COVID-19 recovery

9th July 2021

**Title:** Unequal pandemic, fairer recovery. The COVID-19 impact inquiry report

The Health Foundation | 6th July 2021

This report, produced by the Health Foundation's COVID-19 impact inquiry, is a comprehensive review of the factors that fuelled the UK’s COVID-19 death toll.

It highlights that:

* poor health and existing inequalities left parts of the UK vulnerable to the virus and defined the contours of its devastating impact.
* the pandemic has revealed stark differences in the health of the working age population – those younger than 65 in the poorest 10% of areas in England were almost four times more likely to die from COVID-19 than those in wealthiest. Recovery needs to prioritise creating opportunities for good health – a vital asset needed to 'level up' and rebuild the UK economy.
* government restrictions, although needed to limit COVID-19's spread, have had wide-ranging consequences: from unmet health needs and mental health problems to education gaps, lost employment and financial insecurity.
* some groups – young people, disabled people, ethnic minority communities and care home residents – have been more affected than others. Prisoners, homeless people and people experiencing sexual exploitation have also faced particular challenges.
* type and quality of work, housing conditions, and access to financial support to self-isolate all contributed to increased exposure to the virus among working age adults.
* the legacy of the financial crisis has had a direct bearing on our experience of the pandemic. Deep-rooted issues – poor health, increased financial insecurity and strained public services – left the UK more vulnerable to COVID-19’s health and economic impacts.
* in recovery, there is an opportunity to create a healthier, more resilient society. Government must address the root causes of poor health and invest in people and their communities – their jobs, housing, education and communities.
* ensuring the recovery improves health – as well as the economy – requires cross-government action to level up health. This will pay dividends for the nation’s health and prosperity in the longer term.

Full report: [Unequal pandemic, fairer recovery. The COVID-19 impact inquiry report](https://www.health.org.uk/sites/default/files/upload/publications/2021/HEAJ8932-COVID-Impact-210705.pdf)

Press release: [Inquiry finds working age adults in poorest areas almost four times more likely to die from COVID-19](https://www.health.org.uk/news-and-comment/news/inquiry-finds-working-age-adults-in-poorest-areas-almost-fou)

See also: [Adults in poorest areas are almost four times more likely to die, inquiry finds](https://www.bmj.com/content/374/bmj.n1728) | BMJ

**Title:** Fit for purpose? Addressing inequities in mental health research exacerbated by Covid-19

Centre for Mental Health | 6th July 2021

This report was produced on behalf of the Mental Health Research Group, an independent group of leaders in mental health in England. It highlights the inequities in mental health research funding and production, what gets investigated and who gets to contribute, as well as who and what is left out of the conversation. It shares examples of work taking place to address mental health inequalities and to challenge inequities of power and influence within mental health research.

The report calls for systemic change in the ways mental health research is planned, funded and delivered in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic. It calls on all those who carry out, fund or manage research to:

1. Ensure wider representation of groups and communities that have been silenced or overlooked, especially racialised communities.
2. Invest in widening the range of people and organisations that can get research funding, including community and user-led organisations.
3. Ensure resources are targeted towards key areas that will help to build the evidence base for tackling mental health inequalities, including children and young people, prevention, and factors that influence mental health.
4. Find ways to bring together and value different types of knowledge in the production of evidence to inform policy and practice.

Full report: [Fit for purpose? Addressing inequities in mental health research exacerbated by Covid-19](https://www.centreformentalhealth.org.uk/sites/default/files/publication/download/CentreforMentaHealth_FitForPurpose.pdf)

**Title:** Performance of the Innova SARS-CoV-2 antigen rapid lateral flow test in the Liverpool asymptomatic testing pilot

BMJ | 2021; 374: n1637 | 7th July 2021

The objective of this study was to assess the performance of the SARS-CoV-2 antigen rapid lateral flow test (LFT) versus polymerase chain reaction testing in the asymptomatic general population attending testing centres.

The authors conclude that the Innova LFT can be useful for identifying infections among adults who report no symptoms of covid-19, particularly those with high viral load who are more likely to infect others.

