

Statistical bulletin

Coronavirus and the social impacts on Great Britain: 27 August 2021

Indicators from the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey covering the period 18 to 22 August 2021 to understand the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on people, households and communities in Great Britain.

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Release date:
27 August 2021

Next release:
10 September 2021

Notice

27 August 2021

Change in publication frequency

From September, this release is moving to a fortnightly publication, meaning our next release will be on Friday 10th September. Further information can be found in Section 3: Measuring the data.

Table of contents

1. [Main points](#)
2. [Social impacts on Great Britain data](#)
3. [Measuring the data](#)
4. [Related links](#)

1 . Main points

This week, over the period 18 to 22 August 2021, based on adults in Great Britain:

- The proportion of adults reporting to wear face coverings when outside their home (90%) was similar to last week (89%), as was the proportion of adults who always or often maintain social distancing (45% this week, 46% last week).
- A high proportion of adults still felt that measures to slow the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) were either very important or important; the measures included wearing a face covering (88% this week, 86% last week) and socially distancing from others not in their household (86% this week, 84% last week).
- The proportion of adults that reported self-isolating in the last seven days remained relatively stable (4% this week, 3% last week).
- The main reasons adults self-isolated in the last seven days were because of testing positive for COVID-19 (28%), being in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 (22%) and being notified by the NHS app to self-isolate (18%).
- The proportion of adults meeting up indoors (68%) and outdoors (65%) with others outside their household in the past seven days was higher than before the introduction of step four guidance in England (47% indoors, 58% outdoors, in the period 14 to 18 July), although was relatively stable in the latest week (69% and 67% last week respectively).
- Personal well-being measures remained stable compared with last week, with life satisfaction (7.1), feeling that the things done in life are worthwhile (7.3), happiness (7.1), and anxiety (3.8) all remaining unchanged from the previous week.
- Following a gradual decline since mid-July (57% in the period 14 to 18 July), the proportion of adults that felt very or somewhat worried about the effect of COVID-19 on their life right appears to have stabilised (48% this week, 46% last week).

This week we looked at the attitudes of adults who have had two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine towards a vaccine booster:

- Over 9 in 10 (94%) people who have received two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine would be very or fairly likely to have a booster vaccine if offered; 1 in 50 (2%) were very or fairly unlikely to do so.
- The main reasons among those who reported they were unlikely to have a booster COVID-19 vaccine were thinking the first and second vaccine will be enough to keep them safe (58%), not thinking the booster jab will offer any extra protection (37%) and being worried about the long-term effects on health (36%).¹

The latest week's estimates are based on data collected after the announcement of changes to the 10-day self-isolation rule from 16 August 2021. However, many of our questions on self-isolation relate to the previous seven days and will include responses that refer to the week preceding the change in rules. Data were collected after restrictions were lifted with step four of the roadmap in England on 19 July 2021, and after Wales and Scotland removed most legal restrictions on 7 and 9 August 2021 respectively.

Notes for: Main points

1. Please note these estimates are based on a small sample size and so should be interpreted with caution.

2 . Social impacts on Great Britain data

[Coronavirus and the social impacts on Great Britain](#)

Dataset | Released 27 August 2021

Indicators from the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (OPN) to understand the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on people, households and communities in Great Britain. Includes breakdowns by age, sex and region.

[Coronavirus and the social impacts on Great Britain: attitudes towards compliance behaviours](#)

Dataset | Released 27 August 2021

Data on adult's perception of the importance of compliance behaviours (hand washing or sanitising, social distancing, face coverings and ventilation) to slow the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) and actions taken during home visits. Data from the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey, collection between 18 and 22 August 2021.

[Coronavirus and the social impacts on Great Britain: self-isolation](#)

Dataset | Released 27 August 2021

Data from the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey on weekly estimates of the proportion of adults self-isolating due to coronavirus (COVID-19) since January 2021, and reasons for self-isolating in the latest period (18 to 22 August 2021).

[Coronavirus and the social impacts on Great Britain: attitudes to the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccine booster and winter flu jabs](#)

Dataset | Released 27 August 2021

Data from the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (OPN) on the attitudes to the coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine booster and winter flu jabs, covering the period 18 to 22 August 2021.

