



DEBATE PACK

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Covid-19 vaccine take-up rates in London

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Summary

A Westminster Hall debate on the 'Covid-19 vaccine take-up rates in London' has been scheduled for Tuesday 9 March from 9.25-11.00am. The debate has been initiated by Andy Slaughter MP.

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1. Background

On 11 January 2021 the Government published its [UK COVID-19 vaccines delivery plan](#). The plan sets out how Covid-19 vaccines will be supplied, prioritised for those most at risk, made accessible across the country and administered by the healthcare professionals. The delivery plan stated that at a “national, regional and local level we are working in partnership with local authorities, the voluntary and community sector, local resilience forum, communities, staff and patients to ensure that simple accessible advice and information is available to everyone who needs it and that local implementation plans are tailored to support uptake in all communities.”¹

The Government also published a plan to maximise the number of people that take up the offer of vaccination: [COVID-19 vaccination uptake plan \(13 February 2021\)](#).

Further background can be found in the Library briefing [Coronavirus: Covid-19 vaccine roll-out. Frequently Asked Questions](#) (last updated on 4 March 2021).

1.1 Data on Covid-19 vaccine roll-out in London

London is estimated to have lower coverage of COVID-19 vaccinations than other regions of England. As of 28th February, it's estimated that 83% of people aged 80+ in London have had at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, compared with 93% in England as a whole. This gap is similar in all age groups above 65+.

London's vaccine rollout appears to be behind the rest of England

Estimated % vaccinated with at least one dose by 28th Feb, by age group
Coverage estimates based on NIMS population denominators

Region	Age 16-64	Age 65-69	Age 70-74	Age 75-79	Age 80+
London	16%	74%	82%	83%	83%
West Midlands	20%	86%	92%	94%	92%
North West	21%	84%	92%	94%	93%
South East	19%	84%	93%	94%	94%
East of England	19%	84%	93%	94%	94%
East Midlands	20%	86%	93%	95%	94%
Yorkshire & Humber	19%	82%	93%	95%	94%
North East	20%	78%	94%	96%	95%
South West	21%	85%	94%	95%	95%
<i>England</i>	<i>19%</i>	<i>83%</i>	<i>92%</i>	<i>93%</i>	<i>93%</i>

Data: NHS England, [COVID-19 weekly vaccination statistics](#)

¹ Gov.uk, [UK COVID-19 vaccines delivery plan](#), 11 January 2021

Estimated coverage varies substantially in different parts of London. The map overleaf shows estimated coverage broken down by small areas with a population of around 10,000 people ('MSOAs'). The table below shows data broken down by constituency.

Vaccination coverage in London constituencies, age 65+

Estimated % vaccinated with one dose by 28th Feb, based on NIMS population denominators

Lowest estimated coverage	%	Highest estimated coverage	%
Camberwell and Peckham	67%	Old Bexley and Sidcup	92%
Westminster North	69%	Orpington	91%
Lewisham, Deptford	69%	Beckenham	91%
Kensington	69%	Bexleyheath and Crayford	90%
Cities of London & Westminster	69%	Ruislip, Northwood and Pinner	90%
Tottenham	69%	Sutton and Cheam	89%
Vauxhall	69%	Hornchurch and Upminster	88%
Brent Central	70%	Kingston and Surbiton	88%
Croydon North	70%	Bromley and Chislehurst	88%
West Ham	70%	Twickenham	88%

