

## COVID-19 National and Local timeline during 2022

- Around 132 million COVID-19 vaccinations were administered across the 4 nations of the UK in 2021, with over 1.6 million people receiving their booster or third dose in the final week of the year. Almost 34 million people are now fully protected. 50 million received a first dose and over 47 million received a second dose last year. Data now shows that over 90% of those aged 12 and over have now had a first dose and 82.4% have had their second – *2<sup>nd</sup> January 2022*
- Secondary schools to provide one on-site test for pupils prior to their return to the classroom. Education staff and college students to self-test at home before they return. University students have also been advised to test before returning to campus. Testing for all in education should then continue twice a week – *3<sup>rd</sup> January 2022*
- One year ago, UK became the first country in the world to administer the Oxford University/AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine. Since then, 50 million doses have been administered in UK and 2.5 billion doses across the world

Due to disruption to the workforce caused by the spread of Omicron, UK Government is providing 100,000 critical workers with free lateral flow tests each working day in a bid to keep essential services and supply chains running – *4<sup>th</sup> January 2022*

- From 11<sup>th</sup> January, a temporary measure is to be introduced whereby people who do not have COVID-19 symptoms but receive a positive lateral flow test will be required to self-isolate immediately and won't be required to take a confirmatory PCR test. As previously, anyone who develops symptoms should self-isolate and take a PCR test

Despite the latest evidence that Omicron causes less severe disease than previous variants, the case rates are rising rapidly and so Government advice remains to work from home whenever possible, wear face coverings on public transport and in most indoor places and to take a test before going to high-risk venues or meeting vulnerable people. Plan B conditions to continue at present

From Friday 7<sup>th</sup> January, eligible fully-vaccinated passengers and under 18s will no longer need to take a pre-departure test or self-isolate on arrival in England but must continue to take their post-arrival tests. From Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> January eligible fully vaccinated travellers and under 5s will be able to take a lateral flow test instead of a PCR test on or before day 2 of their arrival in England – *5<sup>th</sup> January 2022*

- Businesses in England most impacted by the Omicron variant to benefit from £700 million in government grants delivered by local councils. Hospitality, leisure and accommodation businesses will be able to apply for cash grants of up to £6,000

UK Health Security Agency data shows 3 months after receiving the third jab, protection against hospitalisation among those aged 65 and over remains at about 90%. For those with just 2 vaccines protection drops to around 70% after 3 months and to 50% after 6 months. Priority should be to give the booster jab to all ages and to encourage unvaccinated people to come forward as soon as possible – *7<sup>th</sup> January 2022*

- New advertising campaign launched over social media and radio to urge pregnant women to take the COVID-19 vaccine. Almost all pregnant women hospitalised or admitted to intensive care with COVID-19 were unvaccinated – *10<sup>th</sup> January 2022*
- Most people with a positive lateral flow test do not need to take a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test to confirm they have COVID-19. The exceptions are: 1) People who wish to claim the Test and Trace Support Payment; 2) People who have received an email or letter from the NHS because of a health condition; 3) People who are taking LFD tests as part of a research or surveillance programme which requires a follow-up PCR test; 4) People who have a positive Day 2 LFD test result after they arrive in England. These people must continue to have a confirmatory PCR test – *11<sup>th</sup> January 2022*
- Sixty councils in areas of low vaccine uptake to benefit from a share of £22.5 million of government funding to encourage people in hard-to-reach communities to take part in the vaccination programme. According to NHS statistics, over 4.6 million people aged 18 or older remain unvaccinated

Free personal protective equipment (PPE) for frontline health and care staff extended until March 2023. A new platform using central procurement will make the process quicker and easier to use

From Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January, in order to support essential public services and supply chains, people with COVID-19 in England can end their self-isolation after 5 days, as long as they test negative on day 5 and day 6

