

## **COVID-19 Recovery Committee**

**10th Meeting, 2023 (Session 6), Thursday  
27 April**

## **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.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) published their final COVID-19 Infection Survey report on 24 March 2023 therefore there will be no more prevalence data.

In their [Weekly national respiratory and COVID-19 surveillance report](#) Public Health Scotland (PHS) highlight that COVID-19 surveillance will use a range of other indicators including wastewater concentration levels, reported COVID-19 cases (PCR/LFD) and hospital activity. This data can be followed on the [COVID-19 & Respiratory Surveillance in Scotland dashboard](#).

### **COVID-19 Infection Survey**

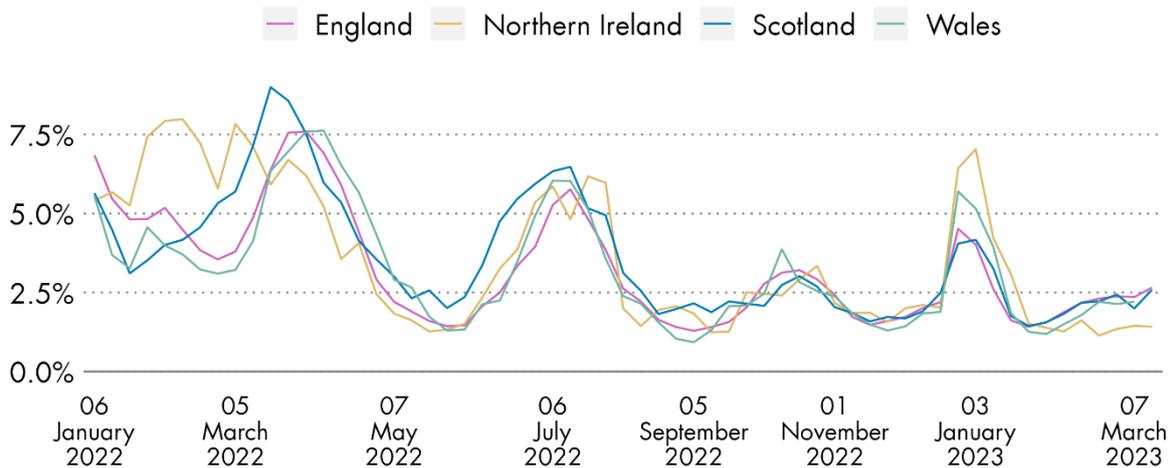
The final COVID-19 Infection Survey report was published on 24 March 2023. We have included the data from this publication as it provides useful insight on historic infection rates.

The final data estimates that for the week ending 13 March 2023 around 1 in 40 people in Scotland are testing positive for COVID-19, or 2.59% of the population. England currently has the highest proportion at 2.66%, around 1 in 40 people, and Northern Ireland has the lowest at 1.42%, around 1 in 70 people.

The [ONS has highlighted](#) that the estimated percentage of people testing positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) increased from the previous week in England, and the trends were uncertain in Wales, Northern Ireland 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

