

Annex C – Updates and National Headlines from Government

- This document details main the announcements and key headlines from Government, the UKHSA, Public Health England and the NHS.
- It covers the period from 16 July, up until the publishing date of September’s report.
- Each announcement includes links with further details.

Recommendation: Members of Executive Board note this record.

Snapshot of key headlines:

- REACT study finds fully vaccinated are [three times less likely to test positive](#), although notes people can still become infected.
- The ONS suggests more than 90% of adults in all parts of the UK now [have Covid antibodies](#).
- Study finds that prevalence in the [virus is lower in schools](#).
- Self-isolation removed for [double jabbed close contacts](#), or those under the age of 18, from 16 August. Those notified are advised to take a PCR test as soon as possible to check their status.
- JCVI advises that severely immunosuppressed should [receive a third dose](#). The Health Secretary on behalf of the Government [accepted this advice](#).
- More than [80% of people aged 16 and over](#) in the UK have received two doses of a vaccine.
- MHRA approves Pfizer and AstraZeneca [vaccines as booster doses](#).
- [Government’s winter plans](#) to focus on vaccines, a final decision on booster jab deployment, and measures from the Coronavirus Act expected to be repealed.
- UK CMO’s advise [offering all 12-15 year olds one dose of the Pfizer vaccination](#), in an effort to both drive down infection rates and minimise disruption to education.

July's headlines & links
(from the meeting of Executive Board onwards)

16 July	Norovirus outbreaks increasing in England.
17 July	Biggest flu programme in history to be rolled out for winter 2021.
19 July	More than 10 million people now using the NHS App . The App displays individual vaccination status'. Prime Minister urges caution as England moves to Step 4 . This came after the national press conference . Every adult in the UK offered a vaccine . Fully vaccinated critical workers to be able to leave self-isolation in exceptional circumstances under new plans to prevent serious disruption to vital public services. Health and Social Care Secretary accepts advice from JCVI to offer vaccines to vulnerable young people . JCVI advice can be found here .
20 July	Businesses were supported through the pandemic with nearly £80 billion of emergency government-backed loans.
22 July	New government campaign urging the public to continue to protect family and friends from Covid. Statement given by the Vaccine Deployment Minister on the government's decision to use Vaccine Passes and Step 4 . Health chiefs encourage more pregnant women to get their vaccine .
23 July	The UKHSA will now take on responsibility for modelling and publishing the R value and growth rate on behalf of government. Warnings have been issued over childhood respiratory infections rises .
24 July	Daily contact testing will be offered to more emergency service and critical workers who would otherwise need to self-isolate.
26 July	PHE has launched the latest Better Health campaign to encourage adults to lose excess weight, eat healthier and get active. The Government has expanded 1,200 sites for daily contact testing for frontline sectors , helping to reduce disruption to crucial services.
28 July	UK delivering nine million vaccines across the world, including to the Philippines and Kenya . Cruises can now restart, as the government waives quarantine for arrivals fully vaccinated from Europe and the USA. Results from the Community Life Survey 2020/21 published, which highlights the strong civic spirit seen throughout the pandemic.

