

COVID-19 National and Local timeline during 2021

- England enters 3rd national lockdown at midnight.

NHS vaccination plan proposes by February 15th, to offer the first vaccine dose to everyone in the four top priority groups identified on 30th December 2020 by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI).

First individuals receive the new Oxford/AstraZenica vaccine – 4th January 2021

- Knowsley Borough cases of COVID-19 reach a new peak with 796.8 per 100,000 of population – 6th January 2021
- Government-funded REMAP-CAP clinical trial showed using the drugs tocilizumab and sarilumab reduced the risk of death by 24% when administered to COVID-19 patients within 24 hours of entering intensive care – 7th January 2021
- Moderna vaccine gains approval by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) for use in the adult population of 18 years and above. Vaccine is to be administered in two doses, the second dose recommended at 28 days after the first. Can be stored at -20° for up to six months – 8th January 2021
- COVID-19 testing site for people with no symptoms opens at Prescott's One-Stop-Shop – January 2021
- COVID-19 testing site for people with no symptoms opens at Knowsley Village Hall – 10th January 2021
- A total of 35 genomically confirmed and 12 genomically probable cases of the SARS-CoV2 South African variant VOC202012/02 also named B.1.351 are identified in the UK. Also, 8 genomically confirmed cases of the Brazilian variant VOI202101/01 have now been identified in the UK – 14th January 2021
- Travel corridors suspended at 4am. Arrivals in England from anywhere outside UK, Ireland, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man need to self-isolate for 10 days – 18th January 2021
- UK reaches a total of over 100,000 COVID-19 related deaths (individuals who died within 28 days of a positive coronavirus test) – 26th January 2021
- Teeside-based COVID-19 vaccine company Novavax publishes phase 3 study results with 89.3% efficacy – 28th January 2021

- Knowsley Borough cases of COVID-19 decline to 520.3 per 100,000 of population – *30th January 2021*
- Milestone reached of 10 million people vaccinated in UK.
A new variant (E484K) of the COVID-19 virus confirmed in the Liverpool City Region including Knowsley and Warrington, also identified in Lancashire – *3rd February 2021*
- Knowsley Borough cases of COVID-19 decline to 358.6 per 100,000 of population – *6th February 2021*
- COVID-19 testing site for people with no symptoms opens at the ForHousing Office The Croft, Stockbridge Village – *13th February 2021*
- COVID-19 testing site for people with no symptoms opens at St Edmund Arrowsmith High School (Cumber Lane), Whiston.

Knowsley Borough cases of COVID-19 decline to 250.6 per 100,000 of population – *14th February 2021*

- Anyone arriving in England from foreign parts, will need to either: self-isolate in the place they're staying for 10 days, or, quarantine in a government approved hotel for 10 days, depending on where the individual has been in the 10 day period before arrival in England. Additionally, a negative coronavirus test result must be obtained within 3 days prior to departure to England, also a travel test package must be booked and paid for which includes COVID-19 tests to be taken on or before day 2 and on or after day 8 of the quarantine period. A passenger locator form must also be completed.

Government achieves its target of 15 million vaccinations (in less than 10 weeks) of those most at risk – *15th February 2021*

- From 8th March, care home residents can be visited indoors by a single, named individual providing they have a pre-visit test and wear PPE during the visit.

Knowsley Borough cases of COVID-19 reduce to 157.8 per 100,000 of population – *21st February 2021*

- PM announces details of the 'roadmap' out of lockdown: 4 steps to relax lockdown conditions, each step a minimum of 5 weeks apart to allow impact assessment. At each stage 4 tests will be applied: the pace of the vaccination programme; the effectiveness of the vaccines; the pressure on the NHS; and the risks of any new variants of Covid.

STEP 1: Monday 8th March, schools and colleges in England will re-open.

Introduction of twice weekly testing of secondary school and college pupils, together with face coverings being worn for the rest of this term. University students on practical courses can return to university, all others to continue learning online – to be reviewed before the end of the Easter holidays.

Breakfast and afterschool clubs can restart.

Individuals can meet one person outside their household i.e. in a park.

On 29th March, individuals can meet outside, including in gardens, either as two households or subject to the Rule of Six.

STEP 2: (no earlier than 12th April): Shops, hairdressers, nail salons can re-open; pubs and restaurants will be able to serve customers outside.

STEP 3: (no earlier than 17th May): Open the hospitality sector to service indoors: pubs, bars, restaurants, hotels and cinemas, also subject to capacity limits, sports stadia, concert halls and theatres can re-open.

STEP 4: From 21st June, large-scale events: football matches, business conferences can resume. Limits lifted on wedding attendance and nightclubs can re-open – 22nd February 2021

- A Government funded Recovery Support Package was announced to help children and young people catch up on their education with an expansion of one-to-one and small group tutoring programmes, support for disadvantaged children in early years and summer schools where necessary. High-quality online resources will also be available during the summer – 24th February 2021
- Milestone reached that more than 20 million people in the UK have received a vaccine.

Six cases of the Brazilian variant (P.1) detected in UK, 3 in England and 3 in Scotland. Of the 3 English cases, 2 are from one household in South Gloucestershire and their contacts were identified and retested. With the other case, the individual did not fully complete their test registration card, so investigations continue to find their location – 28th February 2021

- Public Health England announce results of their study which shows both Pfizer and Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccines highly effective in reducing COVID-19 infections among people aged 70 years and over. For the over 80s, either vaccine is more than 80% effective at preventing hospitalisation – 1st March 2021
- Global Travel Taskforce meets with travel industry representatives to develop a safe and sustainable plan to restart international travel. Additional testing and genomic sequencing deployed to targeted areas of Wimbledon Park and East Finchley where the COVID-19 South African variant has been found. Enhanced contact tracing to be used for any individuals testing positive with a 'variant of concern' – 2nd March 2021
- The outstanding individual with the Brazilian (P.1) variant has been located by NHS Test & Trace and Public Health England and all members of the household were already isolating as required after the case developed symptoms. From Monday 8th March international travellers must carry a completed form that allows travel under the 'stay at home' restrictions – 5th March 2021

- COVID-19 case levels in Knowsley reduce to 60.3 per 100,000 population, down by 53% in the preceding seven days – *7th March 2021*
- Step 1 of easing of restrictions: schools and colleges re-open in England. Individuals can now meet one other person in an outside setting. Care home residents can now receive one designated visitor under COVID-19 precautions – *8th March 2021*
- New analysis published shows lateral flow tests (LFDs) have a specificity of at least 99.9%. For every 1,000 tests carried out, there is less than one false positive result – *10th March 2021*
- Over 25 million people (nearly half the adult population) have received their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine in UK, all within 100 days of the first recipient – *17th March 2021*
- Almost 57,000 Knowsley Borough residents have received their first dose of the vaccine – *23rd March 2021*
- Knowsley Borough cases of COVID-19 decline to 43.1 per 100,000 of population – *25th March 2021*
- More than 30 million people have received their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine in UK – *28th March 2021*
- Lockdown restrictions lifted further under Step 1: six people or two households can now meet outdoors. Outdoor sports facilities also reopen.

The new vaccine Novavax, which is to be manufactured in the North East is to be bottled by GlaxoSmithKline, also located in the North East once MHRA approval is granted. This will provide an additional 50 to 60 million doses of UK made vaccine.

New technology 'genotype assay testing' to be introduced which could halve the time taken to identify if a positive COVID-19 test contains a variant of concern – *29th March 2021*

- Joint statement made by governments around the world on the COVID-19 origins study convened by World Health Organisation (WHO). Together they support transparent and independent analysis and evaluation, free from interference and undue influence of the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic and to engage collectively in a transparent, science-based process for international evaluations of any outbreaks of unknown origin in the future – *30th March 2021*

- More than 5 million people in UK have received their 2nd dose of a COVID-19 vaccine – *3rd April 2021*
- Government announces from 9th April, everyone in England will be able to access free, twice-weekly rapid lateral flow tests for COVID-19 – *5th April 2021*
- Recovery Loan Scheme introduced to help support businesses – *6th April 2021*
- Following a thorough review, UK regulator MHRA states people should continue to receive the vaccine AstraZeneca – no evidence that blood clots in veins is occurring more than would be expected in the absence of vaccination – *7th April 2021*
- As a safety precaution, the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) advised the government that it is preferable for adults under the age of 30 to be offered an alternative to the AstraZeneca vaccine where available – *8th April 2021*
- Global Travel Taskforce sets out an approach to safely restart international travel with recommendations including a ‘traffic light system’ and ‘green watchlist’ and the introduction of travel certification – *9th April 2021*
- Easing of restrictions as Step 2 of the government’s roadmap begins: re-opening of shops, gyms, zoos, holiday campsites, hairdressers, personal care services and outdoor hospitality.

All adults over 50, the clinically vulnerable and health and social care workers (priority groups 1-9) have now been offered a COVID-19 vaccine.

Surge testing and genomic sequencing introduced across parts of South London as 44 confirmed cases and 30 probable cases of the South African variant are found – *12th April 2021*

- Phase 2 of the vaccination program begins. NHS booking service opened to invite people aged 45-49 to make an appointment for a vaccine – *13th April 2021*
- Consultation launched regarding making COVID-19 vaccination a condition of work for care home workers – *14th April 2021*
- Public Health England has identified 77 cases of a new variant within UK (first detected in India). Enhanced contact tracing deployed where it is located – *15th April 2021*

- World's largest hygiene campaign by UK government and partner Unilever to tackle the spread of COVID-19 in developing countries has reached 1 billion people. UK-backed COVAX scheme delivers vaccines to 100 countries and territories – *18th April 2021*
- India to be added to England's red list on 23rd April due to the risk of importing cases of the new variant.

Over 90% of community pharmacies in England now offering free, rapid-tests for home use.

Another milestone reached: second dose figures of COVID-19 vaccine reach 10 million people in UK (almost 1 in 5 adults) – *19th April 2021*

- Government launches new Pandemic Preparedness Partnership (PPP) to save lives from future diseases and prevent another global pandemic.

Antiviral Taskforce launched to identify and deploy effective treatments to be taken at home following a positive COVID-19 test – *20th April 2021*

- COVID-19 case levels in Knowsley Borough currently stand at 20.5 per 100,000 population. Additionally, since 1st April, all local contract tracing has been carried out by a Knowsley Council team not the national NHS Test and Trace service and significant improvements have been made with a 92% success rate in contacting targets – *22nd April 2021*

- UK to send 600 pieces of life-saving medical equipment to India – *25th April 2021*

- All three Knowsley walk-in centres are to extend operational hours from Monday 3rd May 2021. Due to social distancing, the telephone triage and appointment system will remain in place. Hours to be Monday-Saturday 8am-8.30pm, Sundays and Bank Holidays 10am-8.30pm – *26th April 2021*

- Civil Aviation Authority has issued 630 fines since 11th February 2021 to airlines carrying passengers without the correct COVID-19 documentation – *27th April 2021*

- A new study by Public Health England (PHE) has shown that one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine reduces household transmission by up to half.

