

COVID-19 Recovery Committee

**28th Meeting, 2022 (Session 6), Thursday
15 December**

COVID-19 Statistics Update

COVID-19 Cases

The Scottish Government's current advice on testing is that [most people in Scotland no longer need to test for coronavirus](#). You can still access testing if:

- you have a health condition which means you're eligible for new coronavirus treatments,
- you're applying for the self-isolation support grant,
- you work in NHS health or social care settings and have symptoms.

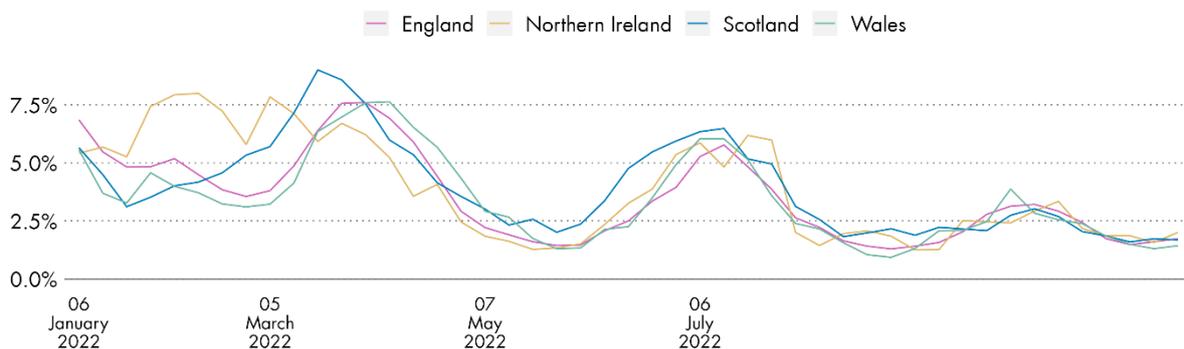
This means that while Public Health Scotland (PHS) still produces data for testing and cases across Scotland the data will not give a full picture. The most useful data for tracking COVID-19 is the [Office for National Statistics \(ONS\) Infection Survey](#).

The latest data estimates that around 1 in 60 people in Scotland are testing positive for COVID-19, or 1.68% of the population. Northern Ireland currently has the highest proportion at 2.0%, 1 in 50 people, and Wales has the lowest at 1.43%, around 1 in 70 people.

The [ONS has highlighted](#) that in the week ending 26 November 2022 the percentage of people testing positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) continued to increase in England, increased in Northern Ireland compared to the previous week, but the trend was uncertain in Wales and Scotland.

Estimated percentage of the population testing positive for COVID-19

By nation of the UK | Modelled weekly estimates



Source: ONS | Coronavirus (COVID-19) Infection Survey

The Infection Survey also provides some sub-national analysis for Scotland. This data show that Lothian has the highest rate of infection while Southern Scotland has the lowest.

Estimated percentage of the population testing positive for COVID-19

By selected local authority grouping | 2 Nov to 8 Nov 2022 | Modelled weekly estimates



Source: ONS | Coronavirus (COVID-19) Infection Survey

Hospitalisations

This section looks at the number of admissions to hospital and ICU in Scotland. These are defined as follows:

- A patient who has tested positive for COVID-19 at any time in the 21 days prior to admission to ICU or have tested positive from the date of admission up to and including the date of ICU discharge.
- COVID-19 admissions have been identified as the following: A patient's first positive PCR test for COVID-19 up to 14 days prior to admission to hospital, on the day of their admission or during their stay in hospital. If a patient's first

positive PCR test is after their date of discharge from hospital, they are not included in the analysis.

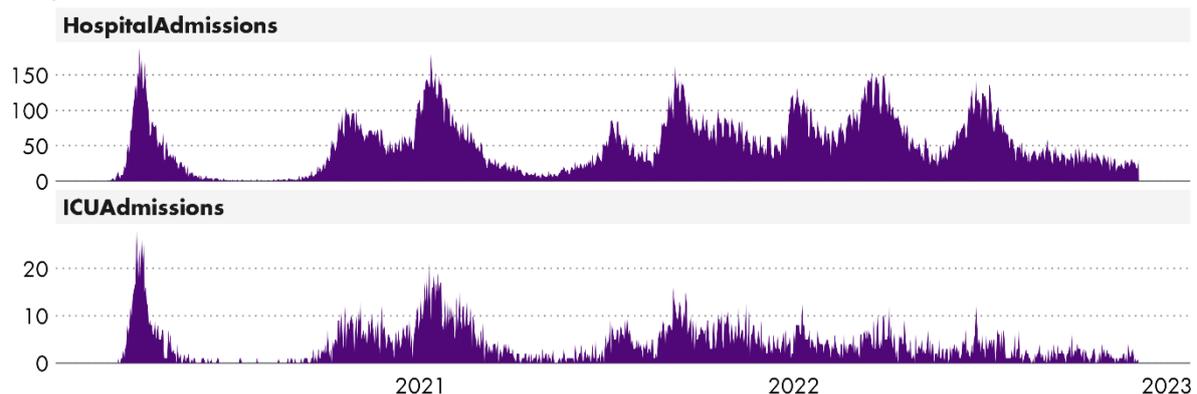
The number of reported acute hospitalisations does not take into account the reason for hospitalisation. Therefore, people that were admitted for a non-COVID-19 related reason (and tested positive upon admission) may be included and result in an overestimation of COVID-19 related acute hospitalisations.

