



North Central London  
Clinical Commissioning Group

An abstract graphic on the left side of the slide, composed of several overlapping triangles in various shades of blue, teal, and lime green, creating a dynamic, layered effect.

# **NCL COVID-19 briefing 27 January 2022**

## **Welcome**

# Housekeeping

Please stay on mute throughout the meeting unless you are invited to speak



You may keep your camera on or off, though it would be nice to see you all



Please be mindful and courteous when posting in the chat





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# Introduction

by

Dr Charlotte Benjamin  
Vice Chair, NCL CCG

# Achievements and milestones



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**NHS**  
**Walk-in weekend at StoneX Stadium**  
Home of Saracens Rugby Club

Get your COVID-19 Pfizer vaccine on 26th or 27th June, between 9am-5pm

Everyone over 16 is eligible to get the jab.

No appointment needed – just walk in. You don't need to be registered with a GP or have an NHS number to get the vaccine.

Go to  
**Greenlands Lane, Hendon, NW4 1RL**  
Free parking available.

KEEP SAFETY SAFE



# Today's panel



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**Dr Charlotte Benjamin**

St George's Medical Centre, Hendon and CCG Vice Chair



**Jatinder Harchowal**

UCLH Pharmacy Lead for COVID Vaccines



**Dr Jarir Amarin**

Medicus Health Partners, Enfield



**Jonathan O'Sullivan**

Director of Public Health, Islington



**Omotolani Khadijat Sarumi**

Clinical Lead- NCL Covid-19/Flu Vaccination Programme.  
UCLH Midwife Educator.



**Colleen Wedderburn-Tate**

Consultant Midwife in Public Health and Education, UCLH



# What we will cover today



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<b>COVID-19 Vaccine Safety</b> Jatinder Harchowal	
<b>COVID-19 Vaccine Efficacy</b> Dr Jarir Amarin	
<b>Vaccinating Children (Up to the age of 16)</b> Dr Charlotte Benjamin	
<b>Fertility and Pregnancy</b> Omotolani Sarumi and Colleen Wedderburn-Tate	
<b>Intervention and What you Can Do As a Community</b> Jonathan O'Sullivan	





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# COVID-19 vaccine safety and efficacy

Dr Jarir Amarin  
and

Jatinder Harchowal

# Vaccine safety

Vaccines have to go through several stages of clinical trials before they can be approved for use.

- The Pfizer vaccine clinical trials involved more than 44,000 participants.
- The AstraZeneca vaccine clinical trials involved more than 23,000 participants.
- The Moderna vaccine clinical trials involved more than 30,000 participants.

Over 151,666 people in the UK have died within 28 days of a positive COVID test

Vaccines are the best way to protect people from COVID-19 and have already saved tens of thousands of lives.



# Side effects

All vaccines and medicines have some side effects. These side effects need to be continuously balanced against the expected benefits in preventing illness.

In the UK we have given an estimated:

- 47.7 million 1st & 2nd doses of Pfizer
- 49.1 million 1st & 2nd doses of AstraZeneca
- 3 million 1st & 2nd doses of Moderna

The MHRA continually monitors vaccine safety. Reports of serious side effects are very rare.

The overwhelming majority of reports relate to injection-site reactions (sore arm for example) and generalised symptoms such as 'flu-like' illness, headache, chills, fatigue (tiredness), nausea (feeling sick), fever, dizziness, weakness, aching muscles, and rapid heartbeat. Generally, these happen shortly after the vaccination and are not associated with more serious or lasting illness. They may be reported more frequently in younger adults.

These types of reactions reflect the normal immune response triggered by the body to the vaccines.



# Good sources of information about vaccine safety and side effects

## Weekly summary of reported side effects

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-vaccine-adverse-reactions](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-vaccine-adverse-reactions)

## London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine Vaccine Confidence Project

<https://www.vaccineconfidence.org/>

## British Society for Immunology

Campaign materials and resources

<https://www.immunology.org/coronavirus>

**Celebrate Vaccines**  
with the British Society for Immunology

**British Society for immunology**  
www.immunology.org

### What's in a vaccine?

**Water**  
The main ingredient.

**Active ingredient**  
A very small amount of a harmless form of the bacteria or virus you are immunising against.

**Adjuvants**  
Create a stronger immune response to the vaccine. Pose no significant risk to health in the very small quantities used.  
Example: Aluminium; naturally found in drinking water at higher levels.

**Preservatives and stabilisers**  
Maintain vaccine quality, safe storage and prevent contamination.  
Example: Sorbitol; naturally found in fruit in larger amounts.

