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Data and analysis from Census 2021

Coronavirus (COVID-19) latest insights: Infections

25 November 2022

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Lifestyle (<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/conditionsanddiseases/articles/coronaviruscovid19/latestinsights/lifestyle>)

Coronavirus (COVID-19) infections

COVID-19 infections continued to decrease in England, Wales and Scotland in the latest week (ending 15 November 2022), while the trend was uncertain in Northern Ireland.

The estimated percentage of people living in private households (those not in care homes or other communal establishments) testing positive for COVID-19 was:

1.48% in England (1 in 65 people)

1.49% in Wales (1 in 65 people)

1.86% in Northern Ireland (1 in 55 people)

1.59% in Scotland (1 in 65 people)

An estimated 2.1 million people in private households in the UK (3.3% of the population) were experiencing self-reported long COVID as of 1 October 2022.

On this page

Infections

(<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/conditionsanddiseases/articles/coronaviruscovid19latestinsights/infections#infections>).

Infections by age

(<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/conditionsanddiseases/articles/coronaviruscovid19latestinsights/infections#infections-by-age>).

Infections by region

(<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/conditionsanddiseases/articles/coronaviruscovid19latestinsights/infections#infections-by-region>).

Reinfections

(<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/conditionsanddiseases/articles/coronaviruscovid19latestinsights/infections#reinfections>).

Long COVID

(<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/conditionsanddiseases/articles/coronaviruscovid19latestinsights/infections#long-covid>).

Further information

(<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/conditionsanddiseases/articles/coronaviruscovid19latestinsights/infections#further-information>).

Glossary

(<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/conditionsanddiseases/articles/coronaviruscovid19latestinsights/infections#glossary>).


Infections

COVID-19 infections continued to decrease across England, Wales and Scotland

Estimated percentage of the population testing positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) on nose and throat swabs, UK, 14 November 2021 to 15 November 2022

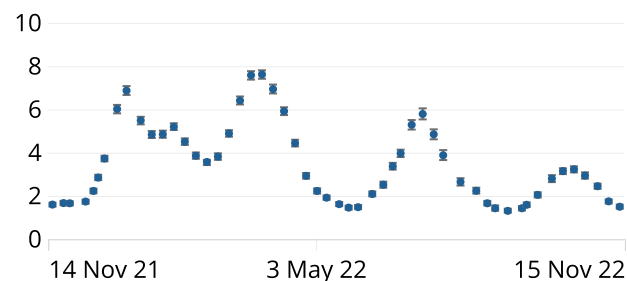
Official reported estimates of the rate of COVID-19 infections in private households in England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland.

Modelled estimates are used to calculate the official reported estimate. The model smooths the series to understand the trend and is revised each week to incorporate new test results.

