

Health

England 'on track' for vaccinating Covid priority groups

🕒 12 February 2021



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Sir Simon Stevens said it had been "the fastest and largest vaccination campaign in history".

The UK government's aim is to reach 15 million of the most vulnerable by mid-February - and 14 million have been vaccinated so far.

Wales said on Friday it was the first UK nation to meet its target.

Speaking at the Coventry hospital where the first person in the UK to be vaccinated - 91-year-old Maggie Keenan - received her first dose, Sir Simon said it had been an "incredible achievement" by staff and volunteers.

"The uptake has been fantastic - we thought three-quarters would say yes to the vaccine but more than nine out of 10 have done so," he said.

Anyone aged over 70 in England who hasn't been vaccinated can go online or call 119 to book an appointment.

From next week, details of who will be vaccinated in the next phase of the programme involving the over 50s and people with underlying health conditions will be set out. They are due to be vaccinated by May.

Some regions of the UK have already begun inviting the over-60s, who are part of the next phase.

- How many people have been vaccinated so far?
- When will it be my turn to be vaccinated?
- Coronavirus cases falling in all nations of the UK

In the meantime, Sir Simon said it was important that people come forward for their second dose when invited because it "gives extra protection and immunity".

In the 10 weeks since vaccinations against coronavirus began in the UK, a first dose has been given to:

- more than 11.8 million people in England
- more than 715,900 people in Wales
- more than 1.1 million in Scotland
- more than 373,400 in Northern Ireland

Included in the first four priority groups, which covers 88% of those most at risk of dying from Covid-19, are people aged 70 and over, frailty, health and

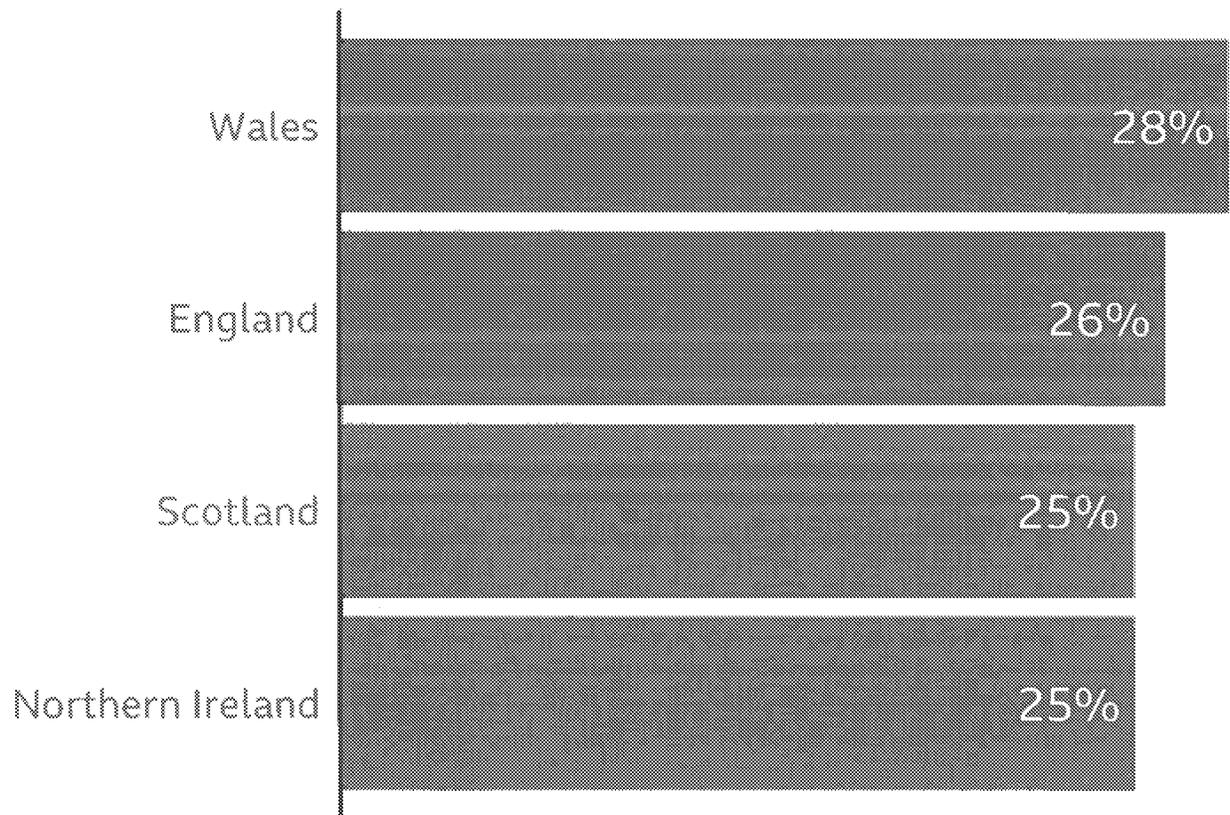
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Vaccines across the UK

Percentage of people aged 16 and over who have received the first dose of the vaccine to 11 Feb



Some of the differences between nations will be due to some areas having a higher percentage of people in the target categories than others.

Source: UK Government dashboard, ONS, BBC research



Across the UK, a quarter of adults have already received one dose of a Covid vaccine.

In Wales, the percentage of over-16s vaccinated is higher - at 28% - than in the other UK nations.

Nine out of 10 people aged 70 and over have taken up the offer to be vaccinated in England, the NHS says.

