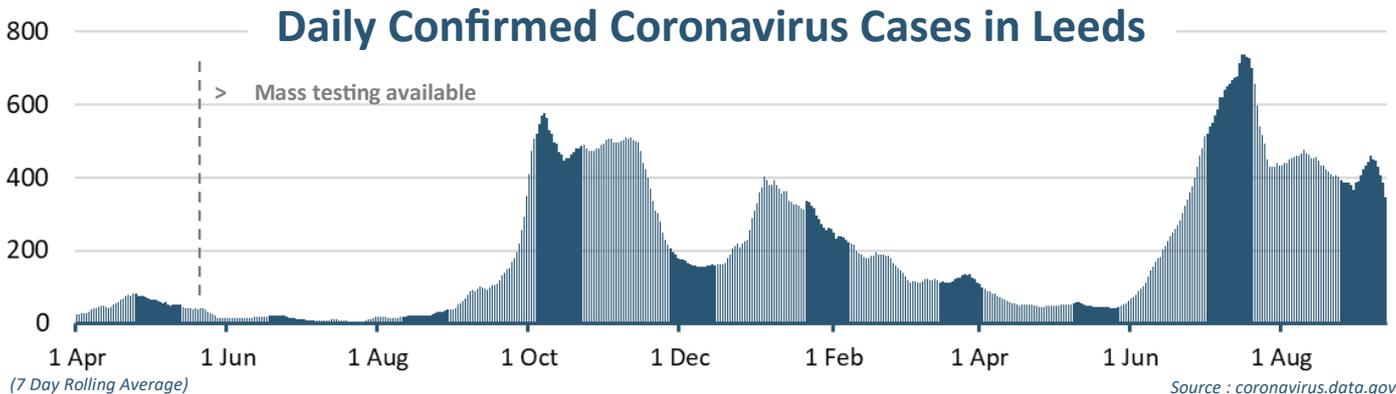


# Coronavirus Update - LEEDS

Report - 13 September 2021



## Headlines for Leeds

The Prime Minister has announced a £12bn-a-year package of tax increases from next April to tackle NHS Covid backlogs and help fund social care.

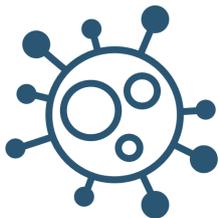
In Leeds the covid-19 case rate has slightly increased over the last week, as in many other parts of the region. Leeds latest 7 day average per 100,000 is 390.0 (341.4 a week ago). No significant change to positivity at 10.4%. The latest regional average is 386.2 and England average is 332.2.

Leeds vaccination rates record that as of 13th September a total of 557,615 (76.0%) GP registered patients have received their first vaccination, this is an increase of 0.2% since the last Gold report on 12th July 2021. Of the 557,615 patients mentioned above, 517,615 (70.5%) have now received their 2nd dose.

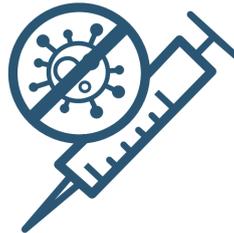
Following the relaxation of rules on 19th July, data shows that there hasn't been a mass migration back to the office. Fewer than 1 in 5 people working in cities had returned to the office by the end of July according to Centre for Cities analysis.

This tallies with footfall figures showing footfall in 30 big cities was an average of just 18% compared to pre-pandemic levels. Consequently the 'sandwich economy' which relies on office commuters is facing an uncertain future.

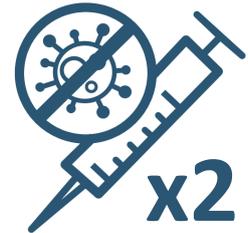
## Leeds is currently recording the following figures