The number of asymptomatic adults with lower Ct (indicating higher viral load) missed by LFT, although small, should be considered when using single LFT in high consequence settings.

Clear and accurate communication with the public about how to interpret test results is important, given the chance of missing some cases, even at high viral loads.

Full detail: [Performance of the Innova SARS-CoV-2 antigen rapid lateral flow test in the Liverpool asymptomatic testing pilot: population based cohort study](https://www.bmj.com/content/bmj/374/bmj.n1637.full.pdf)

Related BMJ editorial: [Asymptomatic rapid testing for SARS-CoV-2](https://www.bmj.com/content/374/bmj.n1733)

Related BMJ analysis: [Rapid testing cuts cases in pilot but questions remain over use of lateral flow tests](https://www.bmj.com/content/374/bmj.n1741)

See also: [Asymptomatic testing backed by new research studies](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/asymptomatic-testing-backed-by-new-research-studies) | Department of Health and Social Care

**Title:** Covid 19: We need a full open independent investigation into its origins

BMJ | 2021; 374: n1721 | 8th July 2021

This article asks ‘Does it matter how the virus originated’? It states that to prevent future pandemics, the world will need to tackle risks from all sources, whether from natural spillover or laboratory mishaps. That means tighter controls on wildlife farming and markets and greatly improved biosafety in research. But, the author states, we still need to know how this worst in a century pandemic occurred, and for this we need a full, open, and independent investigation.

Full detail: [Covid 19: We need a full open independent investigation into its origins](https://www.bmj.com/content/374/bmj.n1721)

Related: [The covid-19 lab leak hypothesis: did the media fall victim to a misinformation campaign?](https://www.bmj.com/content/374/bmj.n1656) | BMJ

**Title:** Coronavirus (COVID-19) latest insights

Office for National Statistics | 7th July 2021  
  
This tool from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) provides insights into the  latest data and trends about the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic from the ONS and other sources.

Categories covered:

* Coronavirus (COVID-19) infections
* Hospital admissions with coronavirus (COVID-19)
* Deaths involving coronavirus (COVID-19)
* Coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccination
* Antibodies against coronavirus (COVID-19)
* Impact of coronavirus (COVID-19) on well-being
* Impact of coronavirus (COVID-19) on lifestyle
* Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and work
* Impact of coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on different age groups
* Overview of coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic by UK geographic area
* Impact of coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on different ethnic groups
* Coronavirus (COVID-19) and other health conditions

Full detail: [Coronavirus (COVID-19) latest insights](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/conditionsanddiseases/articles/coronaviruscovid19/latestinsights#health)

**Title:** Coronavirus infections continue to grow exponentially in England - REACT study

Imperial College London | 8th July 2021

Interim findings from the latest report of REACT-1, one of the country’s largest studies into COVID-19 infections in England, have been published by Imperial College London and Ipsos MORI.

The main findings from the first half of the thirteenth round of the REACT-1 study show:

* overall prevalence nationally is substantially higher in round 13 interim (swabs taken 24 June to 5 July) than round 12 (swabs taken 20 May to 7 June), rising from 0.15% to 0.59% - an approximately fourfold increase with around 1 in 170 people testing positive
* continued exponential growth in prevalence with an average doubling time of 15 days between round 12 (swabs taken 20 May - 7 June) and round 13.
* Infection rates for double vaccinated under-65s are three times lower than in unvaccinated under-65s, demonstrating the impact of the vaccination roll out.
* Cases expected to continue rising as society opens up, with people urged to remain cautious and exercise personal responsibility

Full report: [REACT-1 round 13 interim report: acceleration of SARS-CoV-2 Delta epidemic in the community in England during late June and early July 2021](https://spiral.imperial.ac.uk/bitstream/10044/1/90197/2/react1_r13_interim_preprint.pdf)

Press release: [Coronavirus infections continue to grow exponentially in England - REACT study](https://www.imperial.ac.uk/news/225873/coronavirus-infections-continue-grow-exponentially-england/)

