

COVID-19 PANDEMIC - TIMELINE



December 2019

'Patient Zero' is recorded suffering from symptoms of an illness later to be identified as Covid-19. Patient Zero is the term used to refer to the first documented patient in an epidemic. The man lived in Wuhan, China.

15th/16th December 2019

The first recorded hospital admission with Covid-19 in Wuhan, China.

31st December 2019

China informs the World Health Organisation about a cluster of cases of 'pneumonia with an unknown cause'.

3rd January 2020

China formally notifies US of outbreak.

7th January 2020

Chinese authorities identify the pneumonia outbreak to be caused by a novel type of coronavirus.

9th January 2020

First reported death from coronavirus in China.

23 January 2020

Lockdown begins - Wuhan is locked down in an attempt to halt the spread of the disease.

30 January 2020

The WHO Director-General, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, declares the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) outbreak a public health emergency of international concern.

31st January 2020

UK confirms its first coronavirus infections.



4th February 2020

British-registered Diamond Princess is the first cruise ship to have a major outbreak on board, with the ship quarantined at Yokohama from 4 February 2020 for approximately one month. Over 700 people become infected, and 12 people die.

10th February 2020

The UK Government declares Corona Virus an 'imminent threat' to public health giving public health officials the power to quarantine people with symptoms.

11th February 2020

WHO announces "COVID-19" to be the name of the new disease

13th February 2020

The first case of Coronavirus in London is confirmed, bringing the total number to 9

14th February 2020

First death in Europe is recorded in France.



23rd February 2020

Italy has a major surge in cases and many towns are locked down. This symbolises the first major outbreak in Europe.

5th March 2020

First death in the UK from Coronavirus (although later reports claim the first death may have been earlier, on 27th February)

11th March 2020

Covid-19 is declared a world pandemic by WHO.

15th March 2020

Infected cases in the UK hit 1372 and 35 people have died

16th March 2020

UK Government introduces social distancing measures which include -

- Avoiding contact with someone who is displaying symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19). These symptoms include high temperature and/or new and continuous cough
- Avoiding non-essential use of public transport
- Working from home where possible.
- Avoiding gatherings with friends and family.
- Using telephone or online services to contact your GP or other essential service

16th March 2020

Boris Johnson begins daily press conferences.

19th March 2020

English Government announces schools to close, except for children of key workers and those at risk.

20th March 2020

The UK Government orders all pubs, restaurants, gyms and other social venues to close. The Government announces it will pay 80% of salary for staff who are kept on by their employer, up to £2,500 a month in a bid to stop workers being laid off due to the crisis.

Schools around the UK close and parents and children prepare for Home Schooling



23rd March 2020

The UK is put into lockdown. Only essential travel and exercise a day are permitted.

24th March 2020

UK death toll reaches 422.

25th March 2020

Prince Charles tests positive for coronavirus

26th March 2020

The UK 'claps for carers' at 8pm for the first time. This becomes a weekly tradition to show support for frontline workers.

27th March 2020

Prime minister Boris Johnson and health and social care secretary Matt Hancock begin self-isolating after developing mild symptoms and testing positive for COVID-19.

2nd April 2020

The number of coronavirus infections worldwide surpasses 1 million with the disease causing more than 51,000 deaths. Just one week earlier the total number had been 500,000.

3rd April 2020

The Prince of Wales opens the new NHS Nightingale hospital at the ExCeL centre in London via a video link from his Scottish residence at Birkhall. It will treat up to 4,000 coronavirus patients at a time.

5th April 2020

Queen Elizabeth addresses the nation, ending by echoing the words of the Vera Lynn wartime song, "We will meet again".



We fill our windows with Rainbows and follow the rainbow trail in our neighbourhoods

6th April 2020

Boris Johnson, who has been admitted to St Thomas's Hospital with persistent symptoms of coronavirus, is moved to Intensive Care. He is not put on a ventilator but later speaks of needing 'litres of oxygen'.

9th April 2020

The number of people who have died from complications of COVID-19 in the UK increases by 938 in 24 hours - the largest daily increase since the outbreak. 60,733 people have now tested positive for the virus in the UK and 7,097 of those hospitalised have died.



10th April 2020

World-wide deaths reach 100,000 having doubled in a week.

12th April 2020

Boris Johnson is released from hospital to continue his recovery at Chequers.

13th April 2020

UK cases increase to 84,279 and 10,621 people are confirmed to have died.

13th- 15th April 2020

Some countries in Europe ease lock down. Austria plans to open some DIY stores. Italy plans to reopen some shops and Spain gets ready to allow some construction and factory employees to go back to work.

16th April 2020

UK Ministers extend lockdown for a further 3 weeks.

19th April 2020

Online concert – ‘One World: Together at Home’ with performances from artists including The Rolling Stones, Paul McCartney, Taylor Swift and Billie Eilish.