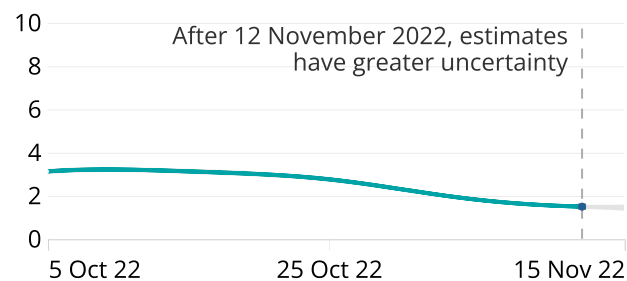
 Estimates with 95% credible intervals

England

Percentage testing positive for COVID-19

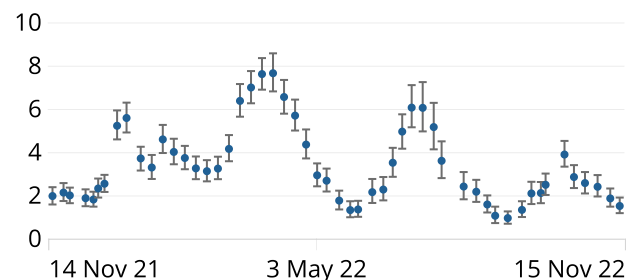


Percentage testing positive for COVID-19

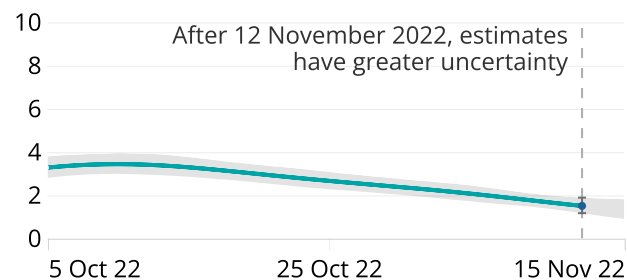


Wales

Percentage testing positive for COVID-19

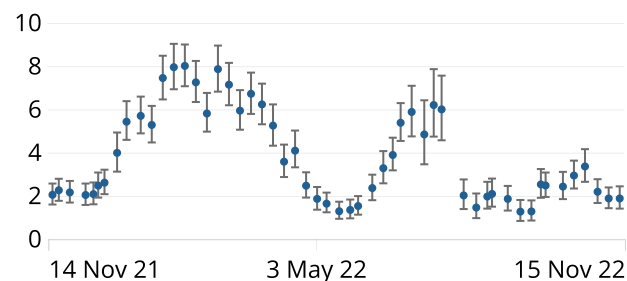


Percentage testing positive for COVID-19

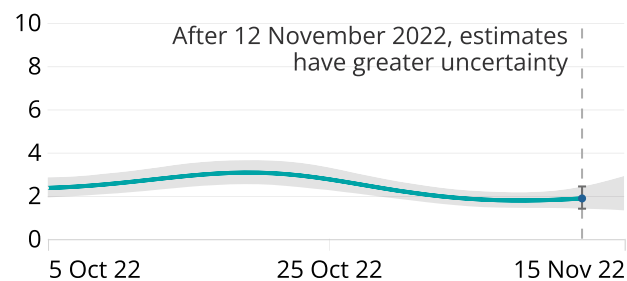


Northern Ireland

Percentage testing positive for COVID-19

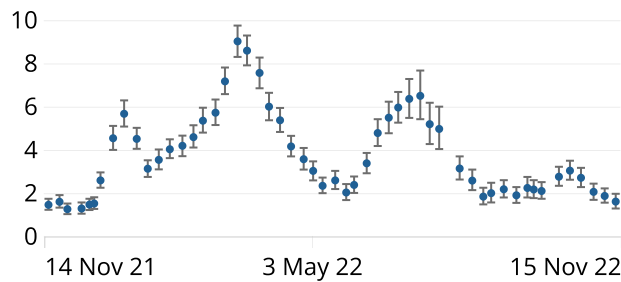


Percentage testing positive for COVID-19

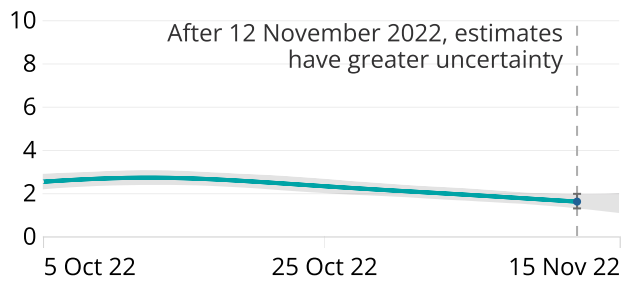


Scotland

Percentage testing positive for COVID-19



Percentage testing positive for COVID-19



Source: Office for National Statistics – Coronavirus (COVID-19) Infection Survey

[Embed code](#)

[Download the data](#)

(<https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/dvc2359/officialaestimates/datadownload.xlsx>)

The COVID-19 infection rate continued to decrease in England (1.48%), Wales (1.49%) and Scotland (1.59%) in the latest week (ending 15 November 2022). The trend was uncertain in the latest week for Northern Ireland (1.86%).

Since the end of June 2022, most COVID-19 infections in the UK have been the Omicron variant BA.5 or it's sub-lineages. One of these BA.5 sub-lineages, BQ.1, has been increasing considerably in recent weeks. In the week ending 6 November 2022, BA.5 (excluding BQ.1) made up 45.8% of all sequenced infections (the sample of positive cases that undergoes additional analysis to identify the variant). The Omicron BQ.1 variant accounted for 37.2% of all sequenced infections, an increase from 29.8% in the previous week. We have also observed a small recent increase in the percentage of infections with BA.2 sub-lineages, accounting for 13.0% of sequenced infections in the week ending 6 November 2022.

Last updated: 25/11/2022

[Read more about this in our Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Infection Survey bulletin](#)