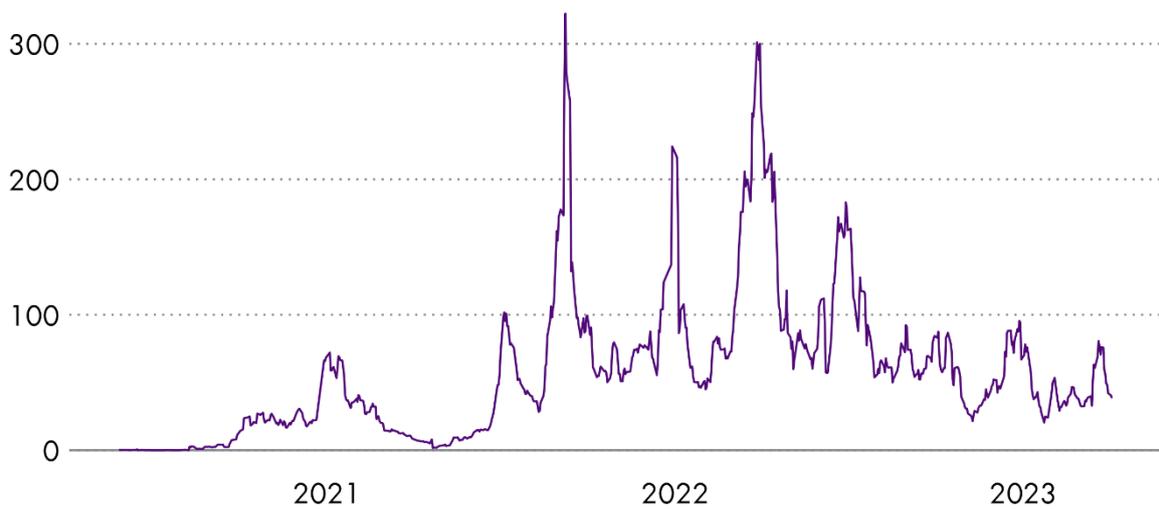
## Wastewater

COVID-19 outbreaks and general trends can be estimated by measuring concentrations of the virus in wastewater. Sewage samples are taken from sample sites across Scotland and used to calculate the number of COVID-19 markers, reported as 'million gene copies per person per day' (Mgc/p/d). Samples are representative of wastewater from between 70-80% of the Scottish population. Data are adjusted for population and environmental factors such as flow through the sewage works, which is affected by rainfall.

Nationwide, during the period 22 March 2023 to 04 April 2023 wastewater COVID-19 levels were in the range of 38 to 76 million gene copies per person per day (Mgc/p/d), compared to the previous two weeks of data (33 to 81 Mgc/p/d during 08 March 2023 to 21 March 2023). The data that after a small peak in the second half of March 2023 levels have decreased again.

## Seven day average trend in wastewater COVID-19

Number of COVID markers reported as million gene copies per litre (Mgc/p/d).



Source: Biomathematics and Statistics Scotland (BioSS)

## 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.

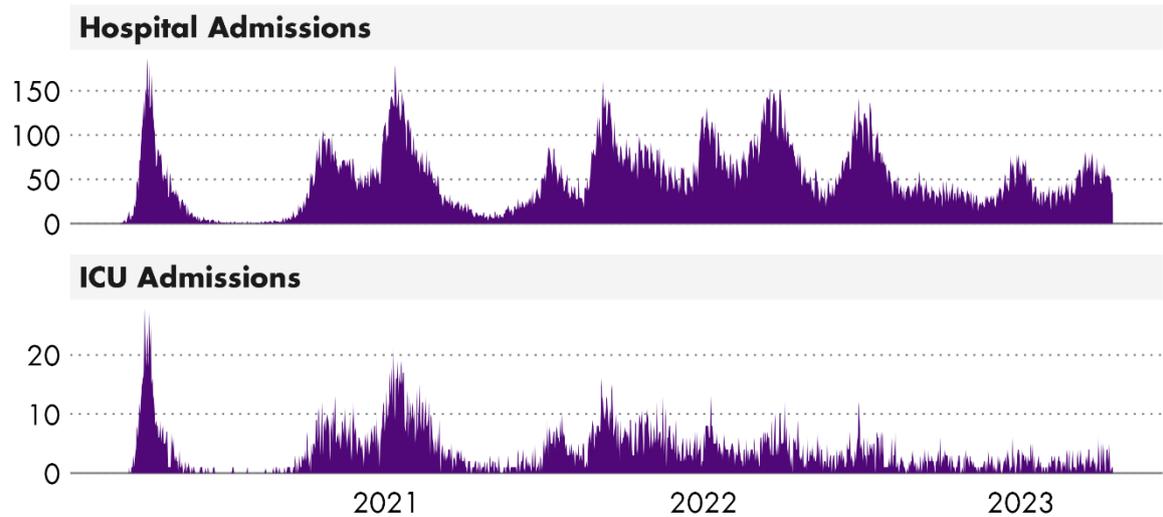
The number of reported acute hospitalisations does not take into account the reason for hospitalisation. Therefore, people that were admitted for a non-COVID-19 related reason (and tested positive upon admission) may be included and result in an overestimation of COVID-19 related acute hospitalisations.