**390.0 Cases rate**  
per 100,000 people  
(7 day rolling average)



**557,615 vaccinated**  
Registered patients  
within Leeds (76.0%)



**70.5% GP Registered**  
Patients have received their 2nd  
dose of the Covid-19 vaccination



**1718 Registered Deaths**  
That mention Covid-19, with 12  
registered in last 2 weeks



**18 Current Cases**  
Reported across 6 Care  
Homes in Leeds



**9 Covid-19 related**  
Incidents reported to West  
Yorkshire Police in last 7 days

### Health and Social Care Impact & Recovery

**390.0**

**Cases rate**  
per 100,000 people  
(7 day rolling average)<sup>1</sup>

**18**

**Current Cases**  
Reported active in  
6 Leeds care homes<sup>2</sup>

**76.0%**

**Vaccinated**  
Registered patients in  
Leeds have received at  
least one dose<sup>2</sup>

**12**

**Registered Deaths**  
mentioning Covid-19  
occurring over the  
last 14 days<sup>3</sup>

#### Health Summary

##### Infection Rates<sup>1</sup>

The latest 7 day average per 100,000 reported for the overall Leeds case rate is at 390.0 per 100,000 (482.7 a week before), with rates of persons aged 60+ at 238.0.

The latest regional average is 386.2 (356.9 a week before).

##### Vaccinations<sup>2</sup>

As of the 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021 a total of 557,615 GP registered patients in Leeds have received their first vaccine dose, this equates to 76.0% of the GP registered population of Leeds.

Over 517 thousand people have now had a 2nd vaccination equating to 70.5% of the population. This rate increases to over 85% for persons aged 40 years and over.

85.7% of CEV and 81.3% of 'at-risk' have had a 2nd vaccination

##### Covid-19 Cases<sup>2</sup>

Over the last 3 weeks, an increasing number of new cases have been recorded across health services in Leeds. As of the 13<sup>th</sup> September, the number of COVID positive patients in beds at LHHT is 105, LYPFT has no COVID positive patients recorded in a bed on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

This week has seen 92 positive COVID tests carried out within hospitals (comparable with 120 last week).

There are currently 16 positive COVID patients in a HDU/ITU bed in LHHT

##### Care Homes<sup>2</sup>

Care homes have seen an increase in cases over the last few weeks, this is inline with the increased figures across other health services both locally and nationally. There are currently 18 active COVID-19 cases declared in 6 care homes across Leeds.

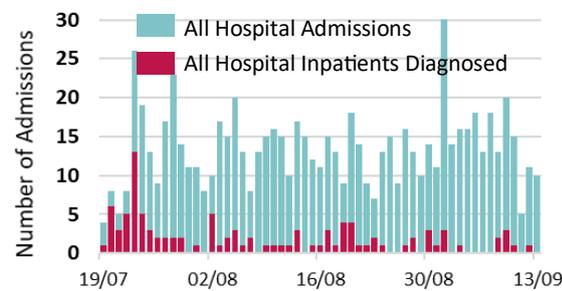
##### Registered Deaths in Leeds<sup>3</sup>

As of 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021, a total of 1,718 COVID-19 related deaths had been registered by Leeds Registrars Office. This is an increase of 12 that have been registered over the last 2 weeks.

#### Sources:

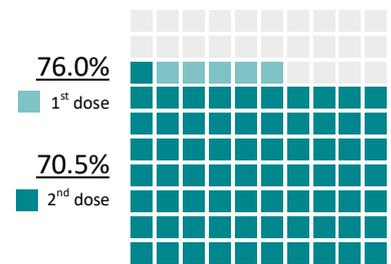
- Public Health Intelligence - 13/09/21
- NHS Clinical Commissioning Group - 13/09/21
- Leeds Registrars Office - 10/09/21