20th April 2020

UK cases increase to 124,743 and 16,509 people are confirmed to have died.

22nd April 2020

Trials start for a vaccine.

24th April 2020

Tests become available for front line workers, key workers and health care staff and their families to see if they currently have the virus.



27th April 2020

Coronavirus UK death toll surpasses 21,000 in hospitals but country sees the smallest daily increase since March.

28th April 2020

A minute's silence is held at 11am to remember key workers who have lost their lives.

29th April 2020

Boris Johnson announces birth of Baby Boy later named Wilfred Lawrie Nicholas Johnson. Nicholas is a tribute to Dr Nick Price and Dr Nick Hart - the two doctors credited with saving Boris' life.

30th April 2020

Captain Tom Moore, who has raised over £1 million for the NHS by walking laps of his garden, turns 100. He has become a National Hero and is promoted to Colonel to honour his efforts.

30th April 2020

Boris Johnson returns to the daily briefings after recovering from Covid-19. He delivers the news that the UK has now reached the peak and cases are decreasing. However, he warns that we need to tread very carefully so as not to undo all the good work and cause a second peak. Boris explains that coming out of lockdown needs to be handled very carefully to avoid a second wave.

5th May 2020

The UK now has the highest number of coronavirus deaths in Europe with 29,427 deaths. The latest total for Italy, previously the highest in Europe, stands at 29,315. We have the second highest death toll from coronavirus world-wide.

26th June 2020

The reopening: One by one as covid death rates fall in Europe and East Asia, countries began to roll back restrictions on business and travel. Airport terminals in Paris and London reopen.

The US has the highest unemployment rate since the Great Depression. The UK's fall in GDP is the largest since record keeping started.

16th July 2020

Cases have further declined in Europe, the UK, Canada and Australia. US cases flatten and Donald Trump urges the liberation of locked down states.

Campsites in the UK reopen and it is possible to meet up with one other household outdoors.

2nd August 2020

Spain, Germany, Italy and the UK have less positive cases per 100,000 people - the lowest rate since the outbreak.

Borders re open and people are able to travel, and dine out, enjoying holidays

Eat Out to Help Out - restaurants in the UK are helped out by Chancellor Rishi Sunak's scheme which subsidises food and drink for 3 days a week during August. 6 people allowed to dine together from separate households.

The British Economy rebounds by more than 15%.

The virus is still out there and young people are making up a large proportion of new cases.

1st September 2020

Back to School: Schools open for all children for the first time since March. Children are allocated bubbles (classes).

The month sees many children self isolating at various points in the term as positive cases are identified, working online from home.

22nd September 2020

The virus comes back with weekly cases on the continent soaring higher than the first peak in March.

Cooler weather, pushing people indoors is assisting with the spread of the disease. Boris Johnson tells parliament that Covid-19 hospital admissions have doubled in England over the past fortnight. A national lockdown is resisted at this time.

India experiences it's first wave (the fastest outbreak in the world - 5m cases in 2 months).

12th October 2020

A new Tier system is announced and comes in to effect on 14th November 2020. There are now medium, high, and very high tier levels, with the majority of the country in medium.

3rd November 2020

The US Presidential Election is won by Joe Biden, Democratic Party.

5th November 2020

Lockdown 2.0 begins in the UK and we are prepared for a 'very dark winter'. Schools remain open. Europe is in the grip of a second wave.

23rd November 2020

Vaccines are on the Horizon. AstraZeneca and Oxford University provide hope, following the announcement from Pfizer and Moderna a fortnight before.

29th November 2020

Christmas guidance issued in the UK. It is possible to mix with 3 households indoors for 5 days from 23rd December.

2nd December 2020

Lockdown 2.0 restrictions ease, however more stringent tier systems in place.

8th December 2020

Tuesday 8th December - Margaret Keenan aged 90, becomes the first person in the world to be given an approved vaccine at her local hospital in Coventry.

20th December 2020

A new strain of the coronavirus means that the cases are rising. Boris Johnson announces that London and the Southeast will enter into a newly formed Tier 4 lockdown - no travel in or out of Tier 4 Areas and no contact with other households for these areas at all.

Plans for households to mix indoors for 5 days over the festive period are reduced to 1 day.

4th January 2020

Lockdown 3.0: New lockdowns for England and Scotland ahead of 'hardest weeks'.

Some pupils returned to school for the new term on 4th January although primary Schools in most areas of London, Essex, Kent, Hastings and Rother in East Sussex, Milton Keynes and parts of Hertfordshire remained closed. Secondary schools across most of England remain closed, delaying the term by 2 weeks.

Announcement by Boris Johnson on the evening of 4th January that the UK is in national lockdown from midnight. Everyone must stay at home except for permitted reasons until at least mid-February. All schools to close and pupils to switch to remote learning.

Those in top four priority groups would be offered first vaccine dose by the middle of February.

The country was entering 'the last phase of the struggle'