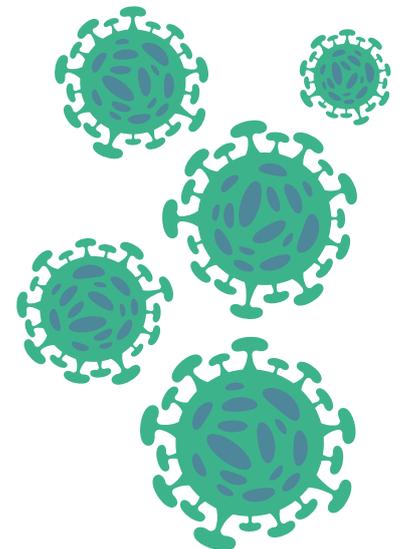


Data & Connectivity National Core Study

What did we achieve in Sprint 8?

Making COVID-19 datasets available for research

- **86** (+0 from sprint 7) National Core Study priority datasets listed on the [HDRUK Innovation Gateway](#) with detailed technical metadata for 83 (+0 from Sprint 6).
- **Vaccine data** now available in the English, Welsh and Scottish Trusted Research Environments (TRE), shortly available in the Northern Ireland TRE.
- **COG UK data** now available in Scotland and Wales TRE.
- Several **'Task and Finish' Groups** underway to focus on data connectivity areas of **high priority**:
 - The group set up to progress **viral and host genomic data linkages** between COVID datasets is now called the **'Research Data Linkage Implementation Group'**. The group have now agreed data flows for [COG-UK](#) viral genomic data. Viral variant data will flow to the [Office for National Statistics Secure Research Service](#) and viral sequence data will flow to the Edinburgh Parallel Computing Centre.
 - We are working with [ADRUk](#) and the [Office for National Statistics](#) to enable wider linkage of **administrative and health data sets** to support the [Transmission and Environment](#) and [Longitudinal Health and Wellbeing](#) National Core Studies, whose research will inform easing of lockdown and longer term societal impacts of the pandemic. The group will work to enable linkage of priority data assets such as occupational data.
 - The **'Vaccine Data Epidemiology'** group of UK wide researchers has been convened to enable **identification and analysis of current and emerging rare adverse events after vaccination**. This group has now shared research protocols and are co-ordinating activities, meeting weekly to present early analyses.
 - Finally, we have convened a group to explore regional solutions (in absence of currently available national solution) to **enable a rapid, near real time flow of acute care hospital data** to support **vaccine related research**. This group are focusing on the data connectivity requirements of the Vaccine Data Epidemiology Group and are working across three UK regions (with [CIPHA](#), [PIONEER Data Hub](#), and [OneLondon](#)) to enable rapid hospital admissions and laboratory data flows, linked to vaccination datasets.





Data discovery, access, and user experience

- Find the latest metrics on data access requests on the [National Core Study Gateway Dashboard](#).
- 11 of the [12 HDRUK and ONS funded projects](#) have now had at least one **data access request approved** to begin their COVID-19 research. There were [23 data access requests](#) submitted via the Innovation Gateway, covering [104 datasets](#).
- Continue to support NCS Clinical Trials with data and connectivity requirements (e.g. [Prophylactic Therapy in Care Homes -PROTECT-CH](#), [PRINCIPLE](#) trials).
- Progress continues to **harmonise the data access request process** via the [HDRUK Innovation Gateway](#) with the TRE partner processes.
- ‘[Cohort Discovery](#)’ tool launched on the HDRUK Innovation Gateway – this tool allows researchers to search for and assess data and discover research-specific population cohorts across multiple datasets.
- Progress continues to build an analytical federation across the 5 UK TREs.





Impacts and emerging insights

- Research exploring sociodemographic inequality in COVID-19 vaccination coverage amongst elderly adults in England showed that lowest rates of vaccination were in people of Black African and Black Caribbean ethnic backgrounds. The study also highlighted differences in vaccination rates by other factors disproportionately associated with SARS-CoV-2 infection such as deprivation and disability status. Public health policy and community engagement aimed at promoting vaccination uptake in these groups are urgently needed.
- Real-world data from the vaccine rollout in Scotland (EAVE II database and HDR UK BREATHE hub) - linked vaccination, primary care, testing, and admission records for all 5.4M people in Scotland (approx. 99% of the population). Results showed that 1st dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech and the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccines are 91% and 88% effective at reducing COVID-19 hospitalisation.





Communicating and engaging with partners, patients, and the public

- Final agenda announced for the National Core Study Symposium event on June 24th. This event brings together the six National Core Study teams and wider community to share impact on UK COVID science and policy.
- Work continues with patient and public representatives to co-design a template for data custodians to **develop lay summaries of data assets** for the Gateway.
- Reviewed and provided written and verbal feedback in collaboration with lay members on the advisory group to each of the **12 rapid funded projects** on their milestone report PPIE progress. Recruited participants for multiple focus groups to support one of the rapid funded research projects.
- Initiated planning meeting with **ADRUK to identify and develop PPIE opportunities** – a wider advisory group lay member will attend to work together to develop involvement opportunity.
- Developed **best practice guidelines to include PPIE in funding calls**. Document is being reviewed by advisory group.





Emerging Priorities and next steps

- Progress the current critical need to enable further linkage and approved researcher access of **high value COVID data assets such as COG UK and clinical trial data** to:
 - Enable a deeper understanding of the impact of viral and host genomics on susceptibility and immunity to COVID-19 disease, severity, and outcomes.
 - Enable further analyses which will help inform future research and pandemic policy.
- Developing **standardised protocols across several regions** to enable **rapid, acute admissions data flows and linkages** to support vaccine research and surveillance.
- Developing a roadmap to enable **wider linkage of priority health and administrative data** sets and conducting **joint public involvement and engagement work** with HDRUK in this area.
- Progressing the implementation of the **cohort discovery tool** across our four nation delivery partners.
- Conducting more in-depth user surveys of researchers working in Trusted Research Environments to **further inform TRE improvements and enhancements**.
- Continue the development of **lay summaries** to describe the work of the Data and Connectivity NCS.