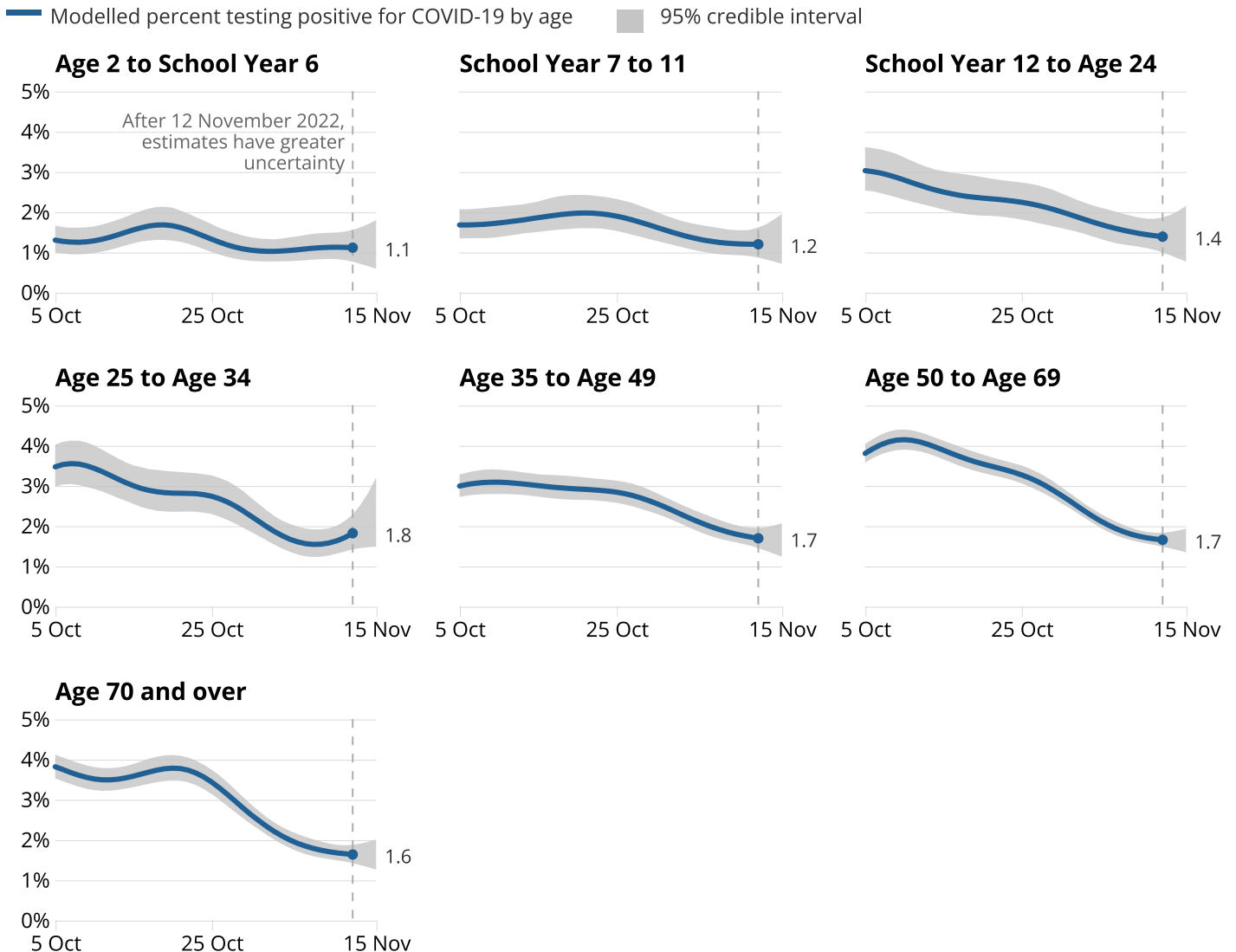
(<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/conditionsanddiseases/bulletins/coronaviruscovid19infectionsurveysurvey/latest>)

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Infections by age

COVID-19 infections continued to decrease for those in school Year 12 to aged 24 years and those aged 35 years and over in England

Modelled daily percentage of the population testing positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) on nose and throat swabs, by age group, England, 5 October to 15 November 2022



Source: Office for National Statistics – Coronavirus (COVID-19) Infection Survey

[Embed code](#)

[Download the data \(https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/dvc2359/age/datadownload.xlsx\)](https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/dvc2359/age/datadownload.xlsx)

In England, the infection rate continued to decrease for those in school Year 12 to aged 24 years and for those aged 35 years and over in the week ending 15 November 2022. The trend was uncertain for those aged 2 years to school Year 11. For those aged 25 to 34 years, there were possible signs of an increase in the percentage testing positive.

Infection rates were highest for those aged 25 to 34 years (1.82%) and lowest for those aged 2 years to school Year 6 (1.11%) in the latest week. The age groups with the highest and lowest infection rates have varied throughout the pandemic.

Uncertainty around age group estimates is higher than for England overall.

You can compare trends in infections with trends in hospital admissions and deaths on our

[Comparisons page](#)

(<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/conditionsanddiseases/articles/coronaviruscovid19latestinsights/Overview>).

Last updated: 25/11/2022

[Read more about this in our Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Infection Survey bulletin](#)

(<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/conditionsanddiseases/bulletins/coronaviruscovid19infectionsurveysurvey/latest>).