August's headlines & links

1 August	<p>Leading businesses, including Deliveroo, Uber and Bolt help drive vaccine uptake by offering incentives for people to get vaccinated.</p> <p>More than 85 million jabs administered in the UK; this represents more than 46 million receiving their first dose, and 38 million receiving their second.</p>
2 August	<p>NHS Covid app updated to notify few contacts to isolate, with the public urged to keep using it as restrictions lift. People will now be notified if they have encountered someone who has tested positive 2 days prior; this has been changed from 5 days.</p>
3 August	<p>Real-world data shows vaccines are safe and highly effective for pregnant women.</p>
4 August	<p>REACT study finds fully vaccinated are three times less likely to test positive, although notes people can still become infected.</p> <p>JCVI issues updated guidance, advising that all 16 and 17 year olds receive their first dose of the Pfizer vaccine. The Health and Social Care secretary accepted this advice during a statement to the House of Commons.</p> <p>The ONS suggests more than 90% of adults in all parts of the UK now have Covid antibodies.</p>
6 August	<p>Nightlife industry joins vaccine push for young people.</p> <p>Confirmed variant cases show the Delta variant is still overwhelmingly the dominant variant in the UK.</p>
10 August	<p>3 in 4 UK adults receive both doses of a vaccine. It is estimated that 60,000 deaths and 66,900 hospitalisations have been prevented.</p>
11 August	<p>Study finds that prevalence in the virus is lower in schools.</p>
12 August	<p>Concerns raised with the CMA by the SoS DHSC over price, reliability and quality of PCR testing providers for foreign travel</p> <p>Testing megalab opened in Leamington Spa.</p> <p>7 in 10 young people (18-29) vaccinated with a first dose.</p>
14 August	<p>Tests for international arrivals will now be reduced from £88 to £68 for one test and private testing providers will be reviewed.</p>
15 August	<p>All young people aged 16 – 17 in England to be offered a first dose by Monday 23, giving them protection before returning to school.</p>
16 August	<p>Self-isolation removed for double jabbed close contacts, or those under the age of 18, from 16 August. Those notified are advised to take a PCR test as soon as possible to check their status.</p> <p>Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine donations made to Malawi, Egypt and Ghana.</p> <p>Leading businesses join vaccine uptake drive.</p>
17 August	<p>Moderna approved by MHRA for 12 – 17 year olds.</p>

<i>19 August</i>	Vaccination invites sent to one million 16 and 17 year olds.
<i>20 August</i>	<p data-bbox="300 129 1490 197">Data from the Events Research Programme & NHS Test and Trace shows that mass events can be conducted safely, but caution must still be taken around event participation.</p> <p data-bbox="300 232 1490 340">MHRA approves first monoclonal antibody treatment – Ronapreve – to prevent and treat Covid in the UK. The drug lines the respiratory system where it binds tightly to coronavirus and prevents it from gaining access to the cells.</p>
<i>22 August</i>	Home antibody tests available for up to 8,000 people a day.
<i>23 August</i>	<p data-bbox="300 452 1490 488">Young people have shared their experiences of suffering long Covid in a video.</p> <p data-bbox="300 524 1490 586">UK signs deal with Pfizer/BioNTech for 35 million vaccines, which will be delivered from the second half of 2022.</p>
<i>24 August</i>	Government launches a new clinical trial to determine whether a third dose of vaccine will improve the immune response for people who have weakened immune systems.
<i>26 August</i>	<p data-bbox="300 743 1490 810">The NHS will be giving out jabs at Leeds and Reading festivals in an effort to vaccinate +16 year olds.</p> <p data-bbox="300 846 1490 904">UKHSA launches study to better understand vaccine response; a consortium of research to be delivered to better understand how individuals respond to the virus.</p>

1 September	JCVI advises that severely immunosuppressed should receive a third dose . The Health Secretary on behalf of the Government accepted this advice .
2 September	A new clinical trial launched to investigate whether a third dose for people with weakened immune systems gives stronger protection.
3 September	UK and Australia to share vaccine doses . Third quarterly report published on the progress to address health inequalities , exacerbated by Covid-19. The report details Community Champions, the vaccination programme and other policy initiatives on the disproportionate impact the virus has had on ethnic minorities. JCVI advises that immunosuppressed 12-15 year olds receive a vaccine , but the majority in this age cohort do not given the margin of benefit to support universal vaccination of healthy 12-15 year olds is too small at this time.
6 September	Additional £5.4 billion to the NHS to support pandemic response over the next six months. This brings the total government support for health services at over £34 billion this year alone.
7 September	NHS and social care financial reform announced. More than 80% of people aged 16 and over in the UK have received two doses of a vaccine.
9 September	Numbers on furlough fall to lowest level since the start of the pandemic. MHRA approves Pfizer and AstraZeneca vaccines as booster doses . Consultation launched on mandatory vaccination for frontline health and care staff.
13 September	Test and Trace had a significant impact on driving down transmission between June 2020 and April 2021, new modelling shows . UK CMO's advise offering all 12-15 year olds one dose of the Pfizer vaccination , in an effort to both drive down infection rates and minimise disruption to education. This recommendation was later accepted by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care.
14 September	Government's winter plans to focus on vaccines, a final decision on booster jab deployment, and measures from the Coronavirus Act expected to be repealed. This was set out at a press conference delivered by the Prime Minister.