COVID-19 recovery

13th November 2020

**TITLE:** COVID-19 INSIGHTS: IMPACT ON STAFF AND PRIORITIES FOR RECOVERY

Skills for Health | 4th November 2020

This report reveals the extensive mental and physical health impact on our NHS, health and care professionals across the UK, as a result of working and living through COVID-19, and identifies organisational priorities for recovery, both as the country enters the next phase of the pandemic and for the longer-term.

Highlighting a wide range of COVID-instigated factors affecting those working throughout the pandemic, the findings start to offer some early quantification of their relative impact on the workforce, including the influence on health, teamwork, communication, and leadership performance.

The report finds that generally the impact on staff’s health was directly linked to the type of work environment. For those working in settings with direct public contact, the damaging effect on mental health stemmed not only from an increased risk of catching the virus and the subsequent impact on colleagues, patients or residents falling seriously ill, or even dying, but also from the added workload and new ways of working. In the worst cases this led to staff requiring sick leave, or even resigning. Respondents also highlighted that remote working made people feel more isolated, and many commented on the unsuitability of their home offices, causing musculoskeletal issues.

Full report: [COVID-19 Insights: Impact on staff and priorities for recovery](https://www.skillsforhealth.org.uk/images/pdf/Covid-19-Workforce-Insights-Impact-on-staff-and-organisational-priorities.pdf)

See also: [National research highlights ongoing support needs for NHS staff and leaders as COVID-19 continues](https://www.skillsforhealth.org.uk/news/latest-news/item/1183-national-research-highlights-ongoing-support-needs-for-nhs-staff-and-leaders-as-covid-19-continues)

**Title**: Pfizer announces Covid-19 vaccine efficacy of 90%

Pfizer | 9th November 2020

Pfizer, the mutlinational pharmaceutical corporation, in collaboration with BioNTech has announced the findings of a phase 3 trial of its late-stage study of our potential COVID-19 vaccinne. In a press release Pfizer report positive efficacy results in vaccinated individuals and those who received the placebo indicates a vaccine efficacy rate above 90%, at 7 days after the second dose. This means that protection is achieved 28 days after the initiation of the vaccination, which consists of a 2-dose schedule.

Pfizer press release: [Update: Albert Bourla discusses covid-19 vaccine efficacy result](https://www.pfizer.com/news/hot-topics/albert_bourla_discusses_covid_19_vaccine_efficacy_results)

BBC News:  [Covid vaccine: First ‘milestone’ vaccine offers 90% protection may have a vaccine](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-54873105" \t "_blank)

The Guardian:  [Covid-19 vaccine candidate is 90% effective, says manufacturer](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/nov/09/covid-19-vaccine-candidate-effective-pfizer-biontech)

FT:  [Pfizer and BioNTech’s Covid-19 vaccine found to be 90% effective](https://www.ft.com/content/9bde4bff-acf0-4c2a-a0d0-5ed597186496)

**TITLE:** SOCIAL MEDIA GIANTS AGREE PACKAGE OF MEASURES WITH UK GOVERNMENT TO TACKLE VACCINE DISINFORMATION

Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport | Department of Health and Social Care | 8th November 2020

Digital Secretary Oliver Dowden and Health Secretary Matt Hancock have agreed with social media platforms new measures to limit the spread of vaccine misinformation and disinformation and help people find the information they need about any COVID-19 vaccine.

Together the platforms have now agreed:

* To commit to the principle that no user or company should directly profit from COVID-19 vaccine mis/disinformation. This removes an incentive for this type of content to be promoted, produced and be circulated.
* To ensure a timely response to mis/disinformation content flagged to them by the government.
* To continue to work with public health bodies to ensure that authoritative messages about vaccine safety reach as many people as possible.
* To join new policy forums over the coming months to improve responses to mis/disinformation and to prepare for future threats.

Full detail: [Social media giants agree package of measures with UK Government to tackle vaccine disinformation](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/social-media-giants-agree-package-of-measures-with-uk-government-to-tackle-vaccine-disinformation)

**Title**: More rapid COVID-19 tests to be rolled out across England

Department of Health & Social Care | 8th November 2020

A new press release from the Department of Health and Social Care announces that public health teams will receive 10,000 lateral flow devices as part of a new pilot scheme to test priority groups.

