



UK Health
Security
Agency

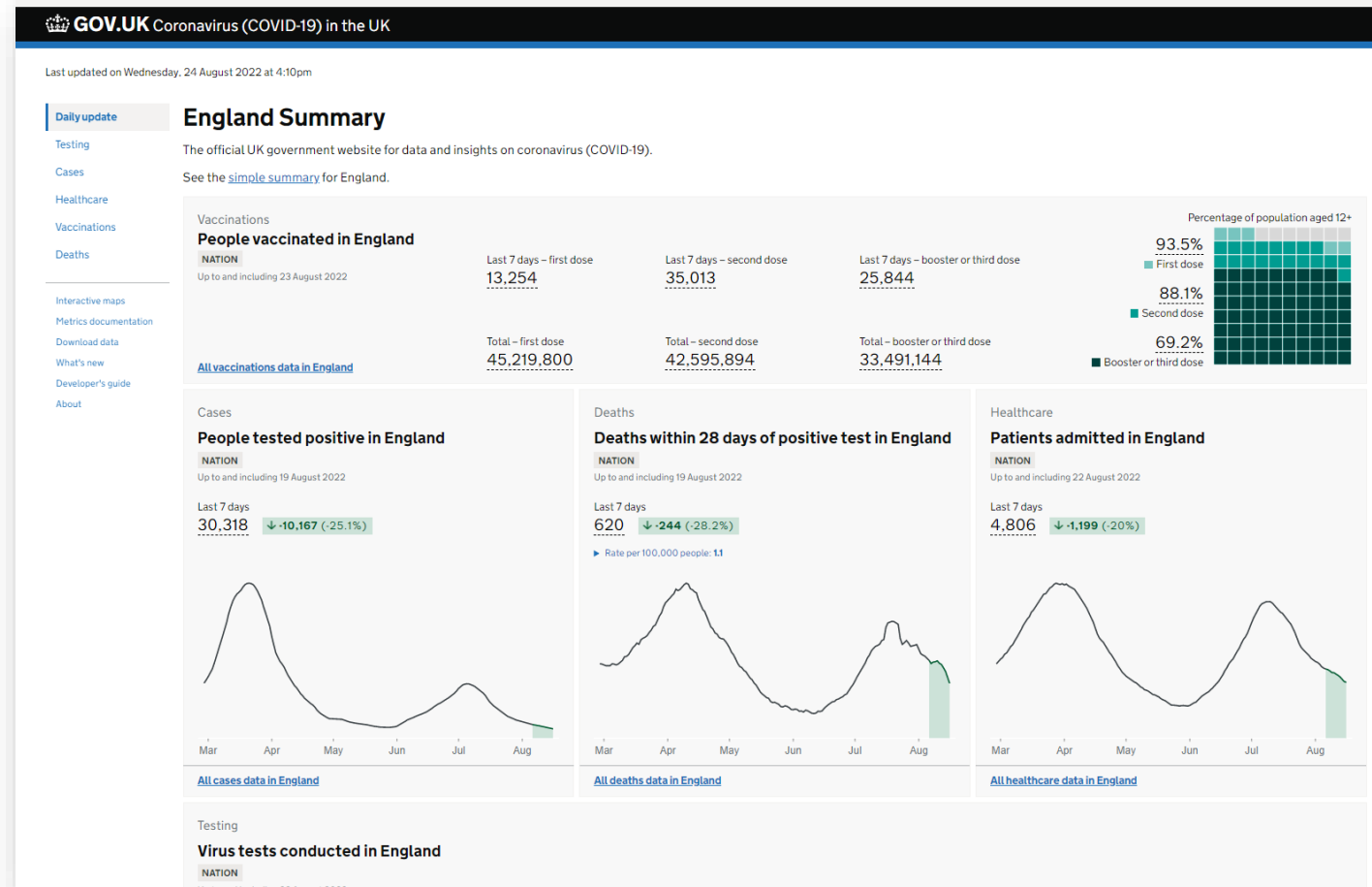
Demonstrating the value of the COVID-19 Dashboard through the Code of Practice for Statistics

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The COVID-19 Dashboard

- The official UK government website for data on COVID-19
- Data delivered at pace, previously 7 days per week
- As of 01 July 2022 updated weekly on Wednesdays at 16:00
- Changed in line with 'Living with COVID-19' strategy



<https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/>

Voluntary application of the Code

Dashboard not formally badged as Official Statistics for various reasons, such as:

- Need for speedy turnover
- Ministerial involvement in decision making

But meets many of the official statistics criteria, so we [voluntarily apply](#) the Code of Practice for Statistics.



