And the answer is

Probabilities and Statistics

I have been trying to find how low the probability is of dying with COVID-19 if you have had both vaccination doses. However it's proved to be an almost impossible task. My hopes were raised this week by an article in ***The Guardian*** and also the release of information by the ***ONS*** . Still, however It is an almost impossible task to try and read and correlate statistics to find one definitive answer.

From the ONS

However, from the ONS report, one table does jump out at me. The data is for deaths occurring between 2 January and 2 July. It shows just 458 deaths out of 51,281 if people have had TWO doses of vaccine or 0.8%

Vaccination status	Deaths involving COVID-19	Non-COVID-19 deaths	Percent of all deaths
All deaths regardless of vaccination status	51,281	214,701	19.3
Unvaccinated	38,964	65,170	37.4
Deaths within 21 days of first dose	4,388	14,265	23.5
Deaths 21 days or more after first dose	7,289	66,533	9.9
Deaths within 21 days of second dose	182	11,470	1.6

Deaths 21 days or more after second dose	458	57,263	0.8

Source: Office for National Statistics – National Immunisation Management Service, NHS Test and Trace

Conclusion

I have finally had to give up on trying to find the answer to my question. The ONS data ends in July and this is mid September. We have now all had TWO doses. I can't figure out how the Guardian came up with the 1.2% or how Sajid Javid came up with 1% on BBC Breakfast this morning. However, I do feel that it must be around the 1% which means that non vaccinated people are up to 99 times more likely to die from COVID-19 than you are…. Or is this too simplistic?

Further Reading

- ***Deaths involving COVID-19 by vaccination status, England: deaths occurring between 2 January and 2 July 2021***
- ***Fully vaccinated people account for 1.2% of England's Covid-19 deaths***

Endemic NOT Pandemic

We will NOT achieve herd immunity with COVID

It seems increasing likely that COVID is here to stay. If not for ever, then certainly for years to come. The Delta variant

is so infectious that everyone WILL be exposed to it at some point, probably by someone who is asymptomatic.

Here in the UK if you have had two doses of the vaccine:

- You are 49% less likely of being infected compared with unvaccinated people.
- If you DO catch COVID, you are then around 25 times less likely to end up in hospital than someone who has not had the vaccine.
- If you DO end up up in hospital, you are also less likely to die.

This Winter

So far, the UK Vaccine program has prevented 60,000 deaths. However, a winter wave of COVID is inevitable together with a larger than normal flu season. (***Dr Mark Porter – The Times***) A booster program for COVID for the winter is being planned. So make sure you get both jabs if offered.

The Future

My predictions for Winter 2021 onwards

- Routine Testing will become less important in schools and workplaces etc. Testing will only happen at point of infection or for travel.
- We will have to learn "To live with COVID" the genie is out of the box!
- Travel will open right up.
- Events will open right up
- No more lockdowns