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COVID-19 infections by single year of age over time for each UK country

Modelled daily percentage of the population testing positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) on nose and throat swabs, by single year of age, UK, 5 October to 15 November 2022

Use controls to see the change in recent weeks.

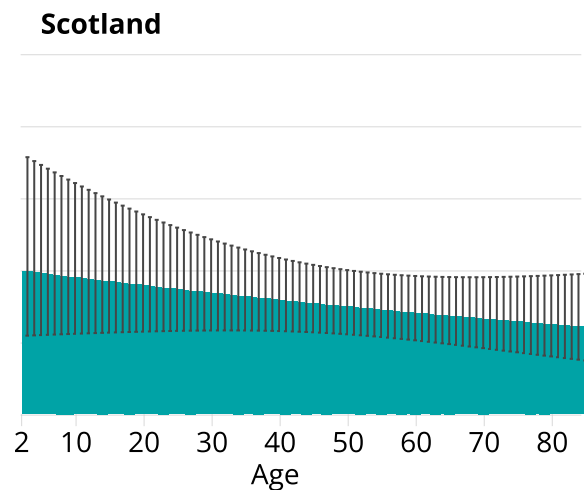
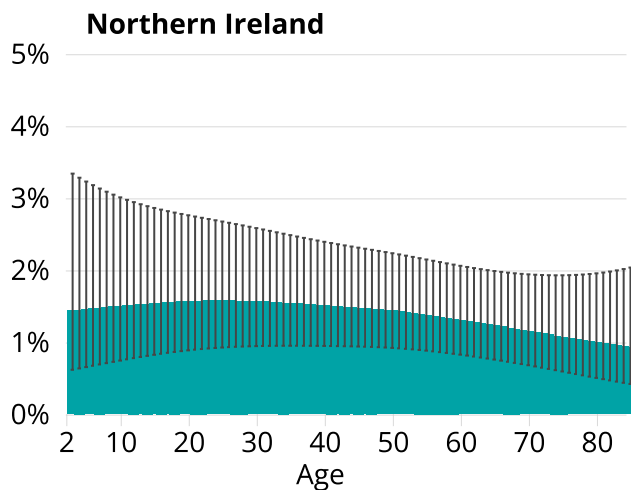
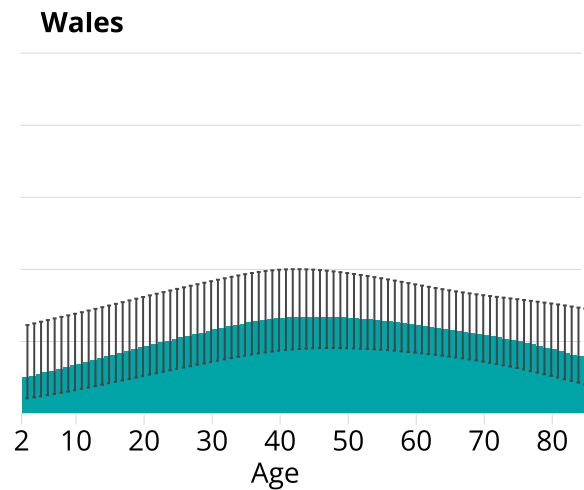
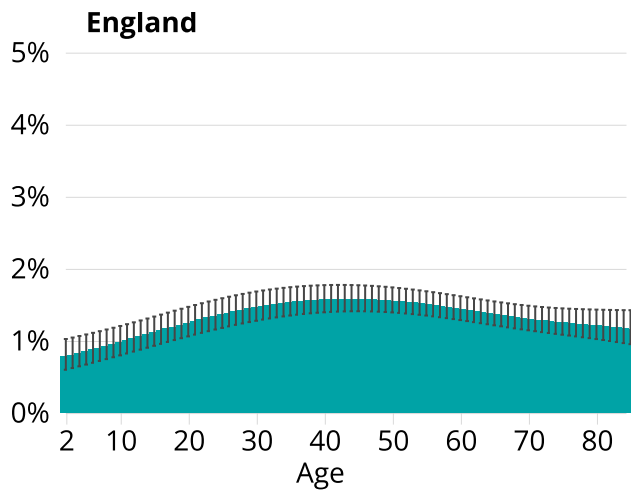
Play ▶



Reset

15 Nov 2022

Black lines represent 95% confidence intervals around the estimates, which reflect a 95% probability that the true value lies within the ranges shown.