Our statistics meet the 3 'pillars' of the Code:

1. they have public **value**
2. they are high **quality**
3. they are **trustworthy**



Trustworthiness is a product of the people, systems and processes within organisations that enable and support the production of statistics and data.



Quality means that statistics fit their intended uses, are based on appropriate data and methods, and are not materially misleading.



Value means that the statistics and data are useful, easy to access, remain relevant, and support understanding of important issues.

Why voluntarily apply the Code?



Voluntary application demonstrates

- commitment to transparency
- desire to increase user trust



Our published [statement of compliance](#) helps users to understand the processes involved.



Its application not only benefits users, but also helps us as producers to demonstrate what we are doing well and identify areas for improvement.



The Value Pillar

According to this pillar, statistics should

be useful

be easy to access

remain relevant

support understanding of important issues



Principles of the 'Value' pillar

The five principles of the 'Value' pillar



A well-used resource

The service in figures

- Daily users: 1.5 million
- Weekly users: 4 million
- Weekly page views: 80 million
- Daily hits: 40 million
- Daily downloads of data: 1.5 million
- Concurrent users at peak time: 200,000



Meeting user needs

- Making as much data available on the dashboard as possible, without compromising quality or confidentiality
- Timely
- Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) and data download options allowing people to use the data for their own purposes
- Highly popular - downloads averaging around 1.3 million per day

The screenshot shows the 'GOV.UK Coronavirus (COVID-19) in the UK' dashboard. The left sidebar contains navigation links: Daily update, Testing, Cases, Healthcare, Vaccinations, Deaths, Interactive maps, Metrics documentation, Download data (highlighted), What's new, Developer's guide, and About. The main content area is titled 'Download data' and includes instructions on how to download the data. It features several form fields: 'Area type' (set to 'United Kingdom'), 'Area name' (set to 'Select area'), 'Metrics' (set to 'Select Metrics'), 'Data release date' (set to 'Latest'), and 'Data Format' (set to 'CSV'). The right sidebar contains 'Supplementary downloads' with links to various datasets and reports.

GOV.UK Coronavirus (COVID-19) in the UK

Last updated on Wednesday 24 August 2022 at 4:10pm

Download data

You may download the data by clicking on the "Download data" button, or using the permanent link. Download requests are subject to the [Fair usage policy](#).

You must select an area type and at least one metric to enable the "Download data" button and create a link. You may further choose a specific area name to reduce the data to a specific location.

Area type
Required.

United Kingdom

Area name
Optional. Leave blank to download the data for all locations in your selected area type.

Select area

Metrics
Required. Select up to 5 metrics. Some metrics may not be available for your selected area type. Such metrics will still be included in the resulting document, but will not contain any data.
Records contain at least 4 additional metrics as follows: areaType, areaCode, areaName, date
Note that you can only request one metric at a time for demographics data.

Select Metrics

Data release date
Required. Note that when the "Latest" option is selected, the permanent link will always produce the data as they appear on the website — that is, the very latest release.

☒ Latest
☐ Archive

Data Format
Required. The format of the document.

☒ CSV
☐ JSON
☐ XML
☐ JSONL

Supplementary downloads

Population dataset - excluding MSOAs
[Latest ONS estimates](#)

Weekly cases by specimen date at MSOA level - Select MSOA from "Area type"

Age demographic of cases by specimen date [Unavailable]

Equivalent downloads for age demographic of cases by specimen date file(s)
[ITLA](#) [UTLA](#) [Region](#) [England](#)

Age demographic of cases by reporting date [Deprecated - files not updated after 23 December 2020]
[CSV \(unstacked\)](#) [CSV \(stacked\)](#)

Legacy download of cases from the previous version of the dashboard [Unavailable]

Equivalent downloads for legacy cases file
[ITLA](#) [UTLA](#) [Region](#) [Nation](#)

Accessible to all - principles

Making the dashboard accessible to as many users as possible

Simple to use, helping anyone to navigate the data and visualise trends over time and across geographic regions

One size doesn't fit all

Accessibility is not only for people with visual impairment

Making a service accessible should not make it less useful to other users

Accessible to all - practice

Data presented in variety of ways to suit different users and help aid understanding:

- visualisations, including graphs, maps (choropleths), and arrows to indicate trends
- simple headline figures in web and PDF formats
- full data tables
- data downloads in 4 different formats (CSV, JSON, JSONL, and XML)
- multiple Application Programming Interfaces (APIs)
- supplementary downloads, such as population denominators

Data and metadata presented at the greatest level of detail possible for those who need it, and simpler overviews for users who need less detail, with explanations in plain English.

