

## **2021 – The Year in Context**

### **Domestic tourism:**

The Great Britain Tourism Survey (GBTS) is a national consumer survey measuring the volume and value of domestic overnight tourism trips taken by residents in Great Britain and provides detailed information about trip and visitor characteristics. Data capture during 2020 was impacted due to COVID-19 related travel restrictions creating a temporary gap in this domestic tourism monitor. Fieldwork resumed in April 2021 and at the time of writing these reports the 2021 data has yet to be released by VisitEngland. This disruption means the National Tourist Boards will be unable to publish detailed results from GBTS for Q1 2021 and any data from this period will only be published after a thorough review to ensure they meet necessary quality standards. There is also no detail available as yet for the samples collected or what geographical breakdowns will be available.

### **Inbound tourism:**

The travel and tourism statistics published by The Office for National Statistics (ONS) are based on the results of the International Passenger Survey (IPS), but the running of the survey has been impacted because of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. During 2021, the IPS survey restarted at the majority of ports but did not operate at Dover until Q3 and there were no interviews on the Eurotunnel through the entirety of 2021 due to COVID-19 restrictions. Therefore, the data for all passengers below does not represent the total inbound market for 2021 and is not directly comparable with historical UK total data. Pseudo records for the Irish land border were also removed in 2021. The ONS revised IPS 2021 data on 16th August 2022 which led to some minor changes at the total level for visits, nights and spend but had a bigger impact at the individual country level.

According to these estimates, there were 6.4 million inbound visits to the UK in 2021 with a gradual increase throughout the year as travel restrictions to the UK loosened and international travel resumed; 32% of visits were in Q3 and 59% were in Q4. Visitors spent £5.6bn in 2021 with Q4 generating the most spend at £3.0bn. In total, 93.5 million nights were spent in the UK in 2021.

2021 saw all journey purposes at a fraction of normal levels due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As might be expected due to travel restrictions for the majority of the year, visits to friends and relatives made up over half of visits in 2021 with 3.5 million visits throughout the year. Holiday visits and Business visits each accounted for 19% of total inbound visits (1.2 million visits each). Study visits, traditionally a smaller inbound segment to the UK, totalled at 119,000. All other visits, under 'miscellaneous' accounted for 411,000 visits in 2021.

## 2021 Month by Month Impacts

	<u>Weather impacts</u>	<u>The Covid-19 Pandemic</u>
<u>January</u>	<p>The first ten days of January were generally cold, with wintry showers in places in the first week and more general precipitation on the 7th and 8th. It turned milder and wetter in the south from the 10th, but colder air persisted at times in the north, resulting in some snow at the frontal boundary. Storm Christoph brought very wet and windy weather between the 19th and 21st, with many stations having over 100 mm of rain. It was colder from the 22nd to 25th with snow in places, mainly in the west and the Midlands. From the 26th it turned mild and wet in the south but remained generally cold in Scotland.</p> <p>Wintry conditions in the first week of January caused some travel disruption, mainly across Scotland, northern England and Northern Ireland, with some stranded vehicles and collisions. Ongoing snow and icy conditions through the second week of January continued to cause disruption. In Scotland, the A9 was closed in places, and other roads also closed with stranded vehicles. The high ground of northern England and Wales was affected by snow, with road closures and delays in the Pennines. Schools were closed in parts of Yorkshire and Derbyshire, while at lower levels flooding caused some transport disruption, affecting parts of the M6 and M60. Some COVID vaccination centres were closed due to snow in Newcastle and West Yorkshire on the 14th, with flooding to roads causing travel disruption; there were reports of cars stranded in flood water in Hertfordshire and flooded railway lines in Essex.</p> <p>Storm Christoph swept across the country on 20th to 21st, causing significant flooding problems. Major incidents were declared in Greater Manchester and Cheshire due to flooding, with widespread flooding road and rail flooding and closures. Some properties were flooded, for example in Cheshire, with a number of water rescues carried out by the fire service. A landslide occurred above Pentre in the Rhondda valley, South Wales. There were also some flooded roads and trees down across the east of England and parts of the south-west. As Christoph cleared the UK it brought heavy snow to parts of Scotland causing some road closures and difficult driving conditions.</p> <p>The wintry weather continued to impact parts of the UK during the last week of January. Snow and ice on roads caused problems in Wales and</p>	<p>1 January – The UK government announces that all primary schools in London will remain closed for the start of the winter term.</p> <p>2 January – Teaching unions have told primary school staff it is unsafe to return to school and urged them to implement remote learning as pressure grows on the government to keep schools closed for the first two weeks of January following its decision to do so in London. An anti-lockdown protest is held in Hyde Park in London; 17 people are arrested at the demonstration. Police chiefs have called for police officers to be given priority for COVID vaccinations after reports that 1,300 Metropolitan Police officers are absent from work because of the virus.</p> <p>3 January – Following concerns about the safety of reopening schools, Prime Minister Boris Johnson has urged parents of primary age children to send them to school the following day if their school is open, saying there is "no doubt in my mind that schools are safe". Despite this, many primary schools have still decided to not open after the Christmas break. So far Essex Council has said that would keep schools closed at least until 6 January; Kent County Council along with Birmingham's education authorities asked the Education Secretary to allow primaries to stay closed. They said the argument for reopening amid high infection rates "does not stack up". Johnson has also stated that tougher restrictions are "probably about to get tougher" in some parts of England as COVID-19 cases continue to increase. Leader of the Opposition Sir Keir Starmer calls for a national lockdown to be announced within 24 hours in order to tackle the rising number of COVID cases. Wendy Simon, the Acting Mayor of Liverpool and other Liverpool City Council members, have called for England to go into a national lockdown in order to curb rising COVID cases in the city. Garrett Emmerson, the Chief Executive of the London Ambulance Service, describes the service as being under "incredible pressure" but "coping". Paediatricians have sought to reassure parents that the new strain of COVID is not more dangerous to children after a nurse based at a London hospital told the BBC that her hospital had "a while ward of children" suffering with the virus.</p> <p>4 January - Most of England's primary schools are reopened, amid concerns over whether pupils should be returning under the current COVID restrictions. After saying there is "no question" that tougher COVID measures will be introduced "in due course", Prime Minister Johnson makes a televised address in which he announces another lockdown for England, with rules similar to those in March</p>

Northern Ireland, and snow caused numerous road closures in the Midlands. Several COVID vaccination centres were closed due to poor travel conditions.

2020. People are permitted to leave home only for essential reasons, which include work, daily exercise, essential shopping and medical treatment. Schools are closed from the following day, though vulnerable children and those of key workers may still attend, and pre-school remains open, while university students will not return to campus but instead have online tuition. End of year examinations are once again cancelled. Grassroots sport is suspended, but not elite sport. Dialysis patient Brian Pinker, 82, has become the first person to receive the Oxford–AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine.

5 January - The UK records over 60,000 positive cases of COVID in one day, the highest ever, with over 50,000 of those cases being from England. Declaring that the government closed schools "with the heaviest of hearts", Cabinet Secretary Michael Gove confirms that GCSE and A Level examinations scheduled for summer 2021 have been cancelled, with grades once again based on teacher assessment. But while GCSEs and A Levels are cancelled, vocational exams such as BTECs will still go ahead. Labour Leader Sir Keir Starmer calls for a "round the clock" COVID vaccination programme to tackle the rise in cases. England's Chief Medical officer, Professor Chris Whitty, suggests "a few" COVID restrictions may be required in Winter 2021–22 to control the virus, particularly if people do not adhere to the government's "stay at home" message.

6 January - With the third lockdown officially under way, Boris Johnson says he cannot guarantee that all children will be back at school before the summer holidays. MPs vote 524–16 in favour of the latest lockdown measures for England. Legislation for the 3rd national lockdown comes into force by putting every area in England into the tier 4 area and strengthening the restrictions. Education Secretary Gavin Williamson confirms that GCSE and A Level grades for summer 2021 will be based on teachers' assessment. The UK government announces seven new vaccination hubs for England, to be located in London, Newcastle, Manchester, Birmingham, Bristol, Surrey and Stevenage. They are scheduled to become operational from the following week.

7 January - A change in government rules regarding who can attend school now permits children without laptops or room to study to attend, sparking concerns schools will be overrun with such children. Nursery providers have asked the government to provide them with evidence that it is safe for them to remain open while schools and colleges are closed.

8 January – Sadiq Kahn, the Mayor of London, declares a "major incident" in London, where he says COVID is "out of control". Two of the UK's headteachers'

unions, the NAHT and ASCL, have expressed concern at the number of children attending school during lockdown and called for limits; school attendance is at 50% in some areas.

An England-wide advertising campaign launches on television, fronted by Chief Medical Officer Chris Whitty, urging people to stay at home and act as though they have COVID. The Telegraph reports that GP surgeries are being offered £1,000 to cancel appointments for the second COVID inoculation so that more first inoculations can be done and are also being given a script for dealing with angry patients. With lockdown and school closures in force, it is reported that referrals for children with mental health problems have reached a record high.

10 January – Regular rapid testing for people without COVID symptoms are to be made available throughout England in the coming week. As it is reported that 130,000 letters have been sent out so far inviting people to regional vaccination hubs for a COVID vaccine, a number of people aged over 80 have questioned why they have been asked to attend venues that can be as much as a 30–45-minute drive from home when they have been asked to shield.

12 January - Home Secretary Priti Patel urges people to "play [their] part" in following COVID rules and says she will back the police in enforcing them. A leaked memo warns that hospitals in Birmingham are "in a position of extremis" as COVID cases in the city rise, with 200 doctors set to be redeployed to the intensive care unit of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. It is reported that London's Nightingale Hospital has reopened and is taking COVID patients. Downing Street has defended Prime Minister Boris Johnson for taking a seven-mile bike ride, which it says complied with COVID regulations. The trip came to light after Johnson was spotted cycling in Olympic Park.

13 January – In a letter to the education watchdog Ofqual, Education Secretary Gavin Williamson suggests that GCSE, AS and A Level students could be asked to sit mini-exams in order to help their teachers decide "deserved grades".