Latest UK Health Security Agency report shows that case rates were highest in those aged 20-29, with a weekly rate of 1,903.3 per 100,000 population. Weekly case rates were highest in the North East at 2,350.8 per 100,000 population, also hospital admission rates were highest in the North East at 28.42 per 100,000 population – *13<sup>th</sup> January 2022*

- Advertising campaign launched to encourage 18 to 34 year-olds to have their booster jabs. So far, just 57% of that age group have been boosted

UK is sending 9 million doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine to the most vulnerable parts of the world. This is part of the Government's pledge of 100 million doses to be shared within the next year. 80 million of the 100 million doses will be offered through the COVAX Facility

As of 10<sup>th</sup> January, 53 sequences of the BA.2 sub-lineage of Omicron have been identified in the UK. The sub-lineage does not have the spike gene deletion that causes S-gene target failure (SGTF) which has been used to detect cases of Omicron. The UK Health Security Agency are closely monitoring the data of the BA.2 sub-lineage – 14<sup>th</sup> January 2022

- Due to the success of the booster programme in slowing the spread of Omicron, England is to gradually reduce the restrictions imposed under Plan B (introduced in December). From 19<sup>th</sup> January, the government is no longer asking people to work from home if they can. From 20<sup>th</sup> January face coverings will no longer be required in classrooms for both staff and pupils. On Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> January, we return to Plan A whereby face coverings will no longer be mandatory in indoor venues and organisations will be able to choose whether to require NHS Covid Passes. However public health guidance suggests individuals should continue to wear a face covering in crowded and enclosed spaces – 19<sup>th</sup> January 2022
- Latest UK Health Security Agency report shows that case rates were highest in those aged 5-9, with a weekly rate of 1,935.7 per 100,000 population. Weekly case rates were highest in the North East at 1,410.0 per 100,000 population, also hospital admission rate for week 2 was highest in the North East at 27.09 per 100,000 population – 20<sup>th</sup> January 2022
- Omicron sub-lineage BA.2 designated as a variant under investigation (VUI) by the UK Health Security Agency based on increasing numbers identified. There have been 426 cases of Omicron BA.2 confirmed by Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS)

Knowsley Outbreak Management Board sat on 20<sup>th</sup> January and reported COVID-19 case levels in Knowsley Borough to be 970 cases per 100,000 population. Highest case rates are for school-aged children but also still very high in people over 60. Regarding the vaccination programme, 45.09% of the eligible Knowsley population are fully vaccinated (two doses and a booster). This leaves almost 55% without adequate protection against the virus – 21<sup>st</sup> January 2022

- The Department for Transport have announced that from 11<sup>th</sup> February, eligible fully vaccinated passengers arriving in the UK will no longer have to take a post-arrival,

lateral flow test. When fully vaccinated passengers travel to UK on or after that date they just have to verify their status via a passenger locator form. For incoming passengers that are not fully vaccinated on or after that date they will no longer be required to do a day 8 test after arrival or self-isolate but will have to complete a passenger locator form to demonstrate proof of a negative COVID-19 test taken 2 days before travel and must take a post-arrival PCR test. Additionally, from 3 February, 12-15 year olds in England will be able to prove their vaccination status via the digital NHS Pass for international outbound travel – 24<sup>th</sup> January 2022

- Adults over the age of 50 or with an underlying health condition who test positive for COVID-19 are urged to sign up for a world-first study which is providing life-saving antivirals. To join the study sign up at the PANORAMIC trial website

As testing and quarantine restrictions end for fully vaccinated visitors and Britain becomes one of the most open countries in Europe, PM Boris Johnson is launching a £10 million campaign VisitBritain to encourage international tourists to visit – 25<sup>th</sup> January 2022

- The latest study into COVID-19 infections by the government-backed REACT-1 (round 17) show prevalence increased at all ages from the previous round. The highest prevalence was in those aged 5-11 (7.81%) and next highest, those aged 12-17 (5.17%). Prevalence also increased in every region, the highest figure being for the North East (6.85%), followed by Yorkshire and The Humber at 5.58%. Omicron now being the dominant variant detected.