UK provides vital medical equipment to help Papua New Guinea stem the surge in recent COVID-19 cases.

UK to send further life-saving oxygen equipment to India including oxygen generation units.

UK secures an extra 60 million Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccines to assist with a possible booster programme in the autumn.

Royal Navy and RAF deliver Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccines to the isolated South Atlantic island of Tristan da Cunha. Enough to cover the entire adult population – *28th April 2021*

- UK to send 1,000 more ventilators and hundreds of oxygen concentrators to India. UK Scientific Advisors and Medical Officers to provide advice and NHS England to establish a clinical advisory group to support India's Covid response – *2nd May 2021*
- Over 50 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine now administered in UK – *3rd May 2021*
- Government investment in Public Health England's new testing facilities at Porton Down to assess effectiveness of existing and new vaccines against variants of concern – *5th May 2021*
- Following precautionary advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI), the government is to offer an alternative to the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine for the under-40s.

Public Health England reclassify the B.1.617.2 variant first detected in India as a Variant of Concern following an increase in cases in UK

Additional surge testing and genomic sequencing deployed in Bolton.

Over 35 million people have had a first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.

International leisure travel from England no longer illegal from 17th May but strict border control measures will remain in place. Destinations will be classified by risk under a new traffic light system – *7th May 2021*

- PM Boris Johnson confirms that data supports moving to Step 3 of the government roadmap on Monday 17th May whereby further easing of restrictions is implemented – *10th May 2021*
- COVID-19 vaccination bus to visit various locations across the Knowsley Borough where uptake has been low to make it even easier for residents to have their jab – *11th May 2021*
- COVID-19 testing at Volair's Knowsley Leisure and Culture Park, Longview Drive, Huyton site moved to Huyton Village Centre – *12th May 2021*

- Following testing of 127,000 volunteers between 15th April and 3rd May, the findings of the REACT-1 study of COVID-19 show the infection rate has halved since their study in March. Now, 1 in 1,000 are infected.

Public Health England data show cases of the Variant of Concern, VOC-21APR-02, first detected in India have risen from 520 to 1,313 cases this week in UK. Increased surge testing and enhanced contact tracing being employed in those areas of concern to contain the spread of the B.1.617.2 variant.

COVID-19 case levels in Knowsley Borough currently stand at 13.3 per 100,000 population (as at 8th May 2021). However, vaccine uptake has been identified as relatively low in some areas of the borough: in Northwood, Kirkby, Page Moss and Stockbridge Village – 13th May 2021

- More than 36 million people in UK have been vaccinated with 1 dose and 20 million have received 2 doses of a COVID-19 vaccine – 16th May 2021
- Knowsley Libraries re-open for customer browsing and Knowsley Archives introduce bookable appointments to researchers.

England moves to Stage 3 of the Government's "Road Map" to recovery. Eased measures include:

Up to 30 people can now meet outdoors; up to 6 people or two households can meet indoors; indoor entertainment and attractions can re-open; indoor hospitality venues such as pubs, bars, cafes and restaurants can re-open; hotels and B&Bs can re-open; adult indoor sports and exercise are allowed; up to 30 people can now attend weddings; limit on funeral attendance lifted (all dependant on the capacity of the venue's COVID-secure measures) – 17th May 2021

- World's first COVID-19 vaccine booster study is launched in UK. Volunteers will take part in clinical trials at 18 sites around UK, including Liverpool.

Public Health England's National coronavirus vaccine surveillance report estimates that 13,000 deaths have been prevented in those aged 60 years or older up to 9th May 2021 and around 39,000 hospitalisations – 19th May 2021

- PM Boris Johnson announces the plan for 'Global Pandemic Radar' to identify and track new COVID variants and emerging diseases and to develop an advanced pathogen surveillance network. This is expected to be up and running by the end of the year – 20th May 2021
- A Public Health England study shows that 2 doses of the COVID-19 vaccines are highly effective against the B.1.617.2 variant, first identified in India – 22nd May 2021

- In UK, 60 million doses of coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine have been administered, with 37.9 million people receiving at least one jab – *23rd May 2021*
- Government, working with local councils, launch a pilot scheme to provide extra funding in 9 areas (including Cheshire and Merseyside) to support individuals self-isolating. This includes alternative accommodation for overcrowded households, extra social care support and translation assistance for those where English isn't their first language – *24th May 2021*
- Public Health England's COVID-19 surveillance report indicates that the national level has increased slightly in week 20 of 2021. Case rates were highest in the North West at 52.8 per 100,000 population.

Public Health England's vaccine surveillance report estimates 39,700 hospitalisations and 13,200 deaths have been prevented up to 13th May 2021 due to the vaccination programme.

The UK has sent ventilators and personal protective equipment to Nepal to help fight their surge in COVID-19 infections.

COVID-19 case levels in Knowsley Borough (as at 24th May 2021) currently stand at 8 cases per 100,000 population. Regarding vaccination, 65% of Knowsley Borough residents have now received their first dose and 44% have received a second dose.

Public Health England's latest data show cases of the VOC-21APR-02 variant (first identified in India) have doubled in the last week to 6,959. The most affected areas are Bolton, Bedford and Blackburn with Darwen – *27th May 2021*

- The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has authorised the Janssen single-dose COVID-19 vaccine. 20 million doses have been secured for UK, the first deliveries to be later this year.

Surge testing and genomic sequencing expanded in other parts of Lancashire following a number of confirmed cases of the B.1.617.2 variant, first identified in India. Areas include Burnley, Pendle, Hyndburn and Rossendale – *28th May 2021*

- In order to assist the general public with identification of the various COVID-19 variants, the World Health Organisation (WHO) has designated Greek letters to the variants contained in the two groups: Variants of Concern and Variants of Interest, as follows:

Variants of Concern

Alpha (B.1.1.7) first identified in England

Beta (B.1.351) first identified in South Africa

Gamma (P.1) first identified in Brazil

Delta (B.1.617.2) first identified in India

Variants of Interest

Epsilon (B.1.427/B.1.429) first identified in USA

Zeta (P.2) first identified in Brazil

Eta (B.1.525) identified in multiple countries

Theta (P.3) first identified in Philippines

Iota (B.1.526) first identified in USA

Kappa (B.1.617.1) first identified in India

World Health Organization (WHO) statement – 31st May 2021

- Three-quarters of adults in UK have now had their first dose and appointments for second doses have now been brought forward from 12 to 8 weeks for the remaining people in the top 9 priority groups in order to counter the new variants of concern – 2nd June 2021
- G7 Health Ministers agree to combat future health threats by working together to identify early-warning signs from animals and the environment to prevent disease from spreading.

More than 75% of people in UK have now had a single dose and over 50% of UK adults have had their second dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.

Public Health England (PHE) now believes the Delta (VOC-21APR-02, Indian variant) is now the dominant variant in the UK. The most affected areas remain Bolton and Blackburn with Darwen.

Surge testing to be deployed in Derbyshire following a small number of confirmed cases of the Delta (B1.617.2) variant.

Portugal (including Madeira and the Azores) moved to the amber list due to variants of concern and emerging mutations. Government urges public not to travel to amber classified countries.

Countries added to the red list include: Afghanistan, Bahrain, Costa Rica, Egypt, Sri Lanka, Sudan and Trinidad & Tobago – 3rd June 2021

- The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has approved the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for use in 12 to 15-year olds.

G7 Health Ministers agree to work on a plan to develop and deploy high quality diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines within 100 days after a new pandemic threat is identified.

COVID-19 case levels in Knowsley Borough currently stand at 15.9 per 100,000 population – 4th June 2021

- Surge testing and genomic sequencing launched in Reading, Wokingham, Bradford, Canterbury and Maidstone due to confirmed cases of the Delta variant (B1.617.2). All residents in these areas encouraged to take a COVID-19 PCR test.

Over 40 million people in UK have received their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine – *5th June 2021*

- All secondary school and college students and their families are urged to take a coronavirus test before returning to classes next week, following the half-term break – *6th June 2021*
- NHS Test and Trace together with local authorities is launching surge testing and genomic sequencing in Calderdale, West Yorkshire following cases of the Delta (B1.617.2) variant – *7th June 2021*
- Surge testing, tracing, isolation support and maximising vaccine uptake to be deployed in Greater Manchester and all Lancashire County Council areas to control the spread of the Delta (B1.617.2) variant – *9th June 2021*
- Public Health England (PHE) estimates that 14,000 deaths have now been prevented in people aged 60 years or older in England up to 30th May 2021. Estimates also indicate the vaccination programme has prevented around 42,000 hospitalisations in those aged 65 and over in England.

Landmark partnership between UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to combat future global pandemics and emerging health threats.

COVID-19 case levels in Knowsley Borough are increasing due to the Delta variant. Current levels (as at 6th June 2021) stand at 49.7 per 100,000 population. Regarding vaccination, 67% of Knowsley Borough residents have now received their first dose and 48% have received a second dose – *10th June 2021*

- Over 70 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered across UK, with more than 41 million people receiving at least one jab (78%) and over 29 million people receiving both doses (55.4%).

Surge testing to be deployed in Cheshire West and Staffordshire due to a number of identified cases of the Delta (B1.617.2) variant.

In the Queen's Birthday Honours List for 2021, almost 23% of recipients are recommended for COVID-19 service, including: a damehood for Kate Bingham, lately Chair, Vaccines Taskforce; a damehood also for Sarah Gilbert, Professor of Vaccinology at the Jenner Institute for her pivotal role in developing a COVID-19

vaccine; a knighthood for Professor Andrew Pollard, Professor of Paediatric Infection, University of Oxford for services to Public Health – *11th June 2021*

- G7 Summit leaders in Cornwall to agree to the 'Carbis Bay Declaration' a series of commitments to prevent any repeat of the devastation caused by coronavirus.

UK to establish a new centre: UK Animal Vaccine Manufacturing and Innovation Centre at The Pirbright Institute in Surrey to develop vaccines to prevent zoonotic diseases spreading from animals to humans – *12th June 2021*

- New analysis by Public Health England shows 2 doses of COVID-19 vaccines are highly effective against hospitalisation from the Delta (B.1.617.2) variant, suggesting the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine to be 96% effective and the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine to be 92% effective after 2 doses.

Surge testing to be deployed in Bracknell Forrest and Slough, Berkshire, due to a number of identified cases of the Delta (B1.617.2) variant.

PM Boris Johnson announces a delay in moving to stage 4 of the Government's roadmap from the planned date of 21st June until 19th July due to the possibility of the virus outrunning the vaccination programme. In the worst areas, Delta variant cases are doubling every week and hospitalisations are increasing. To counter this surge, the acceleration of 2nd jabs for those over 40 (period to be reduced from 12 weeks to 8 weeks from the first vaccination) and also by bringing forward the first vaccination for 18 -24 year olds will reduce the transmission among groups that mix the most.