14 January – Ambulance and COVID vaccination services in Yorkshire are hampered by heavy snow.

15 January – Professor Chris Whitty forecasts that hospital admissions will peak in the next seven to ten days. A small number of intensive care patients with COVID-19 are moved from hospitals in London to Newcastle Upon Tyne, it is reported. Police charge a 33-year-old man with fraud and common assault after

he is alleged to have administered a fake COVID vaccine to a 92-year-old woman then charged her £160 in December 2020. Proposals published jointly by the Department for Education and Ofqual suggest GCSE and A Level results could be published in early July in 2021 rather than August as in previous years.

16 January – Former RAF Flight Sergeant Louis Godwin, 95, becomes the first person to receive a COVID vaccination at a vaccination centre established in Salisbury Cathedral.

17 January – Speaking to Sky News's Sophy Ridge on Sunday, Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab says the government's target is to offer every adult their first dose of COVID vaccine by September, with some lockdown restrictions being eased by March. The UK government announces a financial support package for airports in England, which is scheduled to begin by the end of January. NHS England Chief Executive Sir Simon Stevens says that 140 COVID injections are being given each minute, a rate four times greater than the number of cases being detected. In a letter to the UK government, a group of London-based businessmen call for financial support for the rail firm Eurostar. The next phase of the COVID vaccination programme is announced, with people aged 70 and over, as well as those clinically extremely vulnerable, to begin receiving offers of vaccine over the forthcoming week.

18 January – A further ten mass vaccination centres are opened at venues in England, including Blackburn Cathedral and St Helens Ruby Ground. London is to begin trialling 24-hour vaccination centres by the end of January, it is reported.

19 January – Figures released by the ONS suggest that as many as one in eight people, or 5.4 million people, had been infected with COVID by December 2020.

20 January – The government announces that the rollout of daily mass testing in secondary schools as an alternative to self-isolation will be paused because the benefits of it are unclear following the emergence of the new variant of COVID. 24-hour vaccination schemes are piloted at hospitals in Birmingham and Nottingham.

21 January – At a Downing Street Press Conference, Home Secretary Priti Patel announces that fines of £800 for anyone attending a house party of more than 15 people will be introduced in England from the following week. Education Secretary Gavin Williamson says that schools will be given two weeks' notice before they return, but that he cannot say when this will be, though he hopes

they will be open again before Easter. Pulse oximeters, which measure the oxygen level in the body, are being rolled out to patients at high risk of COVID, in a bid to detect the silent hypoxia element of the virus. The oximeter measures the level of oxygen in the blood. Boris Johnson says it is "too early" to say whether lockdown restrictions can be lifted in the spring.

22 January – The Metropolitan Police announce the break up of a wedding party at the Yesodey Hatorah Senior Girls School in Stamford Hill, London. After initially claiming there were 400 attendees, they later revise this figure down to 150. A Downing Street spokesman has said there are no plans to give universal payments of £500 to everyone in England asked to self-isolate after the idea was suggested in a document produced by the Department of Health and Social Care.

24 January – Police have issued £15,000 in fines after 300 people attended a rave beneath a railway arch in London. Six COVID test centres across the West Midlands are temporarily closed after the area is hit by heavy snowfall.

25 January – A number of Conservative MPs, including Robert Halfon, chair of the House of Commons Education Select Committee, have urged the government to set out its strategy for reopening schools in England as concerns grow about the impact closures are having on children's education. In response, Prime Minister Johnson says the government will give an update on when schools can reopen "as soon as we can". Health Secretary Matt Hancock says there are early signs that COVID restrictions are working, but that it is "difficult to put a timeline" on when they can be lifted.

26 January – Fines of £200 are to be given to 31 Metropolitan Police officers who broke COVID rules by having a haircut; two officers who hired a barber to give the haircuts are to face misconduct investigations.

27 January – Prime Minister Johnson tells the House of Commons it will not be possible for schools to return in England after February half-term, but that he is hopeful it can begin to happen from 8 March. A final decision will depend on meeting vaccination targets, and schools will get two weeks' notice before returning.

29 January – The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (All Tiers and Self Isolation) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2021 comes into force at 5.00pm, levying fines of £800 on anyone attending a house party with over fifteen people and allowing police to access track and trace data. Education policy experts have

		<p>called for schoolchildren in England to be allowed to repeat a year because of the school time they have missed during the pandemic.</p> <p>30 January – Health bosses in Nottinghamshire have apologised after Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group sent out letters to critically vulnerable children inviting them for COVID vaccinations</p> <p>31 January – Dr Susan Hopkins, Head of Strategy at Public Health England says England's lockdown should be eased "very slowly, very cautiously".</p>
<p><b>February</b></p>	<p><b><u>Weather impacts</u></b></p>	<p><b><u>The Covid-19 Pandemic</u></b></p>
	<p>The first five days of February were mild in the south, cold in the north, and unsettled, followed by a very cold easterly spell with heavy snowfalls in some areas, and extremely low temperatures on the early morning of the 11th. It turned much milder for the second half of the month, and wetter in most areas with frequent strong winds, before a quieter anticyclonic spell arrived for the last few days.</p> <p>Heavy rain brought some flood impacts to Devon and Cornwall on the 1st, and in Northern Ireland snow caused some travel disruption on the 2nd, followed by some road flooding. On the 3rd, snow caused some impassable roads and travel disruption across the north of England, with school closures in Derbyshire from the wintry weather. Snow caused some road and rail closures across eastern Scotland on 5th and 6th, with some vehicles were stranded. There were also reports of flooding on some roads in the Central Belt. Some road closures, train cancellations and property flooding also occurred across parts of Yorkshire and Humber.</p> <p>The most significant weather impacts of the month came from the week of wintry weather from 7th February. On 7th and 8th eastern coastal counties of England were affected by snow, particularly across the south-east. Some covid vaccination centres were closed in Suffolk and Essex due to snow, with road traffic collisions, fallen trees and dangerous driving conditions. Some roads and rail lines became blocked due to snow drifts with power cuts and over 500 school closures. In London there were cancellations to both over ground and some underground services and hazardous icy conditions on pavements.</p> <p>The wintry weather impacts also extended further north. Across the north of England on the 8th there were reports of road closures and stranded</p>	<p>1 February – NHS England confirms that every older care home resident in England has been offered a COVID vaccine. Health Secretary Matt Hancock confirms that around 80,000 residents over the age of 16 in areas of Surrey, London, Kent, Hertfordshire, Southport and Walsall are to be asked to take tests for the South African COVID-19 variant after 11 cases were identified that could not be linked to travel.</p> <p>2 February – Health Secretary Matt Hancock tells the House of Commons people living in areas singled out for enhanced testing for the South African COVID variant should get tested and stay at home unless it is essential to go out. Hancock also tells Parliament that Liverpool and Bristol are also areas of interest for new variants. Figures published by the Department for Education show that 1.2 million school pupils (roughly 15% of the school population) were at school on 28 January, a rise from 14% the previous week. The increase in numbers comes from primary pupils and those attending special schools.</p> <p>3 February – Hampshire Constabulary and Sussex Police have issued a Community Protection Notice against a 30-year-old woman prohibiting her from visiting hospitals in Hampshire and Sussex without an appointment after she filmed empty hospital corridors and posted the footage online.</p> <p>4 February – It is reported that teaching staff in London have been able to book and receive COVID vaccinations meant for health workers after a link to the booking site was forwarded to them via WhatsApp.</p> <p>5 February – Police in Sheffield issue £34,000 worth of fines following a student party involving 150 people at a halls of residence.</p>

vehicles on the A66 across the north Pennines. More snow across Scotland and the north of England on the 9th brought further winter impacts with reports of road closures, collisions and accidents with some communities cut off due to the amount of snow on some roads. There was deep snow and drifting across upland areas – particularly the Scottish mountains - with avalanche risk reported in the Pentland hills south of Edinburgh. While most of the country was suffering from snow there were strong south-easterly winds across the south-west disrupting rail services at Dawlish, Devon and to the freight ship Gry Maritha departing to the Isles of Scilly.

Strong winds, snow and heavy rain brought some disruption to Northern Ireland on the 13th and 14th. There were reports of fallen trees and disruption and fallen trees blocking roads. Drifting snow continued to cause problems across the north of England with some roads still impassable.

Heavy rain in the west on 19th and 20th caused some road and rail closures across Scotland, Northern Ireland, Wales, the west Midlands and across the south-west. In Wales there was widespread flooding of roads, rail and some properties with the Rivers Towy, Cynin and Usk coming out of their banks. Parts of Hertfordshire were also affected with some property flooding.

There were fallen trees and flooding to roads in Devon and Cornwall from 19th to 21st, and the rail line between Par and Newquay was flooded. Persistent rain also caused problems in the north from 23rd to 24th, with flooding, fallen trees and debris causing disruption to trains across Scotland and some road closures. Cumbria was also affected by localised surface water flooding with some blocked roads.

6 February – Testing for the South African COVID variant begins in Worcestershire after cases were discovered there with no apparent link to international travel.

Fourteen adults are fined a collective total of more than £11,000 after attending a first birthday party, Nottinghamshire Police have confirmed.

7 February – Companies that employ over 50 people and whose employees cannot work from home are now eligible for lateral flow tests. The tests had previously only been available to firms with a workforce of 250 or more.

8 February –

Surge testing is to be introduced to parts of Manchester after four cases of a mutated version of the B17 strain were found in two unconnected households in the city.

Deputy Chief Medical Officer Jonathan Van-Tam urges people aged 70 and over who have not received a COVID-19 vaccination to contact the NHS "without delay".

Sir Kevan Collins, England's newly appointed Education Recovery Commissioner, says that school pupils will need extra hours of learning, sport, music and drama to make up for education missed because of the pandemic.

Heavy snow brings disruption to the vaccination process, with centres in the South East and East Anglia forced to close temporarily because of the adverse weather.

9 February –

Jonathan Van-Tam, England's Deputy Chief Medical Officer, warns people against booking summer holidays abroad in 2021, suggesting "the more elaborate your plans are for summer holidays... the more you are stepping into making guesses about the unknown".

Head teachers' leaders have warned against giving school pupils longer hours and shorter holidays as a way of catching up with missed education.

10 February – Four councils in England – Eastbourne, Bexley, Luton and Peterborough – are being given emergency funding to balance their books, Communities Secretary Robert Jenrick announces. Jenrick says that while COVID is to blame for the financial situation of some of the councils, others are in their predicament because of "very poor management".

