

**The Demography of COVID-19 Deaths (<https://dc-covid.site.ined.fr/en/>)**  
**Metadata Sheet for England and Wales**  
**(Last revised 05/05/2020)**

**Data Source 1**

Office for National Statistics (ONS)

**Coverage**

All deaths involving COVID-19 in England and Wales, whether occurred in hospital or not.

**Data collection method**

Daily electronic transmission from local registration offices to the ONS. The death registration system in England and Wales is described in detail here:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/methodologies/userguidetomortalitystatisticsjuly2017>

The report is published weekly and made available here:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/dataset/weeklyprovisionalfiguresondeathsregisteredinenglandandwales>

Case definition: COVID-19 or suspected COVID-19 mentioned anywhere on the death certificate, including in combination with other health conditions. The certification is according to the professional judgment of the attending physician based on available information such as symptoms and clinical findings, and does not require a positive virological test.

**Collected Data**

The data collected by ONS contain the full medical and demographic information from the process of death certification and registration. The variables used in the weekly report are limited to :

Age

Sex

Cause of death

Local area of residence

Place of death

Date of death

**Countdown stop time**

Weekly figures provided every Tuesday. The data published cover the time period up to the Friday 11 days before. However, some additional figures are calculated based on more recent registrations.

---

## **Data Source 2**

National Health Service (NHS)

### **Coverage**

All deaths in England occurred in hospital tested positive for COVID-19.

### **Data collection method**

Daily electronic transmission from hospitals to the NHS via the COVID-19 Patient Notification System, described in the document

“covid-19-patient-pathway-v2.3.pdf” (available in the documentation and downloaded here: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/covid-19-patient-pathway-v2.3.pdf>)

The daily publication is available here: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/covid-19-daily-deaths/>

Case definition: deaths of patients who have died in hospitals in England and have been tested positive for COVID-19. All deaths are recorded against the date of death rather than the day the deaths were announced.

Details are given in the document: Data-notes-for-COVID-19-daily-deaths-publication.docx (available in the documentation and downloaded here:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2020/04/Data-notes-for-COVID-19-daily-deaths-publication-1.docx>)

### **Collected Data**

The data collected by NHS contain the following variables in the daily report are limited to:

Age

Sex

Region and trust

Ethnicity (weekly)

Date of death

### **Countdown stop time**

Updated at 2pm each day and include confirmed cases reported at 5pm the previous day.

Totals reported at 5pm on each day may not include all deaths that occurred on that day or on recent prior days.

---

### **Data Source 3**

Public Health Wales (GIG)

#### **Coverage**

Death in Wales from individuals who were laboratory confirmed with Covid-19, whether occurred in hospital or not.

#### **Data collection method**

Daily transmission from Local Health Boards of residence of deaths suspected to be caused by COVID-19 in people who have tested positive for COVID-19. Figures do not include individuals who have died from Covid-19 but who were not confirmed by laboratory testing; data may include deaths where Covid-19 was not the leading cause and will differ from ONS official statistics.

Deaths are reported by date of death.

Public Health Wales Communicable Disease Surveillance Center is responsible for carrying out the surveillance system and the daily publication is available here:

<https://public.tableau.com/profile/public.health.wales.health.protection#!/vizhome/RapidCOVID-19virology-Public/Headlinesummary>

The majority of deaths reported occurred in hospital settings, however a proportion occurred in care home settings.

The true number of COVID-19 deaths is very likely to be higher (see ONS reports for a more precise overview based on completion of the death registration process).

#### **Collected Data**

The daily data collected by Public Health Wales contain only information about Local Health Boards (administrative unit within GIG Wales)

#### **Countdown stop time**

The counting is stopped at 5pm of the previous day.