COVID-19 recovery

30th October 2020

**Title:** Generation COVID: Emerging work and education inequalities

London School of Economics and Political Science, Centre for Economic Performance | October 2020

The purpose of this brief paper is to present initial findings from the recently collected LSE-CEP Social Mobility survey, which was undertaken as part of our UKRI project ‘Generation COVID and Social Mobility: Evidence and Policy’. These are the first results from a project that is producing a detailed assessment of COVID-19’s impact on education and economic inequalities and offering an assessment for the longer term consequences for social mobility in the UK.

The study found, since the start of the coronavirus pandemic, young workers to be twice as likely to have lost their jobs compared to older employees and that employment and earnings losses are more pronounced for women, the self-employed and those who grew up in a poor family. The survey provides further evidence that young people are suffering substantial and sustained losses, not only to their employment, but also their education.

Full paper: [Generation COVID: Emerging work and education inequalities](http://cep.lse.ac.uk/pubs/download/cepcovid-19-011.pdf)

**Title:** Working Together for a Healthier Post-COVID Future

The Strategy Unit| October 2020  
  
This analysis, commissioned by the Healthier Futures Academy in the Black Country and West Birmingham, illustrates the effects that a COVID-driven recession could have on population health. It frames a discussion about how the NHS, with other local organisations, can more effectively address the causes as well as the effects of ill health.

Full detail: [Working together for a healthier post-Covid future](https://www.strategyunitwm.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2020-10/061020%20Working%20Together%20for%20a%20Healthier%20Post-COVID%20Future%20-%20V1.1.pdf)

See also: [COVID-19: breaking the cycle of deprivation and ill health](https://www.strategyunitwm.nhs.uk/publications/covid-19-breaking-cycle-deprivation-and-ill-health)

**Title:** Is there a doctor in the house? Averting a post-pandemic staffing crisis in the NHS

Institute of Economic Affairs| 27th October 2020

The UK ranks 27th out of 36 OECD countries for number of physicians, and around 30 per cent of doctors on GP and specialist registers are over 55 years old. The UK relies more heavily on foreign-trained physicians than comparable countries – but within a decade it could become increasingly difficult to meet demand this way. While population growth and ageing have increased demand for doctors, such demographic factors could mean a staffing crisis is on the horizon.

This briefing suggests a range of cost-effective solutions to plug doctor shortages once the Covid-19 crisis has passed.

Full briefing: [Is there a doctor in the house? Averting a post-pandemic staffing crisis in the NHS](https://iea.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Is-there-a-doctor-in-the-house.pdf)

Related press release: [UK faces imminent NHS staffing crisis, says new IEA research](https://iea.org.uk/media/uk-faces-imminent-nhs-staffing-crisis-says-new-iea-research/)

**TITLE:** AN AVOIDABLE CRISIS: THE DISPROPORTIONATE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON BLACK, ASIAN AND MINORITY ETHNIC COMMUNITIES

The Doreen Lawrence Review | 27th October 2020

The Labour Party leader, Keir Starmer, appointed Baroness Doreen Lawrence to lead this review into how those from Black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds were being impacted by Covid-19. The review makes both immediate and long-term recommendations to protect those most at risk and tackle structural inequalities in several key areas including the machinery of government, health, employment and in the education system.

Full document: [An Avoidable Crisis: The disproportionate impact of Covid-19 on Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Communities](https://uploads-ssl.webflow.com/5f5bdc0f30fe4b120448a029/5f973b076be4cadc5045fad3_An%20Avoidable%20Crisis.pdf)

See also: [Labour demands immediate action for Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities, as new report lays bare pandemic suffering](https://labour.org.uk/press/labour-demands-immediate-action-for-black-asian-and-minority-ethnic-communities-as-new-report-lays-bare-pandemic-suffering/)

**Title:** 590 people's stories of leaving hospital during COVID-19

Healthwatch | British Red Cross | 27th October 2020

In partnership with British Red Cross, this report reviews the experiences of 590 people after being discharged from hospital. The research shows significant numbers of people are not receiving follow-up support under new policy to switch to a ‘discharge to assess’ model in March 2020 (introduced to cope with demand at the peak of the Covid-19 pandemic), leading to unmet needs.