#### New Covid19 Admissions and Inpatients

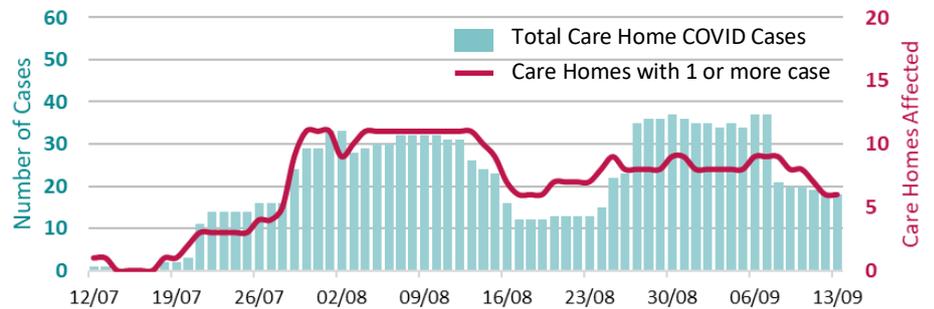


#### People Vaccinated

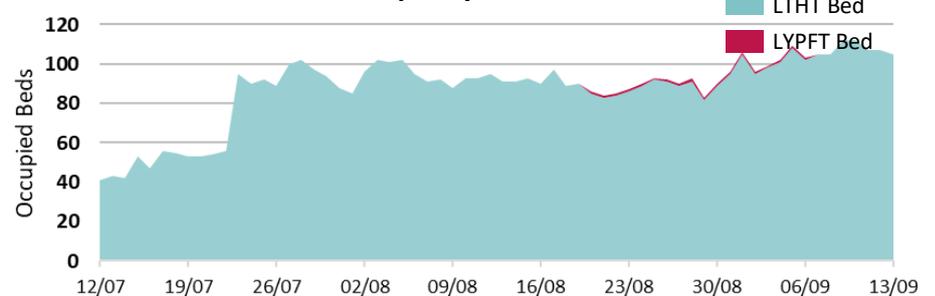
Percentage of GP registered population



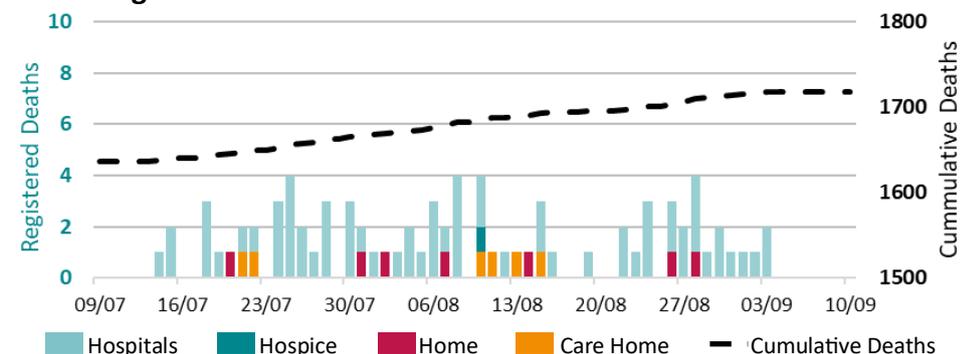
#### Covid19 Cases in Care Homes



#### Confirmed Covid19 Bed Occupancy



#### Deaths registered with LCC that mention Covid19



### Citizens & Community



**9**

**Covid-19**  
Related incidents  
recorded over last  
7 days<sup>1</sup>



**471**

**Domestic**  
Incidents recorded over  
last 7 days<sup>1</sup>



**£3.68**  
**Million**

**In Self-Isolation**  
Support payments paid  
to successful applicants<sup>3</sup>

#### Citizens & Community Summary

##### Incidents and Crimes Overview<sup>1</sup>

Levels of crime in Leeds over the last 6-7 weeks remain at consistent levels with only a few Covid related incidents being recorded each week.

Although hate incidents have reduced a small amount over the last few months, domestic incidents has remained high across the same time period.

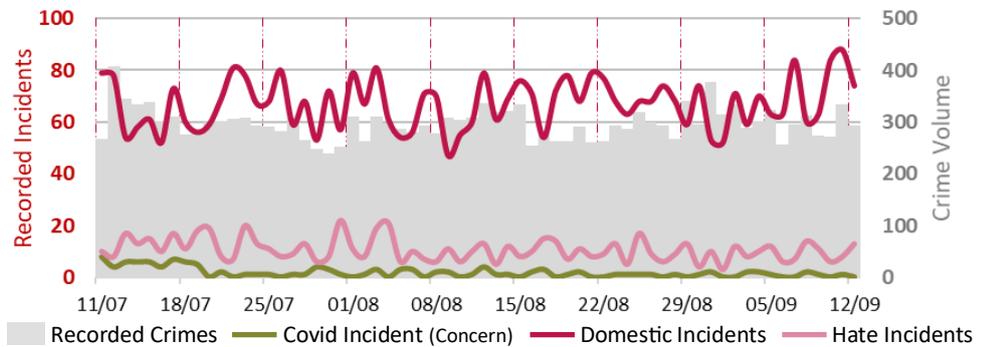
##### Self Isolation Payments<sup>2</sup>

Last week LCC received 304 forms, a decrease of 12% in claims over the previous week. As a result of this reduction of applications the team has managed to reduce the number of those awaiting assessment by an additional 351.