11 February – Figures published by NHS England indicate that in December 2020, 224,205 people had been waiting for 12 months or longer for routine hospital treatment, the highest number since April 2008. A new booking system is launched for the hotel quarantine scheme but taken down again within minutes because of a "minor technical issue". Office for National Statistics figures show that 30,296 of the 50,888 COVID patients who died in England between January and November 2020 had a disability.

12 February – Sir Simon Stevens, the Chief Executive of NHS England, says England is on course to offer the top four priority groups their first COVID vaccine by the target date of 15 February. The deadline to buy a property under the Help to Buy equity loans scheme is extended until the end of May amid concerns 16,000 sales could be at risk because of the COVID crisis.

13 February – Prime Minister Boris Johnson says he is "optimistic" he will be able to set out "cautious" plans for reopening society later in the month. Heathrow Airport says there are "significant gaps" in the hotel quarantine scheme scheduled to begin on 15 February. A case of South African variant COVID is discovered in the Hampshire village of Bramley, requiring all residents over the age of 16 to participate in surge testing. The leaders of the Parliamentary COVID Recovery Group have written to Prime Minister Boris Johnson urging him to lift all COVID restrictions by the end of April.

14 February – Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab rejects calls by the COVID Recovery Group to give a date for when restrictions will be eased.

15 February – People aged 65–69 and those aged 16–64 classed as clinically vulnerable are invited to book their COVID vaccinations as the programme is expanded beyond the top four priority groups. The Managed Quarantine Service begins: travellers entering the UK from or via "red list" countries must pay for 11 nights in a designated hotel. Trade unions have expressed their concern that "patchy" financial support for people self-isolating because of COVID-19 is leaving many facing financial hardship. A study conducted at the University Hospitals of

Leicester NHS Trust finds a lower take up of the vaccine among ethnic minority staff, with a 70.9% take up among white staff, compared to 58.5% of South Asian staff and 36.8% of black staff.

16 February – An extra 1.7 million people are expected to be asked to join the 2.3 million already shielding from COVID-19 after the development of a new model that looks at other factors in addition to health, such as ethnicity, weight and deprivation. At least half of these extra people are yet to receive COVID vaccinations so will be prioritised for inoculation. Surge testing for the South African COVID variant is to be expanded in Surrey, Norfolk and Southampton, while testing for a mutation of the Kent variant will be expanded in Manchester. West Midlands Police confirm that four passengers arriving in the UK have been fined £10,000 for failing to declare their visit to a "red list" country.

17 February – Prime Minister Boris Johnson says England's lockdown strategy will be led by "data not dates". Anne Longfield, the Children's Commissioner for England, calls for the government to focus on vulnerable children in plans to "build back better" after the pandemic. A woman from Scarborough, North Yorkshire, who deliberately coughed at police officers investigating a breach of COVID rules is sentenced to four months imprisonment by the town's magistrates.

18 February – Imperial College London's React study has indicated COVID-19 infections in England have fallen by two-thirds since January, with an 80% drop in London. Data from NHS England suggests that 3 in 10 care home staff are yet to be vaccinated against COVID-19 despite being in one of the top priority groups. A man in his 30s with no underlying health conditions is offered a vaccine under the extremely clinically vulnerable category after an administrative error gave him a BMI reading of 28,000. The error, made by NHS Liverpool Clinical Commissioning Group, had meant the man's height was incorrectly recorded as 6.2 cm rather than 6 ft 2in.

19 February – A joint statement released by the UK's teaching unions suggests it would be "reckless" to reopen all schools for pupils in England on 8 March.

20 February – As part of plans to ease lockdown restrictions, care home residents will be allowed one visitor indoors from 8 March. They are asked not to hug or kiss, but hand holding will be permitted, and visitors must provide a negative COVID test and wear PPE during the visit.

21 February – The organiser of a church group meeting that took place in a car park in Nottinghamshire is fined £10,000 by Nottinghamshire Police for breach of COVID regulations.

22 February – Prime Minister Boris Johnson unveils a four-step plan for ending coronavirus restrictions in England by 21 June. Subject to four tests on vaccines, infection rates and new variants being met, the plan will include the following: Schools and colleges will reopen on 8 March, with outdoor schools activities allowed; universities will return at a later time: Outdoor gatherings of up to six people or two households will resume from 29 March, along with grassroots sports: Non-essential shops, hairdressers, gyms and outdoor hospitality will resume on 12 April: Two households will be able to mix indoors, with the rule of six applying to pub settings from 17 May: Legal limits on social contact to be lifted by 21 June: Speaking in the House of Commons, Johnson describes the plan as "cautious but irreversible" and something that will be led by "data not dates", further adding that there is "no credible route to a zero-Covid Britain nor indeed a zero-Covid world". A mass testing programme is announced for all secondary schools in England, with home testing carried out twice a week.

24 February – Education Secretary Gavin Williamson announces £700m of spending to help pupils catch up with missed study, saying that no child should have their prospects "blighted by the pandemic". The organisers of the Reading and Leeds Festivals say they are "confident" the event can go ahead in 2021 following the announcement of the easing of lockdown restrictions in England.

25 February – The exams watchdog Ofqual confirms the results for GCSEs and A Levels whose exams are cancelled because of COVID-19 will be decided by schools using a combination of teacher assessment, coursework and exams. Exam assessments will be available if required but will not be conducted under exam conditions, while results will be published earlier in August than usual to allow time for appeals.

26 February – Research at Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge, suggests the Pfizer–BioNTech vaccine helps to slow the spread of COVID as well as preventing illness.

28 February – The families of schoolchildren are to be offered two free rapid COVID tests per week under plans to reopen schools in England.

	<u>Weather impacts</u>	<u>The Covid-19 Pandemic</u>
<u>March</u>	<p>The first week of March was cold but largely settled, followed by a disturbed spell of weather from 9th to 12th. Many areas were predominantly dry during the second half of the month, although western and northern areas saw persistent rain during 24th to 30th. The second half of the month was also much warmer, especially the last three days.</p> <p>The start of March was predominantly settled, with no reported impacts in the first week.</p> <p>Around the 9th, the Western Isles and western parts of Scotland saw windy weather, with some schools closed in the north-west Highlands, and thousands of properties across Skye and North and South Uist being left without power. In Northern Ireland on the 10th and 11th a number of fallen trees impacted road transport. Fallen trees also caused temporary road closures in Wales, with speed restrictions imposed on the M48 Severn crossing, Britannia Bridge and Cleddau Bridge, and the A5 Ceiriog viaduct was closed for a time; up to 3000 homes were without power overnight. In north-west England the A66 was closed to high-sided vehicles, and fallen trees caused disruption with some flooding on the M60 and the A592. In the north-east of England speed restrictions were placed on the Humber Bridge and flooding affected the rail line between Hebden Bridge and Todmorden. In the Midlands there were fallen trees, delays to some rail services, and a lorry blew over on the A53. In London and the south-east there were reports of impacts to travel services, with strong winds causing delays to trains and buses with some road closures due to fallen trees and trampolines. The Woolwich Ferry was suspended and some local amenities were closed due to blowing debris. The QE2 Bridge had a 30mph speed restriction and some operations in Dover and Southampton were delayed due to strong winds. In the south-west a lorry overturned on the A417 and fallen trees blocked some roads; power supplies were restored to 69,000 homes by the 12th.</p> <p>The last warning of the month covered north-west Scotland, with heavy persistent rain causing flooding on the A85, A82 and a number of other main roads on the 28th and 29th.</p>	<p>1 March – Two million people aged 60–63 begin receiving letters inviting them to book a COVID vaccination through the national booking service.</p> <p>3 March – Chancellor Rishi Sunak unveils the 2021 budget, which includes £1bn of funding for 45 areas of England to aid in their recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Jamila Azad, a Labour Party councillor in Oxfordshire, is suspended by her party after claiming on social media to have received a COVID-19 vaccine from a private doctor. She subsequently has the party's whip withdrawn. London woman Sarah Everard is murdered by police officer Wayne Couzens under the pretext of COVID regulations. Couzens is later arrested and sentenced to life in prison.</p> <p>4 March – People living in the TS19 postcode area of Stockton-on-Tees are urged to get tested for COVID-19 after evidence of the South African variant was found there.</p> <p>5 March – The BBC reports that some people with asthma are being refused priority vaccination status if they have not recently been to hospital.</p> <p>6 March – People aged 56–59 begin receiving letters inviting them to book a COVID-19 vaccine. Over 18 million people in England have had their first vaccine, roughly a third of the population. The actor Laurence Fox announces plans to run for Mayor of London in the forthcoming election on a platform of lifting lockdown measures a month earlier than planned. Education Secretary Gavin Williamson tells the BBC ministers are considering introducing shorter summer holidays and longer school days to help schoolchildren catch up on missed work.</p> <p>8 March – People wishing to travel overseas are required to complete a "Declaration to Travel" document to prove they are authorised to travel. Concerns are raised that secondary school pupils could be incorrectly told they have COVID after the government says that a positive test done at school cannot be overridden by a better quality lab test. The network of NHS Nightingale hospitals are to close from April, it is announced, with the hospitals in London and Sunderland remaining open as vaccination centres.</p> <p>10 March – Since the return of schools in England, reports have emerged of children being asked to self-isolate following incorrect positive Rapid COVID test results which are later proven to be wrong by a PCR test giving a negative result.</p>

Parents have warned the situation is "ruining" the return to school, while experts argue children finding themselves in this situation are being unfairly punished.

11 March – A further four cases of the Brazilian variant COVID are found in England, three in South Gloucestershire and one in Bradford. All are linked to previous cases identified in the UK. Health Secretary Matt Hancock announces that homeless people and those sleeping rough will be prioritised for COVID vaccines alongside those aged between 16 and 64 with underlying health conditions.

12 March – Students at the University of Manchester hold a vote of no confidence on Vice-Chancellor Nancy Rothwell's leadership of the university over the response to the Covid-19 pandemic; the vote passed with 89% in favour.

16 March – School attendance figures for the first week of the return of schools in England show attendance to be almost at pre-pandemic levels, with 95% of pupils at primary school and 89% at secondary school.

17 March – People in England aged 50 and over are now invited to book their COVID vaccination. A letter from NHS England to local health organisations warns of a "significant reduction in the weekly supply" of COVID vaccines from the end of March. Health Secretary Matt Hancock describes the correspondence as a "standard" letter, though it is reported fewer AstraZeneca vaccinations will be available than anticipated.

