

COVID-19 Recovery Committee

7th Meeting, 2023 (Session 6), Thursday 23 March

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.

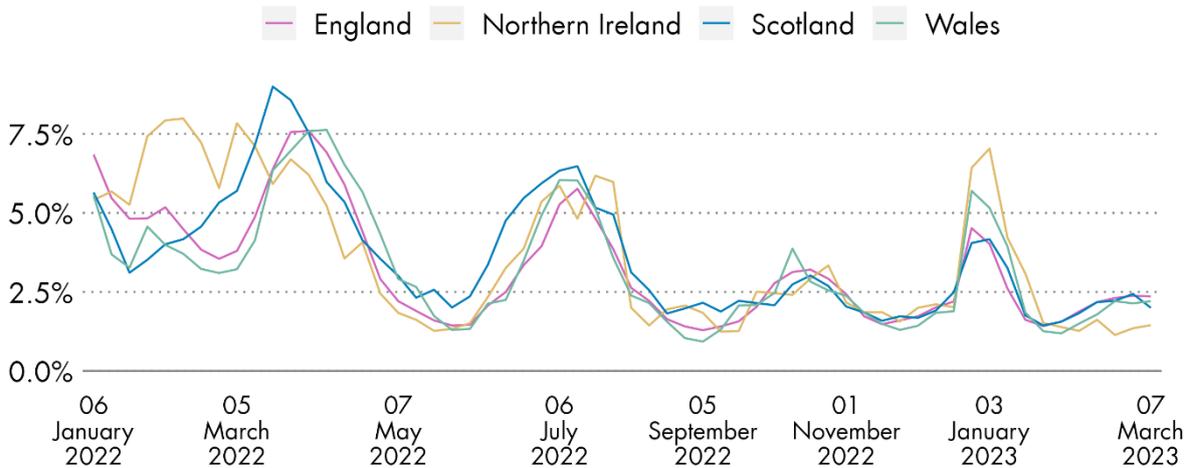
This means that while Public Health Scotland (PHS) still produces data for testing and cases across Scotland the data will not give a full picture. The most useful data for tracking COVID-19 is the [Office for National Statistics \(ONS\) Infection Survey](#). The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has confirmed that the COVID-19 Infection Survey will be [paused as of 31 March 2023](#). Future monitoring on COVID-19 will be considered alongside how the UKHSA will monitor a range of other infectious diseases that present a similar risk to the public's health.

The latest data estimates that around 1 in 50 people in Scotland are testing positive for COVID-19, or 2.00% of the population. England currently has the highest proportion at 2.36%, around 1 in 40 people, and Northern Ireland has the lowest at 1.45%, around 1 in 70 people.

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

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 the Lothians had the highest rate of infection while Central Scotland and Fife had the lowest.

Estimated percentage of the population testing positive for COVID-19

By selected local authority grouping | 22 to 28 Feb 23 | 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.

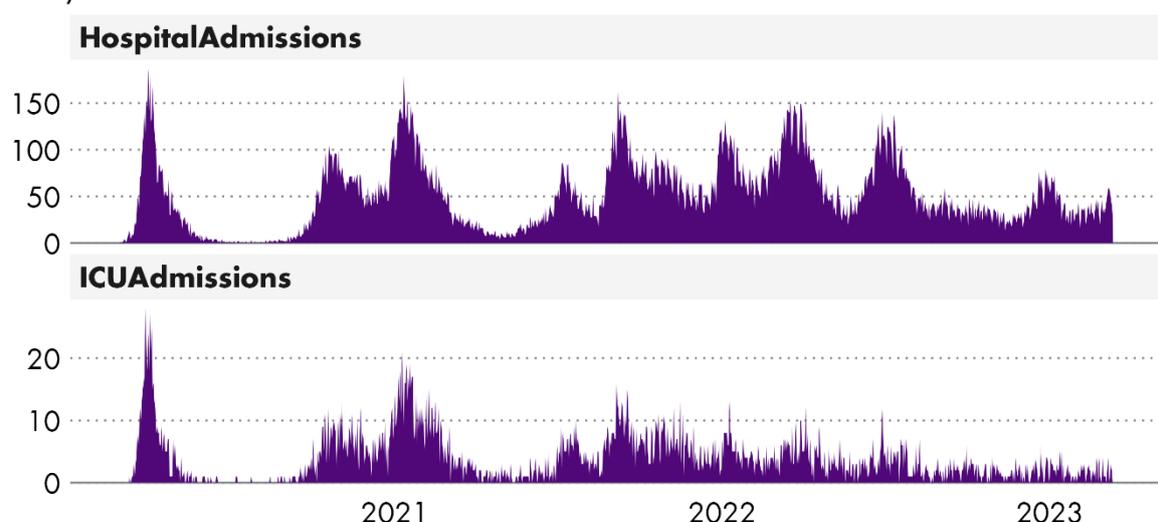
The number of reported acute hospitalisations does not take into account the reason for hospitalisation. Therefore, people that were admitted for a non-COVID-19 related reason (and tested positive upon admission) may be included and result in an overestimation of COVID-19 related acute hospitalisations.