Over 5,000 vulnerable people have now enrolled with the PANORAMIC study, which evaluates the use of antivirals to reduce the severity of symptoms from COVID-19 infection, another avenue to ease pressure on the NHS – 26<sup>th</sup> January 2022

- Britain returns to “Plan A” following the success of the vaccination programme, all measures under “Plan B” now lifted. Also, restrictions put in place in adult social care under “Plan B” will change. From Monday 31<sup>st</sup> January, there will be no limit on the number of visitors allowed, isolation periods will be reduced from 14 to 10 days for those who test positive with further reduction if the person test negative on both days 5 and 6. Care homes now to follow outbreak management rules for 14 days not 28 days

Latest data from UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) reinforces the safety of COVID-19 vaccinations in pregnant women. The agency also stated that data continues to show high levels of protection against hospitalisation from the booster jab. Vaccine effectiveness was found to be similar against the Omicron variant sub-lineage known as BA.2 – 27<sup>th</sup> January 2022

- From Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> January, the UK's second ground-breaking antiviral PF-07321332+ritonavir (Paxlovid), will be made available for those with weakened immune systems i.e. people who are immunocompromised, cancer patients or those with Down's Syndrome. This new antiviral reduced the risk of COVID-19-associated hospitalisation or death by 88% in those who received treatment within five days of symptoms appearing

As of 24<sup>th</sup> January, there were 1,072 genomically confirmed cases of the latest Omicron sub-lineage BA.2. Initial data show BA.2 to have an increased growth rate compared to BA.1 but there is currently no data on the severity of BA.2 – 28<sup>th</sup> January 2022

- As Omicron is now the dominant variant representing 96% of all cases, the legal requirement for health and social care staff to be double-jabbed is to be removed, subject to public consultation and Parliamentary approval. Although the majority of health and social care staff are vaccinated, the remainder are urged to Get Boosted Now as a professional responsibility

From today, the UK's Health Security Agency has begun to include data on possible reinfections in its COVID-19 dashboard. Positive tests of COVID-19 within a 90-day time period are now considered part of the same case episode, while positive tests outside that parameter are to be considered reinfections – 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022

- Regulatory approval has been granted for COVID-19 vaccine Nuvaxovid by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA)

Latest UK Health Security Agency report shows that case rates were highest in those aged 5-9, with a weekly rate of 1,925.5 per 100,000 population. Weekly case rates were highest in the South East at 1,199.8 per 100,000 population. Hospital admission rate for week 4 was highest in the North East at 25.15 per 100,000 population – 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2022

- From 17<sup>th</sup> January, people in England with COVID-19 can end their self-isolation after 5 full days if they test negative on day five and on day six – 4<sup>th</sup> February 2022
- Hospitality, leisure and accommodation businesses are encouraged to apply to their local council for one-off cash grants of up to £6,000 through the Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant scheme

The UK Health Security Agency release the results of their study of the booster vaccine's effect on hospitalisations and estimate 105,600 hospitalisations have been prevented in those aged 25 and over. The prevention numbers can be broken down

as follows: 87,300 in those aged 65 and over; 14,300 in those aged 45 to 64 and 4,000 in those aged 25-44

The Rosalind Franklin laboratory in Royal Leamington Spa which opened in June 2021 has now processed 5 million PCR tests but also carries out genomic sequencing and can rapidly detect COVID-19 mutations

Latest UK Health Security Agency report shows that case rates were highest in those aged 10-19, with a weekly rate of 1,315.1 per 100,000 population. Weekly case rates were highest in the South East at 1,013.9 per 100,000 population. The hospital admission rate for week 5 was highest in the North East at 18.92 per 100,000 population

The UK has uploaded over 2 million genome sequences to the international GISAID database, accounting for a quarter of all SARS-CoV-2 genomes shared globally – 10<sup>th</sup> February 2022

