

Vaccines highly effective against hospitalisation from Delta variant

The [analysis](#) suggests:

- the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is 96% effective against hospitalisation after 2 doses
- the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine is 92% effective against hospitalisation after 2 doses

These are comparable with vaccine effectiveness against hospitalisation from the Alpha variant.

Further work remains underway to establish the level of protection against mortality from the Delta variant. However, as with other variants, this is expected to be high.

The analysis included 14,019 cases of the Delta variant – 166 of whom were hospitalised – between 12 April and 4 June, looking at emergency hospital admissions in England.

Public Health England (PHE) has [previously published analysis](#) showing that one dose is 17% less effective at preventing symptomatic illness from the Delta variant, compared to Alpha, but there is only a small difference after 2 doses.

Health and Social Care Secretary, Matt Hancock said:

Our UK vaccination programme continues at pace and has already saved thousands of lives. It is our way out of this pandemic.

This evidence of the effectiveness of two doses against variants shows just how crucial it is to get your second jab.

If you have had your first dose but haven't booked your second yet – please do so. It will help save lives and boost us on the road to recovery.

Dr Mary Ramsay, Head of Immunisation at PHE, said:

These hugely important findings confirm that the vaccines offer significant protection against hospitalisation from the Delta variant.

The vaccines are the most important tool we have against COVID-19. Thousands of lives have already been saved because of them.

It is absolutely vital to get both doses as soon as they are

offered to you, to gain maximum protection against all existing and emerging variants.

Vaccines Minister, Nadhim Zahawi said:

It is extremely encouraging to see today's research showing that vaccines are continuing to help break the link between hospitalisation and the Delta variant after one dose, and particularly the high effectiveness of 2 doses.

If you're getting the call to bring forward your second dose appointment – do not delay – get the second jab so you can benefit from the fullest possible protection.

Separate PHE analysis indicates that the COVID-19 vaccination programme has so far prevented 14,000 deaths and around 42,000 hospitalisations in older people in England, up to 30 May.

[GLD colleagues recognised in Queen's Birthday Honours List 2021](#)

News story

Queen's Birthday Honours 2021



We are delighted that 6 GLD colleagues have been awarded in this year's [Queen's Birthday Honours list](#), they are:

- Wendy Hardaker, nominated as Director, Commercial Law Group, now interim Director General, who has been awarded a C.B. for services to the law

- Gareth Evans C.B.E., Deputy Legal Director, BEIS Legal Team, who has been awarded a C.B for services to the law
- Michael Des Tombe, Deputy Legal Director, Cabinet Office, Europe Legal Group, who has been awarded a C.B.E for public service
- Samantha Ede, Deputy Legal Director, Home Office Legal Team, who has been awarded a C.B.E for services to the law
- Lee John-Charles, Deputy Legal Director, Litigation, who has been awarded a C.B.E for services to the law
- Ashok Taylor, HEO Operations, who has been awarded an M.B.E for services to Government, especially during COVID-19

Following the announcement on Friday 11 June, the Communications and Engagement Team have caught up with Lee John-Charles who had this to say on his accolade:

“To be told that I would be receiving an honour was unbelievably humbling, overwhelming and exciting. However, I consider it an even greater honour to have worked with GLD colleagues who have been incredibly supportive and celebrated my achievements through the years, by nominating me for this award. I hope that this honour provides inspiration to those of a similar background and who have faced similar challenges to me, that anything is possible. The smile on my face as I say this right now is evidence of that. Thank you everyone!”

We will be sharing reflections from others awarded throughout the week.

Published 14 June 2021

[Save the date! UK Space Agency to host Business Support Showcase event](#)

News story

UK space sector will convene in Edinburgh to learn about opportunities for growth as we build back better



The Business Support Showcase, taking place on Thursday 11 November 2021, is a perfect opportunity for the UK space sector to come together to learn more about clusters of space innovation around the UK and identify local potential to grow the space economy.

The event is expected to be one of the first in-person space events following the COVID-19 pandemic, and will be held at the [Edinburgh International Conference Centre](#).

Head of Local Growth Strategy at the UK Space Agency, Colin Baldwin said:

The UK Space Agency is excited to be able to bring the UK space sector back together in person again to continue building connections across the UK space ecosystem.

It's a fantastic opportunity to showcase the brilliant networks, support and opportunities available across UK space, and we look forward to welcoming colleagues from every part of the UK.