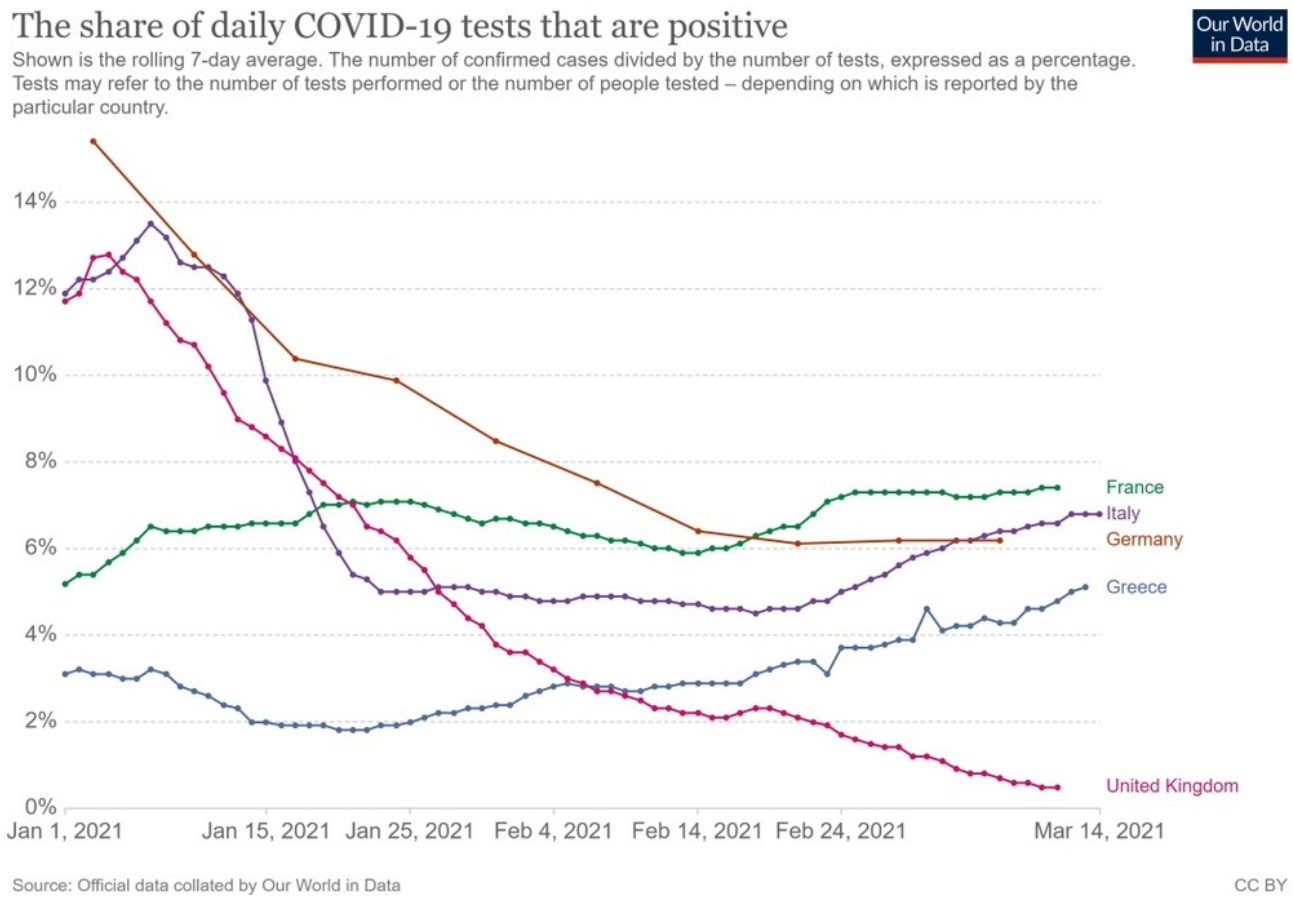
COVID is here to stay……..we have to live with it.

Nature – February 2021

- ***The Guardian***
- ***The Standard***
- ***The Telegraph***
- ***UK Gov COVID-19 Vaccine surveillance report: 26 August 2021***

- Stinchcombe Calendar Spring Photos
- The Big Question
- The story of the Oxford vaccine
- A plea from local surgeries
- COVID-19 vaccine registry

So are we going on holiday?



See the above at ***"Our World in Data"***

All the news at present is about Passports

It seems that all the news at present is about COVID Passports and where are we going for our Summer Holiday. We have been in lockdown here since early January and been vaccinating as fast as we can. So, our infection rate in the population has decreased from a high of 11.2% to 0.5% on the above graph.

Meanwhile all the countries that we go to for our holidays are going the other way and look like they are entering a new "wave"

I don't want to rain on anyone's parade, but should we be talking about holidays where the infection rate is above 5% (1 in 200) ? After all this was the benchmark last year for the governments Red List?

It has cost the country Billions to get the infection rate down to where it is. Should we now run the risk of re-introducing a new variant like the new ***Brittany Variant*** ? We saw the Panic over the Brazilian Variant when it was discovered. Or is the Test and Trace System now "***World Beating***"? Or are we confident that our European cousins now have things in control.

An Oximeter could save your

life

What is an Oximeter?

A pulse oximeter slips over your middle finger and shines a light into the body. It measures how much of the light is absorbed in order to calculate oxygen levels in the blood.



An Oximeter that clips onto your finger

Why it is important to have access to one.

One of the mysteries of Covid-19 is why oxygen levels in the blood can drop to dangerously low levels without the patient noticing. It is known as “silent hypoxia”.

As a result, patients have been arriving in hospital in far worse health than they realised and, in some cases, too late to treat effectively.