* Next stage of partnership between NHS Test and Trace and local directors of public health will enable increased testing of priority and high-risk groups in local communities on a weekly basis
* Increase in asymptomatic testing will help pick up more cases, stop the spread of the virus and support communities and critical industries

Directors of public health will determine how to prioritise the allocation of these new tests, based on the specific needs of their communities, and will determine how people in the local area are tested.

600,000 lateral tests kits will be sent this week to 50 directors of public health services across England.

Full detail: [More rapid COVID-19 tests to be rolled out across England](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/more-rapid-covid-19-tests-to-be-rolled-out-across-england)

**Title**: Survivors of COVID-19 appear to be at increased risk of anxiety, insomnia or depression

The Lancet Psychiatry | 9th November 2020

Adverse mental health consequences of COVID-19, including anxiety and depression, have been widely predicted but not yet accurately measured. There are a range of physical health risk factors for COVID-19, but it is not known if there are also psychiatric risk factors.

In this electronic health record network cohort study using data from 69 million individuals, 62 354 of whom had a diagnosis of COVID-19, the authors assessed whether a diagnosis of COVID-19 (compared with other health events) was associated with increased rates of subsequent psychiatric diagnoses, and whether patients with a history of psychiatric illness are at a higher risk of being diagnosed with COVID-19.

The study found that survivors of COVID-19 appear to be at increased risk of psychiatric sequelae, and a psychiatric diagnosis might be an independent risk factor for COVID-19.

Full article: [Bidirectional associations between COVID-19 and psychiatric disorder: retrospective cohort studies of 62 354 COVID-19 cases in the USA](https://www.thelancet.com/action/showPdf?pii=S2215-0366%2820%2930462-4)

See also: The Guardian: [Nearly one in five Covid patients later diagnosed with mental illness – study](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/nov/10/nearly-one-in-five-covid-patients-later-diagnosed-with-mental-illness-study)

**Title:** COVID-19 and the northern powerhouse: Tackling inequalities for UK health and productivity

Northern Health Science Alliance | 10th November 2020

According to this report, the North of England’s economy has been hit harder than the rest of the country during the Covid-19 pandemic. It estimates the economic cost of the increased mortality in the North during the pandemic at £6.86bn and the reductions in mental health in the region due to the pandemic at around £5bn a year.

The report led by scientists from Newcastle University, the University of Manchester, University of York and University of Liverpool found:

* An extra 57.7 more people per 100,000 died in the Northern Powerhouse than the rest of England between March and July and this could cost the UK economy an additional £6.86bn in reduced productivity
* Mental and ﬁnancial wellbeing was hardest hit in the Northern Powerhouse, as was loneliness
* Reductions in mental wellbeing in the Northern Powerhouse could cost the UK economy up to £5 billion in reduced productivity
* Austerity disproportionately affected the Northern Powerhouse, particularly areas of high deprivation which led to reduced productivity
* Reductions in the core spending power of local authorities in the Northern Powerhouse by £1 per-head cost £3.17 per-head in lost productivity, equivalent to around a £2bn loss in GDP per-year, or £16bn between 2011 and 2018
* Pre-pandemic child health, a key predictor of life-long health and economic productivity, was poor and deteriorating in the Northern Powerhouse. Since the pandemic, adverse trends in poverty, education, employment and mental health for children and young people have been exacerbated
* Economic outcomes, particularly unemployment rates, were hardest hit in the Northern Powerhouse.

The report authors make a series of recommendations to stop further deteriorations in the level of inequalities.

Full report: [COVID-19 and the Northern Powerhouse: Tackling inequalities for UK health and productivity](https://www.thenhsa.co.uk/app/uploads/2020/11/NP-COVID-REPORT-101120-.pdf)

See also: [COVID-19 report reveals massive hit to the North’s health and economy](https://www.thenhsa.co.uk/2020/11/covid-19-report-reveals-massive-hit-to-the-norths-health-and-economy/)

**Title:** UK out of recession but growth slows in September

BBC News | Office for National Statistics | 12th November 2020

The UK's economy rebounded from recession in July to September, but growth showed signs of slowing down at the end of the three months. Growth of 15.5% in July to September was the biggest on record, said the Office for National Statistics.

However, growth was weaker in September than in the preceding months, while the country's economy is still 8.2% smaller than before the virus struck.

