

# 50 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine administered in UK

Over 50 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine have been administered in the UK, with over a quarter of adults having received both doses.

Health services across the UK administered a total of 50,089,549 million vaccines between 8 December and 2 May, including 34 million people with their first dose and 15 million with their second.

Data from Public Health England (PHE)'s real-world study shows the vaccines are already having a significant impact in the UK, reducing hospitalisations and saving more than 10,000 lives in England alone by the end of March.

The government remains on track to offer a jab to all adults by the end of July.

Health and Social Care Secretary Matt Hancock said:

Now we've delivered the 50 millionth jab, and 29.4% of the adult population have had the strongest possible protection of two doses, we have hit yet another incredible milestone in our vaccination programme.

The vaccine is our way out of this pandemic and the rollout had been a huge national effort. I want to pay tribute to the heroic NHS staff and volunteers who have worked tirelessly to deliver vaccines in every corner of the United Kingdom at a phenomenal pace.

We are on track to offer a jab to all adults by the end of July but our work is not over yet. We are now inviting everyone over 40 to get their jab. I had mine last week – it's simple and easy and I encourage everyone else who is eligible to get the jab.

Vaccines Minister Nadhim Zahawi said:

The UK's vaccination programme has been a huge success so far with more than 50 million doses administered – a fantastic achievement.

We have one of the highest uptake rates in the world and over 15 million people have now received two doses and maximum protection from this dreadful virus.

Every jab brings us one step closer to putting this pandemic behind us. I urge everyone to come forward as soon as they are eligible – the vaccine is safe, effective and could save your life.

An extra 60 million doses of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine have been secured by the UK government to help support preparations for the booster COVID-19 vaccination programme from the autumn, if clinically needed.

All vaccines being used in the UK have undergone robust clinical trials and have met the independent Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency's strict standards of safety, effectiveness and quality.

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.

## **Background**

Select from the following links to view:

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## **[Foreign Secretary statement – joint press conference with US Secretary of State Blinken, 3 May 2021](#)**

Good afternoon everyone – thank you for joining us.

It is a huge pleasure to welcome Secretary of State Blinken to the UK. Tony it's great to have you here with us, a warm welcome.

It's fair to say the Biden administration is barely 100 days old, but has already taken a huge number of bold and very welcome steps on issues like climate change, global health and human rights, and that's really created momentum in efforts to tackle these pressing global issues.

Since Tony's confirmation, we have been working very closely together and today's meeting has been another reminder of the depth and breadth of the work that we do together, the convergence of our interests and the many shared values.

Today, Tony and I discussed a full range of issues – I'll give you a highlight of some of the key points.

We talked about our shared commitment to stand up for open societies, democracy and human rights – protecting fundamental freedoms, tackling disinformation, holding human rights abusers to account.

A key element of this is defending the rule of law, so we are determined to reform but reinforce the multilateral system.

We want to keep working together very closely on all of these points through the G7 and President Biden's Democracy Summit.

We also discussed China. It's fair to say that we see eye-to-eye on the need to stand up for our values, holding Beijing to the commitments that they have made, whether it's in relation to Hong Kong under the Joint Declaration or wider commitments, whilst also at the same time finding constructive ways to work with China in a sensible and positive manner where that's possible.

On global issues like climate change we want to see China stepping up to the plate and playing its full role.

Tony and I also discussed a whole range of security issues – Iran, Afghanistan, continuing concerns about Russia, in particular on the border with Ukraine.

We stand shoulder to shoulder on these issues – and I welcome the US' firm recommitment to the NATO alliance.

It is only by working together overseas that we can keep our citizens safe at home. That's true in NATO, and I think it's true on covid and the various measures we are taking to extend and expand and promote Covax.

Secretary Blinken and I will see the Prime Minister tomorrow to continue the discussions that we've had.

One of the major areas of common interest is building a broader and stronger set of partnerships among countries that share our values, on the most important issues of the day.

So the G7 Foreign and Development Ministers' meeting which begins today is a great opportunity to really drive that agenda forward.

This is the first opportunity for all G7 Foreign Ministers to meet together in person since 2019. We're glad to be able to socialise a bit together and conduct those meetings face-to-face rather than doing it all just on Zoom and Teams.

It's also fair to say that the world has changed quite a bit in those two short years.

Our societies and our economies have been shocked and shaken by coronavirus.

At the same time we are responding to a situation where our values are being challenged and the international architecture is at least in some respects being weakened.

There's also rapid technological change which brings new opportunities, we've seen that with collaboration on things like the vaccine, but also acute challenges, and there are global threats from covid to climate change that frankly demand global solutions and we're committed to trying to find and forge those solutions.