Easing of visiting restrictions at care homes and allowing care-home residents overnight stays with family are introduced – *14th June 2021*

- Additional support including surge testing to be deployed in Birmingham, Blackpool, Cheshire East, Cheshire West and Chester, Liverpool City Region and Warrington due to a number of identified cases of the Delta (B1.617.2) variant.

Announcement made that UK will donate 100 million surplus coronavirus doses to the world within the next year, donating 5 million doses by the end of September and 25 million by the end of 2021.

Due to increasing cases in specific areas, Knowsley MBC are providing additional pop-up testing sites for residents who are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19. The Mobile Testing Units providing PCR tests will be at St Andrew's Church/The Star Children's Centre, Kirkby on Wednesday 16th June, Friday 18th June and Saturday 19th June (10am-3pm) and at Prescott Soccer Centre on Wednesday 16th June, Thursday 17th June, Friday 18th June, Saturday 19th June and Monday 21st June (10am-3pm). Users need to book an appointment. Test results normally returned in around 24 hours – *15th June 2021*

- Knowsley Borough's Outbreak Management Board concerned over progress of the vaccine rollout in the borough, with just over 67% of eligible residents having had their first dose. Urgent action to be taken to improve progress – *16th June 2021*
- Department of Health and Social Care state that more than 30 million people in UK have been vaccinated with a 2nd dose of a COVID-19 vaccine (58%) and over 42 million across the UK have had their 1st dose (80%).

Evidence from the latest REACT-1 report No.12 (based on the testing of over 100,000 volunteers in England) shows that national prevalence has increased by 50% from 0.10% to 0.15%, the R number now standing at 1.44 in England and exponential growth of the virus with a doubling time of 11 days on average.

Following a review by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), authorisation is given to extend the use of NHS Test and Trace lateral flow devices.

Public Health England (PHE) publish population surveillance data on possible coronavirus (COVID-19) reinfections. Less than 16,00 possible reinfections were identified up to 30th May 2021 out of a total of 4 million people with confirmed infection. This is equivalent to around 0.4% of cases becoming reinfected.

Surge testing to be deployed in Reigate and Banstead, Surrey, due to a number of identified cases of the Delta (B1.617.2) variant – *17th June 2021*

- Public Health England's (PHE) latest data show that Delta variant cases continue to rise, up by over 33,000 since last week to a total of almost 76,000 – *18th June 2021*
- Department of Health and Social Care state the NHS App is now used by 6 million people. As well as access to COVID-19 vaccination status for travel via the NHS App, patients can also access personalised medical services.

Surge testing to be deployed in Lambeth and Cumbria, due to a rise in the number of identified cases of the Delta (B1.617.2) variant.

Takeaway service Deliveroo to use its App and website to tell customers if surge testing is operating in their area – *19th June 2021*

- Various social media platforms now encourage users to have the COVID-19 vaccine. As all adults aged 18 and over are invited to participate in the vaccination drive, Snapchat, Reddit, TikTok and YouTube unite to promote the vaccination programme to their users.

PM Boris Johnson promotes the excellence of UK science by visiting the National Institute for Biological Standards and Control (NIBSC) in Hertfordshire. At this location, NIBSC performs quality control of every COVID-19 vaccine in the UK and has now tested 93 batches of the vaccines and certificated 90 million vaccine doses for

use. The NIBSC (part of MHRA) plays a leading role in the quality of biological medicines worldwide, producing over 95% of the World Health Organization's biological standards used globally.

Surge testing to be deployed in Leeds, due to a rise in the number of identified cases of the Delta (B1.617.2) variant – *21st June 2021*

- More than 60,000 fans will be permitted to attend the semi-finals and final of UEFA EURO 2020 games at Wembley Stadium as part of the Events Research Programme (ERP). Ticket holders will follow strict entry requirements including having a negative COVID-19 test or proof of full vaccination at least 14 days prior to the event.

COVID-19 case levels in Knowsley Borough are increasing due to the Delta variant. To offset this rise, Knowsley Borough is to begin pop up testing sites in Kirkby and Huyton where residents can pick up testing kits and gain advice on regular home-testing – *22nd June 2021*

- Surge testing to be deployed in Wakefield, due to a rise in the number of identified cases of the Delta (B1.617.2) variant.

Vaccination figures show over 43 million people in UK (82.5%), have now had a first dose, while nearly 32 million have received both doses (60.3%).

A further variant, Lambda (C.37) first reported in Peru, has been designated a Variant Under Investigation following six cases identified here. The Lambda variant has been sequenced in 26 countries to date – *23rd June 2021*

- Findings of the REACT-2 study (carried out between September 2020 and February 2021) appear to show that over 2 million people in England are thought to have had one or more COVID-19 symptoms lasting at least 12 weeks: long Covid.

From 30th June, Malta, Madeira, the Balearic Islands, several UK overseas territories and Caribbean islands, including Barbados are to be added to the government's 'green list' for travel. Meanwhile, Eritrea, Haiti, Dominican Republic, Mongolia, Tunisia and Uganda are added to the 'red list'.

It is proposed later in the summer that arrivals who are fully vaccinated will not have to quarantine when travelling from 'amber-list' countries. This phased change will begin with UK residents. A pre-departure test and a test on day 2, will still be required.

COVID-19 case levels in Knowsley Borough are increasing due to the Delta variant. This week, levels stand at 177 cases per 100,000 population – *24th June 2021*

- Public Health England's (PHE) latest data show that Delta variant cases continue to rise, up by over 35,000 to a total of over 111,000, representing a 46% increase. The Delta variant accounts for around 95% of cases sequenced across UK.

Government report published on the first phase of its Events Research Programme (ERP), to understand how the risk of transmission can be reduced at large events with mitigating factors such as social distancing, face coverings and staggered entry and exit times – 25th June 2021

- With over 500,000 positive COVID-19 samples genomically sequenced so far, the UK remains a world-leader in this scientific field. It is estimated the UK has provided 50% of all sequencing that is shared for comparison around the world.
Adult social care to receive an extra £250 million to continue coronavirus (COVID-19) protections by the continuation of the Infection Control and Testing Fund until the end of September – 27th June 2021
- Latest analysis from Public Health England (PHE) and University of Cambridge's MRC Biostatistics Unit suggest the COVID-19 vaccination programme has so far prevented an estimated 7.2 million infections and 27,000 deaths in England alone.

Following the resignation of Matt Hancock on 26th June for breaking social distancing guidance, the new Secretary of State for Health and Social Care Sajid Javid states 19th July remains the target for lifting of restrictions.

COVID-19 case levels in Knowsley Borough are increasing due to the Delta variant. This week, levels stand at 312.2 cases per 100,000 population – 28th June 2021

- Government provides step-by-step guidance for testing in adult care homes, explaining how to access test kits, how to use PCR and rapid lateral flow test kits for regular and outbreak testing of residents, staff and visiting professionals.

Government publishes updated guidance on restricting staff movement between care homes and other care settings. Routine movement should not take place, exceptional circumstances for movement to be mitigated by frequent testing – 29th June 2021

- Government publishes updated guidance on travel abroad from England during COVID-19 and also guidance for entering England from red, amber or green rated countries. The action required depends on where you have been in the 10 days prior to arrival.

Office for National Statistics (ONS) publishes its Coronavirus (COVID-19) Infection Survey, characteristics of people testing positive for COVID-19.

Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) has been asked to consider the options for a potential coronavirus (COVID-19) booster programme for 2021-2022. This would consist of a booster dose and the flu vaccine and be offered in two Stages ahead of winter and to protect against new variants:

Stage 1 would begin in September for the following: all adults aged 70 years or over; those 16 years and over who are immunosuppressed; those living in adult residential

care homes; those 16 years and over considered clinically extremely vulnerable; frontline health and social care workers.

Stage 2 would follow as soon as practicable for the following: all adults aged 50 and over; all adults aged 16 to 49 who are in an influenza or COVID-19 at-risk group; all household contacts of immunosuppressed individuals.

Knowsley MBC are providing additional pop-up testing sites for residents who are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19. The Mobile Testing Units providing PCR tests will be at Halewood Leisure Centre on Thursday 1st July (1pm-7pm) at The Gate, Princess Drive on Friday 2nd July (10am-4pm) and at the New Hutte Centre on Saturday 3rd July (10am-3pm). Users need to book an appointment. Test results normally returned in around 24 hours – 30th June 2021

- COVID-19 vaccination surveillance report published: Public Health England (PHE) suggests for vaccine effectiveness against symptomatic disease in adults under the age of 40 for a single dose is 61% for the Pfizer vaccine and 72% for the Moderna vaccine. Also, vaccine effectiveness against mortality after 2 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine is estimated to be 94% in people aged 65 and over. The overall vaccination programme has so far prevented an estimated 7.2 million infections and 27,000 deaths in England alone.

PHE also report that case numbers of the Delta variant in the UK have risen by 50,824 since last week to a total of 161,981, representing a 46% increase – 1st July 2021

- The UK's world-leading genomic sequencing capability reaches another milestone with over 600,000 genomically sequenced positive COVID-19 tests completed.

Knowsley Council have arranged a pop-up vaccination clinic at Huyton One Stop Shop this Sunday 4th July to increase vaccine access. Anyone eligible aged 18 and over can call in between 10am-2pm and receive a first dose Pfizer vaccination without an appointment – 2nd July 2021

- PM Boris Johnson addressed the public and stated that subject to a final review next week, legal COVID-19 restrictions will end on Monday 19th July when we move to Step 4 of the government's roadmap. This will mean social distancing will end, facemasks will no longer be mandatory and there will be no limits on gatherings. All venues currently closed can safely reopen with no capacity limits. The PM stated: "We must find a new way of living with the virus."

Knowsley MBC are providing additional pop-up testing sites for residents who are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19. The Mobile Testing Units providing PCR tests will be at Prescot Soccer Centre on Tuesday 6th July (10am-3pm) and at Halewood Leisure Centre on Wednesday 7th July (10am-4pm). Users need to book an appointment. Test results normally returned in around 24 hours – 5th July 2021

- Figures published by HM Treasury show nearly £80 billion of emergency government-backed loans was provided to support businesses during the pandemic, comprising over 1.67 million loans.

The Health and Social Care Secretary confirmed that as part of Step 4 of the government's roadmap, from 16th August, 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 Government also plans to exempt those aged under 18 from self-isolation if they are a close contact. Collectively, they will still be advised to take a test and if positive, irrespective of their vaccination status, they will be legally obliged to self-isolate – *6th July 2021*

- UK to provide COVID-19 support to Uganda following a UNICEF appeal. The £500,000 support package will increase oxygen production and delivery and improve the availability of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) at select health facilities.

Public Health England announces a new package of genomic sequencing support through the New Variant Assessment Platform (NVAP). The first countries to receive this support and expertise will be Brazil, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria and Pakistan which will help to quickly detect new and potentially more dangerous variants of SARS-CoV-2 – *7th July 2021*

- Latest REACT-1 study data into COVID-19 infections in England show a fourfold increase from 0.15% to 0.59% with 1 in 170 people infected. Infection rates for double vaccinated under-65s are 3 times lower than for unvaccinated people in the same age range.