- Changes to travel rules come into force in UK today. Eligible fully-vaccinated passengers arriving in UK no longer need to take any COVID-19 tests and are only required to fill in a simplified passenger locator form. Those not qualified as fully-vaccinated will need to take a pre-departure test in the 2 days prior to departure and a PCR test on or before the end of Day 2 after they arrive in UK as well as completing the passenger locator form – 11<sup>th</sup> February 2022
- A review by the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) shows that people who have had one or more doses of a coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine are less likely to develop long COVID than those who remain unvaccinated – 15<sup>th</sup> February 2022
- Following advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI), the government is to make a non-urgent offer of COVID-19 vaccines to all children aged 5-11 in England. It would be issued as 2 doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech paediatric Vaccine with an interval of at least 12 weeks between doses. The purpose being to increase the protection against severe illness in advance of a potential future wave of COVID-19 – 16<sup>th</sup> February 2022
- Latest UK Health Security Agency report shows that case rates were highest in those aged 30-39, with a weekly rate of 720.7 per 100,000 population. Weekly case rates were highest in the South West at 728.1 per 100,000 population. The hospital admission rate for week 6 was highest in the North East at 15.84 per 100,000 population

Results of the latest UK Health Security Agency-backed SIREN study into COVID-19 antibodies confirmed that vaccination provides a significantly greater level of

protection against infection from COVID-19, whether or not you have been previously infected. It also highlighted the fact that the protection wanes over time and stressed the importance of the booster jab – 17<sup>th</sup> February 2022

- Health and Social Care Secretary Sajid Javid has accepted the advice of the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) to offer, from the Spring, an additional COVID-19 booster jab to people aged 75 years and over, older adults in care homes and people aged 12 and over who are immunosuppressed. Those eligible will receive their vaccine around six months after their last dose

The new world-class research facility dedicated to the development and testing of new COVID-19 vaccines has opened at the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) Porton Down site in Salisbury

Prime Minister Boris Johnson has set out the Government's plans to live with COVID following the successful vaccination programme. This includes the removal on 24<sup>th</sup> February, of all remaining domestic legal restrictions to public freedom. The legal requirement to self-isolate ends. Until 1<sup>st</sup> April, people who test positive are still advised to stay at home for at least five days and follow the guidance. From April new Government guidance will be set out. Self-isolation support payments, national funding for practical support and the medicine delivery service will no longer be available. Routine contact tracing ends, including venue check-ins on the NHS COVID-19 app. On 24<sup>th</sup> March, the Government will remove the COVID-19 provisions within the Statutory Sick Pay and Employment and Support Allowance regulations – 21<sup>st</sup> February 2022

- COVID-19 legal restrictions are lifted in England. Government asks the public to practice safe and responsible behaviours: maintaining good hand hygiene, ventilating rooms and wearing a mask in enclosed spaces will minimise the risk

Latest UK Health Security Agency report shows that case rates were highest in those aged 30-39, with a weekly rate of 583.2 per 100,000 population. Weekly case rates were highest in the South West at 557.8 per 100,000 population. The hospital admission rate for week 7 was highest in the North East at 13.78 per 100,000 population – 24<sup>th</sup> February 2022

- The forthcoming public inquiry set up to examine the UK's response to the pandemic (to be Chaired by Rt Hon Baroness Heather Hallett) now has its own independent website at <https://covid19.public-inquiry.uk> – 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022
- Following a previous announcement on the extension of free COVID-19 PPE until the end of March 2023, a new online platform (to be managed by NHS Supply Chain) to order the personal protective equipment (PPE) has been launched

UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) urges pregnant women to be vaccinated as latest data reinforces previous findings on safety of COVID-19 vaccines in pregnancy

Regulations requiring COVID-19 vaccination to work in Care Quality Commission (CQC) registered care homes to be lifted from 15<sup>th</sup> March. Also, the legal requirement for health and social care staff to be double-jabbed from 1st April is to be removed. Health and Social Care Secretary reminds the minority of unvaccinated health and care workers of their professional responsibility to be vaccinated – *1<sup>st</sup> March 2022*