18 March – Prime Minister Boris Johnson confirms he will receive his first vaccination the following day and urges people who are invited to get a vaccine to do so.

20 March – Thousands of people attend an anti-lockdown march in London, at which 33 arrests are made, mainly for breaches of COVID regulations.

23 March – The "steps" regulations are published to coincide with the end of the "stay at home" order on 29 March. Measures include a £5,000 fine for unapproved travel outside England.

24 March – Prime Minister Boris Johnson says that pubgoers could be asked to provide a vaccine certificate by landlords, but that whether to do so would be left up to individual publicans.

		<p>26 March – The UK government announces that shops in England will be able to apply for permission to trade from 7am to 10pm from Mondays to Saturdays when non-essential retailers reopen on 12 April.</p> <p>27 March – Addressing the Conservative Party's virtual spring forum, Prime Minister Boris Johnson has said that despite a surge of COVID cases in Europe, there is nothing the UK's data to dissuade him "from continuing along our roadmap to freedom". Rapid home testing kits are to be offered to companies in England with more than 10 employees from 6 April, and where it is not possible to perform on-site testing.</p> <p>28 March – Culture Secretary Oliver Dowden says the government's plans to ease lockdown measures are on track and the "last thing in the world" it wants is another lockdown, but that dates "could be delayed if the situation deteriorates".</p> <p>29 March – Movement restrictions are loosened by the first phase of the "Steps" regulations, allowing two households or six people to meet outside. Weddings with up to six people are also permitted again. Prime Minister Boris Johnson urges people to be cautious as COVID remains a threat.</p> <p>31 March – People are urged to exercise caution following two days of extremely warm weather that have coincided with the easing of lockdown restrictions in England and resulted in people descending on parks and beaches.</p>
<b><u>April</u></b>	<b><u>Weather impacts</u></b>	<b><u>The Covid-19 Pandemic</u></b>
	<p>April began settled, but soon turned very cold, and a notable feature throughout the month was the number of air frosts. Daytime temperatures did recover from the middle of the month, but it was cold and showery in the closing days. Overall, it was an unusually cold, dry and sunny month.</p> <p>Frequent snow showers set in across parts of Scotland later on the 4th, with significant accumulations in some areas by the morning of the 5th. These gave difficult driving conditions across the north-east of Scotland, with a road traffic collision involving a lorry on the A9. In Sandwick, Shetland two buses skidded off the road in snowy conditions. There were a number of other road closures and some road traffic collisions which impacted public transport. There were also reports of difficult lambing conditions.</p>	<p>1 April – UKHospitality criticises new rules in place for pubs, bars and restaurants when they reopen on 12 April that will require everybody to sign in while limiting visits to the bar to one person from each group. UKHospitality says it will place extra burdens on pubs and staff and may discourage people from visiting hospitality venues.</p> <p>2 April – Campaigners launch legal action against the UK government over guidelines that ban care home residents over the age of 65 from taking trips outside the home. Police break up a Good Friday service at Christ the King RC Church on London's Balham High Road following breaches of COVID rules, such as people not socially distancing or wearing face coverings. A video of officers addressing the congregation is posted online.</p>

In Wales and Northern Ireland there were a few reports of difficult road conditions. Some northern parts of the UK saw snow showers around the 11th. Snow caused some localised impacts, including a multi-car collision on the M60 in Greater Manchester, and the temporary closure of some roads around Bacup, Lancashire. Across the north-east there were reports of difficult lambing conditions, with some difficult road conditions in North Yorkshire.

During the remainder of April as the weather became largely settled, cold and very dry, reports of wildfires started to come in. Wildfires were reported in the Mourne Mountains in Northern Ireland, in Whinlatter Forest, Cumbria, at Marsden Moor, West Yorkshire, and across Wales. South Wales Fire and Rescue reportedly received nearly 950 calls in 24 hours related to wildfires.

3 April – The UK government announces that care home residents will be allowed two regular visitors indoors from 12 April, while babies and children will also be allowed. Visitors will be required to provide a negative COVID test and wear PPE during the visit. The UK government confirms that a COVID passport system will be trialled at a comedy evening at Liverpool's Hot Water Comedy Club on 16 April and continue at other events through to mid-May, while a "traffic light" system will indicate the level of risk posed by different countries once foreign travel returns.

4 April – A 2021 FA Cup Semi-Final match on 18 April, the Carabao Cup Final on 25 April and the 2021 FA Cup Final on 15 May will all be trialled with spectators as part of plans for the return of large events, with the games attended by 4,000, 8,000 and 21,000 respectively. The matches may also be part of trials for the COVID passport scheme.

5 April – Everybody in England is to be given access to two free rapid flow tests each week from Friday 9 April. Prime Minister Boris Johnson confirms that pubs, restaurants, hairdressers, gyms and non-essential shops can reopen from Monday 12 April.

9 April – Philippines, Pakistan, Kenya and Bangladesh are added to the "red list" of countries from where travel to England is banned, with travellers refused entry if they have visited those countries in the preceding ten days. Transport Secretary Grant Shapps says that people in England can start thinking about taking foreign holidays in summer 2021, but that the cost of COVID tests needs to be driven down.

11 April – Addressing the congregation of Christ the King RC Church following Sunday Mass, one of the Met Police officers who broke up a Good Friday service says that the police deeply regret the hurt caused by their actions.

12 April – Surge testing is implemented in south London following the discovery of a significant cluster of South African variant COVID. The outbreak is believed to stem from an individual who returned from Africa in February. The areas affected by the outbreak are still allowed to relax COVID rules.

13 April – Rollout of the Moderna COVID vaccine begins in England. The UK government says that students will be allowed to return to university campuses in England "no earlier than 17 May".

14 April – Surge testing is extended to the Southwark and Barnet areas of London amid concerns about the South African COVID variant. Care home staff in England may be required to have a COVID vaccine under new plans being considered by the UK government.

15 April – Figures from NHS England indicate that 4.7 million people were waiting for routine operations and procedures in February 2021, the largest waiting list numbers since records began in 2007. Of those, 388,000 had waited for more than a year, while two million operations took place through January and February 2021, while the health service was under pressure because of the pandemic.

18 April – On the day the FA Cup semi-final between Leicester City and Southampton is held at London's Wembley Stadium as a pilot event with 4,000 spectators, it is confirmed that an outdoor gig will be held in Liverpool's Sefton Park on 2 May with near-normal conditions. 5,000 people will be allowed to attend the event without face coverings or social distancing rules but must provide a negative COVID test beforehand. NHS Providers have warned that the huge backlog of operations built up during the pandemic could take five years to clear. A gig in Manchester's Platt Fields Park due to be given by rapper AJ Tracy is cancelled shortly before it is scheduled to start because of the volume of people who turn up. Its organisers are subsequently fined £10,000 for a breach of COVID restrictions.

23 April – Philip Hollobone, MP for Kettering tells the House of Commons there is "widespread outrage" over Northamptonshire Police's decision not to charge anyone in connection with a funeral in Kettering attended by 150 people in November 2020. A man was originally charged with breaching COVID regulations over the funeral, but the charges have since been dropped.

24 April – An estimated 10,000 people attend an anti-lockdown protest at London's Hyde Park; eight police officers are injured while trying to disperse protestors and five arrests are made.

26 April – With around two thirds of people in England aged 45–49 having received their first COVID vaccine, the programme is rolled out to those aged 44, roughly another half a million people. Organisers of the Tramlines Festival at Sheffield's Hillsborough Park, confirm the event will go ahead from 23–25 July, with 35,000 people expected to attend each day.

		<p>27 April – Adults aged 42 and over are invited to book their first COVID vaccine. The City of London Corporation announces plans to convert unused office space into housing in a bid to revitalise the area following the COVID crisis, with plans for 1,500 homes by 2030.</p> <p>29 April – Figures published by NHS Test and Trace show COVID infection rates have fallen to their lowest in England since September 2020. Sir Simon Stevens confirms he will leave the post of Chief Executive of NHS England at the end of July and become a peer in the House of Lords.</p> <p>30 April – Adults aged 40 and over are invited to book their first COVID vaccination. Clubbers have gathered at a venue in Liverpool for the first nightclub event to be staged as part of trials for mass gatherings. The two-day event is expected to be attended by 6,000 ticketholders who are required to take COVID tests before and after attending but can attend without face coverings and observing social distancing requirements. Surge testing takes place in parts of east London following the discovery of two cases of South African variant COVID-19.</p>
<b>May</b>	<b><u>Weather impacts</u></b>	<b><u>The Covid-19 Pandemic</u></b>
	<p>May began very unsettled and unseasonably cold, with frosts in many places; it became less cold after the first week but continued with frequent rain or showers for most areas. The UK experienced a number of deep low-pressure systems that resulted in a number of notably windy days. The weather settled down for the final few days of the month, when it also became much warmer.</p> <p>Heavy rain and strong winds on the 3rd/4th caused some road closures in Wales due to fallen trees, and trains to Ebbw Vale were affected by a fallen tree. Part of the A470 was flooded, and speed restrictions were imposed on the Britannia Bridge, the M48 Severn Bridge and the Cleddau bridge. A small number of properties suffered from temporary power loss in North Wales. Strong winds led to power faults at Southern Water sites in Winchester, leading to water outages which affected around 30,000 properties for a few days. In Cornwall the Liskeard to Looe railway line was disrupted, as was the St Mawes Ferry, and a Skybus flight was cancelled due to strong winds. Some outside dining facilities were curtailed due to the poor weather.</p>	<p>1 May – Government scientist Professor Sir Mark Walport urges people to be "patient" ahead of the next planned relaxation of COVID rules on 17 May.</p> <p>2 May – Bristol's annual Grand Iftar community event is held online due to the coronavirus pandemic. The meal, which represents the breaking of fast at sunset during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, is held in the city's Easton district and attended by 6,000 people.</p> <p>3 May – It is reported the government is planning to lift the 30 people limit at funerals from 17 May, meaning an unlimited number of mourners can attend so long as they can socially distance safely. The number permitted at weddings will rise from 15 to 30 on the same day. Prime Minister Boris Johnson suggests there is a "good chance" England's 1m social distancing rule can be scrapped from 21 June.</p> <p>4 May – Care home residents are permitted to leave their residence for low-risk trips such as walks or garden visits without the need to self-isolate for 14 days afterwards.</p>

Rain on the 8th gave poor road conditions in Wales, with flooding affecting the M4 and the A55, as well as the Conwy Valley railway line. On the 10th/11th thundery showers in north-west England caused a suspected lightning fatality in Blackpool and flooding on the M60 between junctions 25 and 24. Further rain in the north-west of England on the 16th brought flooding to Langcliffe, Settle and Giggleswick.