The latest Public Health England (PHE) COVID-19 vaccine surveillance report estimates that 30,300 deaths, 46,300 hospitalisations and 8,151,000 infections have been prevented by the COVID-19 vaccination programme.

Quarantine-free travel to resume on 19th July for fully vaccinated passengers (vaccinated with an NHS administered vaccine in UK, plus 14 days) when returning from amber list countries. Passengers will need to provide proof of their vaccination status in advance of travel and pre-departure testing and day 2 testing measures will remain.

COVID-19 case levels in Knowsley Borough are increasing due to the Delta variant. This week, levels stand at 447.4 cases per 100,000 population.

In order to vaccinate as many Knowsley residents who are eligible as possible, 'drop-in clinics' are to be held from 10am to 5pm on Saturday 10th and 17th July and Sunday 11th and 18th July at both Huyton One-Stop-Shop and Kirkby One-Stop-Shop venues, no appointment necessary – *8th July 2021*

- Latest case data by Public Health England (PHE) for COVID-19 shows an increase of 32% in cases of the Delta variant which has risen by 54, 268 cases in the past week (the Delta variant now accounts for approximately 99% of cases sequenced across the UK).

More than 80 million vaccines have now been administered across the UK. More than 86% of adults have received their first dose and over 65% both doses. This includes 54% of young people aged 18-24 in England receiving their first dose, all within the 3 week period since the programme was opened to this age group. Also, all adults can now reduce their vaccine dose interval from 12 to 8 weeks, so every adult has the opportunity to have 2 doses by mid-September.

Amazon, Molson Coors, Sky and Three UK join other leading employers encouraging their staff to obtain the vaccine.

Additional support to be introduced in the city of Oxford as a significant rise in local COVID-19 case numbers is recorded – *9th July 2021*

- With the vaccination programme having weakened the link between infection and serious illness or death, Prime Minister Boris Johnson confirms that Step 4 of the Roadmap is to go ahead on Monday 19th July whereby the majority of restrictions will end. He urges the public to be cautious and use personal responsibility. He also emphasised the importance of all eligible adults taking up the offer of two vaccination doses.

Additional support to be introduced in the city of Brighton and Hove as a significant rise in local COVID-19 case numbers is recorded – *12th July 2021*

- The UK's first testing megalab the state-of-the-art 'Rosalind Franklin Laboratory' in Royal Leamington Spa has opened. The site will process hundreds of thousands of COVID-19 samples each day to detect new variants and help stop the spread of the virus.

The COVID-19 vaccination bus will be visiting various sites in the Knowsley Borough in the coming weeks to offer both first and second dose vaccinations (given at least 8 weeks after the first dose) to residents aged 18 and over, with no appointment required. Venues and times as follows:

Monday 26th July and Monday 9th August, 10am-4pm, Old Rough Lane, Kirkby

Sunday 1st August, 10am-4pm, The Withens, Stockbridge Village

Wednesday 4th August, 10am-4pm, Halewood Leisure Centre

Monday 23rd and Tuesday 24th August, 10am-4pm, Terminus Road, Page Moss

– *13th July 2021*

- Traffic light system update: from 19th July, Bulgaria and Hong Kong are to be added to the green list and Croatia and Taiwan to the green watchlist. Due to a sharp rise in case numbers, the Balearic Islands and British Virgin Islands to move from the green list to the amber list. Meanwhile, Cuba, Indonesia, Myanmar and Sierra Leone to be

added to the red list. Also from Monday 19th July, UK residents arriving from amber list countries who are fully vaccinated will no longer have to quarantine but will still need to comply with testing requirements. However due to persistent cases of the Beta (South African) variant, arrivals from France must continue to quarantine in their own accommodation for 10 days and complete a day 2 and day 8 test, regardless of vaccination status.

More than 35 million adults in the UK have received both doses of a COVID-19 vaccine (66.7%) and over 46 million adults have received a first dose (87.4%) – 14th July 2021

- Public Health England's (PHE) survey findings of the 'trends in alcohol consumption and harm' since the onset of coronavirus show a 21% increase in alcoholic liver deaths.

Public Health England's (PHE) latest COVID-19 surveillance report show case rates rose in all age groups in week 27 of 2021 with the highest rates in the 20-29 age bracket with a 7-day rate of 747.3 cases per 100,000 population – 15th July 2021

- From September 2021, the flu vaccine will be offered to over 35 million people in UK – 16th July 2021
- Extensive programme of 15 new research studies into long Covid. Data will be analysed to improve diagnosis and treatment for those suffering with the long-term effects of the virus – 18th July 2021
- Following a delay of 4 weeks, England moves to Step 4 of the Roadmap and so the majority of legal Covid restrictions end but to manage the virus PM Boris Johnson urges caution and personal responsibility. The test, trace and isolate system is to remain and positive cases are legally required to self-isolate until 16th August. The PM urged all adults who have not yet taken up the offer of vaccination to do so, especially 18-30 year olds of which there are 3 million unvaccinated. A planned measure to be introduced by the end of September (allowing all those eligible to be double vaccinated and with an additional 2 weeks to achieve full protection), is to make full vaccination a condition of entry to nightclubs and other venues where large crowds are admitted. Proof of a negative test will no longer be sufficient.

Over 10.4 million people now using the NHS App, with over 6 million new users since the inclusion of COVID Pass showing vaccination status.

To alleviate pressure on NHS and Social Care services from staff absence, double vaccinated front-line staff in England who have been told to self-isolate may be permitted to attend work in exceptional circumstances after having a negative PCR test followed by daily negative lateral flow tests for a minimum of 7 days.

Also to prevent serious disruption to vital public services, a number of fully vaccinated critical workers (e.g. railway signallers and air traffic controllers) may in exceptional circumstances be able to leave self-isolation to work. This short-term measure applies to asymptomatic contacts only and not to individuals who have tested positive or who have COVID-19 symptoms – *19th July 2021*

- HM Treasury reveals that businesses across the UK have received almost £80 billion worth of emergency government-backed loans during the Covid crisis – *20th July 2021*
- A new COVID-19 variant labelled B.1.621 (first detected in Columbia) has been designated a Variant Under Investigation (VUI) by Public Health England (PHE). At present, 16 cases of this variant have been detected across the country - *21st July 2021*
- New government campaign launches in England to remind the public of the importance of continuing healthy behaviours to reduce the spread of COVID-19

Latest surveillance report by Public Health England (PHE) show the 7-day case rate for those aged 20-29 is 1,154.7 per 100,000 population, the highest case rate since mass testing began for any age group

COVID-19 case levels in Knowsley Borough are still increasing due to the Delta variant. This week, levels stand at 549 cases per 100,000 population. The borough is now ranked at 47th in the country for COVID-19 case levels

To support the resilience of the food supply chain, targeted daily contact testing to be implemented this week. For workers who receive NHS Covid 19 app alerts to isolate, they will be able to continue working if they test negative – *22nd July 2021*

- UK Health Security Agency to take on responsibility for modelling and publishing the government's estimates of the R value and grow rate – *23rd July 2021*
- Daily contact testing rolled out to further critical sectors: to frontline emergency services and some transport workers in England to avoid widespread disruption of services if individuals are alerted to isolate. If testing negative, they will be able to continue working – *24th July 2021*
- Workplace daily contact testing sites to be expanded to a total of 2,000 sites around the country to enable eligible workers who have received alerts from NHS COVID-19 App or contacted by NHS Test and Trace to continue working if they test negative each day – *27th July 2021*
- This week the UK will start to deliver 9 million COVID-19 vaccines around the world. 5 million doses are being offered to COVAX to distribute to lower-income countries

who most need them. Another 4 million doses will be shared directly with other countries in need. The government has signed agreements with Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Cambodia, Guyana, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kenya, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Thailand and Vietnam.

UK government announces that passengers arriving from amber-list countries who have been fully vaccinated in Europe (EU Member States, European Free Trade Association countries and the European microstate countries of Andorra, Monaco and Vatican City) and the USA will not have to quarantine when entering England. Amber list arrivals from the above areas will still need to complete a pre-departure test, alongside a PCR test on or before day 2 after arrival and a fully completed passenger locator form. These measures come into place at 4am on 2nd August. Separate rules continue to apply for those travelling from France – 28th July 2021

- Public Health England (PHE) estimates the impact of the vaccination programme (up to 23rd July) has now saved 60,000 deaths, 22 million infections and 52,600 hospitalisations – 29th July 2021
- Latest figures show that over 85 million doses of vaccines have been administered in the UK with 88.6% of people receiving their first dose and 72.5% receiving both doses

In an attempt to urge more young people to obtain the vaccine, businesses including Uber, Bolt and Deliveroo are offering incentives and discounts to encourage take-up – 1st August 2021

- Following public health advice, changes have been made to the NHS COVID-19 app resulting in fewer close contacts being advised to self-isolate. From now on, the app will only update people who had close contact with an individual who recorded a positive test and is asymptomatic in the 2 days prior to the positive result. Previously this period was 5 days – 2nd August 2021
- England launches its largest clinical trial to investigate immune response and determine the best gap between first and second COVID-19 vaccine doses for pregnant women, either 4 to 6 weeks or 8 to 12 weeks. Data confirms no pregnant woman with 2 vaccinations has required hospitalisation with COVID-19 – 3rd August 2021
- Latest REACT-1 study findings from Imperial College, London and Ipsos MORI show COVID-19 infection rates are three times lower for double-vaccinated people

Latest advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI), is for all healthy 16 and 17 year olds to receive a first dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech

vaccine due to changes in the way COVID-19 has been spreading in the UK, particularly in younger age groups

Changes announced for international travel which come into effect in England at 4am on Sunday 8th August:

Arrivals from France will no longer need to quarantine if they are fully vaccinated. Austria, Germany, Slovenia, Slovakia, Latvia, Romania and Norway to be added to the government's green list. India, Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) will be moved from red to the amber list. Meanwhile, Georgia, Mexico, La Reunion and Mayotte are added to the red list – *4th August 2021*

- Public Health England (PHE) reports national COVID-19 case rates were highest in those 20-29, with a 7-day rate of 611 per 100,000 population and second highest in those aged 10-19 with a 7-day rate of 512.4 per 100,000 population. Seven-day case rates were highest in Yorkshire and the Humber – *5th August 2021*
- Nightclubs and DJ's join the effort to drive vaccination uptake for young people. The venues Ministry of Sound and Heaven amongst others are promoting the message to have the vaccine. Also, the doctor, DJ and founder of NHS Sessions, Bodalia has featured in a new short Q & A film stating the importance of young people being vaccinated to keep the nightclub industry open. A new campaign by social media channels such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Snapchat and TikTok and on radio stations Kiss, Capital, Heart, Sunrise and TalkSport is being rolled out to further promote the campaign

Public Health England (PHE) report the Delta variant currently accounts for 99% of cases in UK. Data since 19 July show 1,467 people hospitalised, of these 55.1% were unvaccinated, while 34.9% had received both doses of the vaccine. The latest figures for the new variant under investigation (VUI) B.1.621 (first identified in Columbia) now show 37 confirmed cases across 6 English regions

A new walk-through coronavirus testing centre opens in Glasgow's BMX Centre at Knightswood, joining the biggest network of diagnostic testing facilities created in the UK – *6th August 2021*

- Latest data shows 89% of people in the UK have received a first dose and 75% have received both doses of a COVID-19 vaccine.