So far in December 2022 there has been on average 22.5 daily hospitalisation compared to 24.8 in November and 33.1 in October. This is well below the highest in 2022 which was an average of 119 daily admissions in March, which was also not far off the highest average daily admission in January 2021 of 122.7.

When looking at ICU admissions, so far in December there were on average 0.5 daily admissions compared to 1.4 November and 1.8 in October. This is well below the daily average in January of 5.5 which was the highest in 2022 and well below January 2021 which is the highest since the start of the pandemic at an average of 13.3 daily admissions.

Hospital and ICU admissions in Scotland

Daily admission numbers



Source: Public Health Scotland

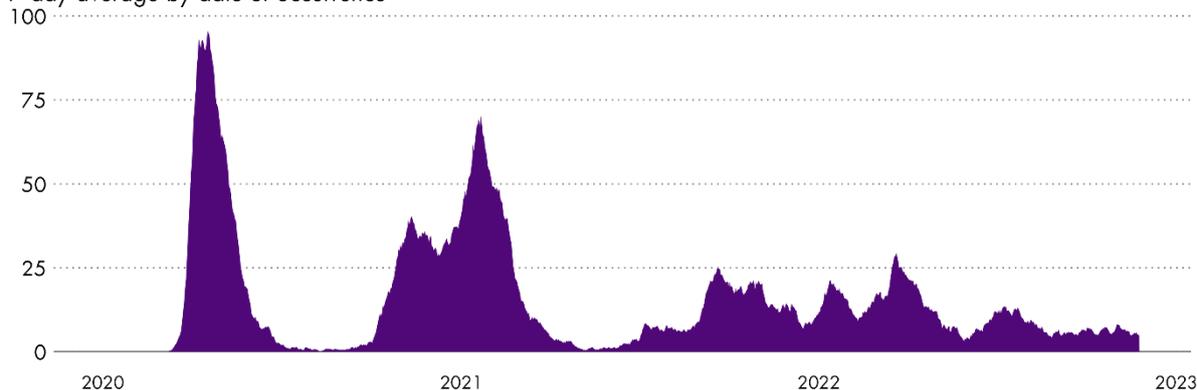
COVID-19 deaths

We have used the data from the [Deaths involving coronavirus \(COVID-19\) in Scotland](#) from the National Records of Scotland (NRS) where the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) was mentioned on the death certificate.

In November there has been on average 6.1 daily deaths, based on date of occurrence. In 2022 the peak was 21.8 in March, well below the peak of 95.6 on 17 April 2020.

Deaths involving COVID-19 in Scotland

7 day average by date of occurrence



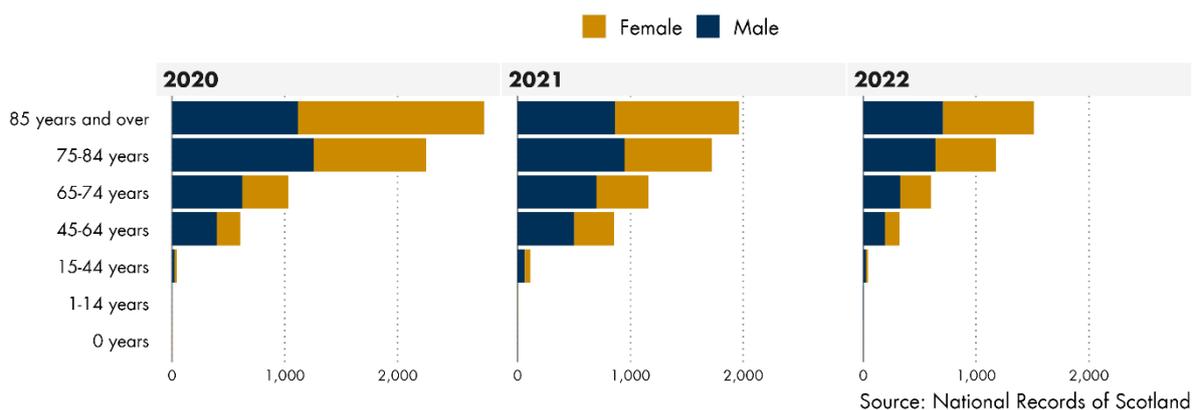
Source: National Records of Scotland

Deaths by age and sex

Those aged 65 and over have accounted for 88% of the total deaths where COVID-19 has been mentioned on the death certificate. So far in 2022 they have accounted for 90%.