With unseasonably strong winds in the south of the UK on the 20th/21st, fallen trees blocked some roads in parts of Wales, and a roof was blown off a building in Bridgend. On the 21st, rail lines in the Valleys were affected by fallen trees, and further north the Conwy Valley line was flooded. Speed restrictions were enforced on the A55 Britannia Bridge and the Cleddau Bridge. The M48 Severn Crossing was temporarily closed, and hundreds of properties suffered a loss of power. Fallen trees in parts of south-west England caused disruption on the road network, and in Christchurch the gable end of a building fell onto a road causing it to close, while there were reports of a landslide near Bude.

5 May – A Sheffield schoolgirl loses a High Court case to prevent her school from "requiring or encouraging" pupils to wear a face mask; she had argued that being required to wear masks risked "serious harm" to children's physical and mental health.

7 May – The restored shrine of St. Amphibalus at St Albans Cathedral is to include a memento of the COVID-19 pandemic with the addition of a carved figure wearing a mask; the shrine's restoration was delayed by the pandemic.

10 May – Prime Minister Boris Johnson confirms the "single biggest step" in the relaxing of restrictions for England on 17 May but urges people to "exercise caution and common sense". From that date indoor hospitality will reopen and people will be able to hug again. Johnson also confirms that face coverings will no longer be required in secondary schools in England from 17 May.

England records a day without any COVID related deaths.

11 May – The UK government confirms that from 17 May people in England who have had both COVID vaccines will be able to use the NHS app as a proof of vaccination; a paper version will also be available by calling 119. A Freedom of Information request discloses that eleven Greater Manchester Police officers were fined for breaches of COVID regulations during the first twelve months of the pandemic.

12 May – Hospitality sector firms in the Greater Manchester town of Bolton express their concern at the easing of restrictions as the area experiences a fresh COVID surge. It has one of the highest rates of the Indian variant among its unvaccinated young population.

13 May – Roughly a million people in England aged 38 and 39 become eligible for their first COVID vaccine, with pregnant women directed to vaccination centres offering the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines.

14 May – Prime Minister Boris Johnson confirms the next round of relaxation of the coronavirus restrictions in England will go ahead on 17 May, but that the increase in numbers of Indian variant COVID could pose "serious disruption" to the easing of restrictions on 21 June. He further suggests some "serious choices" may be required if the variant is found to be "significantly" more transmissible. In order to help tackle the Indian variant, the gap between first and second

vaccinations is narrowed to eight weeks for people in the top nine priority groups. The Army is to be deployed in Bolton and Blackburn with Darwen to help with the distribution of COVID tests. As the rules regarding face coverings for school pupils in England are relaxed from 17 May, pupils in the North West are advised to continue wearing them until 21 June amid concerns about Indian variant COVID.

16 May – Speaking on BBC One's *The Andrew Marr Show*, Health Secretary Matt Hancock says a local lockdown in Bolton has not been ruled out as a way of tackling the rise in cases of Indian variant COVID.

17 May – Restrictions are relaxed allowing indoor hospitality to reopen with groups of up to six people. Bingo halls also reopen. Over 6,000 vaccinations have been carried out in the Bolton area over the preceding weekend as health officials seek to control the spread of Indian variant COVID.

18 May – People in England aged 37 become eligible for their first COVID vaccine.

19 May – The vaccination programme is extended to those aged 36 living in England. With 2,967 cases of Indian variant COVID now confirmed in the UK, surge testing and vaccination is expanded to a further six areas – Bedford, Burnley, Hounslow, Kirklees, Leicester and North Tyneside.

20 May – People aged 34 and 35 are invited to book their first COVID vaccine.

21 May – Public Health England officials are investigating a new COVID variant which has presented 49 cases in the Yorkshire and Humber area.

22 May – England's vaccination programme is extended to people aged 32 and 33.

26 May – People in England aged 30 and 31 are invited to book their first COVID vaccine.

27 May – Prime Minister Boris Johnson says there is nothing in the data to suggest the final lifting of restrictions in England cannot go ahead on 21 June. Pupils at four schools in Kirklees, West Yorkshire are being offered surge testing amid rising cases of Indian variant COVID in the area. A coroner is to determine whether the death of BBC radio presenter Lisa Shaw may have been complicated

		<p>by her receiving the Oxford–AstraZeneca vaccine after she was treated for blood clots within days of having her first vaccination.</p> <p>31 May – As England's ban on evictions expires, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation warns that as many as a million people face losing their homes in the coming months; 400,000 householders have already been received, or been told they will receive, eviction notices, the charity says. A pop-up vaccination centre is set up for the day at Twickenham Stadium after NHS North West London had 15,000 doses of Pfizer vaccine to spare. The centre breaks with the national convention by offering anyone over the age of 18 a walk-in vaccination appointment. Demand is high and gates are closed at 6.45pm.</p>
<p><u>June</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Weather impacts</u></b></p> <p>The first half of June was largely dry and warm, though less settled over Scotland towards mid-month. The second half saw temperatures broadly nearer to average, with some days very cool for the time of year, and numerous showery days over England including some thunderstorms, and some heavy convective outbursts especially in the south-east.</p> <p>There were thunderstorms in parts of England on the 2nd, 7th and 17th. The last of these covered south-eastern counties, with reports of flooding in Hythe, Folkestone and Eastbourne, while a water pumping station was struck by lightning causing damage and a power cut. Then on the 18th flooding across the east of England caused disruption to some bus services in Lowestoft and in Hatfield. A number of mobile rapid covid test sites across the east of England closed due to heavy rain and flooding. In London the A102 Blackwall Tunnel Northbound was closed due to flooding, with trains between Caterham and Purley suspended due to flooding. Tennis matches at The Queens Club championships were delayed by rain, and flooding was reported across Basingstoke and parts of Buckinghamshire. There were reports of flooding on the A316 and fallen trees in Rushmoor and Farnborough. A family was rescued when flood water entered their home in Hastings, and there were reports of flooding to a number of properties in the Thames Valley area. In the south-west there were reports of flooding in Wimborne and Colehill.</p> <p>On the 25th thunderstorms developed across Powys and parts of the West Midlands, and around London and parts of Essex. In the Birmingham and Solihull area there were reports of flooding in properties and on some roads including the M42. In London and Essex there was flooding on the</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>The Covid-19 Pandemic</u></b></p> <p>1 June – The UK records 0 deaths from Covid-19 over a 24-hour period for the first time since March 2020.</p> <p>2 June – Prime Minister Boris Johnson says there is still "nothing in the data" to suggest England's 21 June date for lifting restrictions should be delayed. The UK government announces its plan to help pupils in England catch up on missed education. The scheme is allocated £1.4bn over three years but is criticised as a "damp squib" by headteachers. Prime Minister Boris Johnson promises there will be more money to follow. Sir Kevan Collins resigns as Education Recovery Commissioner, stating the funding "falls far short of what is needed".</p> <p>3 June – Bedford Borough Council announces that door-to-door COVID testing will begin over the coming weekend; Bedford has the fifth highest number of COVID cases in the UK with 158 cases per 100,000.</p> <p>5 June – Media outlets, including LBC, report that people aged over 40 are set to be offered their second COVID vaccination after eight weeks rather than twelve in order to help keep on track the 21 June date for relaxing restrictions. Surge testing begins in Bradford amid concerns about the spread of Indian variant COVID in the area. A pop-up vaccination centre is opened for the day at Belmont Health Centre in Stanmore, Harrow, offering anyone over the age of 18 the chance to have a COVID vaccine.</p> <p>6 June – Health Secretary Matt Hancock tells Sky News that Indian variant COVID is 40% more transmissible but confirms that two vaccine doses work just as effectively against it as previous variants. He also says the government is "absolutely open" to delaying the next round of lifting restrictions past 21 June.</p>

rail lines between Romford and Shenfield, with delays to services from Liverpool Street and Southend Victoria. A tornado in Barking caused damage to houses and roads. Another suspected tornado in East London damaged cars and knocked down fences. Further unsettled weather on the 28th caused flooding on the M3 junction 1 exit slip, and on the M4 at junction 3.

On the topic of care home patients, he rejects claims made by Dominic Cummings that he said they were being tested for COVID before being discharged from hospital and returned to residential homes, but that they "would" be tested once adequate capacity was in place.

8 June – England's vaccination programme is extended to adults aged 25–29. Greater Manchester and parts of Lancashire are to receive a "strengthened package of support" that includes military support and support for COVID testing in schools in order to tackle Indian variant COVID. The advice for those living in the area has also changed, with people urged to meet up outdoors and avoid travelling to different areas, though the UK government stresses this is not a local lockdown.

10 June – Data from NHS England shows that hospital waiting lists have exceeded five million for the first time.

11 June – The Association of Directors of Public Health has urged the delay of the 21 June easing of restrictions in order to "stop us going backwards". It is subsequently reported the government is considering a four-week delay to the 21 June plans.

12 June – A pop-up COVID vaccination centre is held in Sheffield, for anyone over the age of 18, and is quickly oversubscribed, requiring health officials to ask people to stop coming.

14 June – Prime Minister Boris Johnson announces that England's relaxation of coronavirus restrictions planned for 21 June will be delayed by four weeks, until 19 July. The cap on wedding parties will be removed though. By then it is planned that every adult will have been offered a first COVID vaccine, with at least three quarters having been fully vaccinated. Leading figures in the live music and theatre sectors describe the delay as a "hammer blow" to their industries. The hospitality industry urge the government to provide urgent financial help for the sector.

15 June – People aged 23 and 24 become eligible to book their first COVID vaccination.

16 June –The vaccine rollout opens to those aged 21 and 22 in England. It is reported COVID vaccinations are to become compulsory for care home workers in England. This is subsequently confirmed by Health Secretary Matt Hancock.