Public Health England (PHE) and Cambridge University estimate that around 60,000 deaths, 22 million infections and 66,900 hospitalisations have been prevented by the vaccines – *10th August 2021*

- A new walk-through coronavirus testing centre opens at The Strand in Kilmarnock, adding to the biggest network of diagnostic testing facilities created in the UK

A study carried out by Public Health England (PHE), the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) and the Office for National Statistics (ONS) in June 2021 to show the prevalence of COVID-19 among pupils and staff in primary and secondary schools resulted in lower levels than in the autumn term of 2020

From Monday 16th August, instead of self-isolating, those who are double-jabbed and also those under 18s identified as close contacts of positive COVID-19 cases are instead advised to obtain a free PCR test as soon as possible – *11th August 2021*

- Public Health England (PHE) reports national COVID-19 case rates were highest in those 20-29, with a 7-day rate of 670.7 per 100,000 population and second highest in those aged 10-19 with a 7-day rate of 456.1 per 100,000 population. Seven-day case rates remain highest in Yorkshire and the Humber

In their latest weekly COVID-19 surveillance report (up to 6th August), Public Health England (PHE) estimates that 84,600 deaths and 23,395,000 infections have been prevented as a result of the vaccination programme

Latest figures show 70.2% of 18-29 year-olds have received a first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, while 32.4% have received both doses – *12th August 2021*

- Experts from the UK's Emergency Medical Team (EMT) supported by the UK-Public Health Rapid Support Team (UK-PHRST) have arrived in Tunisia to help the country respond to their COVID-19 crisis. Since the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic, the UK EMT has deployed experts to Armenia, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Chad, Lesotho, Eswatini, Lebanon, Ghana, South Africa and Zambia and is currently deployed in Namibia and Botswana – *13th August 2021*
- Travel tests for international arrivals from NHS Test & Trace to be reduced from £88 to £68 for one test and from £170 to £136 for two tests. There will also be a review by the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) of pricing and service standards of all private testing providers to ensure no excessive pricing or misleading claims are allowed – *14th August 2021*
- To provide protection before returning to school in September, all young people aged 16-17 in England will be offered a first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine by Monday 23rd August. NHS England has launched a new online walk-in site finder to assist with locating the nearest available centre – *15th August 2021*

- UK sends first batch of COVID-19 vaccines to Malawi through COVAX (providers of global access to COVID-19 diagnostics, treatments and vaccines)

More businesses pledge support to the UK's COVID-19 vaccination programme by offering incentives to vaccinated customers. The companies include ADSA, lastminute.com, Better leisure centres, FREE NOW and National Express – *16th August 2021*

- UK sends around 300,000 Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccines to Egypt, through COVAX, part of its commitment to fund 100 million vaccine doses for lower income countries within the next year

The UK regulator: Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has approved the COVID-19 Spikevax vaccine made by Moderna for use in 12-to 17-year-olds – *17th August 2021*

- Arrival in Ghana of 249,000 AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines donated by UK, part of the G7 commitment whereby the UK will share 100 million vaccine doses by early 2022 to the most vulnerable countries – *18th August 2021*

- Latest data from Public Health England (PHE) shows over 62,000 pregnant women have received their first vaccine dose (up to 31st July). Of that total, nearly 44,000 have received both doses.

The vaccination programme is now estimated to have prevented over 82,100 hospitalisations in those 65 and over in England. Further data suggests the prevention of 95,200 deaths and 23,957,000 COVID-19 infections – *19th August 2021*

- UK Government opens a further walk-through coronavirus testing centre located within Glasgow Caledonian University.

COVID-19 case levels in Knowsley Borough are still increasing but the rate of increase is slow. This week, levels stand at 402 cases per 100,000 population. The biggest increase is for the 60+ age group standing at 230 cases per 100,000, the highest in the country. Hospital admissions are increasing, the highest number being for unvaccinated 30-34 year-olds. Knowsley Borough's vaccine uptake stands at 76% for the first vaccine and 66% for both doses with uptake higher in the older population. For 18-29 year-olds, 52.51% have had a first dose and 27.9% both doses – *20th August 2021*

- In a bid to monitor levels of antibodies in COVID-19 positive cases, the UK Health Security Agency working with NHS Test and Trace will from next week offer up to 8,000 people who test positive, a chance to opt-in to receive two, free, home antibody tests. The first antibody test is to be taken as soon as possible after a

confirmed positive result of a PCR test, the second antibody test is to be taken 28 days later – *22nd August 2021*

- UK has agreed a contract with Pfizer/BioNTech for 35 million doses of their vaccine for delivery in the second half of 2022, part of the Vaccine Taskforce's plan to future-proof the country from the COVID-19 threat – *23rd August 2021*
- A new clinical trial will investigate whether a third dose of vaccine for people with weakened immune systems gives a stronger immune response than two doses. Participants will receive either Pfizer, Moderna or Novavax vaccine for the third dose – *24th August 2021*
- In order to ease previous COVID-19 restrictions in schools and colleges from the September restart, protective measures are to be introduced. Secondary schools and colleges will be offering two coronavirus tests on-site at the start of term followed by regular testing at home. Students aged 16-17 and younger children in eligible groups will be encouraged to take up the offer of a vaccine

Latest report from Public Health England (PHE) estimates 105,900 deaths and 24,088,000 infections have been prevented so far as a result of the COVID-19 vaccination programme

UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) launches a new study to better understand COVID-19 vaccine response especially why some people become infected after vaccination or after prior infection and others do not

Latest national COVID-19 surveillance report shows cases were highest in those aged 10 to 19, with a 7-day case rate of 616.5 per 100,000 population. The 7-day case rates were highest in the South-West at 481.7. Hospital admission rates were highest in the West Midlands with a rate of 11.46 per 100,000 population – *26th August 2021*

- Additional support to be deployed to local authorities in South-West England for a period of 5 weeks following a growth in COVID-19 cases there. Councils to receive support include Cornwall, Isles of Scilly, Devon, Plymouth and Torbay – *27th August 2021*
- Government accepts the advice of the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation [JCVI] to offer a third vaccine dose to people aged 12 and over with severely weakened immune systems – *1st September 2021*

- To recover teaching hours lost during the last year, a major expansion of the National Tutoring Programme will give schools greater flexibility to offer high-quality, 15-hour tutoring courses to meet the needs of their pupils

To improve accessibility for local communities, a new walk-through coronavirus testing centre has opened in Bangor, Wales, for people with symptoms to book an appointment for a test [testing there began on 28th August]

Latest national COVID-19 surveillance report shows cases were highest in those aged 10 to 19, with a 7-day case rate of 464.8 per 100,000 population. The 7-day case rates were highest in the South-West at 362.9. Hospital admission rates were highest in the West Midlands with a rate of 8.39 per 100,000 population

A new clinical trial named OCTAVE DUO will offer people who are immunosuppressed or immunocompromised a third dose of a vaccine [Pfizer, Moderna or Novavax] to determine if this will give a stronger immune response than two doses

Latest estimates from Public Health England [PHE] suggest 143,600 hospitalisations have been prevented in those aged 65 years and over in England as a result of the vaccination programme – *2nd September 2021*

- The Competition and Markets Authority [CMA] has opened a formal investigation regarding the private firm Expert Medicals (providers of PCR tests) following complaints from the public. A further 19 firms told to stop misleading prices or risk legal action

Following the decision by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation [JCVI] not to support universal vaccination of healthy 12 to 15 year olds, a letter has been sent from UK health ministers to the 4 UK chief medical officers asking them to evaluate the broader impact of universal COVID-19 vaccination for young people in this age band – *3rd September 2021*

- UK Health and Social Care Secretary to meet G20 representatives in Rome to promote the rights of vaccine clinical trial volunteers including the need for recognition for overseas certification purposes. Other topics for discussion will be to improve vaccine confidence around the world and to tackle dangerous misinformation of the vaccination programme – *5th September 2021*
- Under a review of the travel traffic light system, the following countries (from Monday 30th August) are added to the 'green' list: Canada, Denmark, Finland, Liechtenstein, Switzerland and The Azores. To the 'red' list are added: Montenegro and Thailand

The NHS will receive an extra £5.4 billion over the next 6 months to support its COVID-19 response and help tackle waiting lists. This additional amount brings the total investment to health services for COVID-19 to over £34 billion so far this year – *6th September 2021*

- In a bid to address the backlog in NHS appointments due to COVID-19, Prime Minister pledges £36 billion investment for health and social care over the next three years. The cost will be funded by the new Health and Social Care Levy, a UK-wide 1.25 per cent increase on National Insurance contributions from April 2022

Latest figures show four in five people aged 16 and over in UK have received both doses of a COVID-19 vaccine. This relates to 80.1% of people having received both doses and 88.8% having received one dose. To increase vaccine uptake even further, a new social media campaign has been launched targeting both parents and under 18s to be vaccinated – *7th September 2021*

- Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency [MHRA] state that COVID-19 vaccines made by both Pfizer and AstraZeneca can be used as safe and effective booster doses

Latest national COVID-19 surveillance report shows cases were highest in those aged 10 to 19, with a 7-day case rate of 681.4 per 100,000 population. The 7-day case rates were highest in the North-West at 378.6. Hospital admission rates were highest in the West Midlands with a rate of 9.64 per 100,000 population – *9th September 2021*

- Following the advice from the 4 UK Chief Medical Officers (CMOs), people aged 12-15 years in England will be offered one dose of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine – *13th September 2021*
- The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) is advising that booster vaccines are offered to those more at risk of serious disease from COVID-19 (priority groups 1-9 from the initial programme). The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine will be used as the booster vaccine and will be offered approximately 6 months after receipt of the second dose

Following the above advice of JCVI, the government will begin the booster programme next week. The NHS will contact people when it is their turn. People will be offered a full dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine or a half-dose of the Moderna vaccine

Latest data from Public Health England [PHE] and Cambridge University estimates that the vaccination programme has prevented over 24 million cases of COVID-19, 143,600 hospitalisations and 112,300 deaths so far

Prime Minister Boris Johnson states the government's plan to manage Covid throughout the autumn and winter with booster vaccines, testing and public health advice. The Test, Trace and Isolate programme will continue with PCR testing through the autumn and winter. A plan B is prepared to protect the NHS if necessary, including introducing mandatory Covid status certification in certain settings, legally mandating face coverings on public transport and in shops and urgently communicating to the public if the risk level increases

