

Statistical bulletin

Coronavirus and the social impacts on Great Britain: 10 September 2021

Indicators from the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey covering the period 27 August to 5 September 2021 to understand the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on people, households and communities in Great Britain.

Contact:
Rhian Murphy, Kishan Thakar
and Matthew Mayhew
policy.evidence.analysis@ons.gov.uk
+44 1633 651827

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1 . Main points

This wave, over the period of 25 August to 5 September 2021, based on adults in Great Britain:

- A high proportion of adults still felt that measures to slow the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) were either very important or important; the measures included wearing a face covering (87% this wave, 88% last wave between the period 18 and 22 August) and socially distancing from others not in their household (87% this wave, 86% last wave).
- The proportion of adults reporting to wear face coverings at some point in the last seven days when outside their home (89%) was similar to last wave (90%), as was the proportion of adults who always or often maintain social distancing (46% this wave, 45% last wave).
- The proportion of adults that reported self-isolating in the last seven days remained relatively stable (3% this wave, 4% last wave).
- The main reasons adults self-isolated in the last seven days were because of testing positive for COVID-19 (31%), having coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms (21%) and have been in contact with someone who have tested positive for COVID-19 (20%).
- Personal well-being measures remained stable compared with the last wave, with life satisfaction (7.1), feeling that the things done in life are worthwhile (7.3), happiness (7.1) all remaining unchanged from the previous wave, apart from anxiety (3.8) which has increased slightly.

With many children returning to school in September, this week we asked whether adults with dependent children had any worries:

- Around 1 in 2 (48%) adults with dependent children said they were very or somewhat worried about the children or young people in their household going back to school or college after the summer holidays; around 1 in 4 (23%) were somewhat unworried or not worried at all.
- The main reasons among those who reported that they were worried about them catching coronavirus (COVID-19) (58%), worried about them spreading the coronavirus (COVID-19) (31%) and worried about the impact on their mental health and well-being because of the changes in schools and colleges (30%).

For the first time we asked all adults to tell us whether they have been asked for [COVID-19 vaccination or negative test proof to enter certain venues](#). We found that:

- Around 1 in 10 (11%) of all adults were asked for vaccination or test proof.
- Among those aged 16 to 29 years, the most common reported requirement for proof was to access a festival (38%).
- For those aged 30 to 49 years, the most common reported requirement for proof was to access a sporting event (33%).
- For those aged 50 to 69 years, 48% of those who had been asked for proof reported “other”; text responses indicated that visiting care homes, hospitals and work were the most common response, which was also the case for 65% of those aged 70 years and over who had been asked for proof.

The latest week's estimates are based on data collected after the announcement of changes to the 10-day self-isolation rule from 16 August 2021. Data were collected after restrictions were lifted with step four of the roadmap in England on 19 July 2021, and after Wales and Scotland removed most legal restrictions on 7 and 9 August 2021 respectively.

2 . Social impacts on Great Britain data

[Coronavirus and the social impacts on Great Britain](#)

Dataset | Released 10 September 2021

Indicators from the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (OPN) to understand the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on people, households and communities in Great Britain. Includes breakdowns by age, sex and region.

[Coronavirus and the social impacts on Great Britain: self-isolation](#)

Dataset | Released 10 September 2021

Data from the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey on weekly estimates of the proportion of adults self-isolating because of coronavirus (COVID-19) since January 2021, and reasons for self-isolating in the latest wave (25 August to 5 September 2021).

[Coronavirus and the social impacts on Great Britain: certification](#)

Dataset | Released 10 September 2021

Data from the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey on weekly estimates of the proportion of adults who have had to show proof that they have been vaccinated or had a recent COVID19 negative result. 25 August to 5 September 2021.

3 . Measuring the data

This release contains data and indicators from a module being undertaken through the Office for National Statistics' (ONS') Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (OPN) to understand the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on British society.

Breakdowns by age, sex, region and country, including [confidence intervals](#) for the estimates, are contained in the [Coronavirus and the social impacts on Great Britain dataset](#).

