

COVID-19 – Weekly Round-up

Friday 2 July 2021

Heart of London Business Alliance is committed to ensuring our members receive the support they need while the situation in relation to COVID-19 is fast-changing. Our Daily Bulletin provides you with an update on the important announcements and guidance from the Government. In addition, it is recommended that our members monitor the [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) website for guidance regarding COVID-19.

Together with our local Member of Parliament, Nickie Aiken, Heart of London will continue to lobby Government for support for our members and your employees during this difficult time.

Government optimistic on 19th July end to restrictions

28th June: The new Health Secretary, Sajid Javid, [confirmed](#) this week in the House of Commons that the 19 July 2021 remains the government's target date for the easing of final restrictions. Referring to the UK's vaccination programme, Javid stated that he was encouraged by new data from Oxford University's 'mix and match' trial which show that a mixed schedule of jabs – such as administering the AstraZeneca jab first then Pfizer second – could give the UK's booster vaccination programme more flexibility – and possibly even some better immune responses. While he acknowledged there continues to be a rise in hospitalisations, he said that this was in line with the levels that had been anticipated at this point on the roadmap.

On Thursday, his comments were supported by the Prime Minister Boris Johnson on a visit to a Nissan car plant in Sunderland, though Johnson was careful to avoid giving a guarantee that restrictions such as social distancing and masks would end on the 19th July. He added that some “*extra precautions*” may be needed for a full return to normality. The government's aim is that around two-thirds of all adults in the country will have had both doses of a Covid-19 vaccine by the 19th July.

UK will provide vaccines to COP26 delegates

29th June: UK government has formally [announced](#) plans to offer vaccinations to registered national delegations, observers (including civil society) and media delegates attending the COP26 Conference who cannot access vaccines through other means. This will be managed through the COP26 registration portal, which launched on 28

June 2021, with the offer to register for a vaccine closing on the 23 July 2021. Accredited COP Delegates being fully vaccinated will be an important mitigation measure to ensure the health and safety of both delegates, and the local community.

The vaccination of registered delegates will be part of a wider package of measures the UK will have in place to be able to deliver a safe, in-person COP26, trailed at the G7 in Cornwall and verbally confirmed by the Chief Operating Officer of the COP26 Unit, Ros Eales, at a Scottish Affairs Committee [session](#) on COP26 on the 23rd June.

PHE estimate that vaccines have prevented 7.2 million infections and 27,000 deaths

28th June: The latest [modelling analysis](#) from Public Health England (PHE) and the University of Cambridge's Medical Research Council Biostatistics Unit suggests that the Covid-19 vaccination programme has so far prevented an estimated 7.2 million infections and 27,000 deaths in England alone. This is the first analysis giving an estimated number of vaccine-prevented infections, providing further evidence of the impact of the vaccination programme so far.

More than half a million Covid-19 tests sequenced

27th June: The UK [has](#) genomically sequenced over 500,000 positive Covid-19 tests as the UK's testing programme continues apace. Sequencing Covid-19 tests allows researchers and public health officials to rapidly identify new variants and better understand the transmission of the virus. The UK Government says that sequencing provides them with "invaluable" data that will inform future decisions taken around social distancing and help monitor for future variants of concern. Jenny Harries, the Chief Executive of the UK Health Security Agency said: "*Sequencing genomes has been one of most versatile tools in our armoury in the battle against COVID-19, and as we progress down the roadmap its role only increases in importance – helping us track mutations in the virus and act decisively to stop cases becoming outbreaks.*".

Other news

- **29th June:** The Scottish government [announced](#) that temporary travel restrictions between Scotland and parts of north west England are to be lifted. Previous rules on travel between Scotland and Manchester and Salford – which came into effect on 21 June 2021 – were eased at midnight on 29 June 2021. A travel restriction on Bolton in place since 24 May 2021 also eased. However, restrictions will remain in place in relation to travel between Scotland and the area of Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council, which

continues to experience concerning case rates of the more transmissible COVID-19 Delta variant. The arrangements affecting that area will be reviewed next week

- **1st July:** Researchers from Utrecht University in the Netherlands have **found** that Covid-19 is common in pet cats and dogs whose owners have the virus. While researchers believe that the most likely route of viral transmission is from human to animal, Dr Broens of Utrecht University's Veterinary Microbiological Diagnostic Centre said that "We can't say there is a 0% risk of owners catching Covid from their pets". A separate study run by the University of Guelph in Ontario, Canada, found cats that slept on their owner's bed were at high risk of infection. Vets in Russia **started** to vaccinate dogs, cats, apes and mink in March.

Contact matt.arnold@heartoflondonbid.co.uk should you have any queries.