Hospitalisation: So far in quarter 1 in 2023 there were on average 38.7 daily hospitalisations compared to 35.5 in the fourth quarter of 2022. This is well below the highest average of 92.8 daily admissions in the first quarter of 2022. The highest monthly average daily admission was in January 2021 at 122.7.

ICU admissions: So far in quarter 1 in 2023 there were on average 1.7 daily ICU admissions which is the same as in quarter 4 of 2022. This is below the first quarter of 2021 figure of 8.2. The highest monthly figure since the start of the pandemic was in January 2021 when it reached an average of 13.3 daily admissions.

Hospital and ICU admissions in Scotland

Daily admission numbers



Source: Public Health Scotland

COVID-19 deaths

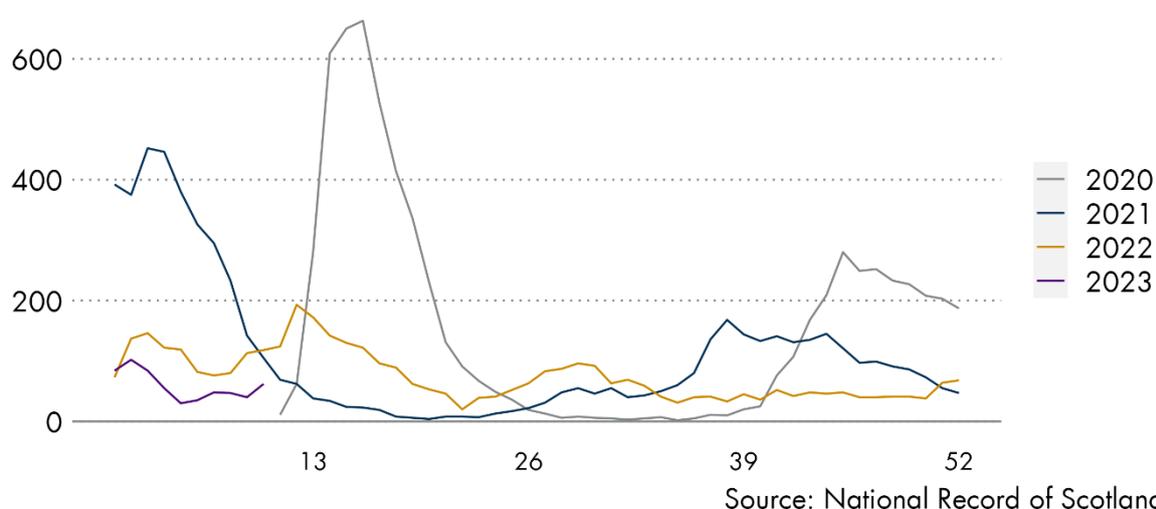
We have used the data from the [Deaths involving coronavirus \(COVID-19\) in Scotland](#) from the National Records of Scotland (NRS) where the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) was mentioned on the death certificate.

Since the start of the pandemic there have been 17,001 deaths in Scotland where COVID-19 was mentioned on the death certificate.