**Hospitalisation:** So far in April 2023 there were on average 51 daily hospitalisations compared to 57 in March 2023. This is well below the highest daily average of 123 daily admissions in January 2022.

**ICU admissions:** So far in April 2023 there were on average 2 daily hospitalisations compared to 2 in March 2023. This is well below the highest daily average of 13 daily admissions in January 2022.

# Hospital and ICU admissions in Scotland

Daily admission numbers



Source: Public Health Scotland

## COVID-19 deaths

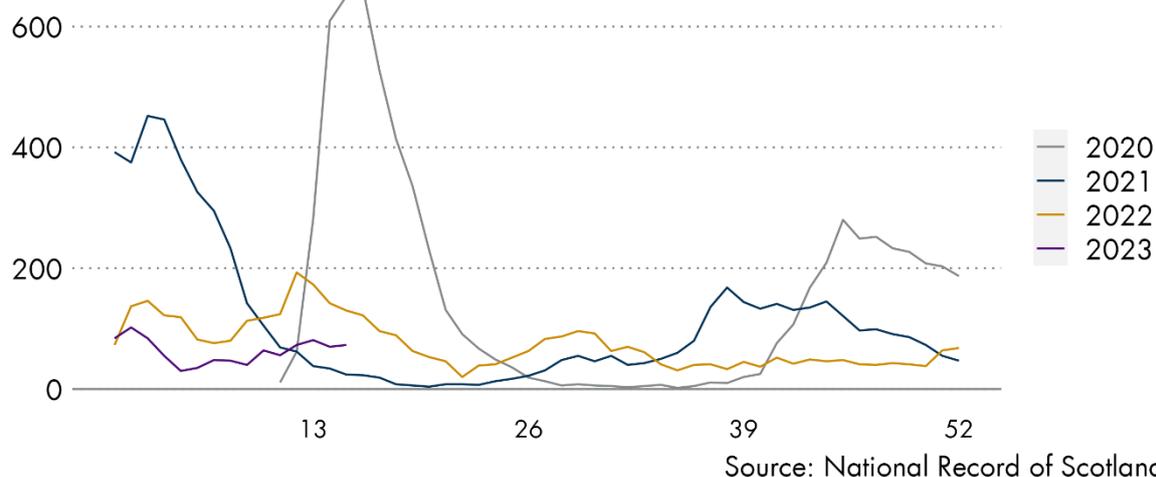
We have used the data from the [Deaths involving coronavirus \(COVID-19\) in Scotland](#) from the National Records of Scotland (NRS) where the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) was mentioned on the death certificate.

Since the start of the pandemic there have been 17,366 deaths in Scotland where COVID-19 was mentioned on the death certificate.