Source: Office for National Statistics – Coronavirus (COVID-19) Infection Survey

[Embed code](#)

[Download the data \(https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/dvc2359/syoa/datadownload.xlsx\)](https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/dvc2359/syoa/datadownload.xlsx)

This chart shows COVID-19 infection rates by single year of age, from 5 October to 15 November 2022. During this period, the data show:

in England, infection rates decreased across most age groups

in Wales, infection rates decreased in those aged around 40 years and over in recent weeks, and trends were uncertain in younger adults and children

in Northern Ireland, infection rates decreased in those aged 60 years and over in recent weeks, and trends were uncertain in younger adults and children

in Scotland, infection rates decreased in those aged 60 years and over in recent weeks, and trends were uncertain in younger adults and children

The method used to generate these data differ slightly from positivity estimates for age groups, so they are not comparable. Uncertainty around single year of age estimates is higher than for England overall.

Last updated: 25/11/2022

[Read more about this in our Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Infection Survey bulletin](#)

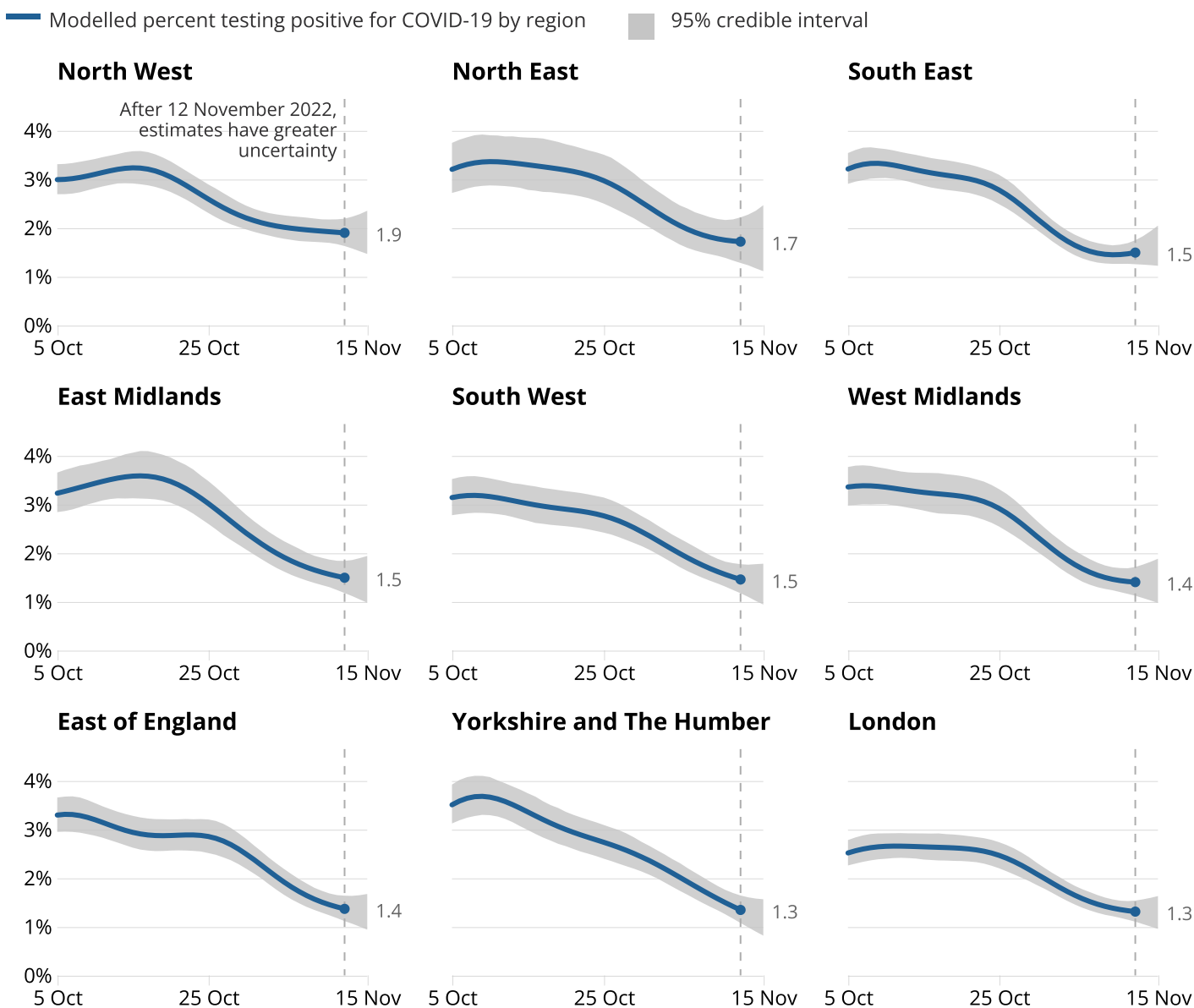
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/conditionsanddiseases/bulletins/coronaviruscovid19infectionsurveyspilot/latest>

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Infections by region

COVID-19 infections continued to decrease in most English regions

Modelled daily percentage of the population testing positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) on nose and throat swabs by region, England, 5 October to 15 November 2022



Source: Office for National Statistics – Coronavirus (COVID-19) Infection Survey

[Embed code](#)

[Download the data \(https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/dvc2359/region/datadownload.xlsx\)](https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/dvc2359/region/datadownload.xlsx)

The infection rate continued to decrease in all English regions, except the North West and the South East where the trend was uncertain, in the week ending 15 November 2022.