Keynote speakers, panel sessions and networking opportunities throughout the day will cover topics including:

*connecting the UK space ecosystem * space cluster development * space business acceleration * space regulation

There will also be a chance to see some of Scotland's most exciting and innovative space companies across Earth Observation, artificial intelligence and geoscience.

All plans for the event will be developed in line with government guidance on the pandemic situation. Look out for further updates soon.

Published 14 June 2021

Celebrating refugees across the UK

This week is Refugee Week – a UK-wide festival celebrating the contributions, creativity and resilience of refugees and people seeking sanctuary.

The government will be marking the occasion by sharing powerful stories of refugees who have come to the UK through government-backed legal routes to start a new life in the UK.

Home Secretary Priti Patel said:

This week casts a spotlight on all those who have enriched our communities since arriving in the UK looking to rebuild their lives.

Thanks to the generosity and support of the British people, thousands of refugees from every part of the world are here making enormous contributions to our society, culture, economy, and we are a better country for it.

I am moved hearing about the incredible stories of those that have overcome hardship to not just live, but to thrive and call the UK their home.

The UK has a long, proud tradition of providing a home for people fleeing persecution and oppression.

The UK's generous international protection system offers protection to the most vulnerable through government-backed legal routes – since 2015, over 25,000 men, women and children seeking refuge from cruel circumstances across the world have been resettled in the UK – more than any other European country.

We have also welcomed 29,000 people through the refugee family reunion scheme between 2015 and 2019. More than half of these were children.

And our new global UK Resettlement Scheme which is currently actively resettling refugees to the UK will continue to provide refuge to those in need who are fleeing persecution.

Immigration Compliance and Justice Minister, Chris Philp said:

I am proud of the work government is doing to resettle the most vulnerable around the world and the steps we are taking to strengthen our support and protection of refugees. Over the last 5 years we have resettled more refugees than any other European country.

Proposals within the New Plan for Immigration will lessen the incentive for people to risk their lives crossing the Channel in small, unseaworthy boats.

Alongside strengthened resettlement routes, this will break the deadly business model of people smuggling gangs who use illegal routes to help economic migrants jump the queue, stopping us from properly supporting those in genuine need of protection.

As part of proposals under the [New Plan for Immigration](#), refugees who have resettled into the UK will be granted full rights and entitlements through indefinite leave to remain. This will give them the certainty and stability they need to rebuild their lives.

Priority will also be given to refugees, including children, in regions of conflict and instability, rather than those who are already in safe European countries.

They will be given more support to thrive in local communities. We are providing funding for English language classes, help with finding a job and building links with the local community.

We will ensure more resettled refugees can enter the UK through community sponsorship, encouraging stronger partnerships between local government and community groups.

Our refined resettlement approach will also be more responsive to emerging international crises, resettling refugees who are at urgent risk more quickly.

[Government Chemist provides summary of CBD related activities](#)

Cannabidiol (CBD) is a non-psychoactive cannabinoid present in the cannabis plant (*Cannabis sativa* L) along with many other cannabinoids that may either exhibit psychoactive or non-psychoactive properties.

CBD plant extract or plant isolates have gained salience as an ingredient in food supplements and in some cosmetic products, and there has been a proliferation of such products, available online and on the high street.

As an isolated substance, CBD is not a controlled drug. However the process of extracting or isolating CBD from the cannabis plant may co-extract other cannabinoids and products could unintentionally include other non-psychoactive or, more significantly, psychoactive cannabinoid substances.

Kit Malthouse MP, Minister of State for Crime and Policing, [wrote to the Chair of Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs](#) (ACMD), to seek advice on the issue of CBD products which are not medicines; specifically on the controlled cannabinoids that could be present and the concentrations that they could be present at.

In response to this letter, the Government Chemist wrote to the Chair of the ACMD, ([Letter to Chair of ACMD](#) (PDF, 195KB, 3 pages)) explaining the role and remit of the Government Chemist and highlighting the work being undertaken on CBD and controlled cannabinoids by the Government Chemist. This letter was copied to Kit Malthouse MP for information.

Subsequently, Kit Malthouse MP wrote back to the Government Chemist ([Letter from Kit Malthouse to Government Chemist](#) (PDF, 147KB, 2 pages)), thanking him for the information. Following this correspondence, the Government Chemist was invited to present the results of its cross-government funded international ring trial on CBD and controlled cannabinoids in consumer products in April 2021, as evidence to the ACMD's consumer cannabidiol (CBD) products: call for evidence.

The report on the international ring trial on CBD and controlled cannabinoids in consumer products will be published on the Government Chemist website later this month.