See also: [Latest REACT-1 study findings show COVID-19 infection rates three times lower for double vaccinated people](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/latest-react-1-study-findings-show-covid-19-infection-rates-three-times-lower-for-double-vaccinated-people?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_source=fe010404-5c8a-4084-9371-2fea53fb1af2&utm_content=daily) | Department of Health and Social Care

**Title:** Coronavirus (COVID-19) Infection Survey, antibody and vaccination data, UK: 7 July 2021

Office for National Statistics | 7th July 2021

* It is estimated that 9 in 10 UK adults would have tested positive for antibodies if they'd had a blood test in the week beginning 14 June 2021, suggesting they had the infection in the past or have been vaccinated.
* Across all four countries of the UK, there is a clear pattern between vaccination and testing positive for COVID-19 antibodies but the detection of antibodies alone is not a precise measure of the immunity protection given by vaccination.

Full detail: [Coronavirus (COVID-19) Infection Survey, antibody and vaccination data, UK: 7 July 2021](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/conditionsanddiseases/bulletins/coronaviruscovid19infectionsurveyantibodyandvaccinationdatafortheuk/7july2021#main-points)

**Title:** Out of the woods? Young people's mental health and labour market status as the economy reopens

Resolution Foundation | 5th July 2021

Much has been said about the plight of young people during the Covid-19 crisis, both in terms of their labour market and mental health circumstances. This spotlight provides a timely update on how young people were faring at the end of May, shortly after the major relaxation of restrictions in mid-May.

The proportion of economically-active young adults either unemployed or fully furloughed has halved since May 2020, to around 16 per cent at the end of May 2021. But they remain harder hit than older people, being two-and-a-half times more likely to be out of work. Young people are also less optimistic about their mental health in general, and certain groups are facing more difficulties than others. One-in-four young women and students say their mental health is poor, and young people who are out of work, on the lowest pay or in financial difficulty are also struggling, highlighting that they are not all out of the woods just yet. And the legacy of the past year’s turbulence in the labour market can be seen very clearly. Almost one-in-three young people who were employed before the crisis, but are currently unemployed, furloughed or on reduced pay, say their mental health is poor.

Full detail: [Out of the woods? Young people's mental health and labour market status as the economy reopens](https://www.resolutionfoundation.org/app/uploads/2021/07/Out-of-the-woods.pdf)

**Title:** The labour market during the pandemic

Institute for Fiscal Studies | 5th July 2021

This pre-released chapter from the IFS flagship report on living standards, poverty and inequality, looks at the impact the pandemic has had on the labour market.

The labour market has been disrupted in two broad ways during the pandemic. The first, and largest, disruption has been to employment. The temporary or permanent closure of businesses has led to a large number of workers being unable to do their usual job. Many have been put onto the furlough scheme, which at its peak in May 2020 was paying the wages of almost 9 million workers. But others have lost their job entirely and, given the reduced numbers of vacancies available throughout 2020 and into early 2021, they have found it harder to get back into work than they might have if they had been made redundant in more normal circumstances.

The second dimension of labour market disruption is the earnings of those who have kept their job. Most obviously, the furlough scheme only covers up to 80% of earnings (though employers can choose to top that up). But even those who continue working can be affected too – by cuts to their hours, sluggish wage growth or a lack of job-to-job moves (which are often associated with pay rises).

Full detail: [The labour market during the pandemic](https://ifs.org.uk/publications/15508)

Related report: [Living standards, poverty and inequality in the UK: 2021](https://ifs.org.uk/publications/15512)

**Title:** Fiscal risks report – July 2021

Office for Budget Responsibility| 6th July 2021

This report identifies and analyses risks to the medium-term outlook for the public finances and to long-term fiscal sustainability. This report considers the economic and fiscal impact of the coronavirus pandemic, the risks to the public finances presented by climate change, and the risks posed by changes in the cost of debt.