The economy had shrunk in the first three months of the year and then contracted by a record 19.8% in the April-to-June period.

Despite the rebound in July to September, analysts warned that the economy was likely to shrink again in the final three months of the year because of the impact of renewed lockdowns in different parts of the country.

Full news story: [UK out of recession but growth slows in September](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-54914410)

Office for National Statistics: [GDP monthly estimate, UK: September 2020](https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/grossdomesticproductgdp/bulletins/gdpmonthlyestimateuk/september2020)

**Title**: Oxford University and PHE confirm high-sensitivity of lateral flow tests

Department of Health and Social Care | 11th November 2020

Extensive clinical evaluation from Public Health England (PHE) and the University of Oxford show lateral flow tests are accurate and sensitive enough to be used in the community, including for asymptomatic people.

As part of the government’s strategy for testing the effectiveness of this new technology, these new tests are being piloted across England. This includes a 2-week whole-city pilot in Liverpool, which was launched last week. Lateral flow tests deployed in Liverpool are shown to have over 99.6% specificity.

Full detail: [Oxford University and PHE confirm high-sensitivity of lateral flow tests](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/oxford-university-and-phe-confirm-high-sensitivity-of-lateral-flow-tests)

Full evaluation: [Oxford University and PHE confirm high-sensitivity of Lateral Flow Tests following extensive clinical evaluation](https://www.ox.ac.uk/news/2020-11-11-oxford-university-and-phe-confirm-high-sensitivity-lateral-flow-tests-following)

**TITLE:** THE SAME PANDEMIC, UNEQUAL IMPACTS. HOW PEOPLE ARE EXPERIENCING THE PANDEMIC DIFFERENTLY

The Health Foundation | 5th November 2020

It’s been clear from the early stages of the pandemic that some groups are more affected than others. The consequences have been vast and felt across society, with implications for everything from mental health during lockdown, to getting back to work.

This infographic explores how the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic is affecting some groups in the UK more than others.

[The same pandemic, unequal impacts. How people are experiencing the pandemic differently](https://www.health.org.uk/news-and-comment/charts-and-infographics/same-pandemic-unequal-impacts)

**Title**: Leisure under lockdown: how culture and leisure services responded to COVID-19

Local Government Association | 10th November 2020

The case studies in this publication highlight just a few of the many ways in which culture, leisure and sports have responded quickly and innovatively to the challenges posed by COVID-19.

They are representative of huge swathes of activity happening throughout the country and there are many more examples which we were unable to include here. They represent a snapshot in time from lockdown in March 2020 to the easing of lockdown and reopening of museums, libraries, leisure centres and theatres from August 2020.

The examples captured in this report highlights the important role culture and leisure was able to play at this time, connecting people, combatting loneliness, supporting educational outcomes, and helping those who were shielding.

Full report: [Leisure under lockdown: how culture and leisure services responded to COVID-19](https://www.local.gov.uk/leisure-under-lockdown-how-culture-and-leisure-services-responded-covid-19-full-report)

**Title**: REACT-1: real-time assessment of community transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19) in October 2020

Department of Health and Social Care | 12th November 2020

The full results from the sixth report of one of the country’s largest studies into COVID-19 infections in England have been published by Imperial College London and Ipsos MORI.

Over 160,000 volunteers were tested in England between 16 October and 2 November to examine the levels of infection in the general population. The findings show infections rose sharply across the country with over 1 in 80 people infected, double that reported by REACT in early October.

The main findings from the sixth REACT study show that between 16 October and 2 November:

* prevalence of infection was 1.3%, meaning 130 people per 10,000 were infected, up from 60 people per 10,000 in the previous report
* regional prevalence of infection was highest in the North West (2.4%, up from 1.2%), Yorkshire and The Humber (2.3% up from 0.84%) and lowest in South East (0.69% up from 0.29%) and East of England (0.69% up from 0.30%)
* since the last REACT report in early October, the virus has been doubling every 24 days
* prevalence increased across all age groups
* the epidemic has progressed from specific at-risk groups to a more generalised pattern of transmission

These results provide a baseline for reporting and monitoring the spread of COVID-19 during national lockdown.