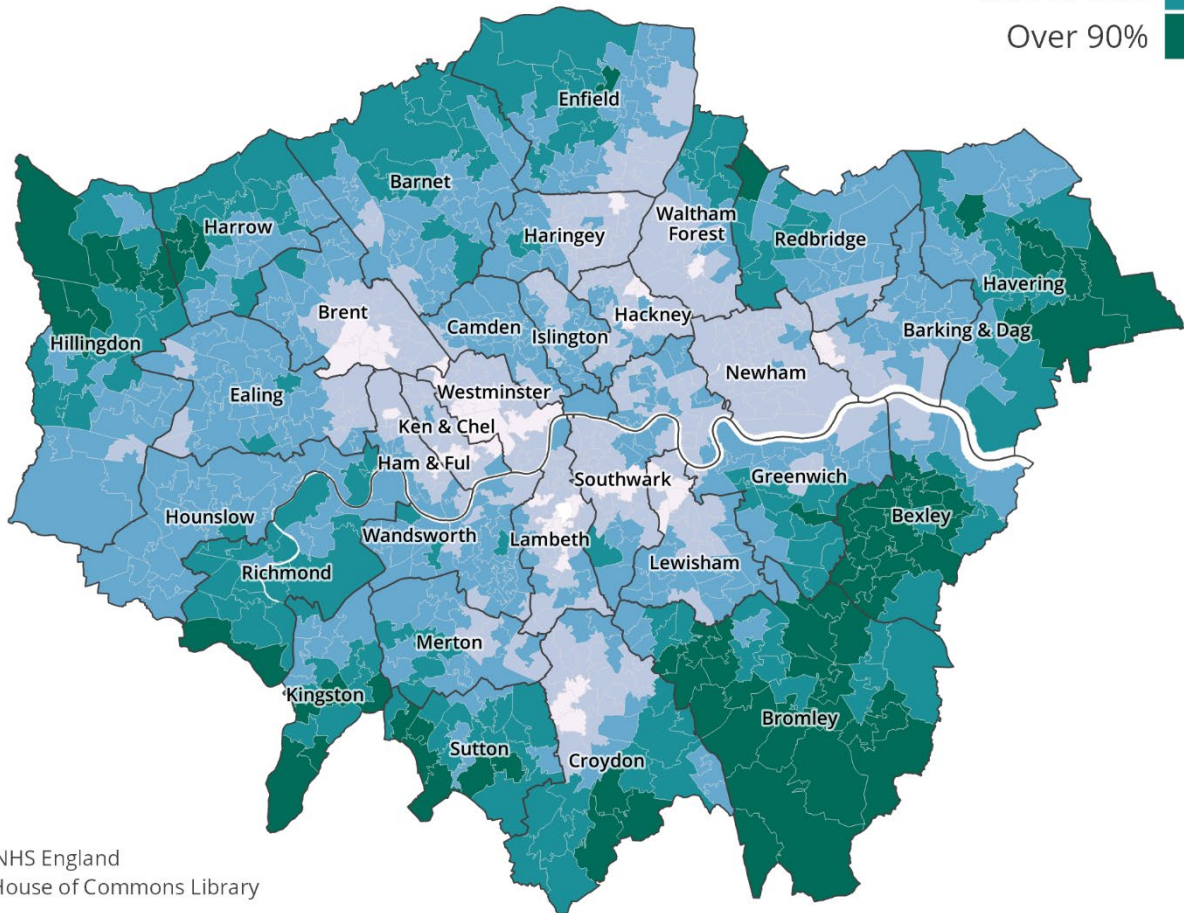
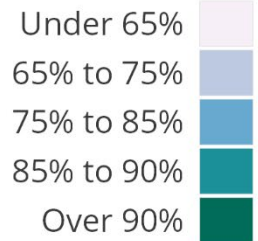
Data: NHS England, [COVID-19 weekly vaccination statistics](#)

COVID-19 vaccine coverage across London: ages 65+

Uncertainty around population estimates means we can't be sure precisely what proportion of the population has been vaccinated in any given area.

Estimated vaccination coverage, age 65+

This map shows the estimated percentage of the population receiving at least one dose of the vaccine by 28th February, based on the National Immunisation Management System population estimates, which are larger than ONS population estimates.



Data: NHS England
Map: House of Commons Library

It's important to note that **we don't know the exact percentage of the population that has been vaccinated in any given area** because of uncertainty around population estimates. This means that some apparent differences in coverage might be due to discrepancies in population estimates.

The coverage estimates presented above use March 2021 population estimates from the National Immunisation Management Service (NIMS), which were only made available on 4th March alongside the [NHS England vaccination data publication](#). Before this, many calculations had used ONS population estimates from mid-2019, which resulted in coverage estimates above 100% for large parts of the country in some age groups. The NIMS

estimates avoid this, but also provide a population estimate for England of 61.2 million, which is 5 million larger than the ONS mid-2019 estimate.

In London specifically, it's been [reported](#) that the population has fallen since the pandemic. If this turns out to be true, it may not be reflected in population estimates yet, and so may also have an impact on the genuine coverage rates.

2. Parliamentary Material

2.1 Parliamentary Questions

Coronavirus: Vaccination

04 Mar 2021 | 160742

Asked by: Helen Hayes

To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government regarding the adequacy of funding to local authorities to support public engagement activities aimed at encouraging covid-19 vaccine uptake locally.

Answering member: Steve Barclay | Department: Treasury

The Chancellor and the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government regularly discuss local government funding. The specific issue of encouraging vaccine uptake is a public health matter and thus the responsibility of the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care.

Significant additional funding has been made available for local public health responses to Covid-19. Chief among these is the Contain Outbreak Management Fund, which will provide over £2 billion across local authorities in England across the financial years 2020-21 and 2021-22 for a range of public health initiatives, including communications.