- 6,702 in 2020
- 5,818 in 2021
- 3,904 in 2022
- 942 so far in 2023

## Weekly deaths involving COVID-19 by week of the year

Based on the date of the registration of death

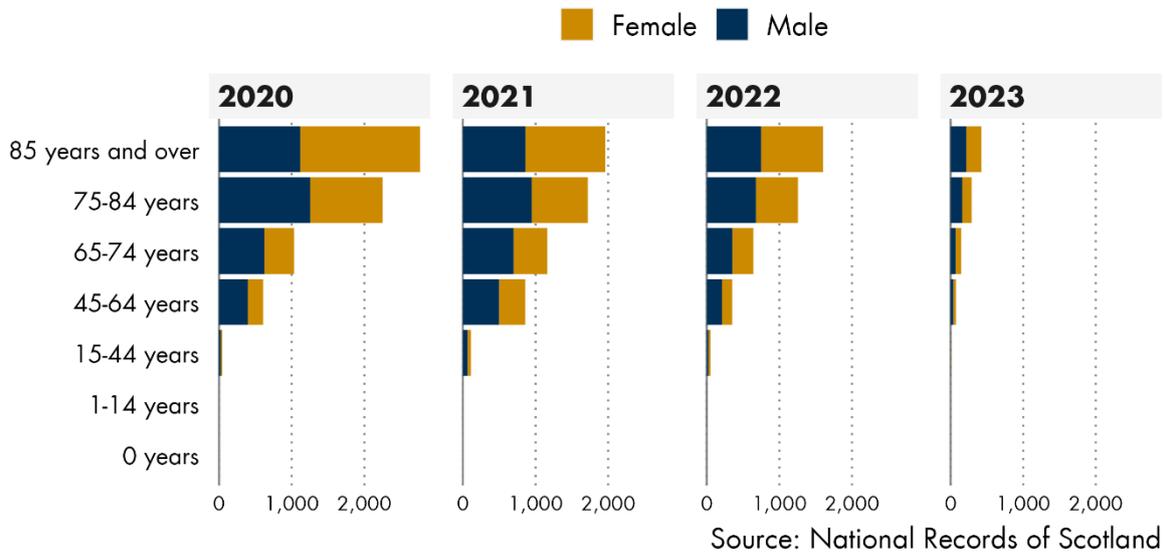


## Deaths by age and sex

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 2023 over 65s have accounted for 92% of such deaths.

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 210, or 2.8%, more men than women who had COVID-19 mentioned on the death certificate. For the under 65 age group, there was 430 (51%) more men than women who had COVID-19 mentioned on the death certificate.

## Deaths involving COVID-19 in Scotland by age and sex



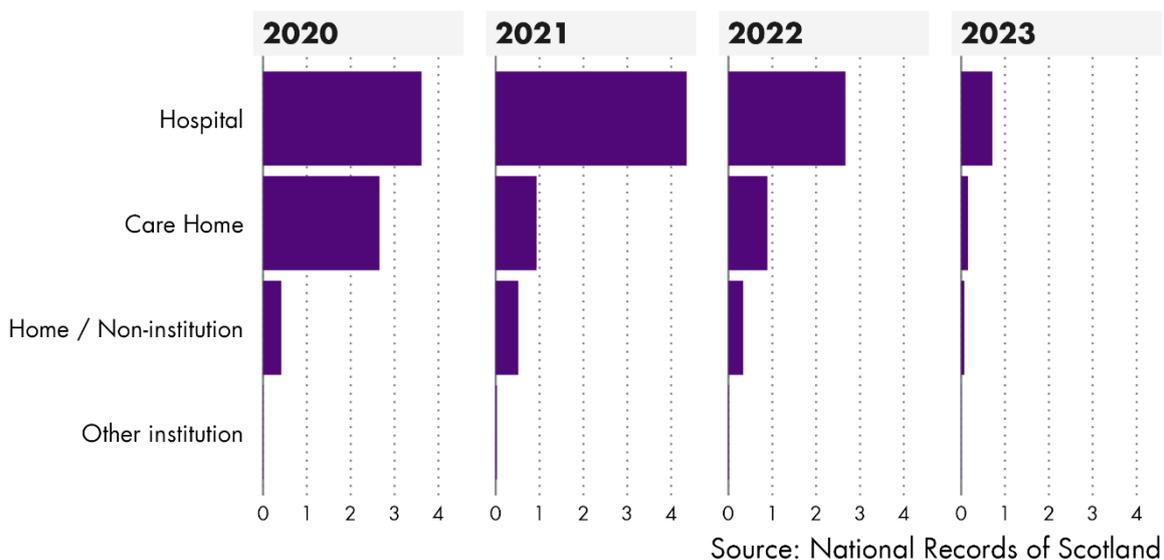
## Deaths by location

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 then increased to 23% in 2022. So far in 2023 17% of deaths have been in care homes. In 2020, 54% of deaths were in hospital compared to 75% in 2021 and 69% in 2022. So far in 2023 the figure sits at 76%.