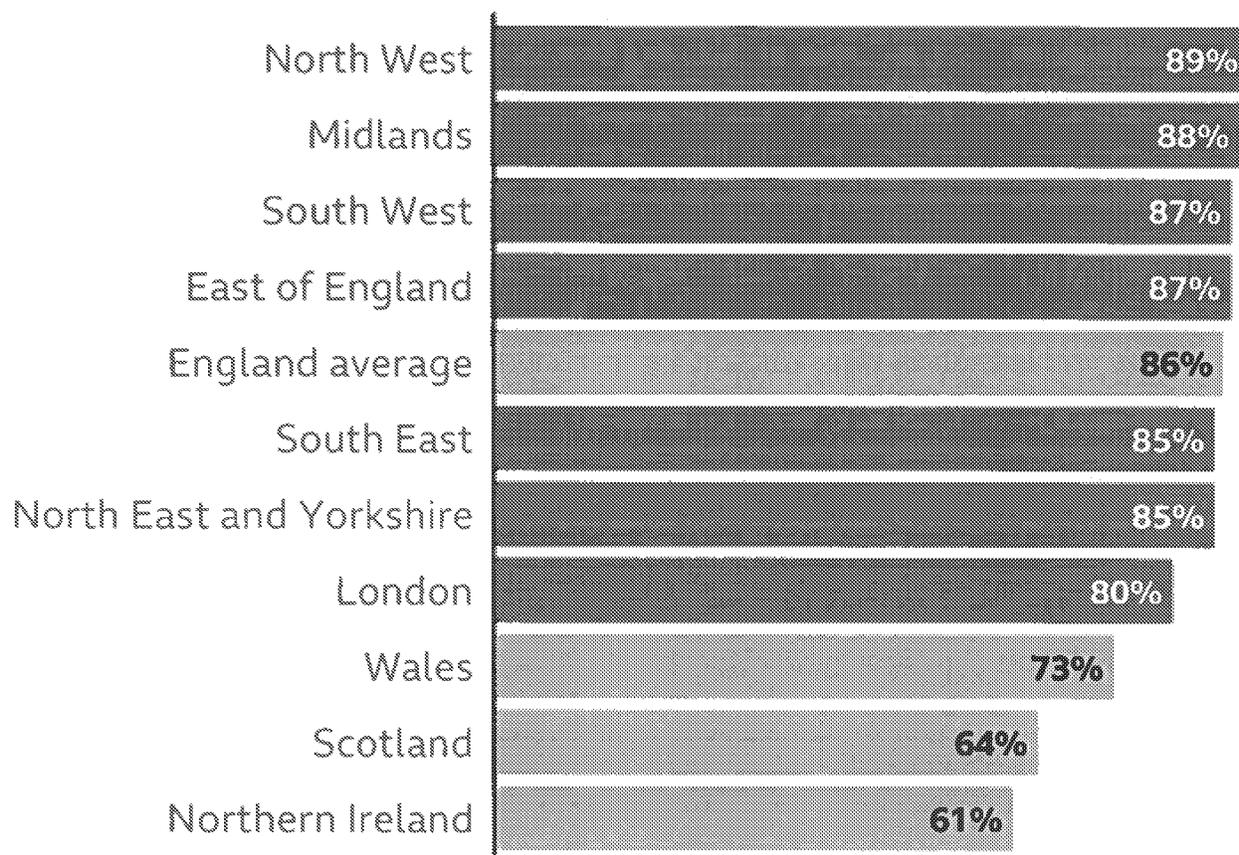
Latest figures for Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland suggest their uptake numbers for the over-70s are lower, but these are not directly comparable with England.

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Percentage of people aged 70 and over who have received their first vaccine doses, to 7 Feb



Population figures for England and Scotland are based on estimates from the ONS and NRS, Wales population figures are from the Welsh Immunisation System

Source: National public health bodies and BBC research



The latest data on other age groups in England, up to Sunday 7 February, suggests:

- More than nine in 10 over-80s had been vaccinated in all English regions, apart from London where it was nearly eight in 10
- London also lagged behind among 75-79 year olds, vaccinating 83% compared to more than 95% in all other regions
- The north west had vaccinated 82% of 70-74 year olds, more than any other region in England
- The east of England had vaccinated the least - 74%

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By Wednesday, in England, more than two million people had been vaccinated in the Midlands, 1.8 million in the South East, 1.7 million in the North East and more than a million in all other regions.

The smallest number of doses, nearly 1.3 million, had been given to people living in London.

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When might priority groups receive their first vaccine dose?

Jan to 15 Feb Government target for vaccinating top priority groups	Older care home residents	0.3m
	Care home workers	0.5m
	People aged 80+	3.3m
	Health and social care workers	3.8m
	Ages: 75-79	2.3m
	70-74	3.2m
	Clinically extremely vulnerable people (under 70)	1.2m
End Feb to April Remaining priority groups	Ages: 65-69	2.9m
	16-64 with underlying health conditions	7.3m
	60-64	1.8m
	55-59	2.4m
	50-54	2.8m
By autumn Programme expanded to all adults	Rest of adult population	21m (approx.)

Note: Dates approximate. Some people will fall into more than one category

Source: UK COVID-19 vaccines delivery plan. Figures based on NHSEI



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When did vaccinations start?

The UK's vaccination programme began on 8 December 2020 with people receiving the vaccine developed by Pfizer/BioNTech.

From 4 January people began receiving the Oxford University/AstraZeneca vaccine.

Both vaccines, which require two doses for full protection, were approved by the UK's medicines regulator.

A decision was taken by health officials to offer a first dose to as many vulnerable people as possible by extending the gap between doses to from three to four weeks to closer to 12 weeks.

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