Full report: [Fiscal risks report – July 2021](https://obr.uk/frr/fiscal-risks-report-july-2021/)

**Title:** Final Covid loans data reveals £80 billion of government support through the pandemic

HM Treasury | 6th July 2021

* Businesses across the UK have received almost £80 billion worth of emergency government-backed loans during the Covid crisis
* Over 1.6 million loans – including Bounce Back Loans and Coronavirus Business Interruption Loans - approved between April 2020 and May 2021
* Businesses continue to benefit from wide-ranging package of support, including the Recovery Loan Scheme, extended furlough scheme and tax exemptions

Full detail: [Final Covid loans data reveals £80 billion of government support through the pandemic](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/final-covid-loans-data-reveals-80-billion-of-government-support-through-the-pandemic)

**Title:** Prime Minister sets out plan to ease restrictions at step 4

Prime Minister's Office, 10 Downing Street | 5th July 2021

COVID restrictions are set to end in England from step 4 of the Roadmap after the Prime Minister set out how life will soon return close to normal. Subject to a final review of the data next week, legal restrictions will end on Monday 19 July.

Limits on social contact will end, meaning there will be no restrictions on indoor or outdoor gatherings. Weddings, funerals and other life events able to take place without limits or restrictions.

All venues currently closed will be allowed to reopen, including nightclubs, and there will be no legal requirement for table service in hospitality settings.

Face coverings will no longer be legally required in shops, schools, hospitality, or on public transport although guidance will be in place to suggest where people might choose to wear one.

Full press release: [Prime Minister sets out plan to ease restrictions at step 4](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-sets-out-plan-to-ease-restrictions-at-step-4)

See also: [Doctors criticise government’s plan to make mask wearing a personal choice](https://www.bmj.com/content/374/bmj.n1717) | BMJ

**Title:** Self-isolation to be eased for fully vaccinated adults in step 4

Department of Health and Social Care | 6th July 2021

As part of step 4 of the Government’s COVID-19 roadmap, double vaccinated people will no longer be legally required to self-isolate if they are identified as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case.

The new rules will come into effect from 16 August, if the Government takes a decision to move into step 4. The Government also plans to exempt those aged under 18 from self-isolation if they are a close contact.

Young people and double vaccinated individuals identified as close contacts will continue to be advised to take a PCR test, to detect the virus and variants of concern. Anyone who tests positive following the PCR test will still be legally required to self-isolate, irrespective of their vaccination status.

Full detail: [Self-isolation to be eased for fully vaccinated adults in step 4](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/self-isolation-to-be-eased-for-fully-vaccinated-adults-in-step-4)

**Title:** Mass infection is not an option: we must do more to protect our young

The Lancet | 7th July 2021

This correspondence piece outlines five of the authors' concerns about the UK Government's plan to lift all restrictions at this stage of the pandemic. These are:

* Unmitigated transmission will disproportionately affect unvaccinated children and young people who have already suffered greatly.
* High rates of transmission in schools and in children will lead to significant educational disruption, a problem not addressed by abandoning isolation of exposed children (which is done on the basis of imperfect daily rapid tests).
* Preliminary modelling data suggest the government's strategy provides fertile ground for the emergence of vaccine-resistant variants.
* This strategy will have a significant impact on health services and exhausted health-care staff who have not yet recovered from previous infection waves
* As deprived communities are more exposed to and more at risk from COVID-19, these policies will continue to disproportionately affect the most vulnerable and marginalised, deepening inequalities.

Full detail: [Mass infection is not an option: we must do more to protect our young](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(21)01589-0/fulltext)

See also: [Ending all restrictions in England on 19 July “dangerous and premature,” say experts](https://www.bmj.com/content/374/bmj.n1751) | BMJ

**Title:** Mandatory covid-19 vaccination for care home workers

BMJ | 2021; 374: n1684 | 8th July 2021

This BMJ editorial discusses new law which will remove the right of care home staff in England to choose whether to be vaccinated against covid-19. It states that mandatory vaccination is unnecessary, disproportionate and misguided. It will not remedy the serious shortcomings of the care sector in England.

Safety can be assured only by taking steps to build trust and to mitigate outbreaks. Care workers need paid time in which to access vaccination and good training, decent wages (including sick pay), personal protective equipment, and strong infection control measures.