When looking at all deaths since the start of the pandemic overall, men account for 52% of total deaths where COVID-19 has been mentioned on the death certificate. In the 65 and over age group there has been 175, or 2.5%, more men than women who had COVID-19 mentioned on the death certificate. For the under 65 age group, there was 422 (54%) more men than women who had COVID-19 mentioned on the death certificate.

Deaths involving COVID-19 in Scotland by age and sex



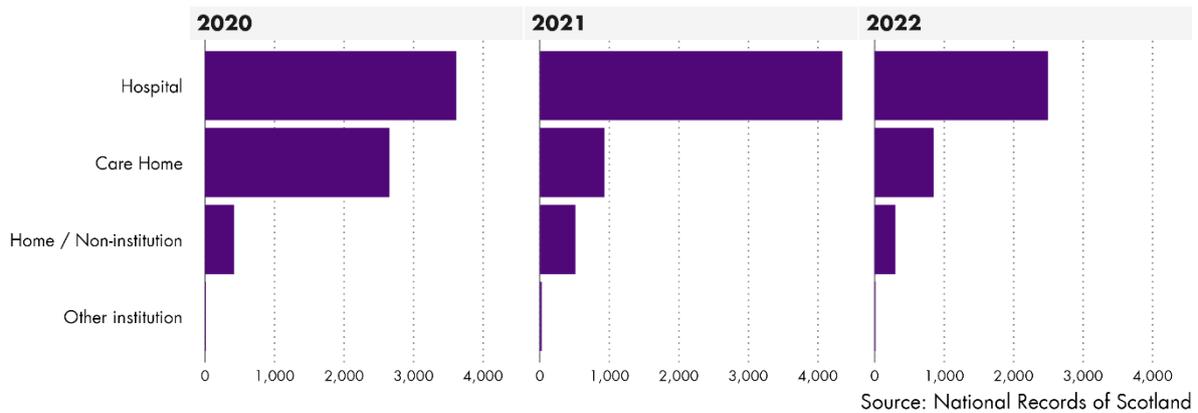
Source: National Records of Scotland

Deaths by location

Overall, 65% of deaths where COVID-19 has been mentioned on the death certificate have occurred in hospital. Of the remainder, 27% occurred in care homes, 8% at home and less than 1% in other institutions, such as prisons.

In 2020, 40% of deaths were in care homes, this fell to 16% in 2021 but now sits at 24% in 2022. In 2020, just over half of deaths were in hospital compared to 75% in 2021 and 68% in 2022.

Deaths involving COVID-19 in Scotland by location



Vaccinations

The Scottish Government is currently undertaking an Autumn/Winter COVID-19 booster programme. This means a further booster vaccination will be offered to those at highest risk of severe COVID-19 disease from September, in line with other nations in the UK.

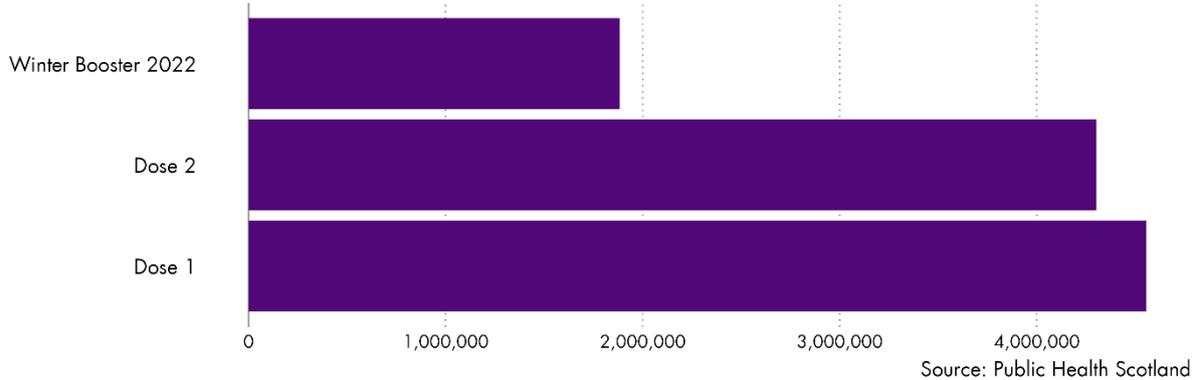
Following final advice on the autumn/winter booster programme from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI), the following groups will be offered an additional dose in a community clinic:

- residents in a care home for older adults and staff working in care homes for older adults
- frontline health and social care workers
- all adults aged 50 years and over
- those aged 5 to 49 years in a clinical risk group, including pregnant women
- those aged 5 to 49 years who are household contacts of people with immunosuppression
- carers aged 16-49 years

As of 4 December, 1,883,808 winter boosters have been administered.