Following a review of data, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency [MHRA] and the independent Commission on Human Medicines [CHM] has confirmed both the Pfizer/BioNTech and AstraZeneca vaccines and also the Moderna vaccine (which can be given in a half-dose) are all safe and effective to be used as a booster vaccination. They also stated that the booster jab and the flu vaccines can be given safely at the same time – *14th September 2021*

- Government ends guidance for those shielding due to COVID-19 – *15th September 2021*
- Latest national COVID-19 surveillance report shows cases were highest in those aged 10 to 19, with a 7-day case rate of 597.4 per 100,000 population. The 7-day case rates were highest in the North-East at 369.6. Hospital admission rates were highest in the North-East with a rate of 9.73 per 100,000 population

Latest estimates from Public Health England [PHE] suggest 230,800 hospitalisations have been prevented in those aged 45 years and over in England as a result of the vaccination programme – *16th September 2021*

- Latest Public Health England [PHE] data on COVID-19 variants show there are currently 4 Variants of Concern (Alpha, Beta, Gamma and Delta) and 8 Variants Under Investigation; additionally, 18 minor variants are being monitored

A new simplified two-tiered International travel system is to be implemented comprising a 'red list' and 'the rest of the world.' From 22nd September the following will move off the 'red list': Turkey, Pakistan, the Maldives, Egypt, Sri Lanka, Oman, Bangladesh and Kenya. From 4th October fully-vaccinated arrivals from non-red list countries will be treated like fully vaccinated UK travellers. From the end of October, eligible fully vaccinated passengers will be able to replace Day 2 PCR tests with the cheaper lateral flow tests and will no longer need to take pre-departure tests

A new ground breaking antibody treatment Ronapreve (a combination of 2 monoclonal antibodies) will be targeted at vulnerable COVID-19 NHS patients in hospital who have difficulty building up an antibody response to the virus and includes those who are immunocompromised. Eligible patients will start to be treated as early as next week – *17th September 2021*

- In a swapping arrangement, UK is to shortly send 1 Million Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccines to the Republic of Korea, who in turn will return that quantity to UK by the end of this year

Following rigorous clinical evaluation, the first UK-manufactured lateral flow devices [LFDs] produced by SureScreen Diagnostics of Derby have been validated for use by Public Health England [PHE]. The tests which generate a result in under 15 minutes will aid efforts to detect asymptomatic cases of COVID-19 and will be rolled out to universities across England – *22nd September 2021*

- Latest national COVID-19 surveillance report shows cases were highest in those aged 10 to 19, with a 7-day case rate of 756.2 per 100,000 population. The 7-day case rates were highest in the East Midlands at 346.2. Hospital admission rates were highest in the North-East with a rate of 10.34 per 100,000 population – *23rd September 2021*
- Latest research from the Government Actuary's Department [GAD] published in the British Medical Journal establishes which groups could still be at risk despite being vaccinated. Among those identified are people with Down's Syndrome, people who have had organ transplants and others with weakened immune systems. Risks are highest for those not fully vaccinated

Government seeks views on contingency proposals for certification under the government's autumn and winter plan. Mandatory vaccine-only certification could potentially be introduced in certain settings as part of a 'Plan B' – *27th September 2021*

- Prime Minister Boris Johnson met with representatives of Bereaved Families 4 Justice to convince them the public enquiry into COVID-19 would ensure answers to the many questions put forward and it was critical to learn lessons from what happened. He further stated that the chair of the inquiry would be appointed by Christmas – *28th September 2021*
- UK Transport Secretary Grant Shapps agrees high-level principles with G7 leaders to support international and transatlantic travel

Latest national COVID-19 surveillance report by Public Health England [PHE] shows cases were highest in those aged 10 to 19, with a 7-day case rate of 1084.2 per 100,000 population. The 7-day case rates were highest in the East Midlands at 440.4. Hospital admission rates were highest in the North-East with a rate of 9.73 per 100,000 population

The adult social care workforce and people who receive care will be further protected from COVID-19 and flu in the coming months with £388 million of additional funding to prevent the spread of infection

COVID-19 case levels in Knowsley Borough this week stand at around 350 cases per 100,000 population. Cases were highest amongst 10-14 year olds. Secondary school children were continuing with twice-weekly testing which was identifying more people who had COVID-19 without symptoms. Of those admitted to hospital during September 2021 with COVID-19, 41% of patients had not received any COVID-19 vaccination. Only 59% of the eligible Knowsley population had received their first dose and 69.68% had received a second dose. The uptake amongst 16-17 year-olds was 31%, this being lower than comparative figures across Cheshire and Merseyside at 49% – 30th September 2021

- Latest UK Health Security Agency briefing reveals there are currently 4 variants of concern [VOC] and 10 variants under investigation [VUI]. There are no new VOCs or VUIs since the last briefing in the UK classification. Delta remains the predominant variant accounting for approximately 99.7% of sequenced cases – 1st October 2021
- From 4th October, the UK's new travel system comes into force with countries and territories categorised as either 'red' or 'the rest of the world.' From later in October, fully vaccinated travellers from over 50 countries and territories not on the red list will have just a single post arrival day 2 test (the cheaper lateral flow test) to complete reducing the cost involved – 4th October 2021
- Campaign launched by the new Office for Health Improvement and Disparities [OHID] after half the adults in England say the pandemic has negatively affected their mental health. For mental health support, see the *Every Mind Matters* website at [Every Mind Matters - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/every-mind-matters) for information and videos – 5th October 2021
- Latest national COVID-19 surveillance report by the UK Health Security Agency [UKHSA] shows cases were highest in those aged 10 to 19, with a 7-day case rate of 1047.7 per 100,000 population. The 7-day case rates were highest in the East Midlands at 442.4. Hospital admission rates were highest in the North-East with a rate of 10.10 per 100,000 population

From Monday 11th October, 47 countries and territories will be removed from the travel 'red' list. The 7 countries and territories remaining on the 'red' list are Columbia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Haiti, Peru and Venezuela. Also from 11th October, incoming eligible travellers vaccinated in a further 37 countries and territories including India, South Africa and Turkey will only need to take a day 2 test in England

Travel between people of all nationalities is again allowed between Uruguay and the UK. However, a Uruguayan vaccination certificate is not yet recognised as part of the vaccine certificate recognition scheme therefore these individuals will follow the same rules as an unvaccinated person – *7th October 2021*

- The government launches the biggest annual flu vaccination programme this winter as well as offering the booster vaccine for COVID-19 (for groups 1-9)

To ensure those who participated in clinical trials in UK will be able to travel to other countries who do not recognise trial vaccinations, participants will be offered additional vaccine doses of an approved vaccine

One million COVID-19 tests have been processed by the megalab in Leamington Spa which opened in June 2021 and is part of the Test and Trace network. The laboratory will soon begin genotype assay testing to detect known COVID-19 mutations and genome sequencing to confirm known variants and identify new mutations

The Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office to lift its advice against all but essential travel for a further 51 countries and territories – *8th October 2021*

- The UK has now uploaded over 1 million genome sequences to the international GISAID database, accounting for almost a quarter of all sequences published globally to date

From 11th October, fully vaccinated travellers (with approved vaccines) from Nigeria can now visit England. A day 2 test needs to be booked and paid for in advance of any visit. Also from 11th October, travel between people of all nationalities is again allowed between Paraguay and the UK. However, a Paraguayan vaccination certificate is not yet recognised as part of the vaccine certificate recognition scheme therefore these individuals will follow the same rules as an unvaccinated person – *11th October 2021*

- UK Health Security Agency [UKHSA] release the latest report of REACT-1 study into COVID-19 infections in England. The study of over 100,000 volunteers showed the SARS-CoV-2 virus has increased to 0.83%. This relates to 1 in 120 people infected

The Health and Social Care Secretary Sajid Javid has made plans for patients to see their GP in the way they choose. To help increase face-to-face doctors' appointments, community pharmacists are being asked to prescribe for minor ailments i.e. sore throats without patients having to see their GP. Additionally plans are to measure GPs against clearer standards

Latest national COVID-19 surveillance report by the UK Health Security Agency [UKHSA] shows cases in week 40 were highest in those aged 10 to 19, with a 7-day case rate of 1120.8 per 100,000 population. The 7-day case rates were highest in the East Midlands at 488.7. Hospital admission rates were highest in the North-East with a rate of 9.98 per 100,000 population

From 24th October, fully vaccinated passengers and most under 18s arriving in England from countries not on the red list can take a lateral flow test, instead of a PCR test on or before day 2 of their arrival into UK

COVID-19 case levels in Knowsley Borough this week remain stable at 306 cases per 100,000 population. Case rates in the over 60s are higher than in the earlier waves of the pandemic. Most COVID-19 cases in the borough are in 10-14 year-old age group. Testing rates across all age groups is 591.5 per 100,000, which is below the north-west average of 650.6 per 100,000. Currently, 95,000 eligible Knowsley residents have had both doses. The uptake amongst 16-17 year-olds remains low with just a third being vaccinated (compared to approximately half in Cheshire and Merseyside for this age group) – *14th October 2021*

- Testing suspended at the laboratory of Immensa Health Clinic Ltd, Wolverhampton, whereby people received a negative PCR test after previously testing positive on a Lateral Flow Device. An estimated 43,000 people may have been given incorrect negative results. These samples are being redirected to other laboratories while an NHS Test and Trace investigation takes place – *15th October 2021*
- PM Boris Johnson meets with the First Ministers of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and the deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland to discuss the UK's Covid recovery and also preparations for the COP26 summit – *18th October 2021*
- Deals made by the Antivirals Taskforce to secure 2 new effective antiviral treatments to speed-up recovery time for COVID-19 patients. Approval is required from the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) but if approved, the most vulnerable patients could receive the treatments this winter – *20th October 2021*
- Latest national COVID-19 surveillance report by the UK Health Security Agency [UKHSA] shows cases in week 41 were highest in those aged 10 to 19, with a 7-day

case rate of 1366.8 per 100,000 population. The 7-day case rates were highest in the South West at 667.6. Hospital admission rates were highest in the West Midlands with a rate of 10.08 per 100,000 population – *21st October 2021*

- UK Health Security Agency have designated the Delta variant sub-lineage known as Delta AY.4.2 as a Variant Under Investigation (VUI) and given it the official name VUI-21OCT-01

Nationwide multimedia campaign including a primetime television advert begins to support the ongoing COVID-19 vaccine, booster and flu vaccine drive. Pharmacists from Boots, LloydsPharmacy and Asda are also backing the call for people to be vaccinated for the best protection this winter – *22nd October 2021*