Key findings:

* 82% of respondents did not receive a follow-up visit and assessment at homeand almost one in five of these reported an unmet care needs.
* Some people felt their discharge was rushed, with around one in five (19%) feeling unprepared to leave hospital.
* Over a third (35%) of people were not given a contact who they could get in touch with for further advice after discharge, despite this being part of the guidance.
* Overall patients and families were very positive about healthcare staff, praising their efforts during such a difficult time.
* Around a third (30%) of people faced an issue with delayed COVID-19 test results, potentially putting family and carers at risk, or in a care home, other residents and staff.

The report calls on the NHS to address these issues coming into the busy winter period amidst growing pressures of a second Covid-19 wave.

Full report: [590 people's stories of leaving hospital during COVID-19](https://www.healthwatch.co.uk/sites/healthwatch.co.uk/files/20201026%20Peoples%20experiences%20of%20leaving%20hospital%20during%20COVID-19_0.pdf)

Press release: [Hospital discharge must be improved to manage COVID-19 second peak](https://www.healthwatch.co.uk/news/2020-10-27/hospital-discharge-must-be-improved-manage-covid-19-second-peak)

See also: [Hospital discharges during pandemic were often chaotic, says watchdog](https://www.bmj.com/content/371/bmj.m4155) | BMJ

**Title:** Learning from a pandemic: how the post-covid NHS can reach its full potential

BMJ | 2020; 371: m3867 | 27th October 2020

The scale and degree of adaptation that the NHS has achieved in the past six months is unprecedented in its 72 year history. The service acted swiftly to bolster its emergency preparedness and resilience and rose to the challenge with innovation, energy, and kindness. But the pandemic has exposed its fragilities.

Questions are arising about how the NHS should plan for the future as well as capture and codify the experience of achieving change in such a fast, agile, and adaptive way. This essay suggests that there are three main areas of focus for planning a strategy:

* 1. Health and care delivery model redesign, including the integration and specialisation of services.
* 2. A more agile, fluid, multidisciplinary workforce, affecting staffing, training, and leadership requirements.
* 3. Greater ambition in the NHS on digitalisation, innovation, research and development, and public-private-academic partnerships.

Full detail: [Learning from a pandemic: how the post-Covid NHS can reach its full potential](https://www.bmj.com/content/bmj/371/bmj.m3867.full.pdf)

**Title**: Sidelining GPs in pandemic response was “a disaster,” says global health leader

BMJ | 2020; 371: m4128 | 28th October 2020

The sidelining of general practices in the UK’s response to the covid-19 is a “disaster” and “a national shame,” a leading global health expert has said.

Anthony Costello, professor of global health and sustainable development at University College London, said GPs and local public health teams should have been given additional funding to oversee covid-19 testing, rather than this being centralised and outsourced under the government’s struggling national test and trace scheme, run by private companies Serco and Sitel.

Costello, who is also a member of the Independent SAGE group, made the comments in a talk to the Royal College of General Practitioners virtual conference on 22 October.

He said that the high trust that GPs had from the public had been woefully underutilised during the pandemic, and set out what he described as “a thought experiment” of how the government could have organised things differently.

Full detail: [Sidelining GPs in pandemic response was “a disaster,” says global health leader](https://www.bmj.com/content/371/bmj.m4128)

**Title**: Coronavirus antibody prevalence falling in England, REACT study shows

Imperial College London| 27th October 2020

The REACT ([Real Time Assessment of Community Transmission)](https://www.imperial.ac.uk/medicine/research-and-impact/groups/react-study/) study has published its latest findings, the paper is available now (prior to peer-review). The research team's findings show that for a proportion of the participants their antibody response declined by more than a quarter. The study which occurred during summer 2020, used a finger prick blood test which the participants carried out at home.

The tests were taken in three rounds approximately 12, 18, and 24 weeks after the early April peak, with different people asked to take part at each stage. Participants were randomly selected from the NHS patient list and sent an invitation. In total, 17 576 tests were positive.

The research team at Imperial observed a downward trend across the country and across age groups, except for health workers, which could be indicative of their repeated or higher initial exposure to the virus, the authors suggest. The decline was largest in older people (aged 75 and over) compared to younger people, and also in people with suspected rather than confirmed infection, indicating that the antibody response varies by age and with the severity of illness.