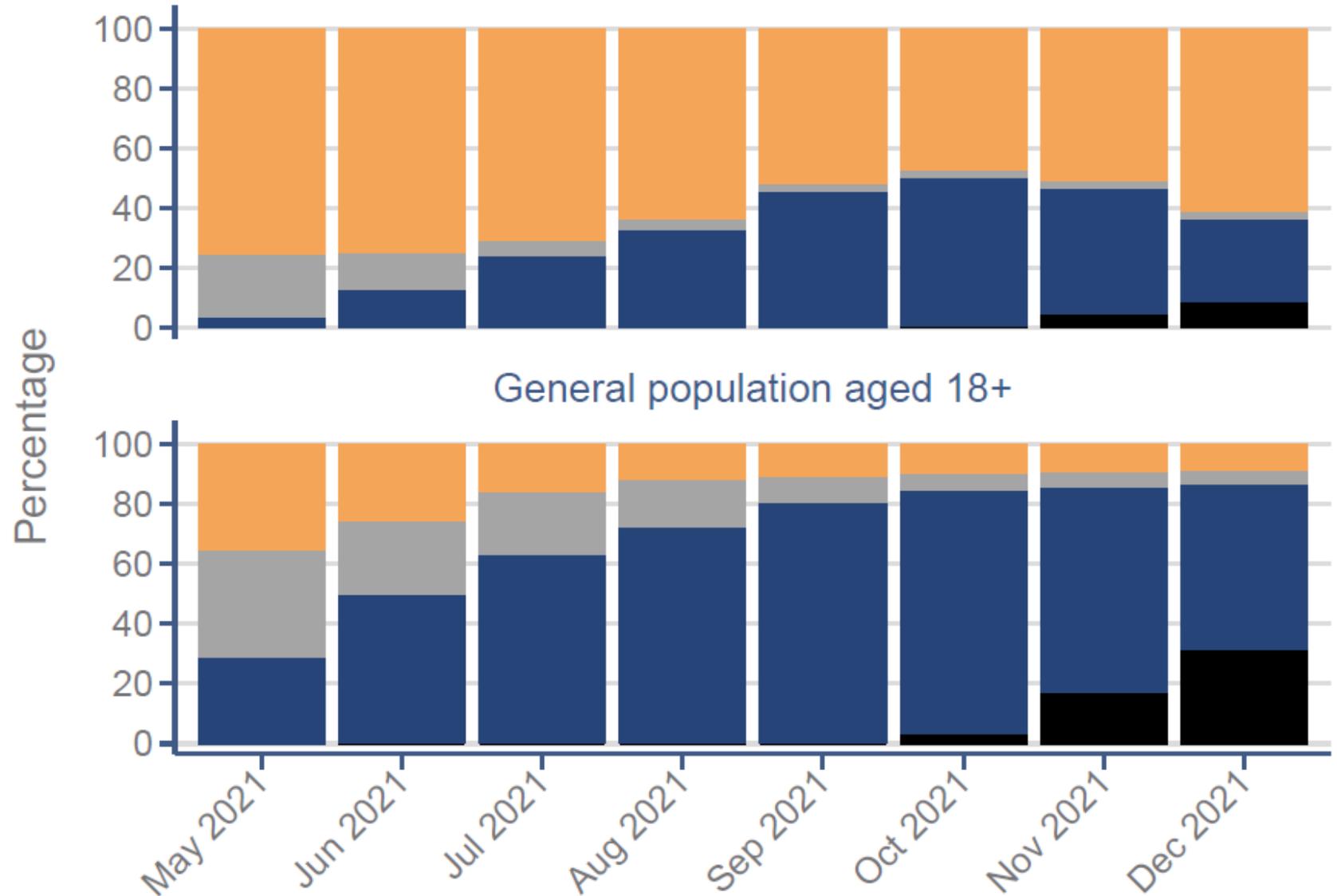
**Residual traces** of substances that have been used during vaccine manufacture, measured as parts per million or billion in the final vaccine.  
Example: Formaldehyde; naturally found in human body.

# Efficacy

- 5 significant variants: Alpha, Beta, Delta, Gamma and Omicron
- Omicron can evade immunity from past infection or two vaccine doses
- Vaccines are highly effective at protecting against serious disease and death
- Two doses of the Pfizer or AstraZeneca vaccine are effective against Delta variant.
- After two doses and a booster people are 88% less likely to be admitted to hospital with the Omicron variant