In addition, over £23 million in funding has been allocated through the Community Champions scheme to 60 councils and to voluntary groups across England to expand work to support those most at risk from Covid-19 and boost vaccine take up.

The Government's plan to maximise Covid-19 vaccine uptake is available at the following

webpage: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-uptake-plan/uk-covid-19-vaccine-uptake-plan>.

Coronavirus: Greater London

01 Mar 2021 | 137267

Asked by: Catherine West

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what discussions his Department has had with representatives of clinical commissioning groups on the potential merits of capturing and publishing data by London boroughs as part of the national rollout of the covid-19 vaccination programme.

Answering member: Nadhim Zahawi | Department: Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC)

No specific discussions with clinical commissioning groups have taken place. However, Ministers and officials meet frequently to discuss all aspects of the COVID-19 vaccination programme, including data and reporting.

COVID-19 vaccination data is being shared at both a Middle Layer Super Output Area (MSOA) level and a lower tier local authority level. Additionally, NHS England and NHS Improvement's weekly publication on COVID-19 can be found on the NHS England website. This publication currently includes data on:

- All National Health Service COVID-19 vaccinations administered in the reporting period;
- Vaccinations by age band, defined as 80 years old and over, 75 to 79, 70 to 74 and under 70 years old;
- Vaccinations by dose;
- Vaccinations by NHS region;
- Vaccinations by integrated care systems and sustainability and transformation partnerships;
- Vaccinations by clinical commissioning groups;
- Vaccinations by ethnicity; and
- Vaccinations of residents and staff in older adult care homes.

Coronavirus: Vaccination

25 Feb 2021 | 156478

Asked by: Helen Hayes | Party: Labour Party

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, how many and what proportion of (a) care home and (b) home care staff in London have been vaccinated against covid-19 to date.

Answering member: Nadhim Zahawi | Department: DHSC

NHS England now publish weekly data on the vaccination of care home residents and staff, including those in London, which is available at the following link:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/covid-19-vaccinations/>

We are working with NHS England to publish data on the vaccination of home care staff.

Covid-19: Vaccination Programme

24 Feb 2021 | House of Lords | 810 c828

Asked by: Lord Reid of Cardowan

My Lords, the vaccination programme has been one bright spot in what has otherwise been a less than illustrious handling of the pandemic, but the number of daily doses administered on Monday fell significantly, week on week, for the fifth day running. Can the Minister explain why? Can he further explain the apparent discrepancy between the vaccination rate in London and other regions of the country? It appears that some regions have a rate 50% higher than London. What are the reasons for that and what is being done to narrow the gap?

Answered by: Lord Bethell

My Lords, I do not agree with the noble Lord's analysis. We are sometimes constrained by supply, but I am reassured that we will hit the targets that I articulated. London has a younger demographic, which is why the rollout percentages can seem lower than in other areas.

[Covid-19 Vaccination Programme](#)

23 Feb 2021 | 689 c748

Asked by: Liz Kendall

The Prime Minister promised that all staff in elderly care homes would be vaccinated by the end of January. Will the Secretary of State confirm that more than 30% of those staff in England have not been vaccinated, and that the proportion rises to almost half of all staff in elderly care homes in London? Will he urgently set out precisely how the Government will increase uptake and tackle lies and misinformation about the vaccine among this vital group of workers, as we have been urging the Minister for Care to do since before Christmas?

Answered by: Matt Hancock | Department: DHSC

Yes. We are absolutely all on the same side on this issue. To be totally clear for the hon. Lady, and all those listening, the Prime Minister set out that we would offer the vaccine to all residents of care homes by the end of January and to all staff by 15 February, and we achieved that. The challenge is uptake. Rather than having a political ding-dong about it, what we all need to do is get out the positive messages about the vaccination programme. I am delighted that the Minister for Care and the Minister for Covid Vaccine Deployment have both been working incredibly hard on this issue, and we published an uptake plan last weekend. I am sure the hon. Lady will want to join the efforts to try to encourage everybody to get the jab.

[Coronavirus: Vaccination](#)

16 Feb 2021 | 129106

Asked by: Marsha De Cordova

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, with reference to the findings of YouGov's survey for Queen Mary University of London that 39 per cent of ethnic minority and 70 per cent of white people living in London said they were likely to have the covid-19 vaccination, how the Government's vaccination public information campaign plans to target Black, Asian and ethnic minority communities.