Full editorial: [Mandatory covid-19 vaccination for care home workers](https://www.bmj.com/content/374/bmj.n1684)

**Title:** Ethnic disparities in hospitalisation and hospital-outcomes during the second wave of COVID-19 infection in east London

medRxiv | 7th July 2021

The objective of this study was to determine if changes in public behaviours, developments in COVID-19 treatments, improved patient care, and directed policy initiatives have altered outcomes for minority ethnic groups in the second pandemic wave.

The study found that Asian and Black ethnic groups continue to experience poor outcomes following COVID-19. Despite higher-than-expected rates of admission, Black and Asian patients experienced similar or greater risk of death in hospital, implying a higher overall risk of COVID-19 associated death in these communities.

Note: *This article is a preprint and has not been certified by peer review. It reports new medical research that has yet to be evaluated and so should not be used to guide clinical practice.*

Full detail: [Ethnic disparities in hospitalisation and hospital-outcomes during the second wave of COVID-19 infection in east London](https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.07.05.21260026v1)

**Title:** Potential COVID-19 Endgame ScenariosEradication, Elimination, Cohabitation, or Conflagration?

JAMA | 8th July 2021

This Viewpoint considers four possible scenarios—eradication, elimination, cohabitation, and conflagration—for the resolution of the COVID-19 pandemic, depending on vaccination rates, viral variants, and deadly disease waves.

Full detail: [Potential COVID-19 endgame scenarios. Eradication, Elimination, Cohabitation, or Conflagration?](https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2781945)

**Title:** Should we delay covid-19 vaccination in children?

BMJ | 2021; 374: n1687 | 9th July 2021

The net benefit of vaccinating children is unclear, and vulnerable people worldwide should be prioritised instead, says one side in this BMJ ‘Head to Head’. But others argue that covid-19 vaccines have been approved for some children and that children should not be disadvantaged because of policy choices that impede global vaccination.

Full detail: [Should we delay covid-19 vaccination in children?](https://www.bmj.com/content/374/bmj.n1687)

**Title:** Quarantine-free travel to resume on 19 July for fully vaccinated passengers returning from amber list countries

Department for Transport | Department of Health and Social Care | 8th July 2021

The guidance on travel to and from amber list countries to England will change 19 July 2021:

* from 19 July, arrivals who have been fully vaccinated with an NHS administered vaccine in the UK (plus 14 days), or are on a formally approved UK vaccine clinical trial, returning to England from amber list countries will no longer need to quarantine – passengers will need to provide proof of their vaccination status to carriers in advance of travel
* pre-departure testing and day 2 testing measures to remain
* children under the age of 18 to be exempt from quarantine on returning to England from amber countries
* the recommendation for people to not travel to amber countries will also be removed from 19 July

Full detail: [Quarantine-free travel to resume on 19 July for fully vaccinated passengers returning from amber list countries](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/quarantine-free-travel-to-resume-on-19-july-for-fully-vaccinated-passengers-returning-from-amber-list-countries)

**Title:** Coronavirus England briefing, 9 July 2021

Department of Health and Social Care | 9th July 2021

Latest epidemiological data used by the government to brief MPs on the roadmap out of lockdown and to inform local and national decision-making in response to COVID-19 outbreaks.

The data includes:

* case rate per 100,000 population
* case rate per 100,000 population aged 60 years and over
* percentage change in case rate per 100,000 from previous week
* percentage of individuals tested positive
* number of individuals tested per 100,000

Full detail: [Coronavirus England briefing, 9 July 2021](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-england-briefing-9-july-2021)

**Title:** Build back local: Building back better

Local Government Association | 6th July 2021

This paper examines how councils have responded to issues triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic, including challenges relating to recovery and renewal. It gives a resident-centred view of local services and explores the future journeys that residents will be taking.

It argues that, as we look to build back better from the devastating social and economic impact of the pandemic, our communities will need councils and the local services they provide more than ever.

Full detail: [Build back local: Building back better](https://www.local.gov.uk/publications/build-back-local-building-back-better)

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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