■ Unvaccinated   
 ■ One dose   
 ■ Two doses   
 ■ Booster/three doses

### Critical care admissions aged 18+

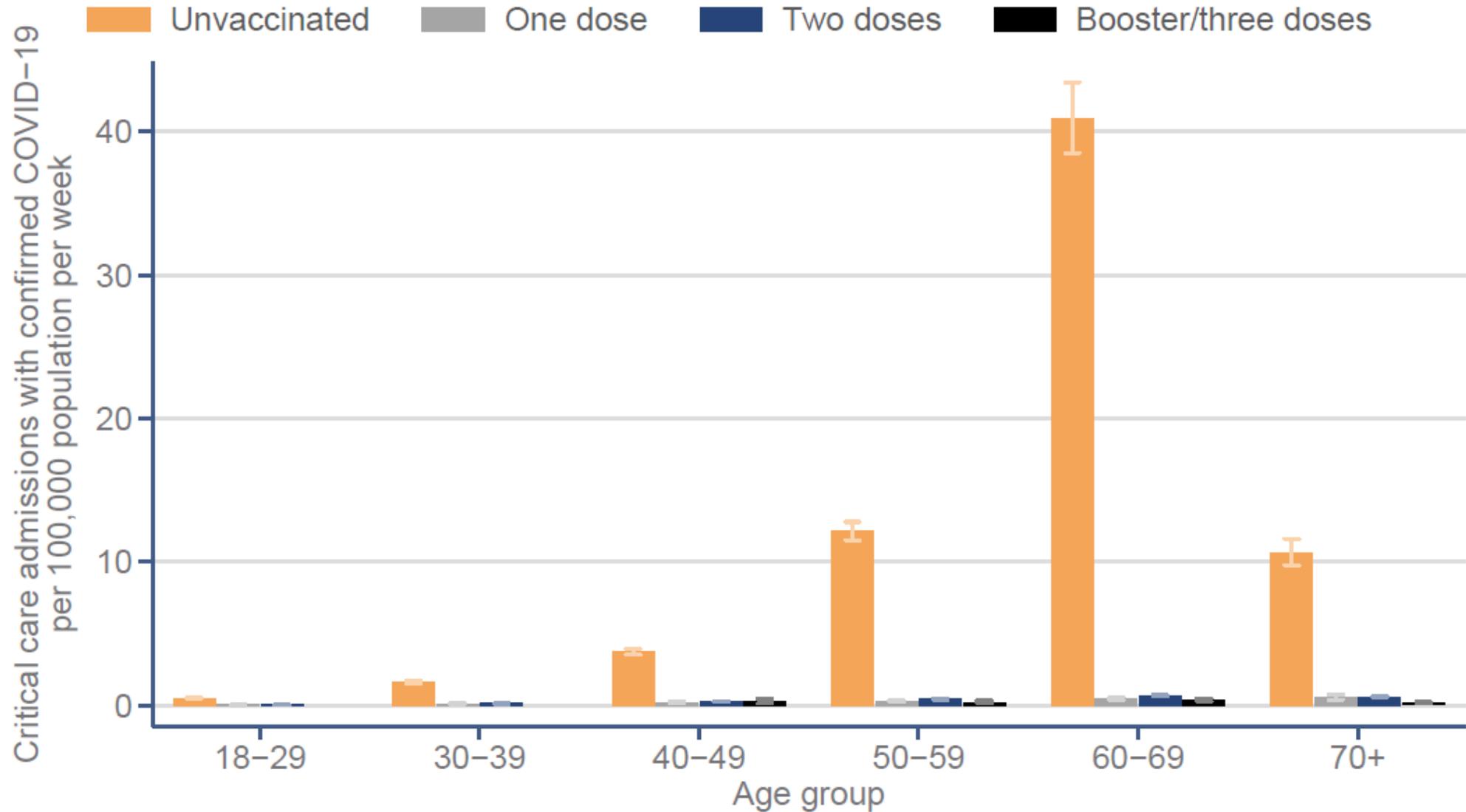


Percentage of admissions to critical care with confirmed COVID-19 by vaccination status for patients admitted 1 May 2021 to 15 December 2021 compared with the general population

[www.icnoarc.org](http://www.icnoarc.org)

Rate of admission to critical care with confirmed COVID-19 by vaccination status for patients admitted 1 May 2021 to 15 December 2021

[www.icnarc.org](http://www.icnarc.org)





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# Vaccinating children (up to the age of 16) Dr Charlotte Benjamin