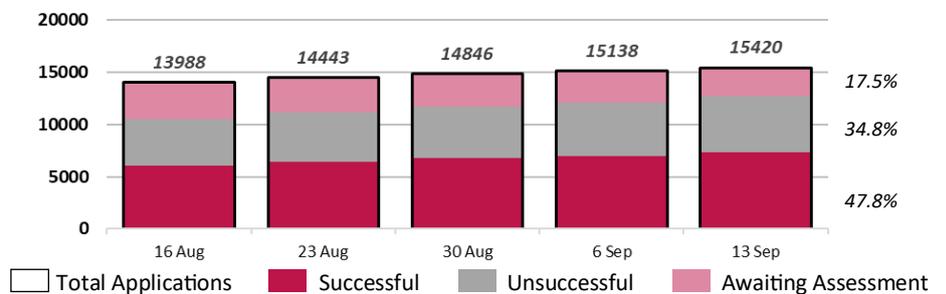
##### Waste Management & Recycling<sup>3</sup>

Tonnage of waste collected at the kerbside throughout this period continues to be higher than normal. Black bin waste has fallen slightly but is still above normal levels. Covid has continued to impact frontline resources throughout this period.

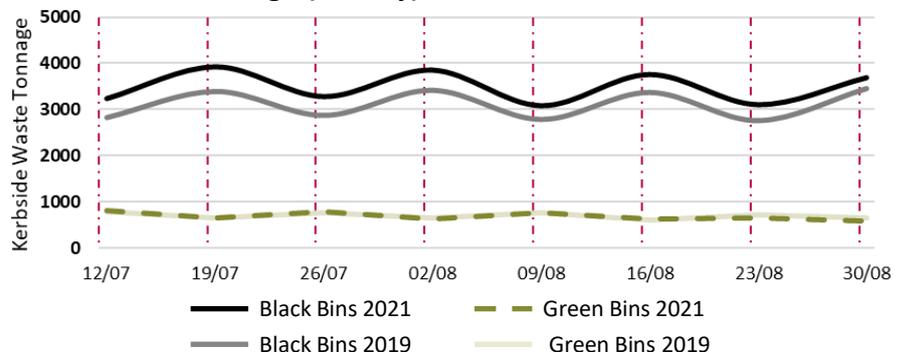
#### Crimes and Incidents



#### Self Isolation Payments (accumulative)



#### Kerbside Waste Tonnage (weekly)



Sources:

1. Safer Leeds - 13/09/21
2. Leeds City Council Financial inclusion Team 13/09/21
3. Leeds City Council Environment Team - 13/09/21

## Infrastructure & Supplies



**Avg. Traffic Flow**  
Compared to recorded traffic flow in 2019/20<sup>1</sup>



**Average Footfall**  
In Leeds City centre in comparison to 2019<sup>1</sup>



**489**  
Thousand  
MCard uses in the last week<sup>1</sup>



**21% Lower**  
**12 Months NO<sub>2</sub> Levels, compared to the previous 12 months**

### Infrastructure & Supplies Summary

#### Traffic & Pedestrian Flow <sup>1</sup>

Footfall levels continue to stabilise and train use has increased in recent weeks.

Traffic flow throughout the week remains consistently around 80%-95% of what was recorded across the same periods in 2019, however, weekend traffic numbers are at similar levels to 2019 which may be indicative of the numbers of people that continue to work from home.