## Deaths involving COVID-19 in Scotland by location

Thousands ('000)



# 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 2022, in line with other nations in the UK.

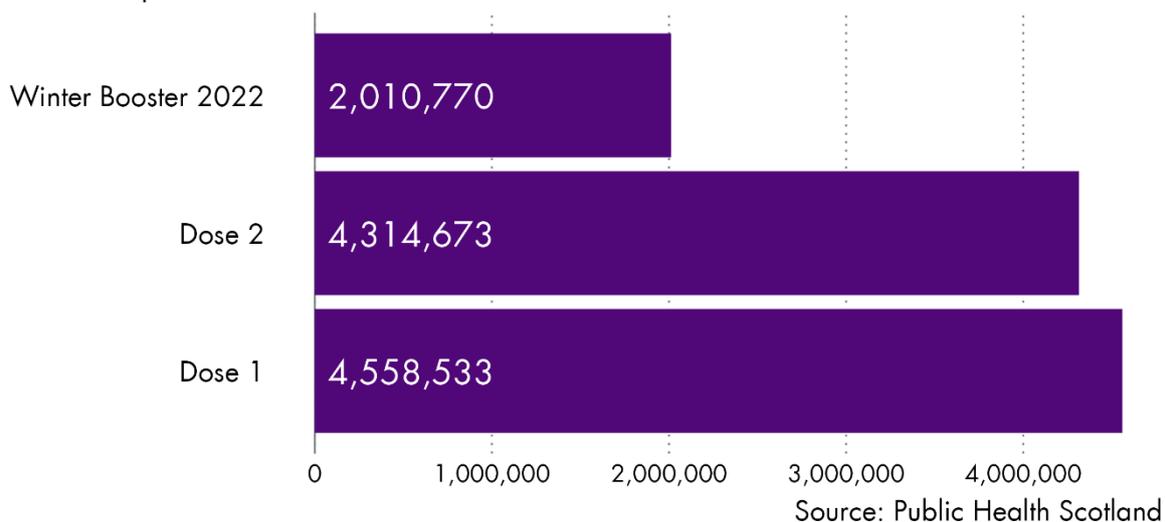
Following final advice on the autumn/winter booster programme from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI), the following groups will be offered an additional dose in a community clinic:

- 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 2 April, 2,010,770 winter boosters have been administered.

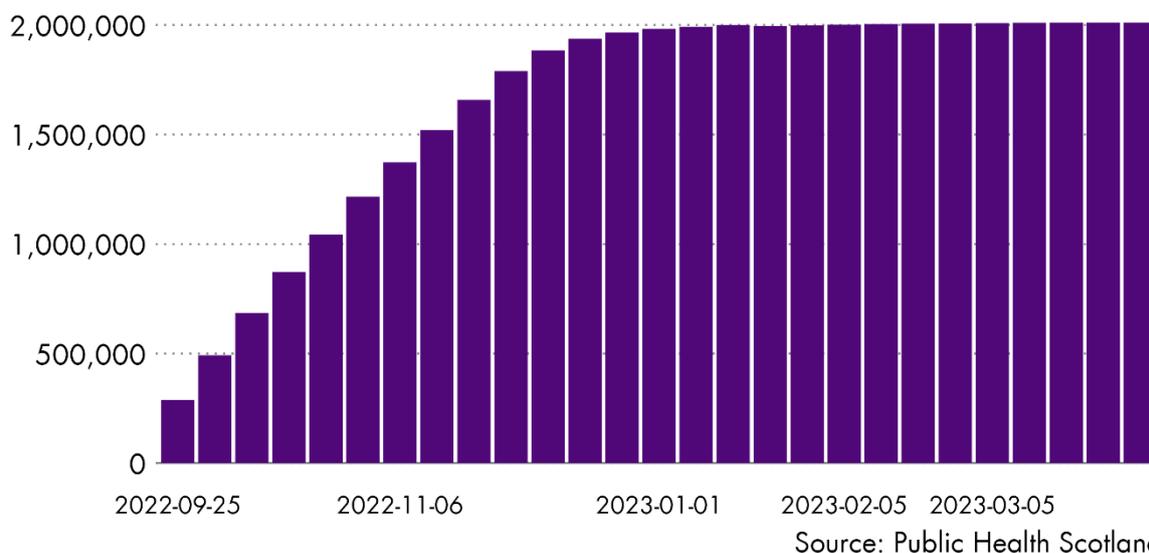
## Number of people who have received a vaccination by dose

As at 2 April 2023



The number of vaccines being administered has slowed.