- PM Boris Johnson urges everyone over 50 to take their booster jabs when offered – *23rd October 2021*
- Eligible fully vaccinated passengers arriving in England from countries not on the 'red list' can now take a pre-ordered lateral flow test on or before day 2 of their arrival (purchased from a private provider) instead of the usual PCR test – *24th October 2021*
- COVID-19 case levels in Knowsley Borough this week have increased to 448 cases per 100,000 population. Cases remain high amongst 10-14 year olds and the over 60s. Overall 104,000 residents have received at least one dose of vaccine, 96,000 have had both doses and 14,000 are fully vaccinated including the booster jab. For residents who have not yet had any vaccine, 75% are aged under 39 years. The uptake amongst 12-18 year-olds remains low with just 15% of the eligible population vaccinated (compared to 23% in Cheshire and Merseyside)

From Monday 1st November, the remaining seven travel destinations on the 'red list': Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Haiti, Panama, Peru and Venezuela will be removed. Also, eligible travellers with proof of vaccination from over 30 countries and territories, including Argentina, Tanzania and Cambodia will qualify under the fully vaccinated rules for travel to UK – *28th October 2021*

- With COVID-19 cases among 10-19 year-olds the highest of any age group, the UK Health Security Agency is urging young people to take a rapid COVID-19 test before returning to school or university after half-term

New walk-through COVID-19 testing centre opens in Renfrew, Scotland

Milestone of over 7 million people of UK's most vulnerable have now received their COVID-19 booster jab

Flexibility introduced to the COVID-19 booster vaccine programme for vulnerable people i.e. in care homes where individuals may have received their 2nd dose at different times can receive their booster jab early as long as it has been 5 months since their second dose – *29th October 2021*

- Following a review of coronavirus data, additional support will be deployed from 1st November to Cambridgeshire, Peterborough and Suffolk in response to high case rates – *31st October 2021*
- A number of personnel from the Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force will be trained and will then assist with the COVID-19 vaccination programme in Scotland

Over 8 million people in UK have now received their COVID-19 booster jabs – *1st November 2021*

- Latest report of REACT-1 study into levels of COVID-19 in the general population shows between 19 and 29 October the prevalence to be 1.72%, the highest figure since the study began in May 2020

The oral antiviral Lagevrio (molnupiravir) has been deemed safe by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency [MHRA] and is effective at reducing the risk of hospitalisation and death in people with mild to moderate COVID-19 who are at increased risk of developing severe disease. This makes the UK the first country in the world to approve an antiviral that can be taken at home for COVID-19 – *4th November 2021*

- Department of Health and Social Care begin a new campaign to ‘Stop COVID-19 hanging around’ using TV, radio and newspapers to promote the importance of simple ventilation techniques to reduce the risks of catching COVID-19 during the winter. The advice is to open a window for 10 minutes in every hour when socialising with others – *5th November 2021*

- To speed up the booster roll-out, from Monday 8th November, the NHS booster booking system will allow people to pre-book an appointment a month before they are eligible for the jab. People can also book by phoning 119 or be vaccinated at walk-in centres 6 months after their second dose without an appointment – *6th November 2021*

- 10 million people in UK have now received their COVID-19 booster jab – *7th November 2021*
- Travel rules simplified from Monday 22nd November whereby the UK Government will recognise vaccines on the World Health Organization’s Emergency Use Listing (WHO EUL): Sinovac, Sinopharm Beijing and Covaxin and they will be added to our list of approved vaccines for inbound travel. Fully vaccinated passengers with a vaccine certificate from one of 135 approved countries and territories will no longer

be required to take a pre-departure test, day 8 test or self-isolate upon arrival. They will just need to pay for and take a lateral flow test before the end of their second day, post-arrival. Similarly, under-18s coming to England will be treated as fully vaccinated, not require self-isolation, pre-departure testing or day 8 testing but will be required to take a lateral flow test post-arrival as above – *8th November 2021*

- New laws and a Code of Practice are being introduced to resolve the remaining commercial rent debts accrued due to the pandemic. In over 80% of cases an agreement has already been reached between landlord and tenant. The legal arbitration process will come into force from 25th March 2022 for rent debts not agreed between the parties by that date

Government to introduce COVID-19 vaccinations as a condition of deployment for all frontline health, social care workers and volunteers who have face-to-face contact with service users (unless exempt). The requirements will come into force in the spring of 2022 subject to Parliamentary approval. The deadline for care home workers to be double-jabbed is Thursday 11th November – *9th November 2021*

- Glasgow's lighthouse laboratory has now analysed over 20 million COVID-19 PCR tests from around UK, many genomically sequenced to identify and track new variants – *10th November 2021*
- New walk-through testing site opens at Gilmore Park, Edinburgh. In Scotland diagnostic testing now comprises 8 drive-through sites, 56 walk-through sites, 42 mobile units plus the Glasgow Lighthouse Lab processing samples

Department of Health and Social Care have confirmed more than 11.4 million people in UK have now received their top-up jabs. Also, those eligible for a booster vaccine can now pre-book their jab 5 months after their second dose. Further figures show 79.9% of the eligible population have received 2 doses and 87.7% have received one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. In total, over 90.4 million vaccines (1st, 2nd and 3rd jabs) have now been delivered

Latest national COVID-19 surveillance report by the UK Health Security Agency [UKHSA] shows cases in week 44 were highest in those aged 10 to 19, with a 7-day case rate of 561.6 per 100,000 population. The 7-day case rates were highest in the South West at 409.9. Hospital admission rates were highest in the North East with a rate of 11.25 per 100,000 population

COVID-19 case levels in Knowsley Borough this week have decreased to 354 cases per 100,000 population, now ranked at 74th in the country. Cases remain high amongst 10-14 year olds and among 35-45 year-olds. However, 27% of the eligible Knowsley population had still not received any vaccination. The new variant under investigation 'Delta AY,' accounted for 4% of recent cases – *11th November 2021*

- New film urging people to be vaccinated to be shown to 80,000 rugby fans at Twickenham stadium during the England Australia match

UK reaches a milestone of 12 million booster jab vaccinations administered, 2.4 million booster jabs given in the last 7 days. Other figures show 80% of over 12s have now had 2 doses – *13th November 2021*

- UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) study shows significantly increased protection against symptomatic disease from Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine booster dose in those aged 50 and above. This increased protection was 93.1% in those who had the AstraZeneca for their first 2 doses and 94% for those who had previously had Pfizer-BioNTech for their first 2 doses

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) have advised that in addition to those 50 years and above, all adults aged 40-49 years should also be offered a booster jab, six months after their second dose. The Government accepted this advice and is also offering a second dose of vaccine to 16 and 17 year-olds 12 weeks after their first dose – *15th November 2021*

- More than 13 million booster jabs have been given across UK – *16th November 2021*
- UK Health Security Agency updates clinical guidance on vaccinations for 12-17 year olds. For those aged 16-17 who have had coronavirus (COVID-19) infection, the second dose should be given 12 weeks or more after the first dose or 12 weeks following a positive COVID-19 test result, whichever is later. Also, those aged 12-17 who are not in a high-risk group should wait 12 weeks after a positive test before receiving their first (or second if aged 16-17) vaccine dose – *17th November 2021*

- Latest national COVID-19 surveillance report by the UK Health Security Agency [UKHSA] shows cases in week 45 were highest in those aged 5-9, with a 7-day case rate of 722.9 per 100,000 population. The 7-day case rates were highest in the South West at 485.3. Hospital admission rates were highest in the North East with a rate of 10.88 per 100,000 population – *18th November 2021*

- Department of Health and Social Care announce that from midday on Friday 19th November, NHS COVID Pass users in England can demonstrate proof of a booster or third dose for outbound international travel. Also, the government has accepted the advice of the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) to expand the booster programme to those aged 40-49

Following a review, Department of Transport confirms that no countries or territories are currently on the 'red list.' From Monday 22 November, the government will add 3 vaccines: Sinovac, Sinopharm Beijing and Covaxin to our list of approved vaccines for inbound travel. Furthermore, proof of vaccine certification will be accepted from a further 15 countries and territories: Belarus, Bolivia, Democratic

Republic of the Congo, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Faroe Islands, Laos, Libya, Malawi, Mozambique, Samoa, Senegal, Vanuatu, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Also from Monday 22 November, all under-18s coming to England from non-red list areas will be treated as fully vaccinated and only required to take a lateral flow test post-arrival

Latest REACT-1 study shows COVID-19 infection is still high but falling and now stands at 1.57% or around 1 in 64 people infected with the virus – *19th November 2021*

- From 22nd November the National Booking Service will open to eligible people aged 40-49 for their booster jab and young people aged 16-17 for their second jab – *21st November 2021*
- Analysis by the UK Health Security Agency on women giving birth who had received COVID-19 vaccination showed a good safety record. Between February and the end of September 2021, no fully vaccinated pregnant women were admitted to intensive care with COVID-19 in England

Latest national COVID-19 surveillance report by the UK Health Security Agency [UKHSA] shows cases in week 46 were highest in those aged 5-9, with a 7-day case rate of 932.3 per 100,000 population. The 7-day case rates were highest in the South East at 530.5. Hospital admission rates were highest in the North East with a rate of 9.37 per 100,000 population

From 26th November, six countries will be added to the UK's travel 'red list': South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, Eswatini, Zimbabwe and Namibia following the UK Health Security Agency's designation of a new variant under investigation (VUI) – variant B.1.1.529 – *25th November 2021*

- Two cases of the new (Southern Africa) variant now named Omicron (B1.1.529) identified in UK, one in Chelmsford, Essex, and one in Nottingham linked to travel in Southern Africa. Individuals concerned are self-isolating and contact tracing is ongoing. Also another four countries are to be added to the travel 'red list' from 28th November: Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Angola

PM Boris Johnson has confirmed new temporary measures in response to the Omicron cases: all international arrivals to take a Day 2 PCR test and to self-isolate until they receive a negative result. All contacts of suspected Omicron cases must also self-isolate, regardless of their vaccination status when contacted by NHS Test and Trace. Face coverings to be made compulsory in shops and on public transport from 30th November (unless individually medically exempt). All hospitality settings will be exempt – *27th November 2021*

- The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) previously advised those aged over 40 years and those at higher risk from coronavirus should be offered a booster jab. Because of the risk posed by Omicron, they now advise that those aged 18-39 years should also be eligible for a booster – when called by NHS (in order of descending age groups as before). The booster is now to be given no sooner than 3 months after the primary course. In addition, a second dose of Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine (30 microgram) for those aged 12-15 years is advised no sooner than 12 weeks after the first dose

Total number of confirmed cases in England of the new Omicron variant rises to 13. Cases identified in the East Midlands, East of England, London and the North West. Targeted testing at these locations now underway. Nine cases have also been identified in Scotland – *29th November 2021*

- The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) have authorised a second monoclonal antibody called Xevudy (sotrovimab) as a COVID-19 treatment. In clinical trials, it was found to reduce the risk of hospitalisation and death by 79% in high-risk adults

Government signs contracts to buy 114 million additional Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna doses for 2022 and 2023