Number of people who have received a vaccination by dose

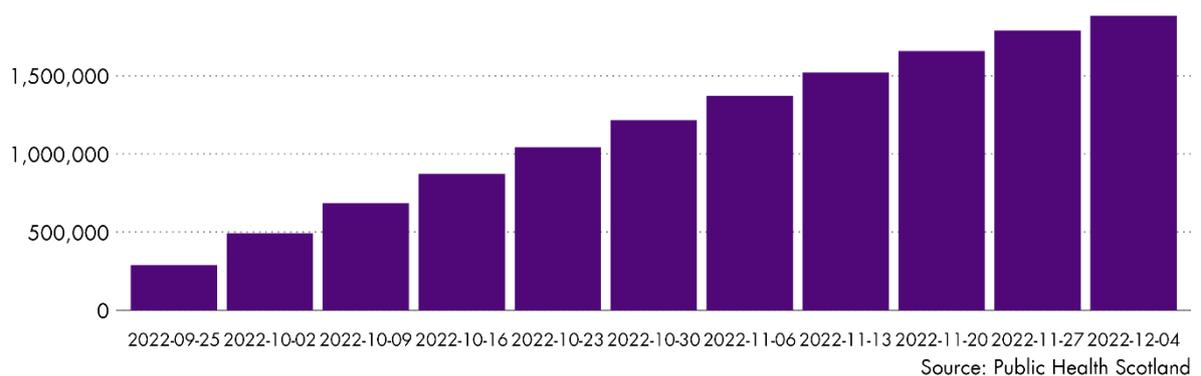
As at 4 December 2022



The Scottish Government are currently administering on average around 160,000 boosters per week. Although this has dropped from 204,000 to 94,000 between the week ending 2 October and the week ending 4 December.

Cumulative number of people who have received a Winter Booster 2022 by JCVI priority group

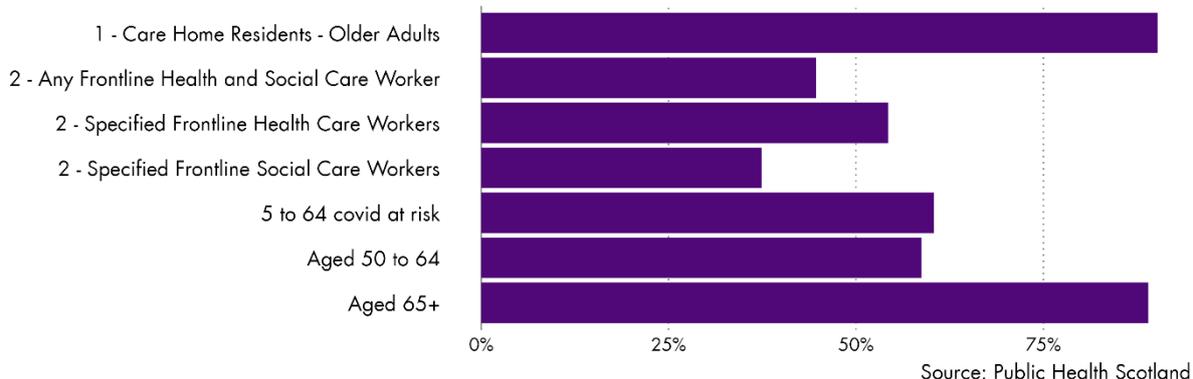
As at 4 December 2022



The latest data shows that over 90% of older adults in care homes have received their winter booster. While around 60% of at-risk 5 to 64 year olds have received their booster. Specified Frontline Social Care Workers has the lowest coverage at 37%.

Proportion of population who have received a Winter Booster 2022 by JCVI priority group

As at 4 December 2022



Other sources

- Public Health Scotland Open data: <https://www.opendata.nhs.scot/>
- Public Health Scotland Weekly COVID-19 statistical report: <https://publichealthscotland.scot/publications/show-all-releases?id=20580>
- Public Health Scotland Daily Dashboard: https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/phs.covid.19/viz/COVID-19DailyDashboard_15960160643010/Overview

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Date 12/12/2022

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