# COVID-19 vaccination and children: Building vaccine confidence

COVID-19 Vaccination in Children – Who is eligible?	
If you are:	You can get:
Aged 12-15 and you are not in any of the below groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Two doses at least 12 weeks apart</li> </ul>
Aged 12+ and were severely immunosuppressed at the time of early doses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Two doses, at least eight weeks apart</li> <li>- Third primary dose, typically eight weeks after second dose</li> <li>- Booster dose from three months after third dose</li> </ul>
Aged 12-15 with a health condition that puts you at higher risk from COVID-19, or you are a household contact of someone who is immunosuppressed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Two doses, at least eight weeks apart</li> <li>- Booster dose from three months after third dose</li> </ul>
Aged 5-11 with a health condition that puts you at higher risk from COVID-19, or you are a household contact of someone who is immunosuppressed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Two doses, at least eight weeks apart, of the paediatric vaccine formulation</li> <li>- A third vaccine dose will be offered to children in this group who had severe immunosuppression at the time of their first or second COVID-19 vaccine</li> </ul>
<p>Most 12-15 year olds can get their vaccine at school; book their COVID-19 vaccination appointments online or via 119 for an appointment at a vaccination centre, GP or pharmacy; or, find a walk-in COVID-19 vaccination site to get vaccinated without needing an appointment. Children age 5+ in a high risk category will be contacted by their GP to arrange vaccination.</p> <p>Children aged under 16 cannot have a COVID jab within 12 weeks of a positive test.</p>	

**References:**  
 COVID-19 Vaccination Programme Workspace, 2022. Covid vaccine eligibility poster. Available at:  
 NHS, 2022. Who can get a coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine. Available at:  
 UK Health Security Agency, 2022. COVID-19: the green book, chapter 14a. Available at:

# COVID-19 vaccination and children: Building vaccine confidence

**Potential socio-economic and mental health benefits from COVID-19 vaccination**

Vaccination helps prevent...	Which helps avoid...
<b>School closures</b> 	Disruption to educational attainment and associated exacerbation of pre-existing inequalities Emotional distress and mental health problems Disruption in physical activity and routines Loss of services for children with special needs such as learning support Loss of school-provided services such as school meals Higher incidences of cyberbullying from other children and online predatory behaviour from adults
<b>Further lockdown</b> 	Maltreatment and sexual violence towards children that increases in social isolation Poverty, unemployment, financial insecurity and food insecurity, which negatively impact children, by helping to keep their parents in work
<b>Restrictions on meeting family and friends</b> 	Stress associated with not being able to see friends or relatives in person Delays in social development and communication skills Cancellation of children's clubs and hobbies Travel restrictions

**References:**  
 Children's Commissioner, 2020. How lockdown affected children's stress and anxiety. Available at: [www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk](http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk)  
 World Health Organisation, 2021. Interim statement on COVID-19 vaccination for children and adolescents. Available at: [www.who.int](http://www.who.int)

# COVID-19 vaccination and children: Building vaccine confidence

Further sources of information and training:

- World Health Organisation (2021) *Interim statement on COVID-19 vaccination for children and adolescents*. Available at: <https://www.who.int/news/item/24-11-2021-interim-statement-on-covid-19-vaccination-for-children-and-adolescents> (accessed 21 January 2022)
- Children's Commissioner (2020) *How lockdown affected children's stress and anxiety*. Available at: <https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/2020/09/30/how-lockdown-affected-childrens-stress-and-anxiety/> (accessed 21 January 2022)
- E-LfH (2021) *Managing paediatric anxiety during COVID-19 vaccinations* [online training developed by the digital education team at GOSH]. Available at: <portal.e-lfh.org.uk>
- NHS (2021) *Top tips for supporting children and young people during vaccination v1*. Available at: [www.future.nhs.uk](http://www.future.nhs.uk) (accessed 21 January 2022)
- NHS (2021) *Guidance for Clinical Leads on adapting the vaccination environment for children*. Available at: [www.future.nhs.uk](http://www.future.nhs.uk) (accessed 21 January 2022)



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# Fertility and pregnancy

Omotolani Khadijat  
Sarumi

Colleen Wedderburn-Tate

# COVID-19 vaccination and pregnancy: Addressing persistent concerns

- Our role is to ensure pregnant people have the information they need to make an informed decision
- The evidence base is growing, and shows that vaccination in pregnancy is safe and effective
- Research data needs to be discussed with pregnant people and their families, so that they are aware of the risks of COVID-19 during pregnancy and the risks/benefits of vaccination
- The risks should be presented in a factual and sensitive way
- The mental health of pregnant people should be considered at every contact

## COVID-19 vaccination in pregnancy

British Society for  
immunology



### Risks of COVID-19 during pregnancy for you & baby

- Pregnant COVID-19 patients are more likely to get very unwell and need intensive care in hospital.
- Preterm birth and stillbirth are more common if you develop COVID-19 while pregnant.
- Risk of COVID-19 complications increases in second half of pregnancy.

### COVID-19 vaccines are effective in pregnancy

- Very good at protecting against moderate and severe COVID-19 disease.
- Vaccination during pregnancy may give your baby protection against COVID-19 once they are born.

