

More than 20 million UK adults receive both doses of COVID-19 vaccine

- Public urged to take up their second doses as soon as they are eligible to get fullest possible protection

Health services across the UK have now administered a total of 56,677,012 million vaccines between 8 December and 15 May, including 36,573,354 million people with their first dose (69.4%) and 20,103,658 million with their second (38.2%).

The government met its target of offering a vaccine to the most vulnerable by 15 April, and remains on track to offer a first dose to all adults by the end of July.

Health and Social Care Secretary Matt Hancock said:

We have more great news about the vaccination rollout and are making extraordinary strides as 20 million people now have the fullest possible protection from this virus – huge thanks to the team for hitting this milestone.

The latest real-world data has once again demonstrated how effective the vaccine is at providing life-saving protection, with 2 doses of the Pfizer vaccine providing 97% protection against mortality.

Receiving a second dose is vital to ensure you have the ultimate protection from this deadly virus – I encourage everyone to book their jab as soon as they are offered it.

Vaccines Minister Nadhim Zahawi said:

20 million people have received the strongest protection from this virus – another incredible milestone.

It is inspiring to see the incredible public response to our call to arms to get the jab. We have one of the highest vaccine uptake rates in the world, but our work is not done yet.

It's time to redouble our efforts on the second dose, so please come forward for the second jab as it could be a life-saving extra boost of protection.

The milestone comes as government announces that appointments for a second dose of a vaccine will be brought forward from 12 to 8 weeks for the remaining people in the top 9 priority groups yet to receive their second

dose.

This is to ensure people across the UK have the strongest possible protection from the virus at an earlier opportunity.

It is part of government's plans to tackle rising cases of the B.1.617.2 variant of concern (VOC) first identified in India, as well as strengthened surge testing, genome sequencing and enhanced contact tracing measures deployed across the North West to control the spread.

Vaccinated people are far less likely to get COVID-19 with symptoms. Vaccinated people are even more unlikely to get serious COVID-19, to be admitted to hospital or to die from it. There is growing evidence that vaccinated people are less likely to pass the virus to others.

Data from Public Health England's real-world study shows the vaccines are already having a significant impact in the UK, reducing hospitalisations and deaths, saving more than 11,700 lives and preventing 33,000 hospitalisations in England by the end of April.

New PHE analysis shows that individuals who receive a single dose of the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine have approximately 80% lower risk of death with COVID-19 compared with unvaccinated individuals. The report also shows protection against death from the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine rises from approximately 80% after 1 dose to 97% after 2 doses.

A separate new PHE report provides further evidence that the vaccine is highly effective in reducing the risk of hospitalisation, especially in older ages. For the over 80s, it is estimated that 2 doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine reduce the risk of hospitalisation by 93%.

ONS data published on 6 May found that more than 9 in 10 (93%) adults reported positive sentiment towards the vaccine.

All vaccines being used in the UK have met the independent Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency's (MHRA) strict standards of safety, effectiveness and quality.

Rolling reviews are underway by the MHRA to assess the Janssen and Novavax vaccines.

Approved vaccines are available from thousands of NHS vaccine centres, GP practices and pharmacies. Around 98% of people live within 10 miles of a vaccination centre in England and vaccinations are taking place at sites including mosques, community centres and football stadiums.

UK Government Minister for Scotland Iain Stewart said:

This milestone underscores the incredible progress we are making right across the country in our fight against COVID-19.

The UK government is supplying vaccines for people in all parts of

the United Kingdom, and our fantastic NHS is working tirelessly to administer first and second doses.

This is just one way the UK government is supporting every part of the country through the pandemic.

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Background information

- You can view [the latest UK-wide vaccination statistics](#) and NHS England's [vaccine statistics for England](#).
- PHE's real-world data on the efficacy of Covid-19 vaccines is available [here](#). Their latest study on household transmission can be found [here](#).
- The ONS survey on 'Barriers to Covid-19 vaccination' can be found [here](#).
- JCVI's final advice for phase 2 of the vaccination programme is available [here](#).
- To date, the government has invested over £300 million into manufacturing a successful vaccine to enable a rapid roll out.
- The UK has secured early access to 517 million doses of eight of the most promising vaccine candidates. This includes agreements with:
 - Pfizer/BioNTech for 100 million doses
 - Oxford/AstraZeneca for 100 million doses
 - Moderna for 17 million doses
 - Janssen for 30 million doses
 - Novavax for 60 million doses
 - Valneva for 100 million doses
 - CureVac for 50 million doses

- GlaxoSmithKline and Sanofi Pasteur for 60 million doses

- The UK government is committed to supporting equitable access to vaccines worldwide. The UK is the largest donor to the COVAX facility, the global mechanism to help developing countries access a coronavirus vaccine, and has committed £548 million in UK aid to help distribute 1.3 billion doses of coronavirus vaccines to 92 developing countries this year.