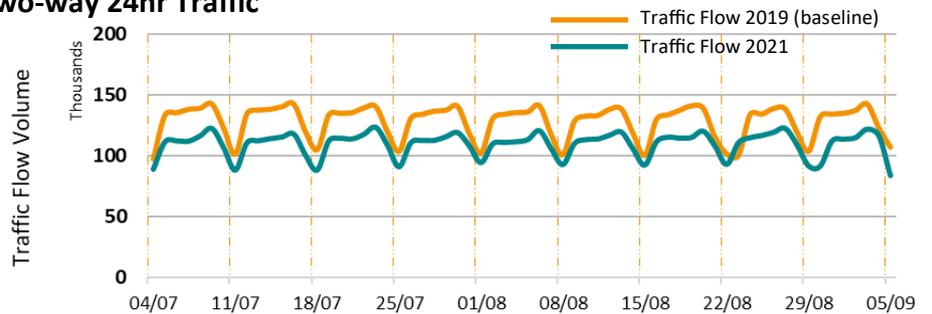
#### Leeds Air Quality (March 2020)<sup>2</sup>

The plot to the lower right shows the monthly mean Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) for all the Leeds air quality monitoring sites.

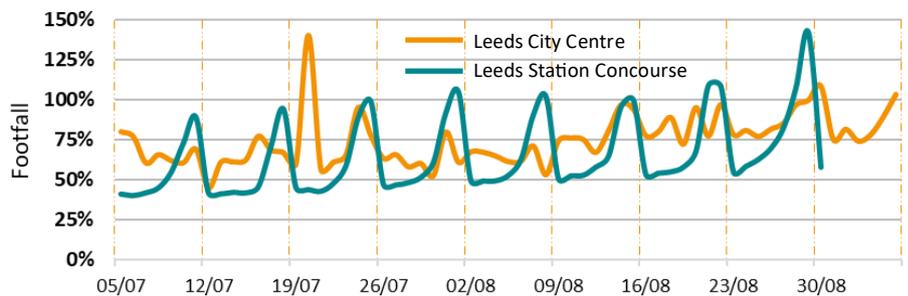
The effect of both national lockdowns shows a dramatic reduction across all sites in Leeds and the City Centre area.

Over the last 12 months NO<sub>2</sub> levels in Leeds were recorded, on average, at 21% lower than the same period in 2019, having not raised higher than the National Objective of 40 µg/m<sup>3</sup> since December 2019.

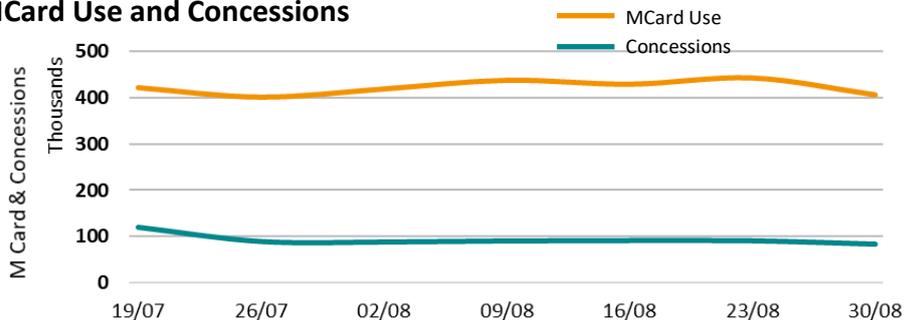
### Two-way 24hr Traffic



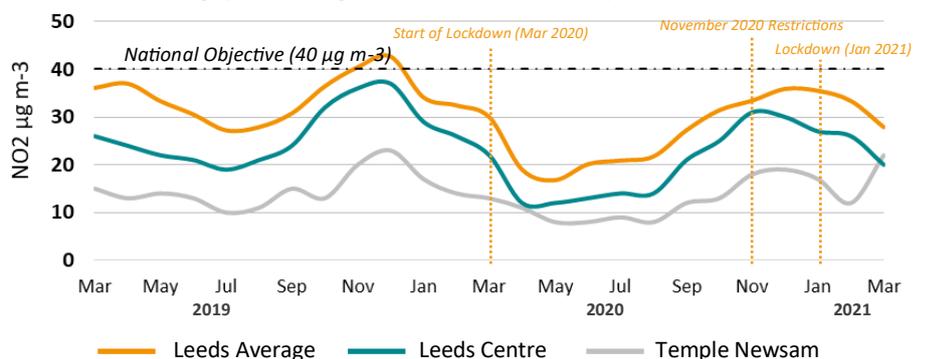
### Percentage of Expected Footfall



### MCard Use and Concessions



### Leeds Air Quality (February 2019 - March 2020)



Sources:  
1. West Yorkshire Combined Authority - 13/09/21  
2. Leeds City Council - APRIL 2021

## Economy and Business



**Out of Work  
Benefits Claimant  
Count<sup>2</sup>**



**Fewer Employees  
on furlough in July  
than in June**

### Economy and Business<sup>1</sup>

#### Vacancies

The number of online job vacancies in West Yorkshire has remained broadly stable in the last fortnight, with a similar picture nationally. The 2021 trend online job postings has been above the pre-crisis level for 18 consecutive weeks.