- UK bilaterally donated 1 million doses of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine to Bangladesh. This adds to the 4 million doses the UK donated through COVAX last year – *2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022*
- Latest UK Health Security Agency report shows COVID-19 activity decreased in all indicators in week 8 of 2022. Case rates were highest in those aged 30-39, with a weekly rate of 419.9 per 100,000 population. Weekly case rates were highest in the South West at 394.5 per 100,000 population. The hospital admission rate for week 8 was highest in the South East at 12.68 per 100,000 population – *3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022*
- Latest government-backed REACT-1 study results (round 18) for COVID-19 show prevalence in England (covering the period 8<sup>th</sup> February to 1<sup>st</sup> March) was 2.88%. Therefore approximately 1 in 35 people were infected with the virus. Rates of Omicron sub-lineage BA.2 were highest in London with 44.3% of all positive cases and in the southern region. Increasing prevalence was found among those aged 55 and over

Government publish the draft Terms of Reference for the forthcoming public inquiry into the COVID-19 pandemic. Coverage includes: preparedness, the public health response, the response in the health and care sector and our economic response

Latest UK Health Security Agency report shows COVID-19 activity increased in most indicators in week 9 of 2022. Case rates were highest in those aged 30-39, with a weekly rate of 542.7 per 100,000 population. Weekly case rates were highest in the South West at 528.7 per 100,000 population. The hospital admission rate for week 9 was highest in the South West at 17.22 per 100,000 population – *10<sup>th</sup> March 2022*

- Due to the success of the vaccination programme, the government will remove the remaining COVID-19 international travel restrictions for all passengers from 4am on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March. Therefore, no-one entering UK will need to take tests or complete a passenger locator form. Also, managed hotel quarantine will cease from the end of March

Knowsley Outbreak Management Board sat on 11<sup>th</sup> March and reported COVID-19 case levels in Knowsley Borough have increased recently as with all other areas of the UK. Current case levels are 394 per 100,000 population with the majority of cases in the 35-39 year-old age range. Additionally, the number of COVID-19 patients in local hospitals has increased over the past week. Plans for a Spring booster campaign for the over 75s, care home residents and the immune suppressed is already underway. However, with the publication of the Government's *Living with COVID-19 plan* which includes lifting all remaining restrictions, it was decided that this would be the last meeting of the Knowsley Outbreak Management Board. Any future meetings will be arranged at short notice if and when required – 14<sup>th</sup> March 2022

- Latest UK Health Security Agency report shows COVID-19 activity increased in most indicators in week 10 of 2022. Case rates were highest in those aged 30-39, with a weekly rate of 878.7 per 100,000 population. Weekly case rates were highest in the South West at 939.3 per 100,000 population. The hospital admission rate for week 10 was highest in the South East at 19.31 per 100,000 population

A new medicine, Evusheld (a combination of tixagevimab and cilgavimab, two long-acting antibodies) has been approved by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) for use in adults who are unlikely to mount an immune response from COVID-19 vaccination or for whom vaccination is not recommended – 17<sup>th</sup> March 2022

- Latest UK Health Security Agency report shows COVID-19 activity increased in most indicators in week 11 of 2022. Case rates were highest in those aged 30-39, with a weekly rate of 1,122.1 per 100,000 population. Weekly case rates remain highest in the South West at 1,269.1 per 100,000 population. The hospital admission rate for week 11 was highest in the South West at 28.71 per 100,000 population

A new law the 'Commercial Rent (Coronavirus) Act 2022' comes into force in England and Wales today whereby a legally binding arbitration process will be available for eligible commercial landlords and tenants who have not already reached agreement to resolve disputes about pandemic rent debt

More than half (53.7%) of pregnant women have now had received at least one dose of a coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine – 24<sup>th</sup> March 2022