Full detail: [Coronavirus antibody prevalence falling in England, REACT study shows](https://www.imperial.ac.uk/news/207333/coronavirus-antibody-prevalence-falling-england-react/)

See also:

* [Declining prevalence of antibody positivity to SARS-CoV-2: a community study of  
  365,000 adults](https://www.imperial.ac.uk/media/imperial-college/institute-of-global-health-innovation/MEDRXIV-2020-219725v1-Elliott.pdf) [pre-print paper]
* [Covid: Antibodies 'fall rapidly after infection'](https://trfthealthweeklydigest.wordpress.com/wp-admin/Antibodies%20'fall%20rapidly%20after%20infection') | BBC News
* [Antibody prevalence in England fell from 6.0% to 4.4% over three months, study finds](https://www.bmj.com/content/371/bmj.m4163) | BMJ

**Title:** Two fifths of doctors say pandemic has worsened their mental health

BMJ | 2020; 371:m4148 | 27th October 2020

More than two fifths of doctors in the UK say that their mental health is now worse than before the pandemic, a BMA survey has found.

The association received responses from 6610 doctors working across England to a snapshot survey it conducted in October. Of the 6550 doctors who responded to a question about their mental wellbeing, 43% said that they were currently experiencing work related depression, anxiety, stress, burnout, emotional distress, or other mental health condition and that it was worse than it had been before the pandemic started.

Of 6559 doctors who responded to a follow-up question, a third (32%) said that their health and wellbeing were slightly worse than it had been during the first wave of the pandemic and 10% said it was much worse. More than a third (37%) said it was the same, while 21% said it was better.

Full detail: [Two fifths of doctors say pandemic has worsened their mental health](https://www.bmj.com/content/371/bmj.m4148)

**Title**: Tackling health inequalities is more urgent than ever, says new alliance

BMJ | 2020;371: m4134 | 26th October 2020

The covid-19 pandemic has exposed how health inequalities can affect people not just over a lifetime but in a matter of weeks, a new coalition of 79 health and social care organisations has said.

The Inequalities in Health Alliance, brought together by the Royal College of Physicians, has written to the prime minister to call for action. The alliance has asked the UK government to do three things: develop a cross government strategy to reduce health inequalities, enforce the socioeconomic duty placed on government bodies by section 1 of the Equality Act 2010, and adopt a “child health in all policies” approach.

Full detail: [Tackling health inequalities is more urgent than ever, says new alliance](https://www.bmj.com/content/371/bmj.m4134)

**Title:** Imperial College REACT study: Coronavirus infections rising rapidly in England

Imperial College London | 29th October 2020

The latest anlaysis from the REACT study indicates that there are 96,000 new Covid infections every day, with infections doubling every 9 days. The interim report from experts at Imperial College London includes data for the period 16-25 October.

The North continues to be the worst affected. Young people (18-24 years) continue to have the highest prevalence of infection but the steepest rise was seen in adults aged 55-64, which saw rates triple compared to the previous round.

The overall reproduction number (R) has increased to 1.6, with infections doubling every 9 days, meaning that the epidemic is continuing to grow across the country.

These findings from the [REal-time Assessment of Community Transmission](https://www.imperial.ac.uk/medicine/research-and-impact/groups/react-study/) (REACT 1) programme are available in a pre-print report and will be submitted for peer-review.

Full detail: [Coronavirus infections rising rapidly in England, REACT study shows](https://www.imperial.ac.uk/news/207534/coronavirus-infections-rising-rapidly-england-react/)

Related report: [High prevalence of SARS-CoV-2 swab positivity and increasing R number in England during October 2020: REACT-1 round 6 interim report](https://www.imperial.ac.uk/media/imperial-college/institute-of-global-health-innovation/REACT1_r6_interim_preprint.pdf)

See also[: Covid-19: Nearly 100,000 catching virus every day](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-54723962) | BBC News

**Title**: What defines an efficacious COVID-19 vaccine? A review of the challenges assessing the clinical efficacy of vaccines against SARS-CoV-2

The Lancet Infectious Diseases | 27th October 2020

A Review published in The Lancet Infectious Diseases outlines key challenges for assessing clinical efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines. The opinion piece based on a review of evidence says that to allow meaningful comparison between COVID-19 vaccine candidates and ensure that the most effective candidates are deployed, researchers working on different vaccines should collaborate and assess vaccine efficacy using standardised methods.

They also note that determining whether a vaccine can protect against severe disease and death from COVID-19 might not be possible in clinical trials, and will likely require long-term, ongoing studies after any candidate is licenced and deployed.

Further to this, whilst controlled human infection studies may allow rapid assessment of vaccine efficacy, it is unclear if results from these studies, which are likely to only include young volunteers, will predict vaccine efficacy in older adults.