Full detail: [REACT-1: real-time assessment of community transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19) in October 2020](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/react-1-study-of-coronavirus-transmission-october-2020-final-results/react-1-real-time-assessment-of-community-transmission-of-coronavirus-covid-19-in-october-2020)

**Title:** Trends in suicide during the covid-19 pandemic

BMJ | 2020; 371: m4352 | 12th November 2020  
  
As many countries face new stay-at-home restrictions to curb the spread of covid-19, there are concerns that rates of suicide may increase—or have already increased. Several factors underpin these concerns, including a deterioration in population mental health, a higher prevalence of reported thoughts and behaviours of self-harm among people with covid-19,problems accessing mental health services, and evidence suggesting that previous epidemics such as SARS (2003) were associated with a rise in deaths by suicide.

Widely reported studies modelling the effect of the covid-19 pandemic on suicide rates predicted increases ranging from 1% to 145%, largely reflecting variation in underlying assumptions. Particular emphasis has been given to the effect of the pandemic on children and young people. Numerous surveys have highlighted that their mental health has been disproportionately affected, relative to older adults, and some suggest an increase in suicidal thoughts and self-harm.

One guiding principle, this editorial states, is that suicide is preventable, and action should be taken now to protect people’s mental health. We must remain vigilant and responsive, sharing evidence early and internationally in these evolving uncertain times.

Full editorial: [Trends in suicide during the covid-19 pandemic](https://www.bmj.com/content/371/bmj.m4352)

**Title:** Children hardest hit by COVID-19 pandemic are regressing in basic skills and learning

Ofsted | 10th November 2020

Ofsted has published its second report in a series looking at the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic across the sectors it inspects and regulates, from early years and children’s social care, through to post 16 education.

The report finds that some children, of all ages and backgrounds, have lost some basic skills and learning as a result of school closures and restrictions on movement.

The report found:

* Some young children, who were previously potty-trained, have lapsed back into nappies, particularly those whose parents were unable to work flexibly
* Older children have lost stamina in their reading and writing, some have lost physical fitness, others show signs of mental distress, including an increase in eating disorders and self-harm
* Concerns remain about children who were out of sight during school closures, with falling referrals to social care teams raising fears that domestic neglect, exploitation or abuse is going undetected

Further detail: [Children hardest hit by COVID-19 pandemic are regressing in basic skills and learning](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ofsted-children-hardest-hit-by-covid-19-pandemic-are-regressing-in-basic-skills-and-learning?utm_source=d3685ef3-5064-4986-84e6-6a19a55f797e&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate)

Full report: [COVID-19 series: briefing on schools, October 2020](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-series-briefing-on-schools-october-2020)

**Title:** Ethnicity and clinical outcomes in COVID-19: A systematic review and meta-analysis

EClinicalMedicine | 12th November 2020

Patients from ethnic minority groups are disproportionately affected by Coronavirus disease (COVID-19). This systematic review and meta-analysis explores the relationship between ethnicity and clinical outcomes in COVID-19.

The study found that individuals of Black and Asian ethnicity are at increased risk of COVID-19 infection compared to White individuals; Asians may be at higher risk of ITU admission and death. These findings are of critical public health importance in informing interventions to reduce morbidity and mortality amongst ethnic minority groups.

Full article: [Ethnicity and clinical outcomes in COVID-19: A systematic review and meta-analysis](https://www.thelancet.com/action/showPdf?pii=S2589-5370%2820%2930374-6)

**TITLE:** A CRITICAL JUNCTURE FOR PUBLIC SERVICES: LESSONS FROM COVID-19

Public Services Committee | 13th November 2020

The Public Services Committee has published its first report, A critical juncture for public services: lessons from COVID-19. In the report - the first comprehensive analysis of how public services responded to COVID-19 - the Committee discusses lessons to be learned from the pandemic and recommends a number of principles to transform public service delivery.

The report finds that decisions were made much more quickly and concludes that many public service providers and councils developed “remarkable innovations” to meet the Covid-19 challenge. However, the Committee raise concerns about public service provision during the pandemic for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic and Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people, homeless people, and people with complex needs.

Full report: [A critical juncture for public services: lessons from COVID-19](https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/3438/documents/32865/default/)

See also: [Lessons from COVID−19: major report on public services launched](https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/430/public-services-committee/news/123559/lessons-from-covid19-major-report-on-public-services-launched/)

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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