

Statistical bulletin

Coronavirus and the social impacts on Great Britain: 20 August 2021

Indicators from the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey covering the period 11 to 15 August 2021 to understand the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on people, households and communities in Great Britain.

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1 . Main points

This week, over the period 11 to 15 August 2021, based on adults in Great Britain:

- The proportion of adults reporting to wear face coverings when outside their home (89%) was similar to last week (90%), while the percentage of adults who always or often maintain social distancing (46%) fell slightly this week (49% last week), as did the proportion of adults avoiding physical contact when outside their home (59%) when compared with last week (64%).
- A high proportion of adults still felt that measures to slow the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) were either very important or important; such as wearing a face covering (86% this week, 88% last week) and socially distancing from others not in their household (84% this week, 86% last week).
- The proportion of adults that reported self-isolating in the last seven days remained relatively stable (3% this week, 4% last week).
- The main reasons adults self-isolated in the last seven days were because of being in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 (37%), being notified by the NHS app to self-isolate (26%) and testing positive for COVID-19 (25%).
- The proportion of adults meeting up indoors with others outside their household (69%) increased compared with last week (64%), as did the proportion of adults meeting up outdoors (67% this week, 60% last week).
- Over a quarter of adults (28% this week, 27% last week) reported they felt it will take more than a year for life to return to normal, this is broadly similar to the proportions since the implementation of step 1 of the roadmap in England; 16% of adults (18% last week) reported they felt it would take six months or less.
- Personal well-being measures remained stable compared with last week, with similar levels for the feeling that the things done in life are worthwhile (7.3 this week, 7.4 last week), while all other measures for life satisfaction (7.1), anxiety (3.8) and happiness (7.1) remained unchanged from the previous week.
- The proportion of adults that feel very or somewhat worried about the effect of COVID-19 on their life right now fell slightly (46% this week, 49% last week).
- Almost 9 in 10 (87%) people would be likely or very likely to have a booster COVID-19 vaccine if offered. Younger groups are less likely to accept a booster COVID-19 vaccine (78% for those aged 16 to 29 years) compared with older groups (96% for those aged 70 years and over).

The latest week's estimates are based on data collected before the announcement of any changes to the 10 day self-isolation rule from 16 August 2021. The data collection period was after the week that Wales and Scotland removed most legal restrictions on 7 and 9 August 2021 respectively, but may include responses referring to before this period. Data were collected after restrictions were lifted with step 4 of the roadmap in England on 19 July 2021.

2 . Social impacts on Great Britain data

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

Dataset | Released 20 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 20 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 11 and 15 August 2021.

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

Dataset | Released 20 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 (11 to 15 August 2021).

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

Dataset | Released 20 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 11 to 15 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 4,989 households. These were randomly selected from those that had previously completed the Labour Market Survey (LMS) or OPN. The responding sample contained 3,130 individuals, representing a 63% 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](#).

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: 19 August 2021](#)

Bulletin | Released 19 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: 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.

[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.

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

Bulletin | Released 9 August 2021

Estimates of vaccine sentiment with breakdowns by different population groups. Analysis based on the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (OPN).