Where changes in results from previous weeks are presented in this bulletin, associated confidence intervals should be used to assess the [statistical significance](#) of the differences.

Sampling and weighting

From the week of 4 to 8 August 2021 onwards, the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (OPN) sample size was reduced to around 5,000 households each week to help ensure the survey remains sustainable. This wave, we sampled 5,000 households. These were randomly selected from those that had previously completed the Labour Market Survey (LMS) or OPN. The responding sample contained 3,387 individuals, representing a 68% response rate.

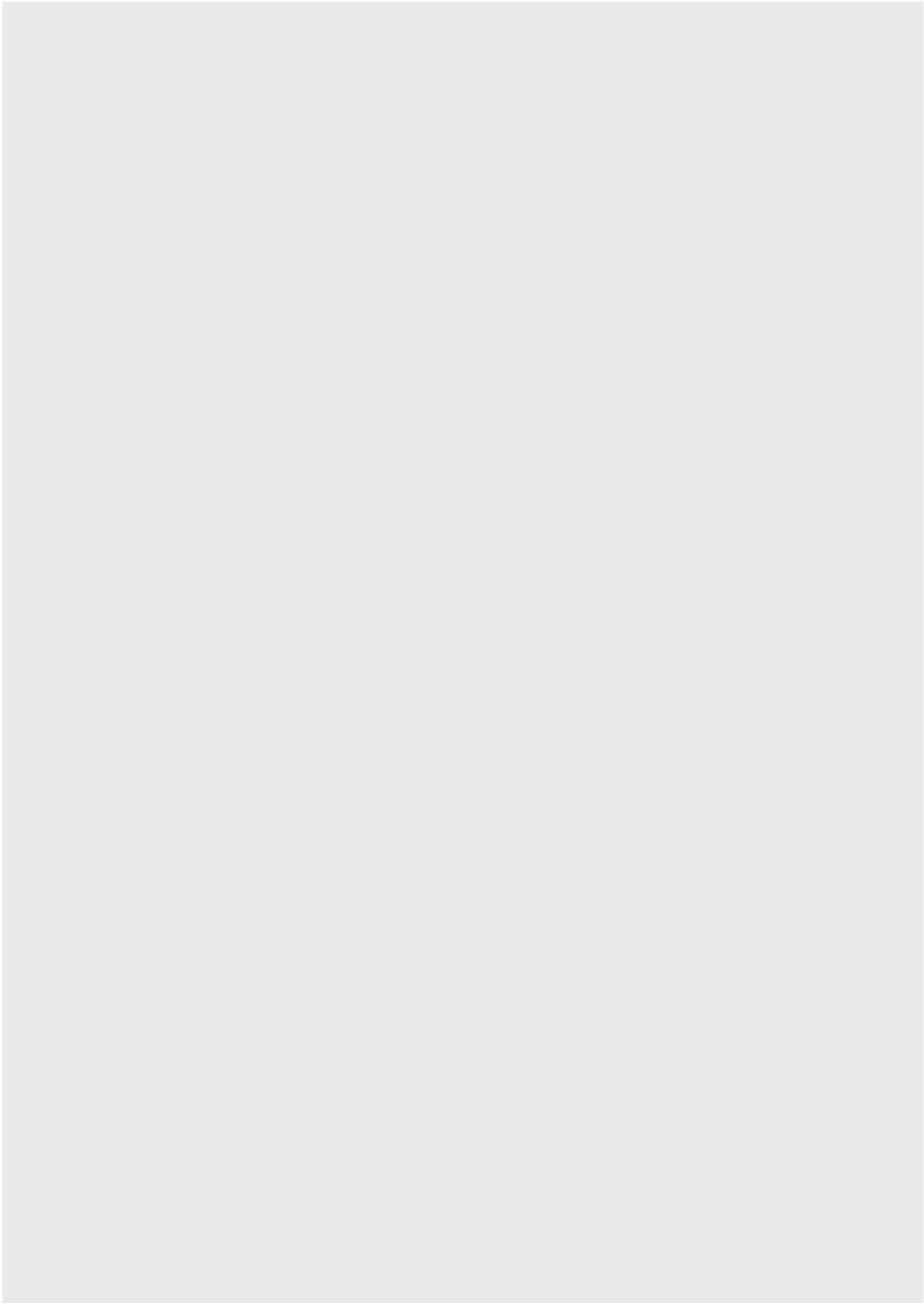
Survey weights were applied to make estimates representative of the population (based on August 2021 population estimates). Further information on the survey design and quality can be found in the [Opinions and Lifestyle Survey Quality and Methodology Information](#).