Uncertainty around regional estimates is higher than for England overall.

You can compare trends in infections with trends in hospital admissions and deaths on our

[Comparisons page](#)

(<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/conditionsanddiseases/articles/coronaviruscovid19latestinsights/Overview>).

Last updated: 25/11/2022

[Read more about this in our Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Infection Survey bulletin](#)

(<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/conditionsanddiseases/bulletins/coronaviruscovid19infectionsurveypilot/latest>).

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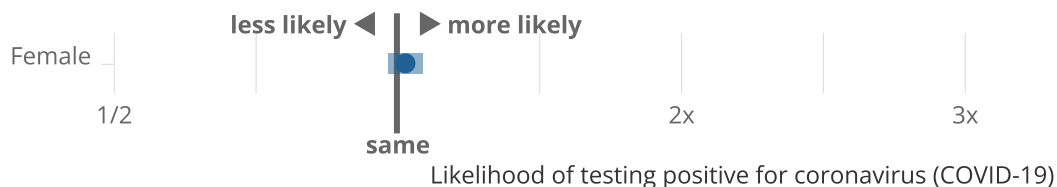
Reinfections

Those who reported symptoms with their first infection were less likely to be reinfected

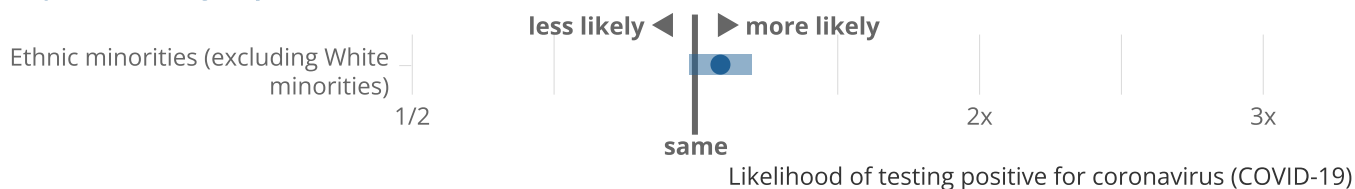
Coronavirus reinfection hazard ratios for characteristics included in the model, UK, 16 June to 28 October 2022

 Estimates with 95% confidence intervals

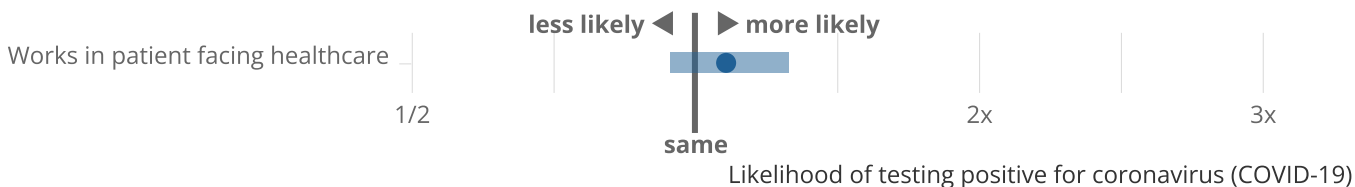
Sex (Reference group: Male)



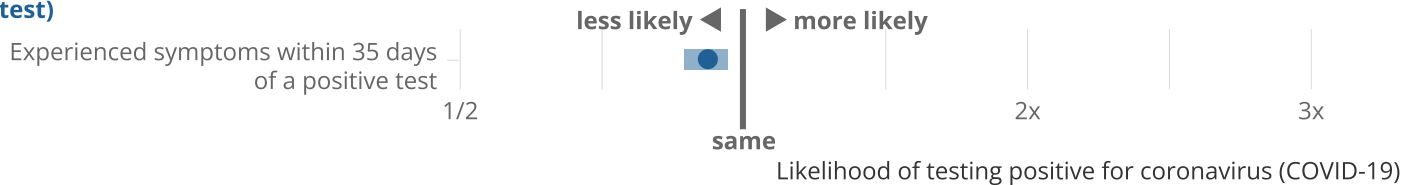
Ethnicity (Reference group: White)