#### Furlough

There are still 1.6m people nationally on the Job Retention Scheme. Rising employer contributions since July should, in theory discourage businesses from keeping people on furlough, however despite the end of furlough looming firms are not reported to be planning large-scale redundancies.

In Leeds there were 3,800 fewer employees on furlough in July, compared to June with a total of 15,900 people still on the scheme in July.

#### Business support

In Leeds, £14,505,462 has been paid out in discretionary grants since November 2020, an increase of £2,967,177 since the last figures were published on 23rd July. The Discretionary Grant Fund will reopen at the end of September to support businesses still suffering from the effects of the pandemic. A further £320,000 worth of Additional Restrictions Grant funding has been distributed to arts@leeds organisations.

#### Travel

Motor vehicle use has remained broadly stable over the last few weeks, just below pre-pandemic levels, with relatively more trips at weekends.

Weekday bus use has increased (similar to the national picture). Rail use locally and nationally has also notably increased, particularly around the August bank holiday. Leeds footfall data indicates a slow but steady recovery of the night-time economy.

#### Business news

Channel 4 has opened its new national headquarters in the Majestic Building in Leeds. The move is expected to contribute £1.2bn to the economy and provide over 1,000 good jobs to Leeds over the next decade.

Highways England has announced that it is relocating to Leeds, having signed a 10-year lease on 12,861 sq ft of office space at 2 City Walk in South Bank.

The acute shortage of HGV drivers is leading to gaps on supermarket shelves and a string of warnings from large businesses including McDonald's, Nandos and Coca-Cola about shortages of stock and even forced closures of their outlets.

### Employment

#### Out of work claimants

6.1% out of work claimants (was 6.3%)

There has been a fall in Out of Work Benefit claimants, with 31,950 people claiming Out of Work Benefits (6.1%) in July, down by 175 claimants (6.3%) from June, though Leeds is still above both regional (5.7%) and national rates (5.5%).

### LCC's financial position<sup>1</sup>

As reported to the Executive Board on 23rd June, the final Outturn position for the financial year 2020/21 was an underspend of £1.1m, which allowed for a contribution to the Council's general reserve.

The position remains challenging. The 2021/22 Budget, received at February's Executive Board, requires the delivery of Directorate savings proposals of £56.1m and a range of other measures to deliver £31.4m of assumed increases in funding and reductions in costs. The latest Financial Health report for the year, to be received at September's Executive Board meeting, projects a small overspend of £0.4m for the year. However, this position includes projected COVID pressures of £25.0m, which have been funded in full by £21.3m of Government funding allocated to meet COVID expenditure pressures in 2021/22 and an estimated £3.7m of Sales, Fees and Charges funding through the Government scheme to compensate authorities for 75% of eligible income losses due to COVID. The income compensation scheme only compensates for losses incurred to 30th June 2021 and has not been extended.

The updated Medium Term Financial Strategy, covering the 5 years from 2022/23 to 2026/27, will be reported to Executive Board in September 2021. As reported in the 2021/22 Budget Report the Council continues to face a significant financial challenge. Updated budget gaps of £65.4m, £48.1m and £13.3m are currently projected for 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25 respectively.

Government has confirmed that the date of the 2021 Autumn Budget will be 27th October. A three year Spending Review will be delivered on the same date, setting Government departmental budgets from 2022/23 to 2024/25. The individual Local Authorities provisional settlements will not be known until December.