18 June – Roughly 1.5 million people aged 18, 19 and 20 become eligible for their first COVID vaccination. A total of 721,469 bookings are made during the first day of the programme being open to everyone over 18.

Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon announces a travel ban between Scotland and parts of Greater Manchester and Salford from Monday 21 June because of rising COVID cases in the area, a move that sparks anger from Mayor of Greater Manchester Andy Burnham, who accuses the Scottish Government of "hypocrisy".

19 June – More pop-up vaccination centres are opened across England in a bid to offer every adult in England a first vaccine by 19 July.

21 June – Prime Minister Boris Johnson says that things are "looking good" for the lifting of restrictions on 19 July. Several hundred people celebrate the summer solstice at Stonehenge despite official advice to avoid doing so because of COVID restrictions. Three police officers are injured and fourteen people arrested at an anti-lockdown protest in Central London.

23 June – Education Secretary Gavin Williamson suggests GCSE and E Level exams in England are likely to face "adjustments" in 2022 to factor in time lost because of the COVID crisis.

25 June – A study of nine pilot events collectively attended by a total of 58,000 people has found no major transmission to have occurred, with just 28 COVID cases detected. A four-day pop-up COVID vaccination clinic begins at Arsenal Stadium, with Arsenal F.C. offering those who attend a free behind-the-scenes tour of the stadium.

26 June – The "Grab a Jab" initiative sees hundreds of venues, including stadiums, shopping centres and theatres, turned into temporary vaccination centres in order to increase the number of people receiving COVID vaccinations. Thousands of people attend anti-lockdown protests in London.

28 June – Health Secretary Sajid Javid tells MPs the UK government can "see no reason to go beyond" the "target date" for lifting restrictions in England on 19 July, and that although COVID-19 cases have risen the number of related deaths has not.

		<p>29 June – Ministers suggest the COVID control system for schools in England that sees groups of pupils required to self-isolate following a single positive test could be scrapped in the autumn in favour of daily testing. A study has found the COVID death rate in Greater Manchester has been 25% higher than the rest of England throughout the pandemic. Scotland's Health Secretary, Humza Yousaf, announces that the ban on non-essential travel between Scotland and the North West of England will be lifted from midnight.</p> <p>30 June – Education Secretary Gavin Williamson says he wants to see an end to the bubble system in schools that sees whole groups of pupils sent home to self-isolate after an increase in the number of pupils unable to attend school.</p>
<p><u>July</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Weather impacts</u></b></p> <p>The first twelve days of July were mostly unsettled, with spells of heavy rain and showers, especially over England, while other parts of the UK saw less rain and more warmth at times. All areas were drier and much warmer by mid-month, with temperatures exceeding 30 °C on several days in some areas, and unbroken sunshine for many. In Northern Ireland, 31.3 °C was recorded on the 21st at Castlederg, County Tyrone, setting a new record as the highest temperature for any month. The final week was much more unsettled once again, with temperatures back to near average and frequent showery rain.</p> <p>The first part of the month saw numerous thunderstorm and rain warnings. Some roads and railway lines were flooded in Glasgow and Edinburgh on the 3rd and 4th, and in Northern Ireland the M1 and A4 were flooded. Some roads were also flooded in Manchester, Taunton and Plymouth. On the 6th and 7th, again some roads in Northern Ireland were flooded. In eastern England a pub was struck by lightning in Holbeach, Lincolnshire, and speed restrictions were imposed on the Orwell Bridge. Trains around Hastings were disrupted due to flooded lines and fallen trees, some roads were also blocked by fallen trees, and Channel ferry crossings also suffered delays.</p> <p>Grampian saw some localised flooding impacts on the 11th. The following day saw flooding in parts of England, for example around Preston with parts of the M6 closed. People were evacuated from their homes in Peterborough, and flooded roads in Norwich impacted transport. The London Fire Brigade received over 1000 calls; numerous properties were</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>The Covid-19 Pandemic</u></b></p> <p>1 July – Prime Minister Boris Johnson announces he will set out the final step of the roadmap for lifting restrictions in England in the next few days, and says he hopes that life will return to as close as possible to its pre-pandemic status.</p> <p>3 July – As COVID cases rise again, the British Medical Association calls for some COVID restrictions to remain in place in England beyond 19 July.</p> <p>6 July – England Cricket is required to name a replacement squad for its One Day International series with Pakistan after the original team have to self-isolate because of positive COVID tests among their members. More than 60,000 people are allowed to attend England's Euro 2020 semi-final match with Denmark at Wembley Stadium, meaning the stadium is at 75% capacity.</p> <p>8 July – The UK government confirms that fully vaccinated UK residents arriving into England from amber list countries will no longer be required to quarantine after 19 July, but will still be required to pay for COVID tests. Hospitals in Leeds postpone planned elective surgeries due to dealing with a rise in COVID cases. A study by Imperial College London attributes a faster rise in COVID cases among men over the preceding two weeks to fans watching Euro 2020.</p> <p>10 July – Ministers are reported to be considering exempting fully vaccinated NHS staff in England from having to self-isolate if they are contacted by contact tracing.</p> <p>12 July – Health Secretary Sajid Javid and Prime Minister Boris Johnson confirm almost all COVID restrictions will be removed in England on 19 July. Public</p>

flooded, particularly basement flats. Most underground lines and several overground railways were affected by flooding, with disruption to bus services too. Fallen trees blocked roads elsewhere in the southeast, with flooded roads causing disruption as far afield as Dorset.

From mid-month there were several days where temperatures in some areas exceeded 30 °C, for which extreme heat warnings were issued. There were fatalities in water during the hot spell, and ambulance services reported extremely high demand. Northern Ireland Water witnessed extreme pressure on their network, which resulted in a burst main water pipe at their largest treatment plant. Large numbers of people at coastal spots created extra pressure on police services. Meanwhile, some areas saw impacts from convective weather from the 20th onwards, with localised heavy rain and thunderstorms. Large hail damaged cars in Leicestershire, with flooding in Kibworth. Roads were closed in other parts of Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire. A plane was damaged by hail near Southend Airport, and a lightning strike interrupted electricity supplies in Hertford. Trains were delayed in Kent due to fallen trees and flooded lines, and a house fire due to a lightning strike was reported in Gillingham.

Thunderstorms in the last days of July brought flooding to roads, railway infrastructure and homes across many areas, as well as power outages as properties were struck by lightning. Scotland and south-east England reported the most impacts, with some rescues from stranded vehicles in London. Storm Evert brought strong winds and heavy rain on the 30th, with damaged tents at campsites, power outages, and trees blocking roads in the south. Isle of Wight hovercraft services were cancelled. Widespread flooding in Leicestershire and Derbyshire caused various stranded vehicles, transport disruption and road closures.

examinations for secondary school students are to resume in 2022, with pupils likely to have advanced warning of exam topics.

13 July – Mayor of London Sadiq Khan confirms that face coverings will continue to be mandatory on London's transport network after 19 July. The House of Commons votes 319–246 to approve legislation requiring the compulsory vaccination of care home staff in England from October 2021. A snapshot of school attendance figures from one day during the previous week shows that almost 1.5 million pupils were absent due to self-isolation.

15 July – Pavement dining and outdoor pint licensing in England is to continue for a further year to help the hospitality industry.

17 July – Children aged between two and 16, adults aged over 50 and those in at risk groups will be offered a flu vaccine over the coming winter to help tackle both COVID and influenza. The 2021 Challenge Cup Final between Castleford Tigers and St Helens is held at Wembley Stadium in front of a crowd of 45,000 spectators, half the stadium capacity. Transport for London says that services on the Metropolitan line between Aldgate and Amersham have been suspended due to a staff shortage caused after they received "ping" alerts from the NHS COVID-19 app. services on the Piccadilly line and District line are also affected.

19 July – The final stage of COVID restrictions are lifted in England, allowing nightclubs to reopen and abolishing social distancing rules, while the wearing of face coverings no longer required by law. With nightclubs allowed to reopen, the UK government announces that people wishing to enter nightclubs and other venues with large gatherings will need to be fully vaccinated from the end of September 2021.

20 July – Official school attendance figures for England show that 1.7 million pupils (23.3%) were absent from school during the week of 12–16 July. Over a million of those absent were off school for COVID-related reasons, but only 47,000 of those had actually tested positive for the virus.

21 July – A shortage of workers caused by the self-isolation "pingdemic" is reported to be affecting local authorities' ability to carry out refuse collections in some areas of England. Data released by the Care Quality Commission shows that 39,000 of the people who died after testing positive for COVID-19 in England between 10 April 2020 and 31 March 2021 were care home residents. NHS

		<p>workers in England are offered a 3% pay rise "in recognition of unique impact of the pandemic" on them.</p> <p>26 July – A survey by Public Health England indicate that 40% of adults in England gained weight during lockdown, with the average weight gain being half a stone (equivalent to 3 kg).</p> <p>29 July – It is reported that some nightclubs in England have begun to ask clubgoers to produce an NHS COVID Pass (proof of vaccination) before being allowed entry.</p> <p>31 July – The BBC reports that ministers are no longer planning to make full vaccination compulsory for university lecturers in England.</p>
<p><u>August</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Weather impacts</u></b></p> <p>The first half of August was broadly unsettled, with plenty of rain between the 5th and 13th. The second half was drier, except for the 20th and 21st, with high pressure developing by the 23rd and remaining near northern UK thereafter. Scotland, especially the west, was often warm by day, whereas further south warm days were much fewer. Many areas were drier than usual for the month, with less than half the average total rainfall in some places, and the wettest areas were south-east England, eastern Scotland and Northern Ireland. Western Scotland fared well for sunshine, though many other areas were duller than average, especially central and eastern England where some stations had their dullest August in records going back 60 or more years.</p> <p>The poor weather of late July continued into August. Flooding was reported in Faversham, Kent on the 1st, with disruption to public transport, and some roads temporarily closed. Flooding across parts of the Isle of Wight on the 2nd caused disruption to buses and some rail services. In Wales there was flooding on the M4 near Swansea, and a landslip on the railway line near Neath/Skewen on the 2nd. On the 4th, trains were disrupted around Ballymena in Northern Ireland, and also between Sheffield and Stockport.</p> <p>There was further unsettled weather during the following week. In Scotland on the 6th, flooding around Edinburgh caused road congestion and delays to bus and train services. A number of roads in Glasgow were closed, and West St station was closed due to flooding. There was flooding</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>The Covid-19 Pandemic</u></b></p> <p>6 August – England’s R number is estimated to be between 0.8 and 1.1, a fall from the previous week when it was estimated to be between 1.1 and 1.4.</p> <p>7 August – Students at the University of Sussex who are fully vaccinated are being offered the chance to win £5,000, with ten prizes on offer.</p> <p>12 August – Figures show that a record number of people are waiting for NHS hospital treatment in England, with a total of 5.45 million on waiting lists.</p> <p>15 August – The UK government confirms 23 August as the date by which all 16 and 17-year-olds will in England will have been offered a COVID vaccine, or the chance to book an appointment.</p> <p>17 August – Six of the UK's teaching unions have written to Education Secretary Gavin Williamson to call for urgent action for better ventilation in schools amid concerns about a rise in COVID cases when pupils return to the classroom for the new academic year.</p> <p>19 August – Official figures show that two areas of Newquay in Cornwall had of the highest COVID rates in England during the week ending 13 August, along with Yarborough near Grimsby in Lincolnshire.</p> <p>24 August – As COVID cases rise in Cornwall, the county's tourist board asks people to stay away from the area unless they have pre-booked holidays.</p>