### COVID-19 vaccines are safe in pregnancy

- COVID-19 vaccines do not contain ingredients that are known to be harmful to pregnant people or to a developing baby. Ingredients do not cross the placenta or reach the baby.
- COVID-19 vaccines **cannot** give you or your baby COVID-19 disease.
- Vaccination in pregnancy is associated with **NO increased risk** of:
  - ✗ Miscarriage
  - ✗ Preterm birth
  - ✗ Stillbirth
  - ✗ Complications at birth
  - ✗ Congenital abnormalities
  - ✗ Baby being born smaller than expected

Evidence from **14 studies**, in **5 countries**, including **135,103 people** vaccinated in pregnancy

**You don't have to wait for a particular time in your pregnancy to get the COVID-19 vaccine. You can get vaccinated as soon as possible when it's convenient for you.**

# COVID-19 vaccination and pregnancy: Addressing persistent concerns

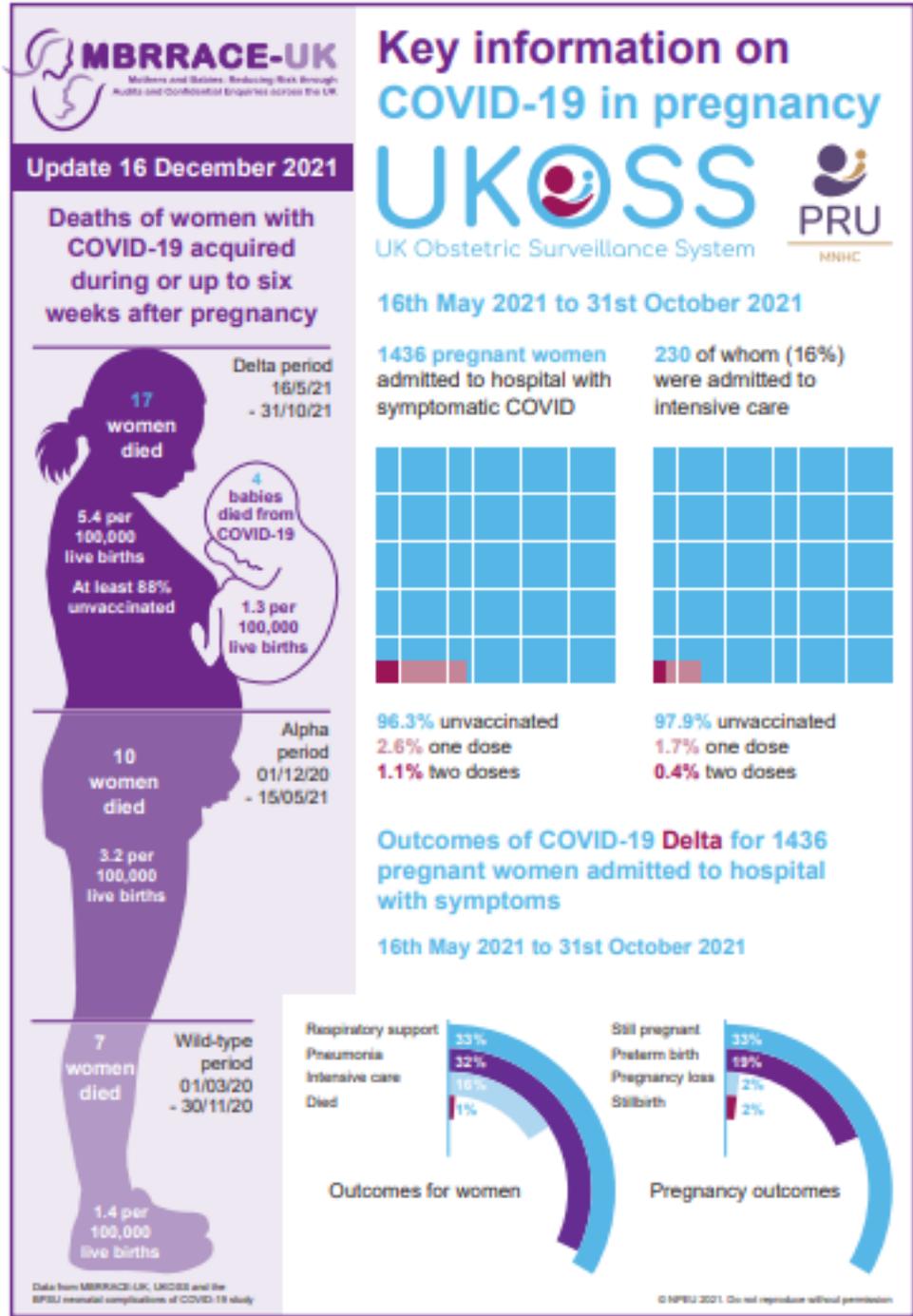
- Pregnant people are now a clinically vulnerable priority group within the COVID-19 vaccination programme
- Pregnant people are urged to come forward for vaccination as soon as possible to protect themselves and their babies from the known risks of COVID-19 during pregnancy
- Clinical outcomes for pregnant people have worsened over the course of the pandemic
- Vaccination offers high levels of protection
- More than 275 000 women in the UK and USA have had a COVID-19 vaccine in pregnancy with no concerning safety signals
- Nearly every pregnant person admitted to hospital with COVID-19 is unvaccinated
- Despite this, concerns regarding COVID-19 vaccination and pregnancy remain, and pregnant people are continuing to delay or decline vaccination