Vaccinations

People vaccinated in England

NATION

Up to and including 23 August 2022

Last 7 days – first dose

13,254

Last 7 days – second dose

35,013

Last 7 days – booster or third dose

25,844

Total – first dose

45,219,800

Total – second dose

42,595,894

Total – booster or third dose

33,491,144

Percentage of population aged 12+

93.5%

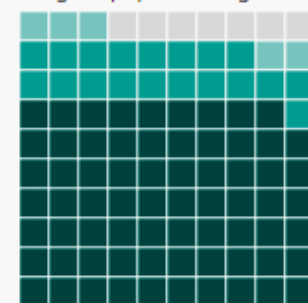
First dose

88.1%

Second dose

69.2%

Booster or third dose



[All vaccinations data in England](#)

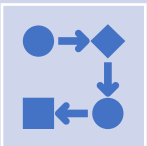
Legally compliant



Commissioned an **accessibility audit** in July 2020 and provide a full [accessibility statement](#) on the dashboard



Continually seek to improve functionality and make sure we comply with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines version 2.1 AA standard



Non-compliances are listed for transparency, and, where possible, explain how we will fix these or why we don't comply



User centred

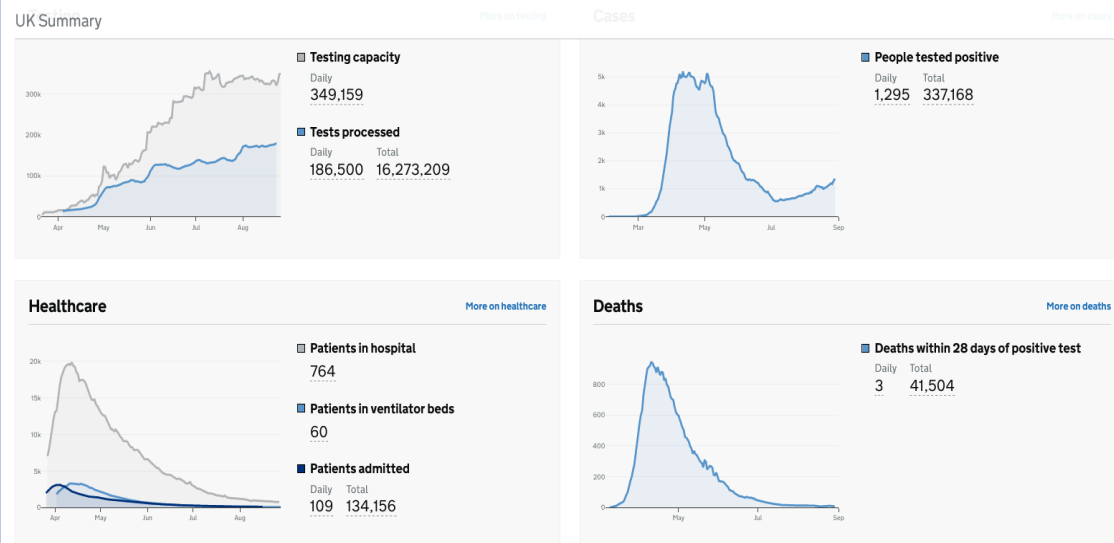
We aim to provide the most reliable statistics and ensure the best user experience possible. User feedback helps us develop and improve the dashboard. We collect this via:

- individual research sessions, with over 100 conducted to date
- emails to our feedback mailbox, which is monitored daily and receives many hundreds of email each week (around 25,000 analysed over the pandemic)
- a programme of regular user surveys. The latest had over 38,000 responses.
- analytics, for example, to find out which parts of the site are most popular
- Feedback helps us to improve data presentation to make sure it is easy to understand and meets the needs of different users.