Latest national COVID-19 surveillance report by the UK Health Security Agency [UKHSA] shows cases in week 47 were highest in those aged 5-9, with a weekly case rate of 873.8 per 100,000 population. The 7-day case rates were highest in the South East at 517.7. Hospital admission rates were highest in the North East with a rate of 8.10 per 100,000 population – *2nd December 2021*

- Pregnant women are being urged to take the vaccine as 98% of pregnant women in hospital with symptomatic COVID-19 are unvaccinated and can experience serious complications

Nigeria is to be added to the travel 'red list' from 6th December following cases of Omicron in England linked to travel from there. Total Omicron cases in UK now number 134. From 7th December, anyone aged 12 and above travelling to UK will need to show a negative pre-departure test (LFD or PCR) taken not more than 48 hours before departure – *4th December 2021*

- Knowsley Outbreak Management Board sat on 25th November and reported COVID-19 case levels in Knowsley Borough between 350 and 400 cases per 100,000 population. Highest case rates are for 5 to 9 year-olds. For COVID-19 hospital patients, 81% aged under 50 were unvaccinated. Of the eligible Knowsley population, 37% had still not been vaccinated. The majority of the unvaccinated

people are aged 29 or younger. Also, the uptake of a first vaccination dose for 12-15 year olds in the borough is still low at 22.77%

Latest government data confirms 336 confirmed cases of the Omicron variant in UK: 261 in England, 71 in Scotland and 4 cases in Wales. Cases have now been reported in 52 countries around the world. Other data shows the milestone of over 20 million booster and third doses administered across UK and the offer of a booster jab for all adults aged 18 and over by the end of January, with the gap between second doses and the booster jab halved to just 12 weeks – *6th December 2021*

- UK marks one year since it became the first country in the world to deploy an approved COVID-19 vaccination. Since then, almost 120 million doses have been administered in UK

Care home workers or volunteer care workers who have a medical reason for exemption from COVID-19 vaccination can temporarily self-certify that they meet the exemption criteria and need to register this before 24 December. If unsuccessful with exemption, they then have time to be fully vaccinated before 31 March 2022. From 1 April 2022, care workers will need to show proof of medical exemption or be fully vaccinated to comply with the regulations then in force

Following UK data analysis, the Omicron variant has increased growth rates and is likely to quickly become the dominant variant in UK. It is expected that in the next 2 to 4 weeks, at least 50% of COVID-19 cases to be caused by the Omicron variant

UK's most vulnerable people to receive life-saving antiviral and antibody treatments for COVID-19. A national study launched called PANORAMIC is recruiting around 10,000 UK patients at risk of serious illness from COVID-19 to take molnupiravir at home after receiving a positive PCR test

PM Boris Johnson gave a COVID-19 press conference and stated that the new Omicron variant is spreading much faster than the Delta variant all around the world. There have been 568 confirmed cases through genomic sequencing across every region of the UK. It appears the doubling time of Omicron in UK could be between 2 and 3 days, so from Monday 13th December we move to Plan B and ask people once again to work from home if they can. Also from Friday 9th the legal requirement to wear a mask will be extended to most public indoor venues including theatres, cinemas and places of worship but not hospitality. The NHS Covid Pass will become mandatory for entry to nightclubs and venues with large crowds (to come into force in a week's time) – *8th December 2021*

- Latest national COVID-19 surveillance report by the UK Health Security Agency [UKHSA] shows cases in week 48 were highest in those aged 5-9, with a weekly case

rate of 1063.8 per 100,000 population. The 7-day case rates were highest in the South East at 648.5. Hospital admission rates were highest in the West Midlands with a rate of 7.56 per 100,000 population – *9th December 2021*

- More than 22 million people have now received their COVID-19 booster vaccine or third dose. People aged 40 and over are now able to book their booster a month in advance (to receive the jab 3 months after their second vaccination). A number of military personnel have been drafted in to support deployment – *10th December 2021*
- Following advice from UK Health Security Agency, UK COVID-19 alert level increased from Level 3 to Level 4 – *12th December 2021*
- Confirmation from UK Health Security Agency that 10 people have been hospitalised with the Omicron variant in England (spread around the country) and one individual has sadly died. Medical Officers and politicians call for everyone over 18 to take up the offer of a booster vaccine

To aid the acceleration of the booster rollout, 750 armed forces personnel have been made available to support NHS

Fully vaccinated 12 to 15 year olds are now able to access an NHS COVID Pass letter for international travel – *13th December 2021*

- PM Boris Johnson and NHS Chief Executive Amanda Pritchard call for thousands of volunteers to also help with the booster jab campaign

The 15 minute observation period after COVID-19 vaccines temporarily suspended to speed up booster rollout

Chief Medical Officer Chris Whitty takes part in a national advertising campaign urging the public to take the booster vaccination

From 15th December, all 11 remaining countries and territories will be removed from the UK travel red list but additional testing measures in response to Omicron remain in place – *14th December 2021*

- Prime Minister appoints Rt Hon Baroness Heather Hallett DBE as Chair of the forthcoming public inquiry into the COVID-19 pandemic. The Inquiry begins work in Spring 2022

UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and Royal Mail have announced that delivery capacity for COVID-19 testing kits will double in response to unprecedented demand

Prime Minister's statement at today's press conference confirmed that every eligible adult in England can now use the national booking service for vaccinations. If you're over 18 and had the 2nd jab 3 months ago you can now receive the booster. This statement is in response to over 78,000 Covid cases recorded, the highest ever daily number – *15th December 2021*

- Latest national COVID-19 surveillance report by the UK Health Security Agency [UKHSA] shows cases in week 49 have increased in most groups driven by the Omicron variant. They were highest in those aged 5-9, with a weekly case rate of 1021.4 per 100,000 population. The 7-day case rates were highest in London at 702.8. Hospital admission rates were highest in the East of England with a rate of 8.69 per 100,000 population

Due to the risk of serious consequences from coronavirus, unvaccinated pregnant women are urged to take the offered two vaccine doses 8 weeks apart and then to take the booster jab 3 months later

Knowsley Outbreak Management Board sat on 16th December and reported COVID-19 case levels in Knowsley Borough to be 472.3 cases per 100,000 population, a 14% increase. Highest case rates are for 10-14 year-olds. The majority of the unvaccinated people in the borough are aged 20-39 years

The Government has united with religious leaders in a national effort to increase the booster uptake in the light of increasing numbers of Omicron cases around the UK – *16th December 2021*

- The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) in its latest briefing has evaluated the current lateral flow devices (LFDs) for COVID-19 use in UK and initial data suggests that they are as likely to detect Omicron as they have previous variants. Between 1 November and 11 December 2021, there were 5,153 individuals identified with an Omicron infection. Of these, 305 were linked to a previously confirmed infection (of 90 days or more from the previous positive test)

Following acceleration of the COVID-19 booster jab programme, 26.3 million people, more than 50% of the adult UK population have now received a top-up jab – making it one of the fastest rollouts in the world. Data shows the booster jab increases protection against symptomatic infection from the Omicron variant to around 70% – *17th December 2021*

- In the run up to Christmas, an additional £22.5 million has been assigned to 60 local authorities to help in council areas with low vaccine uptake and encourage people to come forward for vaccination. Street teams will be available in 21 popular areas in England including Liverpool One Shopping Centre, King's Cross Station and Brighton

Pier from now till Christmas Eve urging people to take the jab for protection against the rising cases of Omicron – *19th December 2021*

- The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities announced a £28 million government funding boost to help rough sleepers obtain their vaccines and move them into safe accommodation over the winter – *20th December 2021*
- In response to the Omicron threat, UK government signed two new contracts for a further 4.25 million courses of antivirals for the NHS. 1.75 million courses of molnupiravir and 2.5 million courses of ritonavir. The Government urges all over 50s and most vulnerable to sign up to a national study as soon as they test positive for COVID-19

NHS Test and Trace services will continue every day over Christmas and the New Year, providing and processing tests and contacting contacts of positive cases

New guidance enables the 10-day self-isolation period for people who have tested positive for COVID-19 to be reduced to 7 days. This reduction period is allowed if an LFD test on day 6 and day 7 of the isolation period both confirm negative results

Approval by the UK Regulator of a new paediatric version of the PfizerBioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for children aged 5 to 11 after meeting safety and quality standards

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) has updated its advice to offer a primary course vaccination to those 5 to 11 year olds who are at higher risk from coronavirus i.e. those in a clinical risk group or who are a household contact of someone who is immunosuppressed

UK reaches a milestone of over 30 million people (over 56% of UK adults) now having received their COVID-19 booster jab – *22nd December 2021*

- To protect the most vulnerable against severe infections, all unpaid carers, care home and home care workers are urged to be boosted against COVID-19

UK donates over 4 million doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine to Bangladesh through the COVAX vaccine sharing agreement. The UK is committed to donate 100 million doses by June 2022

An additional £30 million in emergency funding has been made available through the Culture Recovery Fund to support museums, cinemas, theatres and heritage organisations with the impact of the Omicron variant this winter

Following approval of Pfizer's paediatric vaccine for children and the advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI), this vaccine will be offered to at-risk children aged 5 to 11 and the booster programme to be extended to at-risk 12 to 15s and to all 16 to 17 year olds

Latest national COVID-19 surveillance report by the UK Health Security Agency [UKHSA] in week 50 show cases have increased in all age groups except those aged 5 to 9. They were highest in those aged 20 to 29, with a weekly case rate of 1741 per 100,000 population. The 7-day case rates were highest in London at 1732.6. Hospital admission rates were highest in London with a rate of 10.53 per 100,000 population – *23rd December 2021*

- Uptake of COVID-19 vaccine doses soared in the week before Christmas. Uptake of first doses increased by around 46% and second doses by 39% in England compared to the week before. Over 220,000 first doses were administered and over 279,000 second doses in the week of 15 - 21 December

As part of the Get Boosted Now campaign, the UK Government (in partnership with UK phone networks) will send out SMS texts from Boxing Day urging people to receive a booster jab – *26th December 2021*

- Government announces £60 million top-up to local authorities to support adult social care sector in the new year – *29th December 2021*
- A year ago today, the UK became the first country in the world to approve the Oxford University/AstraZeneca vaccine

Government pledges £105 million of UK emergency aid to help vulnerable countries tackle the Omicron COVID-19 variant, with a particular focus on Africa

Over 90% of UK population aged over 12 have now received a first dose of a coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine with over 51.7 million first doses now delivered – *30th December 2021*

- PM Boris Johnson hails the success of the vaccination programme and the public response to the booster campaign. Following the expansion of the vaccination programme, every eligible adult in England aged 18 and over has now had the chance to receive a COVID-19 booster jab

Latest information from UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) shows that protection against hospitalisation from vaccines is good against the Omicron variant. For effectiveness against symptomatic infection at around 2-4 weeks after a booster dose, effectiveness was around 65-75%, dropping to 55-70% at 5 to 9 weeks and to

40-50% from 10+ weeks. The analysis shows you are up to 8 times more likely to end up in hospital as a result of COVID-19 if you are unvaccinated – 31st December 2021

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