowledge.com/) for more information

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