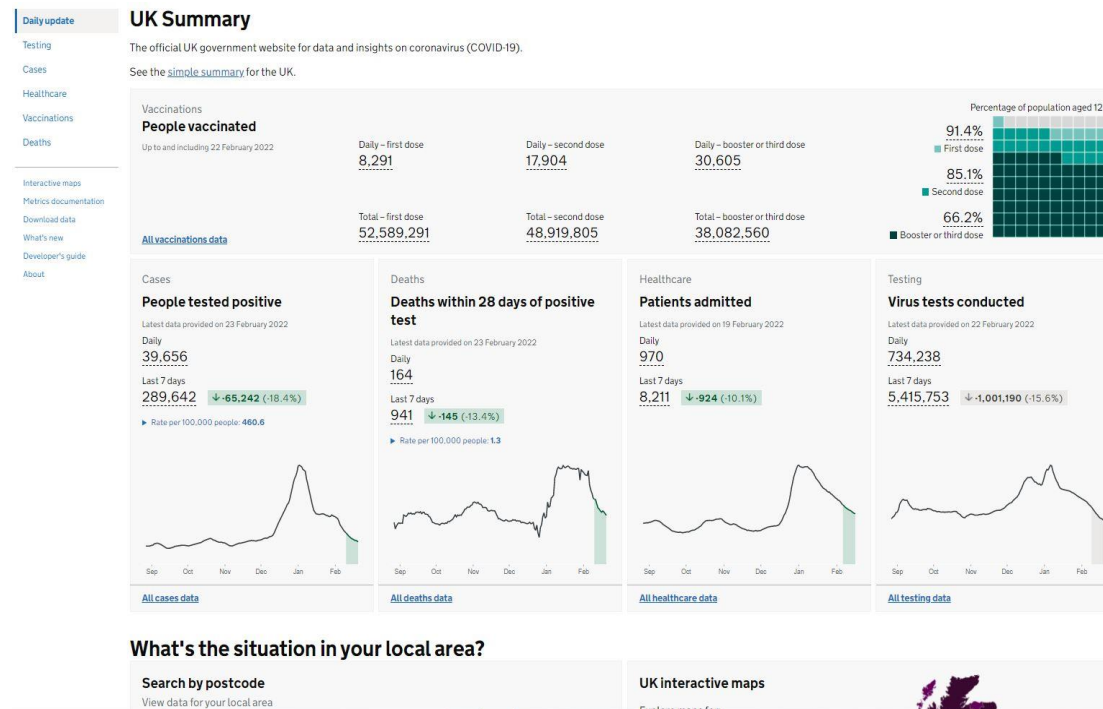
An evolving resource

Constantly reassessing our data and design in response to shifting requirements.

Aug 2020: Tests prominent, no postcode search for local data, figures for whole pandemic, no indication of direction of trend.



Feb 2022: Vaccinations prominent, postcode search for local data added, tests moved down the page, trends added: shown with figures, arrows and colour



Open and transparent

- We are open and transparent about dashboard developments and any issues that occur. You can find details on the latest updates, changes and data issues on the [‘What’s new’](#) pages. Some of the more recent additions to the dashboard are:
 - virus tests (all virus tests and lab-based virus tests) by specimen date added for England plus regions and local authorities
 - age breakdowns and local data added for booster or 3rd dose vaccinations
 - new metrics documentation page listing all current and historical metrics (searchable by name, category, type or availability by area type)
- We strive to make our work ‘low burden, high benefit’. Use existing datasets and add value to collections stood up for COVID (for example, hospital data) by reusing the data and presenting it to the public. We use leading edge technology and reproducible analytical pipelines from numerous data sources.

Open data – advantages and disadvantages

Advantages

- Helps people understand government decisions
- Accessible to millions
- Justifies decisions
- Improves trust
- We can't do it all
- *Rapid identification of mistakes*
- *Ever growing demand for data*

Disadvantages

- Room for misinterpretation
- Pressure to publish as soon as possible
- Limited time for QA
- No room for delays
- *Rapid identification of mistakes*
- *Ever growing demand for data*

Award Winning!

Winners

- Award for Statistical Excellence in Trustworthiness, Quality and Value 2022
- OutcomeDataIQ award in the "Data for society" category
- PHEnomenal Awards Team award for 'communication'

Shortlisted

- Champion 2022
- Champion 2021

Nominations

- Best use of Data and Technology Award - Innovative category of the 2022 Civil Service Awards



Future direction...

- As the Dashboard evolves - continue to ensure we apply the Code of Practice
- New 'Enduring Team' in place
- Continued programme of developments and improvements
 - Variants
 - Autumn boosters
- Build on lessons learned



Acknowledgements

Thanks to the many people and organisations that have contributed to the service

Current and former members of the Coronavirus dashboard team

UKHSA / Public Health England / NHS Test and Trace

NHS England

NHS Arden & GEM Commissioning Support Unit

Department of Health and Social Care

National statistics organisations

Devolved administrations

Palantir

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Thank you

Questions?