Answering member: Nadhim Zahawi | Department: DHSC

The Department is working with Public Health England, NHS England and NHS Improvement and key stakeholders to encourage uptake of the COVID-19 vaccine among black, Asian and minority ethnic communities. The Department is also working with community press, TV and radio stations to deliver information on vaccination in over a dozen languages.

Activity is also focusing on working with trusted voices such as healthcare personnel, faith leaders, community influencers and community organisations for priority multicultural audiences, with a particular focus on Muslim, Polish, black African and Caribbean and Jewish communities. The

Department is building on pre-existing relationships and established channels as well as reaching out to more influencers through virtual sessions.

Coronavirus: Greater London

08 Feb 2021 | 141406

Asked by: Andrew Rosindell

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps he is taking to ensure that (a) Havering and (b) other London boroughs with significant elderly and vulnerable populations receive supplies of covid-19 vaccines proportionate to the number of residents in high priority groups.

Answering member: Nadhim Zahawi | Department: DHSC

The COVID-19 vaccine programme has expanded rapidly in the last month, with over 140 vaccination sites across London, including 44 hospital hubs, 101 local vaccination services and two vaccination centres currently in operation. This network of vaccination sites has been designed to fit the expected vaccine supply and demand and to ensure safe and easy access for the whole population. For the provision of vaccines and their onward deployment, the Government closely monitors the clearly defined supply chain plans for manufacturing, transport, storage and distribution. Targeted deliveries are being made to areas where there are more people left to vaccinate in the priority cohorts, proportionate to the at-risk population they have registered.

Coronavirus: Vaccination

21 Jan 2021 | 139129

Asked by: Marsha De Cordova

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what steps he is taking to avoid gaps in the delivery of supplies of the covid-19 vaccine affecting areas of (a) London and (b) the UK.

Answering member: Nadhim Zahawi | Department: Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

Vaccines are a precious resource and are in very high demand across the world; therefore, for security reasons it is not possible to provide detail about the size of our supplies and exact detail about future deliveries.

We have been monitoring the requirements across the supply chain from supplier through to patients for some time. All vaccine candidates' supply and onward deployment have clear supply chain plans across the value chain, including materials, manufacturing, transportation, storage, and distribution. We continue to work to meet our target of vaccinating all four priority groups, as advised by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation, by the middle of February.

The vaccine is being rolled out as quickly as doses can be supplied and quality checked, with over 4.6 million people already vaccinated across the UK. The UK COVID-19 Vaccines Delivery Plan sets out how the Government will work with the NHS, devolved administrations, local councils, and the

Armed Forces to deliver the largest vaccination programme in British history.

3. Press Articles

The following is a selection of news and media articles relevant to this debate.

Please note: the Library is not responsible for either the views or the accuracy of external content.

[Covid: London lagging behind rest of England with vaccine jabs](#)

ITV News

4 March 2021

[Big cities and staff lag on vaccine uptake](#)

HSJ

4 March 2021

[London's left behind as England's 15 least vaccinated areas located in the capital](#) [Subscription required]

Financial News

26 February 2021

[London nears 2 million total Covid jabs as vaccination rollout continues](#)

ITV News

26 February 2021

[Staff covid vaccine uptake much lower in London](#)

Health Service Journal (HSJ)

25 February 2021

[Covid vaccination rollout: London still lags behind rest of England for vaccine take-up](#)

iNews

25 February 2021

[London lags behind in race to vaccinate over-70s against Covid, data shows](#)

The Guardian

19 February 2021

[New stats show vaccination progress in each health system](#)

HSJ

12 February 2021

[London doctors say they are running out of priority patients to vaccinate](#)

The Guardian

11 February 2021

[Why did an east London Covid vaccination centre close its doors early?](#)

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ITV News

9 February 2021

[Covid-19: Vaccination target 'will be hit' in London](#)

BBC

4 February 2021

[The capital accelerates biggest ever vaccination programme – with 25 more sites opening for jabs this week](#)

NHS England and NHS Improvement

18 January 2021

[Covid-19: Concern over speed London is vaccinating over-80s](#)

BBC

14 January 2021

4. Further Reading

4.1 House of Commons Library Papers

[Coronavirus: Covid-19 vaccine roll-out. Frequently Asked Questions](#)

CBP 9081

4 March 2021

4.2 London Assembly

[Question and Answer Session: COVID-19 Vaccination Delivery in London](#)

Agenda item meeting of London Assembly

4 February 2021

4.3 NHS England

[COVID-19 Vaccinations](#)

NHS England Statistics

Information on the number of COVID-19 vaccinations provided by the NHS in England, both in total since vaccinations began and to the current eligible population.

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