- The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) finds Omicron BA.2 now the dominant variant in England and is accounting for approximately 93.7% of all cases, the highest being in the South East (96.4%) and the lowest in the East Midlands (91.1%). Since mid-February, the growth rate has remained at approximately 75% higher than other circulating Omicron lineages in England. However, analysis has found no evidence

that infection with Omicron BA.2 results in a greater risk of hospitalisation, compared to Omicron BA.1 – 25<sup>th</sup> March 2022

- From 1<sup>st</sup> April, changes occur to those eligible for free coronavirus (COVID-19) tests.  
Symptomatic testing:  
NHS patients in hospital; those eligible for COVID-19 antiviral and other treatments; NHS staff and staff working in NHS-funded independent healthcare provision; adult social care staff and residents in care homes, homecare organisations, extra care and supported living settings and adult day care centres; adult social care social workers, personal assistants, Shared Lives carers and CQC inspectors; staff and patients in hospices; staff and detainees in places of detention (including prisons); staff and detainees in immigration removal centres; staff and users of high-risk domestic abuse and homelessness settings  
Asymptomatic testing will continue to be provided during periods of high prevalence for:  
Adult social care staff and a number of visitors providing personal care; hospice staff; patient-facing staff in NHS and NHS-funded independent healthcare provision; some staff in prisons, other places of detention and some refuges and shelters.  
Also, care home outbreak testing for all staff and residents will continue all year – 30<sup>th</sup> March 2022
- Latest UK Health Security Agency report shows COVID-19 activity remained stable in most indicators in week 12 of 2022. Case rates were highest in those aged 30-39, with a weekly rate of 1,123.7 per 100,000 population. Weekly case rates remain highest in the South West at 1,190.5 per 100,000 population. The hospital admission rate for week 12 was highest in the South West at 28.61 per 100,000 population – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022
- To protect those most at risk from the COVID-19 virus, a new set of guidance has been presented by UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) providing important public health advice for those with a positive COVID-19 test and their contacts and advice on safer behaviours for everyone. A set of health principles has also been published for employers to consider in managing the risk to their workforce – 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022
- Findings of the latest government-backed REACT-1 study (round 19) into COVID-19 shows that during the period 8<sup>th</sup> March-31<sup>st</sup> March, prevalence in England was 6.37%. This was the highest figure since the beginning of the study in May 2020 and up on the 2.88% recorded in the previous round (8<sup>th</sup> February – 1<sup>st</sup> March). Therefore in this latest study), approximately 1 in 16 people were infected with the virus – 6<sup>th</sup> April 2022
- Latest UK Health Security Agency report shows COVID-19 activity was variable in indicators for week 13 of 2022. Case rates were highest in those aged 30-39, with a

weekly rate of 820.0 per 100,000 population. Weekly case rates remain highest in the South West at 804.5 per 100,000 population. The hospital admission rate for week 13 was highest in the North East at 31.14 per 100,000 population – 7<sup>th</sup> April 2022

- Thousands more vulnerable people are eligible to receive the UK's second antiviral Paxlovid which in clinical trials reduced the risk of hospitalisation or death by 88%. The antiviral is already available directly to highest-risk patients and has been added to the PANORAMIC national study – 12<sup>th</sup> April 2022
- The COVID-19 vaccine developed by Valneva has been given regulatory approval by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) and becomes the sixth COVID-19 vaccine to be granted an MHRA authorisation. This is also the first, whole-virus inactivated COVID-19 vaccine to gain MHRA approval

The latest UK Health Security Agency surveillance reports now focus on high-risk groups i.e. patients in NHS hospitals, those eligible for antiviral and other treatments, NHS staff and adult social care and has been named 'Pillar One' data. The latest report shows COVID-19 activity decreased in week 14 of 2022. The number of suspected outbreaks in England was 788 compared with 952 in the previous week. The hospital admission rate for week 14 was highest in the North East at 25.94 per 100,000 population

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has approved the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine 'Spikevax' for use in 6 to 11-year olds – 14<sup>th</sup> April 2022