I'll wait until after the baby is born

I'm worried the vaccines might harm my baby

I've heard the vaccine will affect my fertility

**References:**  
 British Society for Immunology, 2022. COVID-19 Vaccination in Pregnancy [infographic]. Available at: [www.immunology.org](http://www.immunology.org)  
 MBRRACE-UK, 2021. Key information on COVID-19 in pregnancy [infographic]. Available at: [www.npeu.ox.ac.uk](http://www.npeu.ox.ac.uk)  
 NHS, 2022. Pregnancy, breastfeeding, fertility and coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccination. Available at: [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)  
 Royal College of Midwives and Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists, 2022. Coronavirus (COVID-19) Infection in Pregnancy. Information for Healthcare Professionals. Version 14.3. Available at: [www.rcog.org.uk](http://www.rcog.org.uk)  
 Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, 2021. COVID-19 vaccines, pregnancy and breastfeeding. Available at: [www.rcog.org.uk](http://www.rcog.org.uk)  
 UK Health Security Agency, 2022. COVID-19: the green book, chapter 14a. Available at: [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)  
 UK Health Security Agency, 2021. Pregnant women urged to come forward for COVID-19 vaccination. [Press release] Available at: [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)





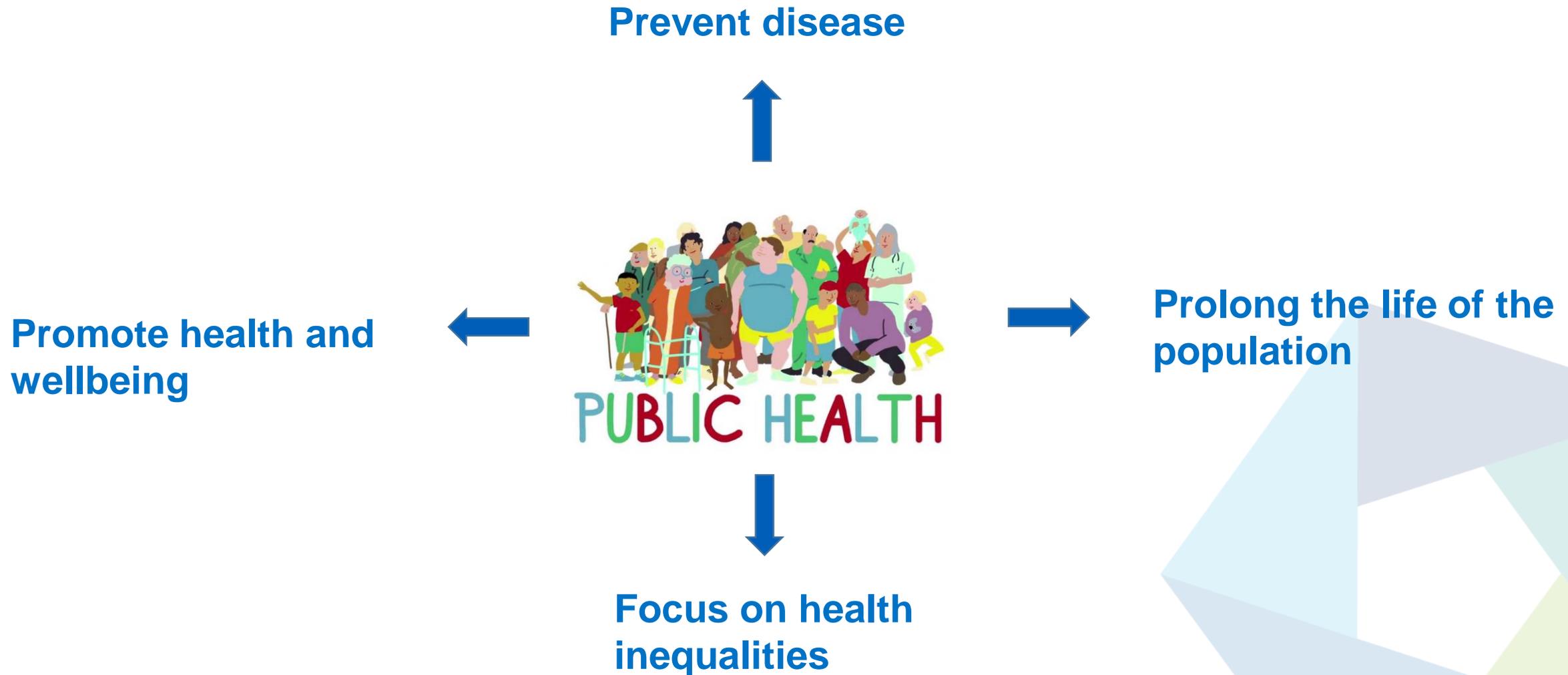
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# Intervention and what you can do as a community

