Good data means nothing if communication is poor.

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Introduction to the survey

• The COVID-19 Infection Survey is a large-scale community based survey which tracks the current extent of infection and transmission of COVID-19.

• April 2020 - ONS, University of Oxford, IQVIA and others quickly established the household COVID-19 Infection Survey (CIS) in 7 days.

• Field work began:
  • England: 26 April 2020
  • Wales: 29 June 2020,
  • Northern Ireland: 26 July 2020
  • Scotland: 21 September 2020
Analysis to inform the Second wave of COVID-19

Variants of Concern

England
Percentage testing positive for COVID-19

Positivity by age

Age 2 to School Year 6
School Year 7 to Year 11
School Year 12 to Age 24
Analysis throughout the pandemic

England
Percentage testing positive for COVID-19

Antibody and vaccination analysis

Subregional Analysis
In comparison to initial infections, reinfections were on average 17% less likely (95% CIs 14% - 23%) to have a Ct Value <30.

Reinfections were 17% less likely than initial infections to have a high viral load.

Reinfections were shown to be milder than initial infections.
Weekly bulletins and Fortnightly articles

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Infection Survey, UK: 17 September 2021
Estimates for England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland. This survey is being delivered in partnership with the 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 Laboratory to collect and test samples.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Infection Survey, antibody and vaccination data, UK: 16 September 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, 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 Laboratory to collect and test samples.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Infection Survey, characteristics of people testing positive for COVID-19, UK: 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.
Technical articles

Reinfections

Waves and Lags of COVID-19

Positivity after Vaccination
COVID-19 Insights tool

- Within ONS collaboration
- Putting users at the heart
- Triangulation and comparisons between data sources
Other public dissemination

- Blogs
- TV interviews
- Graphs and figures used in Government briefings
- Our data are picked up regularly by news outlets
What have our findings shown?

• Data from the CIS has directly supported key decision making:
  • Regional lockdown
  • November 5th lockdown
  • Regional tier regulations
  • New variant restrictions
  • Roadmap evidence
Analysis to inform local lockdowns

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

• The government set out a roadmap plan to completely ease the restrictions in England in July.

• The COVID-19 Infection Survey was crucial in providing data as part of a suite of evidence on 4 tests that needed to be satisfied before the restrictions could be eased.
I am very happy to answer questions...