	<p>in some parts of Belfast, with reports of property flooding in the Ardoyne area. Strong winds brought down trees causing delays on the A127 in Essex, and reportedly delayed rail services between Lowestoft and Ipswich.</p> <p>Further flooding arose across parts of Scotland on the 9th, notably in Corstorphine and at the Cameron Toll in Edinburgh. Lothian Buses warned customers of diversions and/or disruption to services as a result of flooding. Numerous roads in Glasgow saw flooding, with some closed. Some ScotRail services were delayed or diverted around Edinburgh and Glasgow. Further south, flooding around Stansted Airport on the 9th meant at least one cancelled train to London, and delays on the A12. Services between Brighton and Haywards Heath were suspended due to a flooded line, and police in Gosport asked people to avoid Leesland Road due to flooding. Further flooding was reported in Brighton, Newbury and on parts of the M25.</p> <p>High pressure settled over the UK from about mid-month, giving a quiet end to the summer, though rain on the 21st caused flooding on the railway at Bradford Forster Square.</p>	<p>25 August – Data from Public Health England indicate that the rate of COVID cases in South West England is "by far" highest among those aged 15–24.</p> <p>26 August – NHS organisations in England have been told to prepare for a possible extension of the COVID vaccination programme to 12–15-year-olds. But the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation is reported to have concerns about the effect of the COVID vaccine on other vaccines administered to young children. The latest figures from Public Health England indicate COVID cases are on the rise again in most areas of England, apart from London and Yorkshire and the Humber, where they have fallen.</p> <p>27 August – Following an uptick in the number of COVID cases in the South West, Cornwall, the Isles of Scilly, Devon, Plymouth and Torbay are to receive extra help from the Department of Health and Social Care to help curb the increase. This will include mandatory face coverings for school and college students when gathering in communal areas. Scientists advising the UK government believe it is "highly likely" there will be high levels of COVID in schools in England by the end of September.</p> <p>28 August – The Royal National Lifeboat Institute says that lifeguards have been withdrawn from two beaches in Lincolnshire after one of their number tested positive for COVID.</p>
<b><u>September</u></b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Weather impacts</u></b></p> <p>The weather through much of September was reasonably settled and quiet, though there were outbreaks of rain at times. It was also rather warm, especially around the 7th/8th. A marked change came about on the 27th, with much more unsettled and notably cooler conditions for the last few days of the month. Mean monthly temperatures were well above average, with rainfall and sunshine near average, although Northern Ireland was particularly dull.</p> <p>The spell of settled weather was broken around the 8th when there were thunderstorms in very warm and humid air. Damage was caused in Eastbourne on the 10th due to a lightning strike, and some trains to and from Hastings were disrupted due to signalling issues caused by lightning. In the south-west there were some reports of surface water flooding. There were reports of flooding in Flintshire, and across parts of the Wirral where some schools were forced to close.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>The Covid-19 Pandemic</u></b></p> <p>2 September – As schools prepare to return for the new academic year and concerns mount about their potential base as a spread for COVID, Dr Yvonne Doyle, medical director of Public Health England has said schools are not "drivers" or "hubs" of COVID infection.</p> <p>5 September – Vaccines Minister Nadhim Zahawi confirms that v will be required for nightclubs and other indoor venues in England from the end of September.</p> <p>6 September – The UK government confirms the NHS in England will get an extra £5.4bn over the coming six months to help deal with the backlog caused by COVID, and to help with its response to the pandemic.</p> <p>7 September – Addressing the House of Commons, Prime Minister Boris Johnson announces a new Health and Social Care Tax worth £12bn designed to deal with the backlog caused by COVID and improve social care in England.</p>

In the East of England there were reports of flooding on the 14th, affecting the A414 in Harlow, one road in Hinxton, and the entrance to Cambridge railway station, as well as property flooding in Kings Lynn. In London there were reports of flooding around Tower Bridge, and long delays on the Piccadilly line, the District line, the A41, and the A406 North Circular. There were also reports of flooding at Peckham Rye, and the Blackwall Tunnel was closed due to flooding.

On the 19th in Norfolk a person was rescued from a car stranded in floodwater. The main road through Melford (Essex) was impassable, and parts of Sudbury were flooded due to heavy rain.

On the 27th in Scotland, one lane of the M8 West Street on-ramp was closed due to flooding. There were reports of flooding on the A469 in Wales on the 27th, and a tornado was observed in Humberston (Lincolnshire), damaging some homes and vehicles. The following day had reports of standing water around Swansea and at junction 43 of the M4. On the 30th trains were delayed at Talerddig and North Llanrwst due to speed reductions imposed due to wet conditions. Elsewhere, fallen trees blocked roads and railway lines across parts of the east and south-east of England, including London.

8 September – Official figures have revealed that people in the north of England were 17% more likely to die from COVID-related illnesses than those in the rest of the country.

9 September – Figures show that 5.6 million people were on NHS England's waiting lists in July, while the average waiting time for an ambulance during a life-threatening call was eight and a half minutes in August; the target is seven minutes.

12 September – Speaking on BBC One's *The Andrew Marr Show*, Health Secretary Sajid Javid confirms plans to require proof of vaccination for nightclubs and other venues in England have been scrapped. 10 Downing Street says the plans will be kept "in reserve".

14 September – Officials at Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Foundation Trust confirm that patients at Grimsby Hospital have been forced to queue outside A&E due to "high demand for services". Boris Johnson discusses plans to emphasize vaccine boosters and vaccination of children 12–15 as part of efforts for handling the autumn and winter months. Johnson left open the possibility of "plan B" measures (which would include reinstating mask mandates, and possibly mandating proof of vaccination for certain venues, bringing England in line with restrictions in the other Home Nations) in the event of another surge, aiming to avoid lockdown.

17 September – Al fresco dining is set to continue in central London, but may not do so in Soho, it is reported. Manchester United releases figures for the 2020–21 football season indicating that losses it made at the turnstiles from physical attendances at matches were offset by money made from broadcasting.

21 September – Staff at Cornwall's Eden Project are given a "wellbeing week" off work as a thank you for their work during the pandemic.

24 September – England's R number falls slightly to between 0.8 and 1.0, down from 0.9 to 1.1 the previous week. Some schools in Corby and Kettering in Northamptonshire have brought back face mask requirements amid rising COVID cases in the area.

26 September – The Great Manchester Run is held, following its cancellation in 2020 due to COVID.

		<p>30 September – Data shows the level of face-to-face GP appointments in England has changed little since the winter lockdown, with 58% of appointments conducted in person during August 2021; this compares with 54% in January and a pre-COVID level of 80%. The UK government confirms that GCSE and A Level examination grades in England will be returned to pre-COVID levels over the next two years.</p>
<p><b><u>October</u></b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Weather impacts</u></b></p> <p>The weather during most of October was unsettled and wet, though there was a drier spell across most areas between the 8th and 17th. Temperatures were above average for much of the time, and frosts were few, but sunshine was in short supply for some areas. The heaviest rain came in the closing days of the month, with some notable totals in Cumbria, and there were gales also on the 31st.</p> <p>In the first week of the month, strong winds and rain caused flooding on roads in parts of South Wales and Pembrokeshire, with about 30 homes affected in Rhondda Cyon Taf. Overnight rain brought flooding to parts of London on the 5th. Prolonged rain fell across western Scotland but caused minimal impacts during the second week.</p> <p>Unsettled weather prevailed during the second half of October. Some roads were closed in Swansea and Carmarthenshire on the 20th due to flooding, including the M4 and parts of the Fabian Way into Swansea. In Merseyside and Greater Manchester a possible tornado resulted in damage to houses and vehicles. Heavy rain affected the south of England overnight 20th/21st. Essex Fire Services reported over 120 flood-related incidents including the rescue of a pensioner from their car. Several roads were impacted by flood water including the A127 and the B1014. Several bus routes were disrupted, and trains between Dartford and Gravesend were delayed due to a landslip. Both Southend seafront and Huntingdon High Street were temporarily closed due to flooding, and London saw widespread flooding on roads, with disruption to numerous rail services due to flooded platforms, stations, or lines. Vehicles were stranded in flood water in Ashington, West Sussex, and a mini-tornado was reported in Worthing causing some minor damage to gardens. Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue reported an extremely busy night due to flooding incidents, logging almost 300 calls. Four people were rescued from St Kew Ford in Cornwall, and five people were rescued from a flooded cave in</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>The Covid-19 Pandemic</u></b></p> <p>1 October – The UK government confirms that GCSE and A-level grades in England will be returned to pre-pandemic levels over the next two years following unusually high grades during 2020 and 2021. Public examinations for secondary school education will be held in 2022, but the option of teacher-based assessment will remain open.</p> <p>4 October – Parents of children aged 12–15 living in Northamptonshire, where COVID cases are high, are urged to get their children vaccinated.</p> <p>5 October – Department for Education figures indicate the number of pupils absent from school in England rose by two thirds in the two weeks to 30 September, with 204,000 (2.5% of school pupils) absent due to COVID-related reasons. The Vale Academy in Brigg, North Lincolnshire reintroduces bubbles due to high COVID cases in the area.</p> <p>7 October – Schools in Cambridgeshire are asked to reintroduce compulsory face masks for pupils after health officials said that 50% of recent COVID infections have been among those aged 0–17.</p> <p>8 October – Figures released by the Office for National Statistics for the week ending 2 October show an increase in COVID infections in English secondary schools, with one in 14 believed to have the virus, up from one in 20 the week before. Nationally the rate has risen from one in 85 to one in 70, the rise having been driven by the secondary school increase.</p> <p>11 October – Visiting is suspended at Withybush Hospital in Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, after a rise in COVID cases.</p> <p>21 October – The Royal Cornwall Hospitals Trust declares a critical incident because of the pressures it is facing; the previous day saw over 100 people waiting for Accident and Emergency treatment with 25 ambulances waiting</p>