3 . Measuring the data

This release contains data and indicators from a module being undertaken through the Office for National Statistics' (ONS') Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (OPN) to understand the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on British society.

Breakdowns by age, sex, region and country, including [confidence intervals](#) for the estimates, are contained in the [Coronavirus and the social impacts on Great Britain dataset](#).

Where changes in results from previous weeks are presented in this bulletin, associated confidence intervals should be used to assess the [statistical significance](#) of the differences.

Sampling and weighting

From the week of 4 to 8 August 2021 onwards, the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (OPN) sample size was reduced to around 5,000 households each week to help ensure the survey remains sustainable. This week, we sampled 4,921 households. These were randomly selected from those that had previously completed the Labour Market Survey (LMS) or OPN. The responding sample contained 3,189 individuals, representing a 65% response rate.

Survey weights were applied to make estimates representative of the population (based on August 2021 population estimates). Further information on the survey design and quality can be found in the [Opinions and Lifestyle Survey Quality and Methodology Information](#).

Upcoming changes

Since March 2020, the ONS has delivered a weekly Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (OPN) to help provide rapid evidence around the social impacts of COVID-19 on adults in Great Britain. As we move to a period where restrictions have been lifted across the Great Britain, the OPN will move to a fortnightly data collection. This also brings us into line with data collection on the Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICS).

The first fortnightly collection will cover the period 25 August to 5 September, and data will be published on Friday 10 September. As such, there will be no release of this publication on Friday 3 September.

4 . Related links

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) latest data and analysis](#)

Web page | Updated as data become available

Latest data and analysis on coronavirus (COVID-19) in the UK and its effects on the economy and society.

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) latest insights](#)

Web page | Updated as data become available

An interactive tool to explore the latest data and trends about the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and other sources.

[Economic activity and social change in the UK, real-time indicators: 26 August 2021](#)

Bulletin | Released 26 August 2021

Early experimental data and analysis on economic activity and social change in the UK. These faster indicators are created using rapid response surveys, novel data sources, and experimental methods.

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Infection Survey, characteristics of people testing positive for COVID-19, UK: 25 August 2021](#)

Bulletin | Released 25 August 2021

Characteristics of people testing positive for COVID-19 from the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Infection Survey. This survey is being delivered in partnership with University of Oxford, University of Manchester, Public Health England and Wellcome Trust. This study is jointly led by the ONS and the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) working with the University of Oxford and Lighthouse Laboratories to collect and test samples.

[Monthly mortality analysis, England and Wales: July 2021](#)

Bulletin | Released 23 August 2021

Provisional death registration data for England and Wales, broken down by sex, age and country. Includes deaths due to coronavirus (COVID-19) and leading causes of death.

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Infection Survey: antibody and vaccination data, UK: 19 August 2021](#)

Bulletin | Released 19 August 2021

Antibody and vaccination data by UK country and regions in England from the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Infection Survey. This analysis has been produced in partnership with the University of Oxford, the University of Manchester, Public Health England, and Wellcome Trust. This study is jointly led by the ONS and the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) working with the University of Oxford and Lighthouse Laboratories to collect and test samples.

[Coronavirus and vaccine hesitancy, Great Britain: 23 June to 18 July 2021](#)

Bulletin | Released 9 August 2021

Hesitancy towards a coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine, based on the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (OPN) covering the period 23 June to 18 July 2021. Additional analysis examines hesitancy in areas of Great Britain between 7 January to 28 March and 28 April to 18 July 2021.

[Prevalence of ongoing symptoms following coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection in the UK: 5 August 2021](#)

Bulletin | Released 5 August 2021

Estimates of the prevalence of self-reported "long COVID" and associated activity limitation, using UK Coronavirus (COVID-19) Infection Survey data.

[Coronavirus and the social impacts of "long COVID" on people's lives in Great Britain: 7 April to 13 June 2021](#)

Article | Released 21 July 2021

Indicators from the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey covering the period 7 April to 13 June 2021 to understand the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on people by their self-reported COVID-19 status.