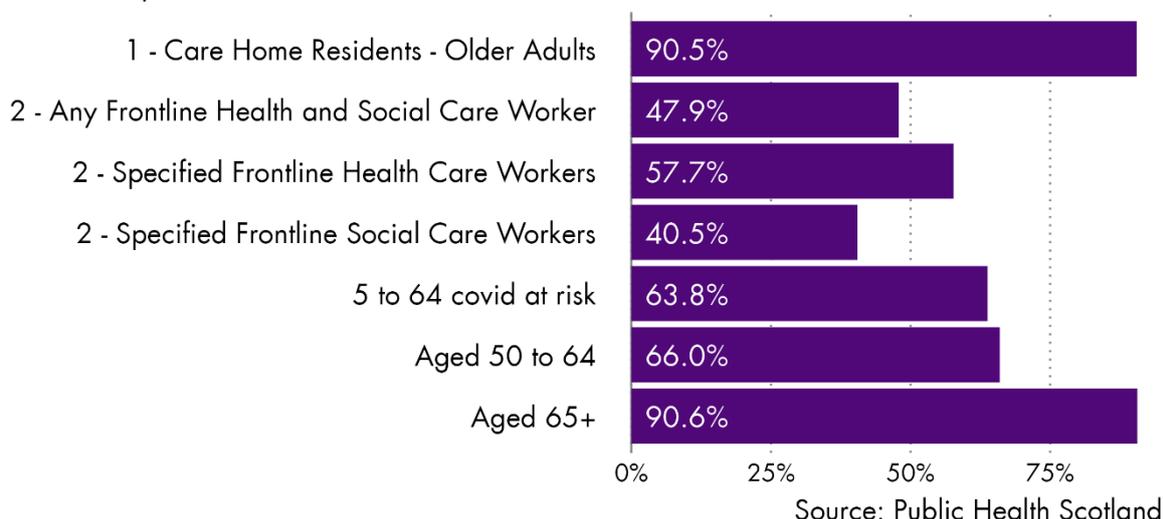
## Cumulative number of people who have received a Winter Booster 2022 by JCVI priority group



The latest data shows that over 90% of older adults aged 65 and over had received their booster by 12 March 2023. Specified Frontline Social Care Workers had the lowest uptake at just over 40%.