- 6,702 in 2020
- 5,818 in 2021
- 3,864 in 2022
- 587 so far in 2023

Weekly deaths involving COVID-19 by week of the year

Based on the date of the registration of death

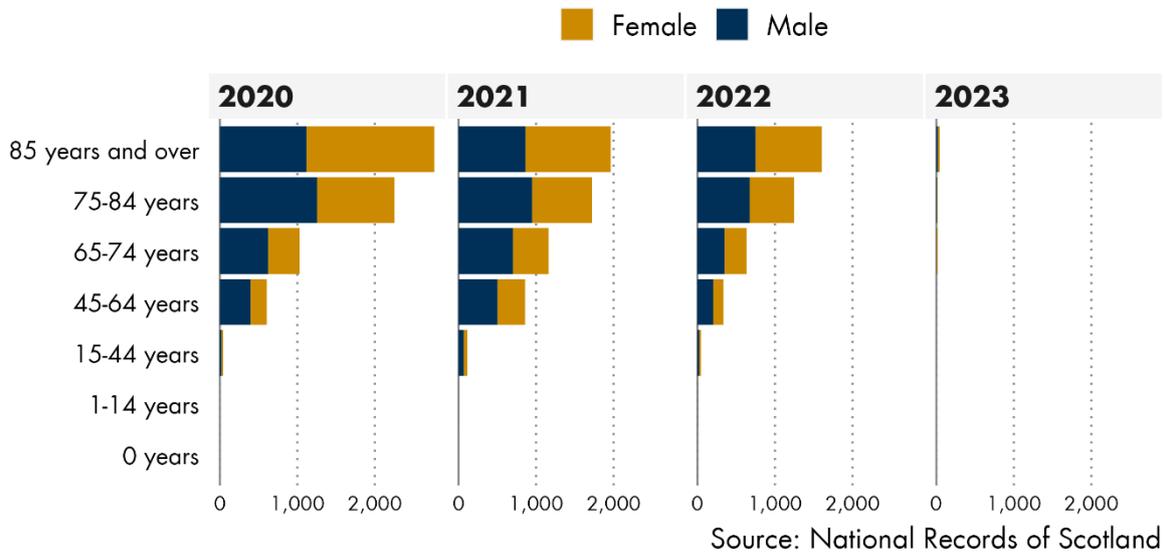


Deaths by age and sex

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 93% 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 186, or 2.5%, more men than women who had COVID-19 mentioned on the death certificate. For the under 65 age group, there was 429 (53%) more men than women who had COVID-19 mentioned on the death certificate.

Deaths involving COVID-19 in Scotland by age and sex



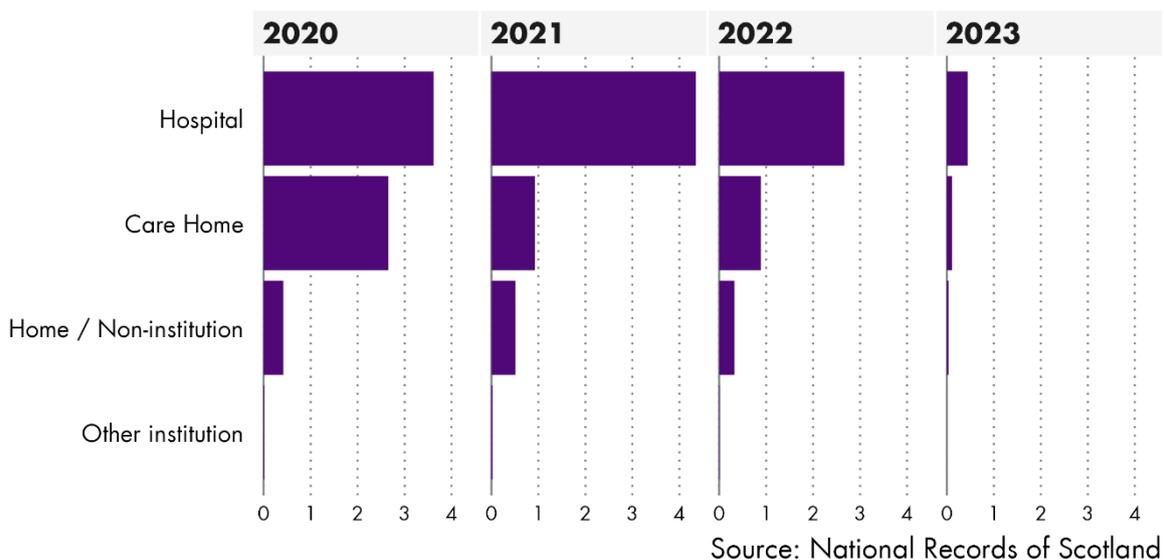
Deaths by location

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 19% of death 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 75%.