- The latest UK Health Security Agency surveillance reports shows COVID-19 activity decreased in week 15 of 2022. The number of suspected outbreaks in England was 559 compared with 788 in the previous week. The hospital admission rate for week 15 was highest in the North East at 22.79 per 100,000 population – 21<sup>st</sup> April 2022
- The latest UK Health Security Agency surveillance reports shows COVID-19 activity decreased once again in week 16 of 2022. The number of suspected outbreaks in England was 440 compared with 559 in the previous week. The hospital admission rate for week 16 was highest in the North East at 22.01 per 100,000 population – 28<sup>th</sup> April 2022
- The latest UK Health Security Agency surveillance reports shows COVID-19 activity has decreased in week 17 of 2022. The number of suspected outbreaks in England was 229 compared with 440 in the previous week. The hospital admission rate for week 17 was highest in the North East at 18.44 per 100,000 population – 5<sup>th</sup> May 2022

- UK Health Security Agency has supplied a routine variant data update on the current circulating lineages. As of 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 21 confirmed cases of Omicron BA.4 and 19 confirmed cases of Omicron BA.5 have been detected in England. Data is limited at the moment but cases of BA.4 and BA.5 have doubled in the last week in South Africa so assessment continues – 6<sup>th</sup> May 2022
- The latest UK Health Security Agency surveillance reports shows COVID-19 activity has decreased in week 18 of 2022. The number of suspected outbreaks in England was 198 compared with 229 in the previous week. The hospital admission rate for week 18 was highest in the North East at 13.00 per 100,000 population – 12<sup>th</sup> May 2022
- Take up of the Spring COVID-19 booster jab for eligible over-75 year olds for the period between 21<sup>st</sup> March and 8<sup>th</sup> May is recorded at 79.2%. The booster is offered to all over-75s, those aged 12 and over who are immunosuppressed and residents in care homes for older people, around 6 months after their last dose

Vaccine uptake for pregnant women is increasing month by month but pregnant women of Black ethnicity and those living in the most deprived areas of England remain the least likely to be vaccinated – 13<sup>th</sup> May 2022

- G7 Foreign Ministers and the High Representative of the European Union endorse an Action Plan on COVID-19 at their meeting in Germany – 14<sup>th</sup> May 2022
- UKs Emergency Medical Team (EMT) have been supporting and equipping key health facilities in the Solomon Islands for the last nine weeks so following assessment and training they are able to respond to subsequent waves of COVID-19 – 16<sup>th</sup> May 2022
- UK Health Security Agency updates its guidance for living safely with respiratory infections, including coronavirus (COVID-19) – 18<sup>th</sup> May 2022
- The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) has provided interim advice to the government regarding COVID-19 booster doses this autumn. The likelihood for the booster dose is to be for the more vulnerable adults and frontline social care and health workers

The latest UK Health Security Agency surveillance reports shows COVID-19 activity has decreased in week 19 of 2022. The number of suspected outbreaks in England was 127 compared with 198 in the previous week. The hospital admission rate for week 19 was highest in the North East at 10.04 per 100,000 population – 19<sup>th</sup> May 2022

- The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has elevated the classification of the COVID-19 variants Omicron BA.4 and Omicron BA.5 to variants of concern (VOCs). As of 17<sup>th</sup> May, there were 115 confirmed cases of BA.4 and 80 confirmed cases of BA.5 – 20<sup>th</sup> May 2022
- The UK Health Security Agency's New Variant Assessment Platform (NVAP) is continuing to expand its work to other countries and regions to help global health security efforts. Nine countries have now received support from NVAP to improve early detection of new variants – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022
- The latest UK Health Security Agency surveillance reports shows COVID-19 activity has again decreased in week 20 of 2022. The number of suspected outbreaks in England was 129 compared with 127 in the previous week. The hospital admission rate for week 20 was highest in the North East at 11.69 per 100,000 population – 26<sup>th</sup> May 2022

[This summary presently covers the period to the end of May 2022 but will be updated on a monthly basis]

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