Jonathan O'Sullivan

# What is Public Health?

Public health refers to all organised measures (whether public or private) to...



# Public Health and COVID-19

Public Health has played a critical role in responding to the pandemic.



Knowledge and expertise in population health and working with local communities

Local action and advice to keep people safe and prevent and manage infections

- across the population
- care homes, schools and other key settings
- outbreaks and complex situations

Promotion and access to vaccination

The impact of Covid19 has highlighted longstanding, structural health inequalities in society in the areas of :

- Ethnicity
- Disability
- Deprivation

Health inequalities are unjust and preventable, and link to wider economic, social and educational inequalities.

Throughout the vaccination programme, locally we have been focused on engagement, understanding and addressing barriers, and promotion of access to communities and groups experiencing health inequalities.

# Current inequalities in vaccinations

## **We have 'real time' data about vaccination uptake**

This provides demographic and geographic data about vaccination levels across NCL, in each borough and each primary care network. There are also London-wide surveys, community engagement and insights work.

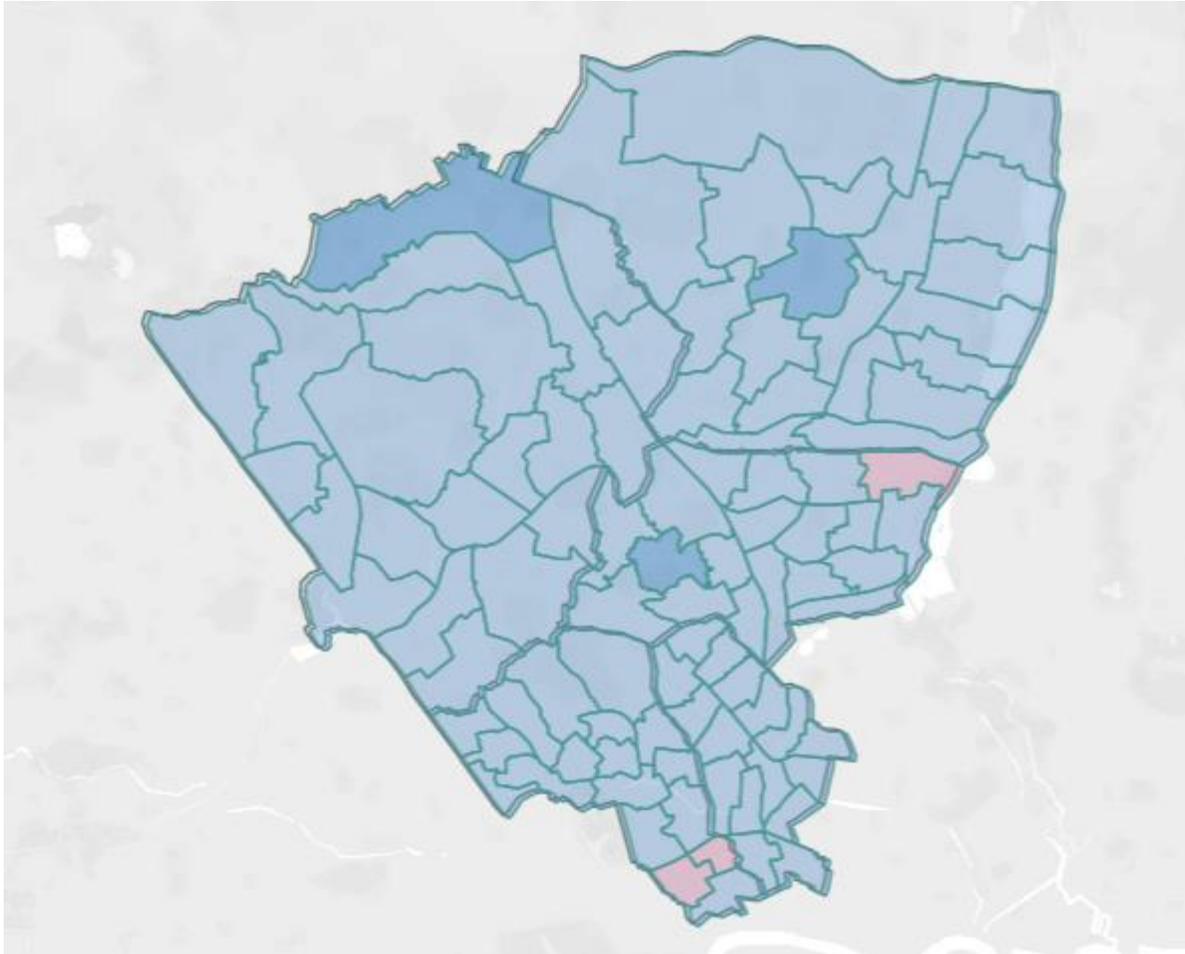


There are significant variations in vaccination uptake:

- Older adults are substantially more likely to be vaccinated than younger adults
- There are major differences between different ethnic groups - highest levels among White British and Irish; lowest in Black communities
- Strong socio-economic gradient, with people living in the most deprived areas least likely to be vaccinated
- In almost all groups, women are more likely to be vaccinated than men

**These data are telling us where we should be focusing our engagement on the vaccine. There are existing focused communications and engagement, and more being planned.**

# Current inequalities in vaccinations



## Highest uptake in dark blue

High Barnet – 78%  