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, in line with other nations in the UK.

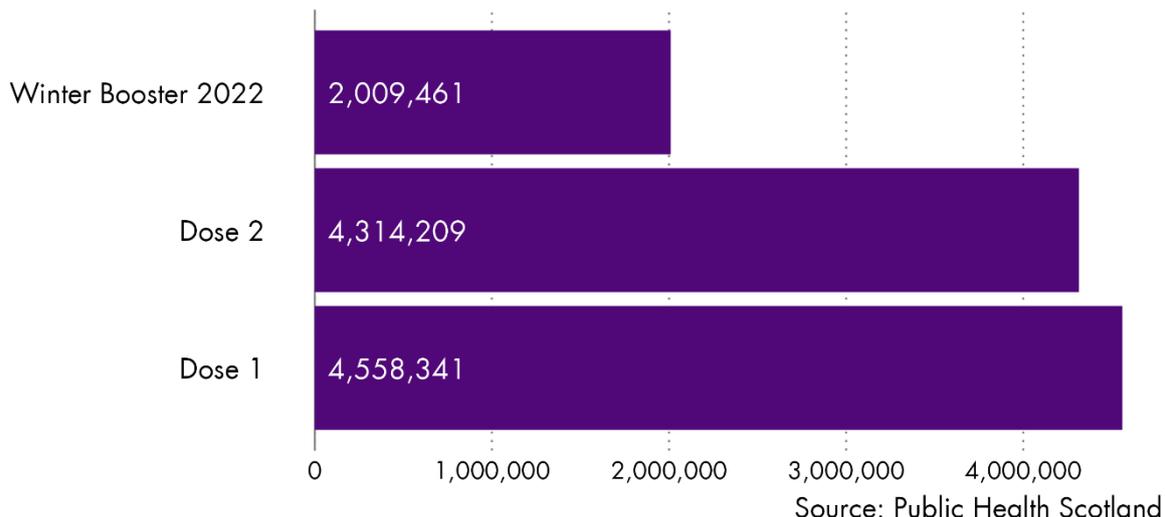
Following final advice on the autumn/winter booster programme from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI), the following groups will be offered an additional dose in a community clinic:

- 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 12 March, 2,009,461 winter boosters have been administered.

Number of people who have received a vaccination by dose

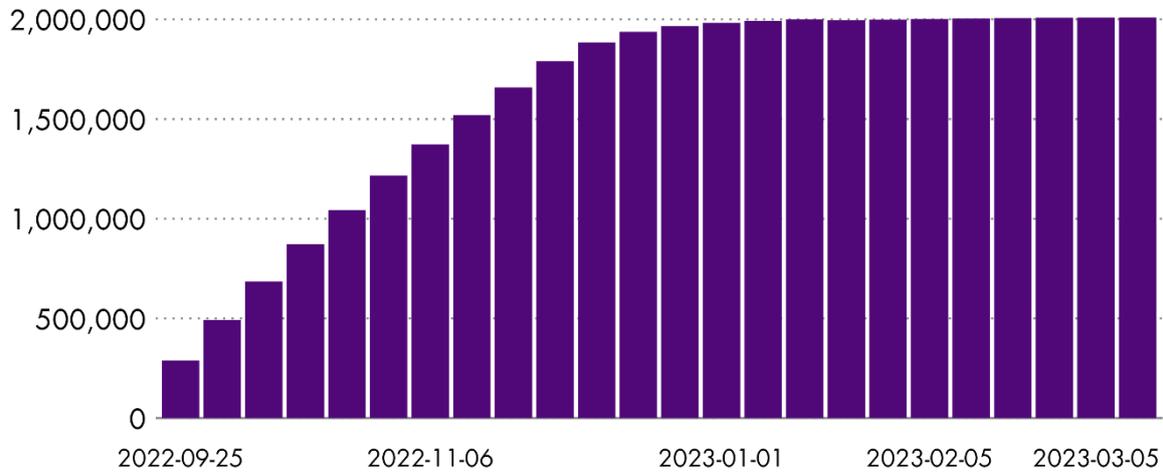
As at 12 March 2023



The number of vaccines being administered has slowed.