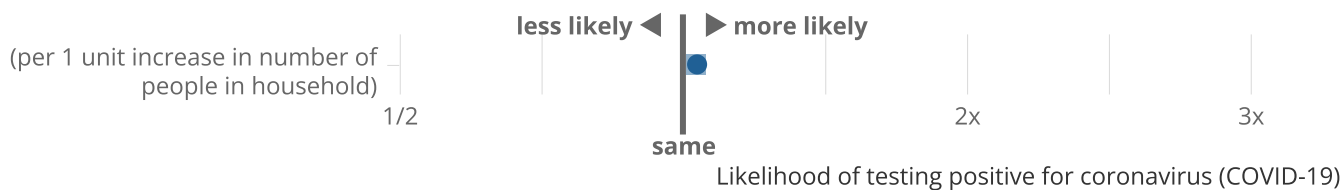
Patient facing at work (Reference group: Does not work in patient facing healthcare)



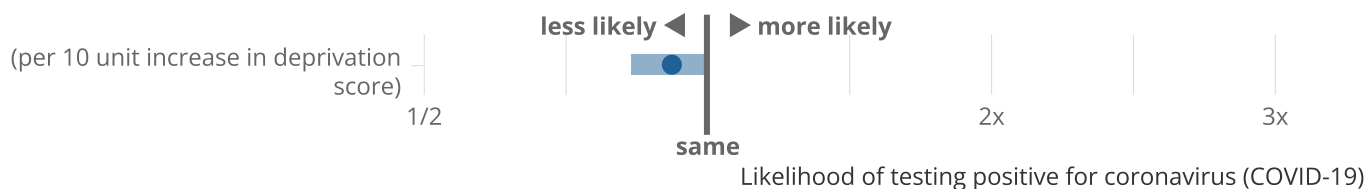
Symptoms during first infection (Reference group: Did not experience symptoms within 35 days of a positive test)

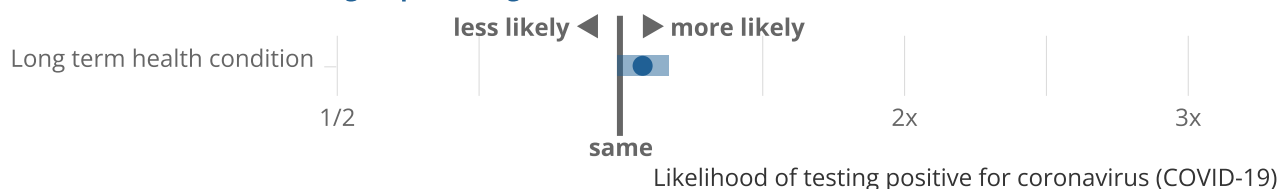
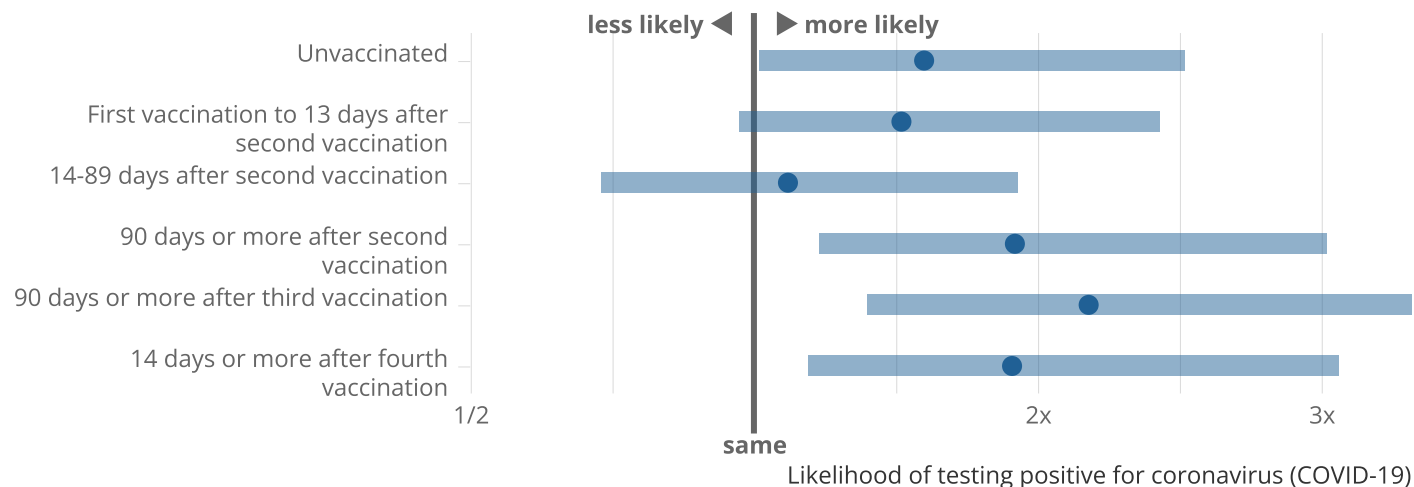