Muswell Hill – 77%  
Grange – 76%

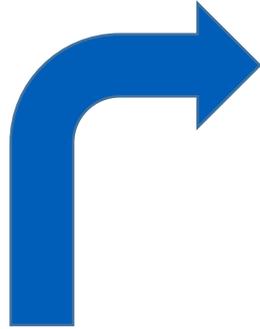
## Lowest uptake in pink

Northumberland Park – 47%  
Kings Cross – 47%  
Bloomsbury – 50%

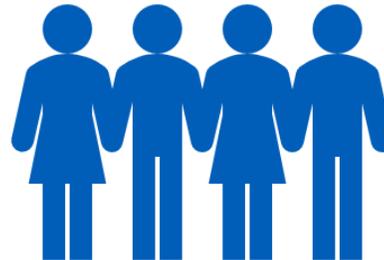
**Highest and lowest second dose uptake by ward in NCL**

# Unregistered and migrant communities

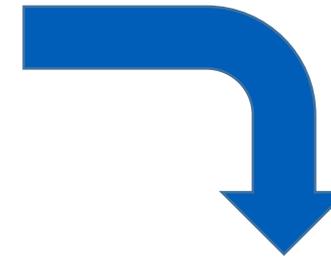
You do not need to be registered with a GP to be vaccinated



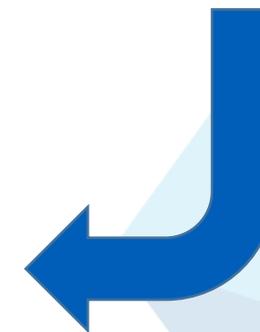
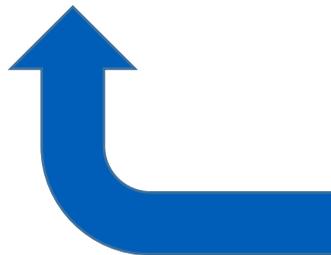
You do not need an NHS number to be vaccinated



You will not be asked about your immigration status



The vaccine is free for everybody in the UK



# What you can do as a community

**Vaccination is the single most important and effective way to protect against Covid19**



**Wear a face covering when you are mixing with others in indoor public places**



**Meet others outdoors, if you can – if you meet indoors, let some fresh air in**



**Don't forget to wash or sanitise your hands regularly**



**Test regularly with LFTs, including when you are meeting up with people, or with PCR if you are symptomatic**



**If you test positive, follow the latest self-isolating guidance**



**There is still time for flu to have an impact this winter.**

**You can ask your GP for a free flu vaccine if you:**

- Are 50 and over (including those who'll be 50 by 31 March 2022)
- Have certain health conditions
- Are pregnant
- Are in a long-stay residential care
- Receive a carer's allowance, or are the main carer for an older or disabled person who may be at risk if you get sick
- Live with someone who is more likely to get infections (such as someone who has HIV, has had a transplant or is having certain treatments for cancer, lupus or rheumatoid arthritis)
- Are a frontline health or social care worker



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# Questions