A normal oxygen level in the blood is between 95% and 100%. If oxygen levels drop to 93% or 94%, then people speak to their GP or call 111. If they go below 92%, people should go to A&E or call 999 for an ambulance.

Studies, which have not been reviewed by other scientists, have shown even small drops below 95% are linked to an increased risk of dying.

- **Download** the instructions on ***using the OXIMETER*** from the ***NHS website***
- **Read** the ***BBC website page***

With Covid-19 still to be around for some time to come it is important that all families in Stinchcombe have access to one in case of catching the virus.
I have one at home – unused and in the box. So if you come down with the virus, just drop me an email. – Richard

- Great Migration of Stinchcombe
- Parish Survey
- Accessibility Statement
- COVID Update October
- Decommissioning

The Race to Vaccine

It’s Not a Race

In one breath we are told “it’s not a race”. However, in the next we are told how well the UK are doing compared with others. So which is true?

On the ***Bloomberg*** website they have launched a ***Covid Vaccine tracker***. This is gives information in real time tracker and of course is USA biased. However, scroll down to the section titled “**Race to End the Pandemic**” (remember it’s NOT a race) and you get the interesting stuff.

This how many doses given and more importantly what percentage of the population. As of Jan 05 2021 the UK had vaccinated 1.95% of the the population. Which I think is quite laudable and we should the the UK Government it’s due for this.

The Global Vaccination Campaign

Country	No. of doses administered	Per 100 people ▾	Last updated
Global total	*15,993,078*	–	*Jan. 06*
Israel	1,490,000	16.46	Jan. 06
U.A.E.	826,301	7.69	Jan. 05
Bahrain	68,472	4.61	Jan. 06
U.K. +	1,300,000	1.95	Jan. 05
U.S.	5,478,578	1.67	Jan. 06
Denmark	63,312	1.09	Jan. 06
Russia*	800,000	0.55	Jan. 02
Canada +	172,083	0.46	Jan. 06
Germany	367,331	0.44	Jan. 06
Italy	260,948	0.43	Jan. 06

The Global Vaccination Campaign from Bloomberg.com

It will take time

We must however realise that it will take time. The UK Government is aiming to give 2M doses a week. There are 65M people in the UK. Each Vaccine needs 2 doses. That’s 65 weeks needed to vaccinate everyone….

The story of the Oxford vaccine

A fascinating read

I read a long article on the BBC website this week on the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine. How it came into being and how quick it was off the mark. The problems encountered to find funding. The false stories put about on social media and what impact this had. And finally the problems with production and testing.

Written by Fergus Walsh, the BBC's Medical editor I recommend the article for anyone who would like to get an insight of what it is like to try and develop what could still be the worlds number#1 vaccine next year for the Coronavirus pandemic.

The article is titled Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine: Bogus reports, accidental finds – the story of the jab

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The Big Question

When do I get my Vaccine?

Now that we seem to have successful vaccines coming on line very soon, the one question we all want answered is "When do I get my COVID-19 vaccine?" It goes along with "When will life return to normal?"

The UK Government is talking already about mass vaccinations but unless they know something that I don't, we are all going to have to wait.

At present Pfizer is planning to produce 50 million doses by the end of 2020 and Moderna 20 million and let's say they both

get approval and let's say the UK gets 10% (my guesstimate) of the production, that would be 7,000,000. This would be enough for everyone over everyone aged 80 and over.

Next year, 2021 Pfizer is planning to produce 1.3 billion and Moderna 500 million. Britain has ordered 40 million from Pfizer. So this would give us in the UK a further 35 million by the end of 2021. Enough to vaccinate everyone over 35 years old.

The Big Unknown

The Vaccine that could change everything is the Oxford vaccine by the University of Oxford (Vaccitech) and AstraZeneca which is still three months away. It is a different vaccine and made in a different and easier way. 2 billion doses could be made next year in the UK alone. This could easily satisfy our requirements. Let's hope it passes all tests.

Tentative Conclusion

This is my suggested timescale for Vaccinations for different ages:

- 80 plus very late 2020 / early 2021
- 35 plus in 2021
- Under 35 in 2022.
- If the Oxford works and is released in Feb / March, then all bets are off.

References

- Manufacturing enough Covid-19 vaccine is a logistical nightmare
- UK population pyramid
- Oxford Biomedica snags manufacturing equipment to ramp up production of COVID-19 vaccine