Household size



Deprivation



Long term health condition (Reference group: No long term health condition)**COVID-19 vaccination status (Reference group: 14-89 days after third vaccination)**

Source: Office for National Statistics – Coronavirus (COVID-19) Infection Survey

[Embed code](#)

[Download the data \(https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/dvc2336/fig3/datadownload.xlsx\)](https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/dvc2336/fig3/datadownload.xlsx)

Of all identified second infections between 2 July 2020 and 28 October 2022, the majority (93.4%) have continued to be in the period when the Omicron variants were dominant (20 December 2021 onwards).

Between 16 June and 28 October 2022, people were more likely to be reinfected if they:

- did not report symptoms within 35 days of their first infection

- had a lower viral load at their first infection

- were a younger child

- had their second or third vaccination 90 days or more previously compared with those who had their third vaccination 14 to 89 days previously

had their fourth vaccination 14 days or more previously compared with those who had their third vaccination 14 to 89 days previously

Our reinfections analysis includes first reinfections only, that is, individuals who have had a positive test for a second COVID-19 infection.

Last updated: 16/11/2022

Read more about this in our [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Infection Survey, characteristics of people testing positive for COVID-19, UK bulletin](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/conditionsanddiseases/bulletins/coronaviruscovid19infectionsurveycharacteristicsofpeopletestingpositiveforcovid19uk/latest) (<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/conditionsanddiseases/bulletins/coronaviruscovid19infectionsurveycharacteristicsofpeopletestingpositiveforcovid19uk/latest>).

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Long COVID

2.1 million people in the UK were experiencing self-reported long COVID as of 1 October 2022

An estimated 2.1 million people in private households in the UK (3.3% of the population) were experiencing self-reported long COVID as of 1 October 2022. Of those, around 8 in 10 (83%) reported experiencing long COVID symptoms at least 12 weeks after first having (suspected) COVID-19. Half (50%) reported experiencing long COVID symptoms at least one year after their first suspected infection. Almost a quarter (24%) reported experiencing symptoms at least two years after their first suspected infection.

The most common long COVID symptoms continued to be fatigue (70% of those with self-reported long COVID), followed by difficulty concentrating (45%), shortness of breath (42%) and muscle ache (42%). Symptoms adversely affected the day-to-day activities of 1.6 million people, or 73% of those with self-reported long COVID.

Self-reported long COVID was more common in:

- those aged 35 to 69 years

- females

- people living in more deprived areas

- those working in social care

- those aged 16 years and over who were not working and not looking for work

- those with another activity-limiting health condition or disability

There has been a change in the way the data are collected. As a result, these estimates can only be compared with our [previous bulletin \(6 October 2022\)](#).

[\(https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/conditionsanddiseases/bulletins/prevalenceofongoingsymptomsfollowingcoronaviruscovid19infectionintheuk/](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/conditionsanddiseases/bulletins/prevalenceofongoingsymptomsfollowingcoronaviruscovid19infectionintheuk/)

6 October 2022) and not with those before October. For more details of these changes, see our

Measuring the data

(<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/conditionsanddiseases/bulletins/prevalenceofongoingsymptomsfollowingcoronaviruscovid19infectionintheuk/latest#measuring-the-data>) section of the release.

Last updated: 03/11/2022

Read more about this in our Prevalence of ongoing symptoms following coronavirus (COVID-19) infection in the UK bulletin

(<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/conditionsanddiseases/bulletins/prevalenceofongoingsymptomsfollowingcoronaviruscovid19infectionintheuk/latest>).

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Further information

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) Infection Survey (CIS) estimates the number of infections in the community population excluding people in hospitals, care homes and other institutional settings. People are randomly selected and tested regardless of whether they are experiencing symptoms. Positivity rates are modelled estimates adjusted to represent the whole UK population. NHS Test and Trace data only refer to people who have taken and reported test results. Unlike CIS estimates, this data is affected by testing capacity and changes in government policy over time.

To find out more about infections data from different sources visit our [more information](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/conditionsanddiseases/articles/moreinformationondatasourcesrelatedtocoronaviruscovid19/2020-12-11#infections) (<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/conditionsanddiseases/articles/moreinformationondatasourcesrelatedtocoronaviruscovid19/2020-12-11#infections>) page.

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Coronavirus (COVID-19) definitions

Select a term to see its description

Select a term

[Embed code](#)

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