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

As at 12 March 2023

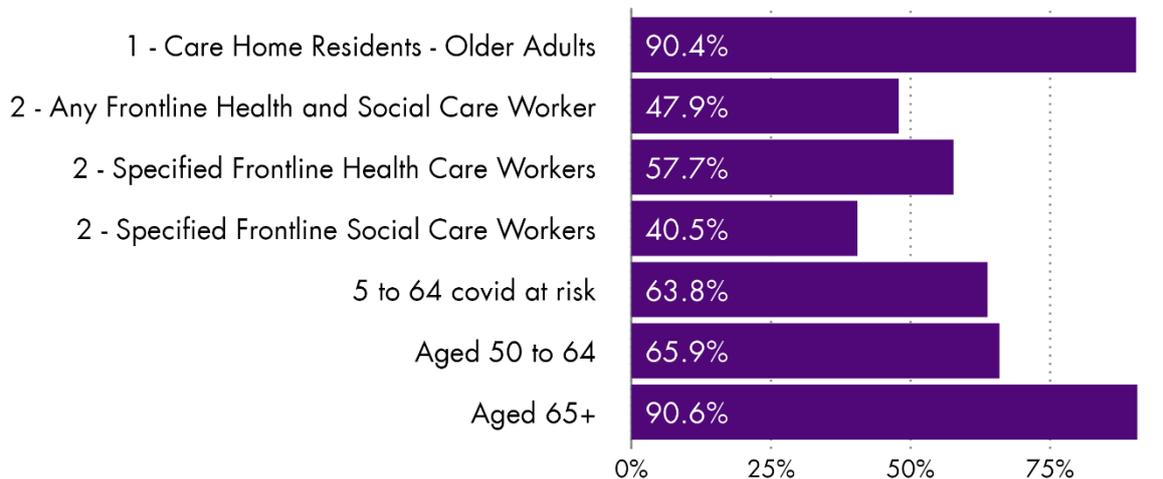


Source: Public Health Scotland

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 12 March 2023

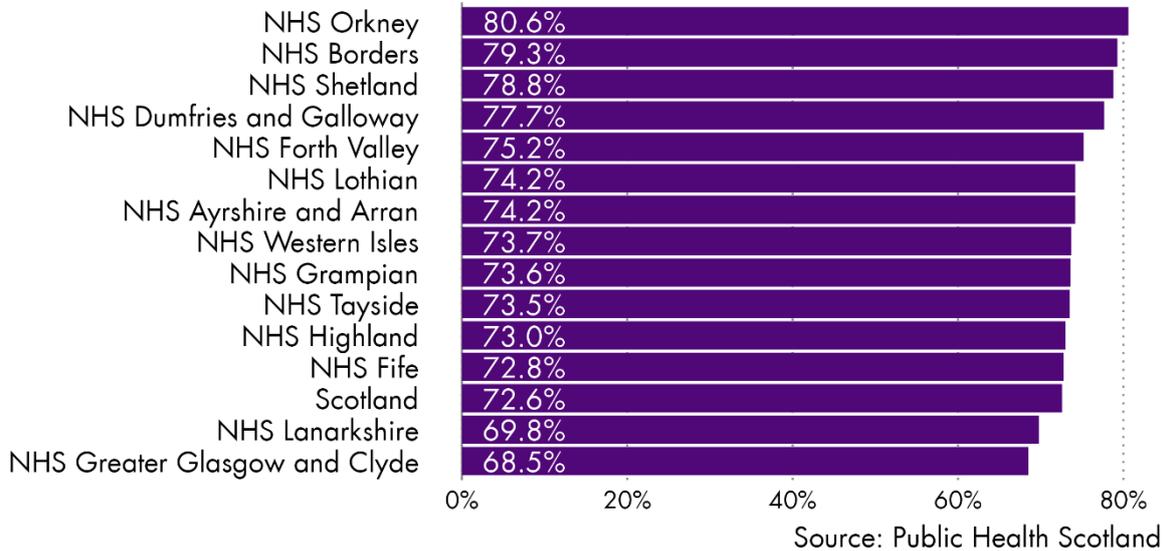


Source: Public Health Scotland

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 12 March. 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 68.5%.

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 12 March 2023



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 20/3/2023

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