Full paper: [What defines an efficacious COVID-19 vaccine? A review of the challenges assessing the clinical efficacy of vaccines against SARS-CoV-2](https://www.thelancet.com/action/showPdf?pii=S1473-3099%2820%2930773-8)

**TITLE:** EVALUATING THE EFFECT OF DEMOGRAPHIC FACTORS, SOCIOECONOMIC FACTORS, AND RISK AVERSION ON MOBILITY DURING THE COVID-19 EPIDEMIC IN FRANCE UNDER LOCKDOWN

The Lancet Digital Health | 28th October 2020

Assessing the effect of lockdown on individual displacements is essential to quantify achievable mobility reductions and identify the factors driving the changes in social dynamics that affected viral diffusion. The authors of this paper aimed to use mobile phone data to study how mobility in France changed before and during lockdown, breaking down the findings by trip distance, user age and residency, and time of day, and analysing regional data and spatial heterogeneities.

Lockdown was effective in reducing population mobility across scales. Caution should be taken in the timing of policy announcements and implementation, because anomalous mobility followed policy announcements, which might act as seeding events. Conversely, risk aversion might be beneficial in further decreasing mobility in highly affected regions.

The study also identified socioeconomic and demographic constraints to the efficacy of restrictions. The unveiled links between geography, demography, and timing of the response to mobility restrictions might help to design interventions that minimise invasiveness while contributing to the current epidemic response.

Full paper: [Evaluating the effect of demographic factors, socioeconomic factors, and risk aversion on mobility during the COVID-19 epidemic in France under lockdown: a population-based study](https://www.thelancet.com/action/showPdf?pii=S2589-7500%2820%2930243-0)

**Title**: The Manchester Briefing on COVID-19

Alliance MBS | 23rd October 2020

The Manchester Briefing on COVID-19 is aimed at those who plan and implement recovery from COVID-19, including government emergency planners and resilience officers. The briefing brings together international lessons and examples which may prompt thinking on the recovery from COVID-19, as well as other information from a range of sources and a focus on one key topic.

This week provides four briefings:

* Briefing A: Levelling up regional economic resilience: Policy responses to the COVID-19 crisis
* Briefing B: Lessons you may find helpful from across the world
* Briefing C: Preparing for compound disasters during COVID-19
* Briefing D: Useful Webinars

Full detail: [The Manchester Briefing on Covid-19](https://www.communigator.co.uk/login/Instances/uomhumscommslz/Documents/themanchesterbriefingoncovid-19b23-wb19thoctoberfinal.pdf?gator_td=s8stH%2fZrGlVyIy0Q%2fo3HLH%2bzeCNi5FmL5OtC43idEGEWOskmeVEigBX2wGAqwyYq7cF0Y%2bCuCNLXmkHZEen1zx2SNAC1YRCf4ot4qQc3YlRf9Asr6tTtbMfQvDLEOHDAY2uy4x9xtTodZzTKBqS2Ag%3d%3d)

**Title**: Face masks, vision, and risk of falls

BMJ | 2020; 371: m4133 | 28th October 2020

Public health experts and international organisations increasingly recommend wearing masks to help limit the spread of covid-19. Safe and comfortable use of masks is therefore essential to maximise adoption and compliance.

Formal guidance and associated media coverage have focused on discomfort and communication issues, with little attention paid to the effect of wearing masks on risk of falling. Although guidance recommends that older adults wear masks because they are an at risk group, it is this population for whom the effects of masks on walking safety are likely to be most pronounced.

This editorial states that mitigating the potential effects on walking safety is important to maximise use of masks and reduce the likelihood that people will avoid activities for which masks are required. It calls for further research to be done to evaluate a range of safety strategies, including advice to slow down and use of transparent masks, to facilitate evidence based public health advice.

Full editorial: [Face masks, vision, and risk of falls](https://www.bmj.com/content/371/bmj.m4133)

**Title**: Scope report published for Long Covid guideline

NICE | SIGN | Royal College of General Practitioners | October 2020

NHS England and the Chief Medical Officer of the Scottish Government have asked NICE and SIGN to develop a guideline on the long-term effects of COVID-19. This UK-wide guideline is being developed collaboratively by NICE, SIGN and the RCGP.

The guideline is being developed using a ‘living’ approach, which means that targeted areas of the guideline (including the case definition) will be continuously reviewed and updated in response to a developing and emerging evidence base. The forthcoming guideline on long-Covid (post-Covid) will be published by the end of December 2020.

Full detail: [COVID-19 guideline scope: management of the long-term effects of COVID-19](https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/gid-ng10179/documents/final-scope)

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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