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

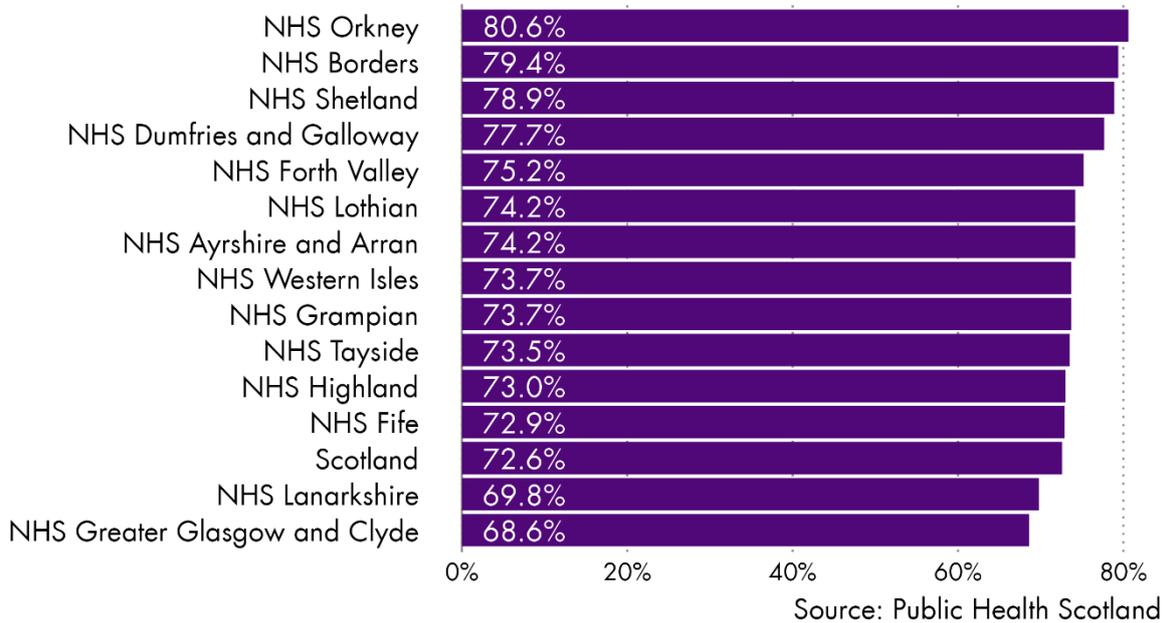
As at 2 April 2023



The latest published vaccination statistics from the Flu and COVID-19 vaccination uptake in Scotland show that 72.6% of those eligible had received a vaccination by 2 April. The NHS Orkney health board area has the highest proportion of those who have received the vaccination at 80.6% while NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde had the lowest at 68.6%.

# Proportion of eligible population who have received a Winter Booster 2022 by NHS Health Board

Vaccination statistics from the Flu and COVID-19 vaccination uptake in Scotland | As at 2 April 2023



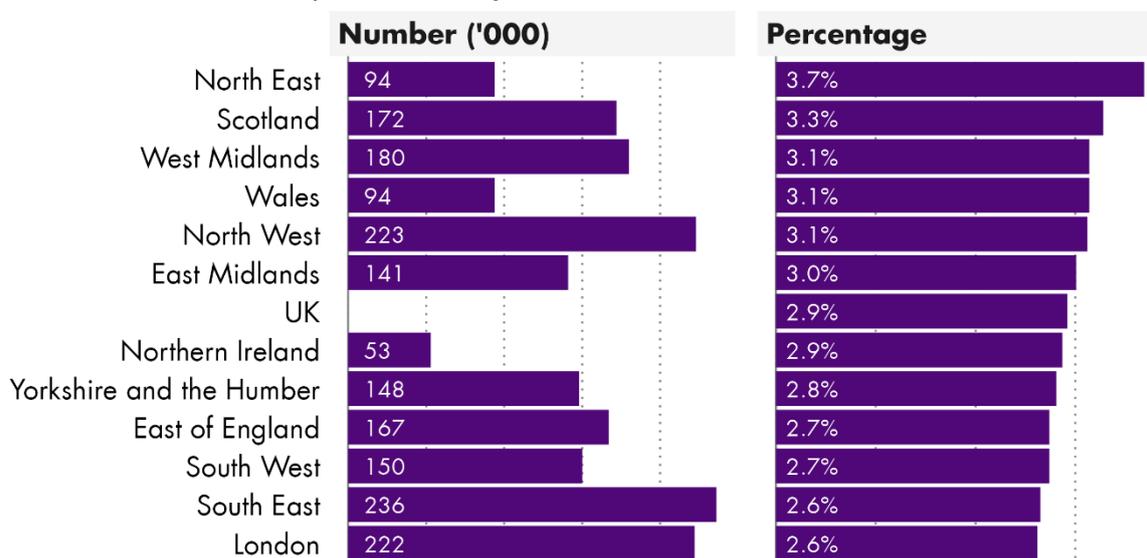
## Long COVID

An estimated 1.9 million people living in private households in the UK (2.9% of the population) were experiencing self-reported long COVID (symptoms continuing for more than four weeks after the first confirmed or suspected coronavirus (COVID-19) infection that were not explained by something else) as of 5 March 2023.

In Scotland it is estimated that there were 172,000 or 3.3% of the population, living in private households, were experiencing self-reported long COVID. This is the second highest of the nations and regions of the UK. The North East of England has the highest at 3.7% and London and the South East of England the lowest at 2.6%

## Estimated number and percentage of people with self-reported long COVID

Those living in private households with self-reported long COVID of any duration | Four week period ending 05 March 2023



Source: ONS - Prevalence of ongoing symptoms following coronavirus (COVID-19) infection in the UK

## 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](https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/phs.covid.19/viz/COVID-19DailyDashboard_15960160643010/Overview)

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**Date 24/4/2023**

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