	<p>Priddy, Cheddar. Many roads were flooded across Devon and Cornwall including the A30, A303, and A390.</p> <p>The last five days of the month brought further issues. Widespread flooding in parts of Scotland on the 27th and 28th caused problems, including on parts of the M8. Some drivers were stranded in cars on flooded roads, and a landslip affected the railway line between Carstairs and Carlisle. A major incident was declared in Hawick with school closures, widespread travel disruption, and plans to evacuate residents. There were similar reports of disruption and flooding across Cumbria, with impassable roads, cancelled bus services, several cars stranded in floodwater on the A592, and major disruption to rail services to and from Carlisle.</p> <p>Widespread flooding in Cockermonth meant flood defences and pumping were in operation. On the 29th, the Rhondda South Wales and Bangor to Holyhead railway lines were flooded, followed by flooded roads and fallen trees elsewhere across Wales on the 30th and 31st. There were a number of fallen trees in Northamptonshire, and fire crews dealt with over 130 incidents. Rail services were also impacted by fallen trees. There were some reports of flooding on the A205 and A20 in London. In Oxfordshire fallen trees blocked roads and railway lines and brought down power lines, the latter causing some power cuts. There were also flooded roads in Woking and Farnham.</p>	<p>outside. Greater Manchester has cancelled its eight council-run bonfires due to COVID; the events normally attract around 100,000 attendees.</p> <p>24 October – New rules come into force allowing fully vaccinated travellers returning to England to take lateral flow tests instead of PCR tests.</p> <p>31 October – Health officials from NHS England are to visit around 800 schools in an attempt to accelerate the vaccination programme for 12–15-year-olds; around 600,000 people in that age group have already had the vaccine.</p>
<b><u>November</u></b>	<b><u>Weather impacts</u></b>	<b><u>The Covid-19 Pandemic</u></b>
	<p>The weather during most of November was on the mild side, with many areas seeing some settled spells, however the last ten days of the month were much colder and more unsettled, with Storm Arwen of note on the 26th/27th. Temperatures were above average for much of the time, and frosts were generally few, especially in northern areas of the UK.</p> <p>November began unsettled, with reports of localised surface water flooding on the 1st across Merseyside, Lancashire and Greater Manchester. In Northern Ireland there was flooding near Glenavy, County Antrim and in parts of the Ards Peninsula. On the 7th there were some impacts from strong winds reported in Aberdeenshire: the A93, A981 and some minor roads were blocked by fallen trees. No further reports of impacts arose until the last six days of the month.</p> <p>Following the naming of Storm Arwen by the Met Office, including a very rare red wind warning for eastern coastal areas of Scotland and Northern England as these were the areas expected to see the worst, many impacts</p>	<p>1 November – Cambridgeshire and Peterborough councils become "enhanced response areas", with extra government support to tackle high COVID rates in the area. The support includes efforts to maximise vaccine rollout and is expected to be in place for five weeks</p> <p>2 November – Diwali celebrations return to Leicester following their cancellation in 2020 because of COVID.</p> <p>4 November – Birmingham's German Christmas Market returns after its cancellation in 2020. The event is smaller than in previous years, and Birmingham City Council warns it could change or close if COVID restrictions return.</p> <p>5 November – England's R number is estimated to be between 0.9 and 1.1, a fall from the same day the previous week when it was estimated to be between 1.1 and 1.3.</p>

	<p>were experienced on the 26th and 27th. Regrettably, three deaths were reported due to falling trees in Aberdeenshire, Antrim, and Cumbria. In Scotland, Traffic Scotland, the Police and ScotRail took mitigating action ahead of the strongest winds by closing a part of the A1, warning HGV drivers to take an alternative route to the A1 and warning passengers of potential delays on the East Coast Mainline due to speed restrictions. Fallen trees caused widespread disruption on the roads in Scotland, including many A roads, and the snow gates were closed at Braemar and Glenshee. ScotRail reported disruption and cancellations. Some councils temporarily withdrew road services staff due to safety concerns, but with so many roads being blocked by trees they resumed clearing the roads in the early hours. There were numerous highvoltage faults reported and over 120,000 properties were left without power, with 17,000 still without power by month-end. Damage was reported to buildings including Lanark United FC's ground, chimneys and roofs in Dunbar, Eyemouth, and Coldstream. A large area of trees was flattened in a forest near Kinbuck, Stirling. Northern Ireland suffered some delays to rail services, and fallen trees blocked roads. In Wales too, roads and railways were disrupted, with several train services being cancelled on the 27th and delays continuing into the 28th; almost 67,500 customers lost power during the storm. North-west England saw nearly 74,000 properties without power, some for over 2 days. Many trees were brought down which caused disruption to road and rail travel. Cumbria Police declared a major incident because of the power outages and impact on communities. Snow closed Trans-Pennine routes, with 120 HGV drivers stuck on the M62. Speed restrictions were placed on railway lines, numerous roads were blocked due to fallen trees, and there were some reports of damaged buildings. In north-east England nearly 220,000 properties lost their electricity supply, some for over 3 days, with numerous fallen trees and damage to a number of homes. Some holiday caravans were damaged at coastal sites. Many schools were closed either pre-emptively or because of structural damage caused by the storm. South-west England had 78,000 customers without power for some time on the 27th, fallen trees blocked roads, and a person was taken to hospital in the Bristol area after being hit by a falling tree. The last three days of November brought some low-impact ice warnings which hindered ongoing recovery efforts.</p>	<p>8 November – Doctors are expressing concern about the number of older people who have not taken up the offer of a booster vaccine, with as many as 20% of those over 80 in the North East of England and North Cumbria yet to have the booster.</p> <p>15 November – Two men from Rotherham, South Yorkshire, who fraudulently claimed £200,000 in emergency COVID funding by setting up bogus businesses then going into voluntary liquidation are banned from being company directors for thirteen and six years respectively.</p> <p>18 November – UK Health Security Agency data for the period up to 14 November indicates COVID cases in England are now highest among children aged 5–9.</p> <p>22 November – People aged over 40 in England become eligible to book their COVID booster vaccination.</p> <p>23 November – COVID advice is updated for England, where people are urged to take a lateral flow test if they expect to be in a “high risk situation” that day, such as spending time in “crowded and enclosed spaces” and where “there is limited fresh air”.</p> <p>30 November – Rules regarding face coverings in England and PCR tests for travellers arriving into the UK come into force as a measure to offset the new Omicron COVID variant discovered in Southern Africa.</p> <p>29 November – Secondary school pupils in England are "strongly advised" to wear face coverings in communal areas.</p> <p>30 November – Rules regarding face coverings in England and PCR tests for travellers arriving into the UK come into force.</p> <p>Prime Minister Johnson announces that by the end of January 2022, all adults in England over the age of 18 would be eligible to receive a vaccine booster.</p>
<b><u>December</u></b>	<b><u>Weather impacts</u></b>	<b><u>The Covid-19 Pandemic</u></b>
	<p>The weather during the early part of December was rather unsettled and chilly, though towards the middle of the month we entered a quieter spell and it turned milder. Unsettled conditions returned in time for Christmas,</p>	<p>4 December – GP surgeries in England will be allowed to defer non-urgent health checks for over-75s in order to focus on providing the booster vaccine. The move is welcomed by doctors' leaders.</p>

and, after some very cold nights in northern areas, milder air spread north gradually to all parts, and the last three days of the month were unusually mild. Overall, it was a mild, dull month, with rainfall broadly near average.

Snow caused road closures on the 6th in Derbyshire and parts of Cumbria. Storm Barra arrived the next day, and in Northern Ireland there were reports of up to 6,000 properties without power, while all ferries between Belfast and Cairnryan were cancelled as well as all local ferries. Fallen trees affected rail services, and coastal routes were impacted due to large waves. Flooding and fallen trees affected a number of roads across Britain. In Wales, some fallen trees blocked roads, with a small number of properties without power, and the roof of a school in Llanelli was damaged by the strong winds. Snow fell on higher ground in north-west England, with some reports of fallen trees impacting both rail and road travel. In East Anglia some trees were brought down, impacting rail services between Norwich and Lowestoft and reducing the speed limit on the Orwell Bridge. In the south-east of England including London there were reports of flooding and fallen trees impacting travel, with delays to some train services.

A spell of high pressure gave settled weather across the UK, but some fog warnings were issued during this time.

Snow affected some roads across the Pennines on the 26th, including the A66, and the Honister Pass in Cumbria.

In Northern Ireland on the 29th, strong winds and fallen trees impacted road travel, with closure of a temporary vaccination centre in Belfast and a temporary speed limit for high-sided vehicles on the Foyle Bridge. South-west England also saw some flooding and fallen trees. Sections of the A35 and A303 were temporarily closed due to flooding, and the M48 Severn Crossing was closed due to high winds. Rain on the 30th and 31st brought some travel disruption across the northwest of England, with flooding on the M6, M61, M66, and A6 and some lane closures reported. Flooding also affected some rail services such as between Preston and Lancaster, and between Carlisle and Workington.

8 December – Prime Minister Johnson announces that "plan B" measures would be implemented due to the threat of Omicron variant and to ensure a "close to normal" holiday season: From 10 December the mask mandate is extended to cinemas, theatres and similar indoor venues. From 13 December employees are being advised to work from home if possible. From 15 December attendees of nightclubs and large events must produce an NHS COVID Pass to enter.

30 December – The Welsh Government announces that Wales will lend England four million lateral flow tests to help with the current shortage of tests being experienced by England.