COVID-19 recovery

24th September 2021

**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:

* [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:** 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:** 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)

**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:** Directors of public health and the Covid-19 pandemic. ‘A year like no other’

The Kings Fund | 22nd September 2021

* The Covid-19 pandemic has been an unprecedented situation that has tested local public health systems to the extreme for more than a year. Directors of public health (DsPH) in particular have had a unique viewpoint and have been at the forefront of making complex decisions about their local populations.
* This research (supported by the Health Foundation), undertook 58 interviews with DsPH and other leaders working at local, regional and national levels.
* The authors found DsPH have played a crucial role in leading the local response to Covid-19. They have been responsible for a wide range of health protection activities from testing in the community, to facilitating the uptake of the vaccine, to planning for the availability of food and emotional support for local people.
* The report highlights key learning from the experiences of DsPH to build a picture of what has happened over the past year and what is important for a strong public health response to the recovery from the pandemic and any future public health emergencies.
* The authors offer their reflections about the position and level of influence they have gained, how DsPH need to continue to have a voice in addressing public health challenges and the importance of finding the time and support for their recovery.

Full detail: [Directors of Public Health and the Covid-19 pandemic. ‘A year like no other’](https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/sites/default/files/2021-09/A%20year%20like%20no%20other%20summary%20online%20version.pdf)

**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:** 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
* [Children face 'agonising' waits for mental health care](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-58565067?at_medium=RSS&at_campaign=KARANGA) | BBC News

**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:** 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: [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:** National Diet and Nutrition Survey: Diet, nutrition and physical activity in 2020 A follow up study during COVID-19

Public Health England | 22nd September 2021

This report presents the findings from a follow-up study of National Diet and Nutrition Survey Rolling Programme (NDNS RP) participants which aimed to describe and assess the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the diet and physical activity of people in the UK in 2020.

Self-reported diet and physical activity data were collected between August and October 2020 for around 1,000 adults and children and compared with their diet and activity data obtained at the time of their original NDNS RP interview.

Data on food security, financial security and changes in dietary and health-related behaviours since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in the UK in February 2020 were also collected in this study through a web questionnaire with the aim of helping to understand the context for any changes in diet and activity.

Full report: [National Diet and Nutrition Survey: Diet, nutrition and physical activity in 2020 A follow up study during COVID-19](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1019663/Follow_up_stud_2020_main_report.pdf)

**Title:** A new way of working: ending rough sleeping together

Kerslake Commission on Homelessness and Rough Sleeping | September 2021

The Commission’s final report states that without urgent action the benefits and lessons learned from the joint working during the Covid-19 pandemic will be wasted, and the number of people having to sleep on the streets will rise again.

The report makes twelve key recommendations which it says must be actioned if the positives achieved during the pandemic are not to be lost.

Full report: [A new way of working: ending rough sleeping together](https://www.commissiononroughsleeping.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/KRSC-Final-Report-2021.pdf)

Related: [press release](https://www.commissiononroughsleeping.org/latest-news/)

**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:** 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)

**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:** Social vulnerability and the impact of policy responses to COVID-19 on disabled people

Sociology of Health & Illness | 23rd September 2021

This paper proposes a conceptual framework for understanding the impact of the policy responses to COVID-19 on disabled people.

The authors put the proposed conceptual framework to work by developing a critical analysis of COVID-19 policies in three interrelated areas—institutional treatment and confinement of disabled people, intersectional harms, and access to health care. Their conclusion links this analysis with strategies to address disabled people's social vulnerability in post-pandemic reconstruction efforts.

A case is made for policies that address the social, economic, and environmental conditions that disproportionately expose disabled people to natural disasters and hazards.

Full paper: [Social vulnerability and the impact of policy responses to COVID-19 on disabled people](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1111/1467-9566.13379)

**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.

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