Upcoming changes

Since March 2020, the ONS has delivered a weekly OPN to help provide rapid evidence around the social impacts of coronavirus on adults in Great Britain. As we have moved to a period where restrictions have been lifted across the Great Britain, the OPN has moved to a fortnightly data collection. This also brings us into line with data collection on the Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICS).

The next bulletin will be published on 24 September 2021.

4 . Related links



[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) latest data and analysis](#)

Web page | Updated as data become available

Latest data and analysis on coronavirus (COVID-19) in the UK and its effects on the economy and society.

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) latest insights](#)

Web page | Updated as data become available

An interactive tool to explore the latest data and trends about the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and other sources.

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) certification: 10 September 2021](#)

Article | Released 10 September 2021

Data and analysis on the percentage of adults in Great Britain who have been asked to show proof of vaccination or a recent negative coronavirus (COVID-19) test, to be let into a venue or event.

[Exploring the changing impact of COVID-19 on our lives](#)

Blog | Released 3 September 2021

In March 2020, as the nation was urged to stay at home and only to leave for essential reasons, our lives were turned upside down. At the ONS, most staff moved to homeworking, and those of us with children found ourselves, in common with millions of others, trying to combine childcare and home-schooling with working in new ways. Here Tim Vizard looks back over the impact we've seen the pandemic having on people's lives.

[Economic activity and social change in the UK, real-time indicators: 9 September 2021](#)

Bulletin | Released 9 September 2021

Early experimental data and analysis on economic activity and social change in the UK. These faster indicators are created using rapid response surveys, novel data sources, and experimental methods.

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Infection Survey, characteristics of people testing positive for COVID-19, UK: 25 August 2021](#)

Bulletin | Released 25 August 2021

Characteristics of people testing positive for COVID-19 from the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Infection Survey. This survey is being delivered in partnership with University of Oxford, University of Manchester, Public Health England and Wellcome Trust. This study is jointly led by the ONS and the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) working with the University of Oxford and Lighthouse Laboratories to collect and test samples.

[Monthly mortality analysis, England and Wales: July 2021](#)

Bulletin | Released 23 August 2021

Provisional death registration data for England and Wales, broken down by sex, age and country. Includes deaths due to coronavirus (COVID-19) and leading causes of death.

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Infection Survey: antibody and vaccination data, UK: 19 August 2021](#)

Bulletin | Released 19 August 2021

Antibody and vaccination data by UK country and regions in England from the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Infection Survey. This analysis has been produced in partnership with the University of Oxford, the University of Manchester, Public Health England, and Wellcome Trust. This study is jointly led by the ONS and the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) working with the University of Oxford and Lighthouse Laboratories to collect and test samples.

[Coronavirus and vaccine hesitancy, Great Britain: 23 June to 18 July 2021](#)

Bulletin | Released 9 August 2021

Hesitancy towards a coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine, based on the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (OPN) covering the period 23 June to 18 July 2021. Additional analysis examines hesitancy in areas of Great Britain between 7 January to 28 March and 28 April to 18 July 2021.

[Prevalence of ongoing symptoms following coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection in the UK: 5 August 2021](#)

Bulletin | Released 5 August 2021

Estimates of the prevalence of self-reported "long COVID" and associated activity limitation, using UK Coronavirus (COVID-19) Infection Survey data.

[Coronavirus and the social impacts of "long COVID" on people's lives in Great Britain: 7 April to 13 June 2021](#)

Article | Released 21 July 2021

Indicators from the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey covering the period 7 April to 13 June 2021 to understand the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on people by their self-reported COVID-19 status.