In that context, we recognise the importance of building dynamic, agile new partnerships with like-minded countries which share our values.

That's why we invited the foreign ministers from India, South Korea, Australia and Brunei, Brunei also representing ASEAN as the chair, and they'll be taking part later on in the week.

They are all key partners for us, I think they are also a sign of the growing focus on the Indo-Pacific region as the economic and strategic crucible for this century.

As for the G7, at its core it is a partnership based on values and so it is fitting that today we meet on World Press Freedom Day. We've seen a whole range of attacks on journalists, from Belarus to Myanmar. Violations of media freedoms are growing around the world at what I feel is an alarming rate.

I welcome the unequivocal stance of the US and the whole G7 on safeguarding those vital democratic bulwarks in our media freedoms.

As co-chair of the global Media Freedom Coalition, the UK is working with our partners so that we shine a light on the violations and we hold those to account. We support journalists who are trying to shine a light on those abuses around the world, and we try and reverse what is otherwise a dangerous trend.

This cuts to the core of the values and the interests that the G7 represents right around the world – and it shows once again why it's so important for us to meet together this week.

Now, let me hand over to Tony. Tony thanks for being here, thanks for our valuable discussions today and we look forward to welcoming President Biden to the UK in June. And I am looking forward to a productive G7 meeting this week.

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## **[Readout – Foreign Secretary meeting with US Secretary of State Blinken, 3 May 2021](#)**

Press release

Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab met US Secretary of State Antony Blinken ahead of the G7 Foreign and Development Ministerial Meeting.



A Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office spokesperson said:

Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab hosted US Secretary of State Antony Blinken at 1 Carlton Gardens ahead of this week's G7 Foreign Ministers meeting. They held a discussion on foreign policy priorities and opportunities to strengthen the UK-US friendship.

Discussions included UK-US shared commitment to open societies, a strengthened multilateral system, efforts to build back better from Covid-19, including through the COVAX facility and a UK-US FTA, and the need to stand together against the continuing malign and destabilising behaviour of Russia. The Foreign Secretary outlined UK priorities in the Indo-Pacific, including the need to hold China to account on Xinjiang and Hong Kong. They also discussed latest developments in Afghanistan, Iran and Ethiopia.

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## [VMD online services now back online – updated 4 May](#)

News story

Web services, such as the Special Imports System and Adverse Event Reporting are now back online.



The following online application services are now available:

In urgent cases where the VMD have previously issued a certificate, you may purchase and use an imported veterinary medicine prior to obtaining a certificate from the VMD. This is a special dispensation which only applies to the VMD online system while the system is unavailable. You should obtain an import certificate retrospectively as soon as possible.

The following online information services are also unavailable:

- [Product Information Database](#)
- Register of SQP Retailer Premises
- Register of SQPs
- List of Accredited Internet Retailers
- Register of Specific Manufacturing Authorisations

The VMD apologises for any inconvenience.

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Last updated 4 May 2021 [+ show all updates](#)

1. 4 May 2021

VMD web services are now back up and running.

2. 3 May 2021

First published.

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## [UK and Japan agree strengthened trade and security partnership ahead of G7 meeting](#)

Press release

Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab met his Japanese counterpart Toshimitsu Motegi ahead of the G7 Foreign and Development Ministers' meeting.



Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab held talks today at Chevening House with Japan's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Toshimitsu Motegi ahead of the G7 Foreign and Development Ministers' meeting.

The two Foreign Ministers discussed the UK's application to join the CPTPP trade grouping and the Foreign Secretary thanked Minister Motegi for Japan's support.

Speaking after the meeting, Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said:

I was delighted to host Toshimitsu Motegi in Chevening today for productive discussions about our strategic partnership. The depth of the UK-Japan relationship is based around a shared outlook on democracy, free trade, tackling climate change, and security collaboration.

In my talks with Foreign Minister Motegi we discussed Japanese support for the UK's application to join CPTPP, tackling climate change and COVID-19 and the UK's commitment for the Indo-Pacific which will be boosted further by the visit of the Carrier Strike Group later this year.

The UK and Japan also agreed the basis for deepening further trade and security cooperation. The UK's Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy (published in March) outlines a new focus on the Indo-Pacific region. Both sides recognised the Integrated Review's alignment with Japan's flagship foreign policy strategy, the Free and Open Indo-Pacific vision.

The Foreign Ministers also explored opportunities for increased collaboration in areas of shared interest and where the two countries can share expertise such as economic security, advanced technologies, health and science.

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