On 7th September Government launched "Build Back Better; Our plan for health and social care" which included setting out plans to introduce a new 1.25% Health and Social Care Levy based on both Employer and Employee National Insurance contributions, ringfenced to fund the investment in health and social care set out in the plan. The levy is expected to raise £36bn over the first three years. At this stage it appears that none of this funding will be provided directly to local authorities, who are advised that Government expects demographic and unit cost pressures will be met through Council Tax, social care precept, and long-term efficiencies. However, Government does intend to compensate public sector employers, including councils, for the increased cost of the Levy with more detail provided at the 2021 Spending Review.

#### Sources:

1. Leeds City Council - 13/09/21
2. Department for Work and Pensions - August 2021

## Policy Announcements

### Outbreak Management

The Prime Minister is to set out the government's plan for managing Covid over autumn and winter shortly, with a focus on vaccination, new treatments, testing, and surveillance of variants. Certain powers from the Coronavirus Act are expected to be repealed, including powers to close down parts of the economy, powers to restrict access to education, and powers to detain infectious people. The legal requirement to self-isolate if positive for Covid-19 will remain. The Health Secretary has announced that plans to introduce vaccine passports have been suspended.

Data from the Events Research Programme & NHS Test and Trace concluded that mass events can be conducted safely, but caution must still be taken around event participation.

The Medicines & Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has approved the first monoclonal antibody treatment, Ronapreve, to prevent and treat Covid-19 in the UK. The drug lines the respiratory system where it binds tightly to coronavirus and prevents it from gaining access to the cells. Details of when the drug will be available to patients have not yet been announced.

### Testing & Self-Isolation

Self-isolation guidance changed on 16 August, with those who are double-vaccinated, under 18.5 years old, part of a vaccine trial, or unable to be vaccinated for medical reasons, no longer required to self-isolate if identified as a close contact of someone who tested positive for Covid-19.

A new UK-wide antibody testing service rollout, known as the Post Positive PCR Antibody Testing Initiative (PPPATI), offers everybody over the age of 18 the opportunity to opt into antibody testing when registering for a PCR test. Randomly selected individuals, out of those who opt in and subsequently test positive for Covid-19 following a PCR test, will be sent two finger prick antibody tests to complete at home and return for analysis. The data collected will help estimate the proportion of those who got Covid-19 despite developing antibodies as a result of having a vaccine or previously catching coronavirus.

A public consultation is open until 30 September on proposals for mandatory laboratory validation for Covid-19 test products before entry to the UK market.

[www.gov.uk/government/consultations/validation-of-covid-19-tests](http://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/validation-of-covid-19-tests)

### Vaccination

Covid vaccination became available to 16 and 17 year olds in mid-August. After four weeks, more than half of this age group had had a first jab. More than 80% of all people aged 16 or over in the UK have had two doses of Covid-19 vaccine.

The final advice of the JCVI on a booster vaccination programme is expected next week (w/c 20 September). Pending JCVI's advice, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) have confirmed that Pfizer and AstraZeneca vaccines can be used as safe and effective booster doses. The government has agreed a contract for 35 million more doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine to be delivered in the second half of next year.

The government accepted the advice of the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) that people with severely weakened immune systems aged 12+ should be offered a third primary Covid-19 vaccine dose. This is separate to a booster programme, which the JCVI is still deliberating on. A third primary dose is an extra 'top-up' for people who may not have generated a full immune response after 2 doses, whereas a booster dose is a later dose to extend the duration of protection from the primary course of vaccinations. Data suggests that around 40% of immunosuppressed people have only generated a low number of antibodies following two vaccine doses. A clinical trial has launched to determine whether a third dose will improve the immune response for immunosuppressed people, but JCVI's view is that a third dose can be safely offered to this group as it is very unlikely to cause harm and may increase their protection. Specialists will make the decision on timing, but this will generally be at least 8 weeks after the second dose.

The JCVI decided not to recommend Covid vaccination for 12-15 year olds on health grounds alone due to the marginal benefit anticipated from a universal vaccination campaign for this age group. The UK's Chief Medical Officers have now advised that vaccination is recommended for this age group. Meanwhile, the Medicines & Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) have approved the use of the Moderna vaccine for 12 - 17 year olds.

A consultation has been launched on mandatory vaccination for frontline health and care staff. 92% of NHS staff have received a first Covid vaccine dose and 88% have had both.

[www.gov.uk/government/news/consultation-on-mandatory-vaccination-for-frontline-health-and-care-staff](http://www.gov.uk/government/news/consultation-on-mandatory-vaccination-for-frontline-health-and-care-staff)

Asda, National Express and lastminute.com are amongst the latest businesses to offer discounts for people who get a Covid vaccine as part of the national drive to increase uptake.

### International Travel

Montenegro and Thailand were added to the red list for international travel on 30 August, while the Azores, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Liechtenstein, Lithuania and Switzerland were moved to the green list.

DHSC have reduced the cost of NHS Covid tests for international travel and announced a review will of pricing and service standards by all private providers of Covid travel tests. The Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) are investigating a number of firms that provide PCR tests for travel, including one of the largest providers, following reports of misleading prices. On 10 September the CMA advised the government that a competitive PCR testing market risks a 'race to the bottom' and will not deliver the right outcomes for consumers.

The cost of staying in a managed quarantine facility on arrival from a red list country increased on 12 August, to £2,285 for a single adult.

ONS data for 12-17 July found that 77% of arrivals from amber-list countries into England fully adhered to quarantine and testing requirements, and 91% took both the required tests. Around 3 in 5 respondents (59%) fully understood the quarantine rules, while 41% misunderstood or were unsure.

### Inequalities

Analysis of NHS England data by the i suggests that women under 40 are 10% more likely than men to come forward for Covid vaccination. The gap "is smaller or non-existent" for older age groups.

[inews.co.uk/news/politics](http://inews.co.uk/news/politics)

A report by the Institute for Fiscal Studies reveals that two out of five children did not get the officially required amount of remote learning during school closures earlier this year. Researchers say catch-up policies need to be directed at poorer pupils to close "educational inequalities that have grown so much wider" during the coronavirus pandemic. However, although the majority of parents support tutoring to help children, the poorest families were the least likely to accept an offer of catch-up sessions. The IFS found that during the autumn term - when schools were open - poorer pupils spent longer in self-isolation and had less access to school provisions when doing so.

[ifs.org.uk/publications/15592](http://ifs.org.uk/publications/15592)

A report commissioned by the Northern Health Science Alliance shows that people living in the North East, North West, Yorkshire and the Humber were more likely to die in the first year of the pandemic, and were forced to spend 41 more days in severe restrictions compared with the rest of the country. Mortality rates in the North were 17% higher than the Midlands and South, whilst care home deaths were also 26% higher than the rest of England. Many of the extra deaths were attributed to poverty and poor health.

[www.thenhsa.co.uk](http://www.thenhsa.co.uk)

Further details on the majority of articles shown above can be found on the UK Government Website [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) or by using your preferred internet search provider.

## Communications Update

### Website Visits:

Leeds.gov Covid-19 webpages were changed following the Stage 4 roadmap restrictions easing, since the webpages were refreshed and restrictions eased, visits to the Covid-19 homepage have continued a steadily declining trend from 12,000 in mid July to around 3,000 visits per week.

### Communications Update:

This update pre-dates the government announcement on September 14 about its Contain plan for the winter period. Until the detail of the Contain strategy reveals how the government intends to manage the next stage of the pandemic and its associated expected extra winter pressures, we can only plan broadly.

However, our communications work within the council and across our public and Third Sector partner organisations is adapting around the existing national shift from direct containment to living with the virus.

The move away from regulatory Covid-19 management towards people taking individual responsibility comes alongside the progression of the national vaccination programme.

But as we move into the traditional winter pressures season, we also need to take into account that Covid-19 rates remain high and health systems continue to be under pressure, both nationally and locally.

This will be reflected in campaign messaging, with the main emphasis on protecting those most at risk. We will be encouraging the clinically vulnerable and older people to take appropriate precautions and appealing to others to consider their needs through their own behaviour.

We will continue to work with partners to promote vaccine take-up and in particular support the efforts of the Leaving No-One Behind plan to ensure all communities have access to the jabs.

Support will also be given to the roll-out of young people's and booster jabs and any enhanced testing that might be required.

With the potential for case rates to grow and possible variants of concern to emerge as the winter progresses, trends will be closely monitored. Winter flu campaign planning is already under way and any other winter pressures will be incorporated as needed.