



Public Health  
England

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# **Cumulative shingles vaccine coverage report to end of June 2020 (quarter 4) and annual 2019 to 2020 coverage: England**

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## Data tables associated with this report

(available at: [Herpes zoster \(shingles\) immunisation programme 2019 to 2020: evaluation reports](#))

Shingles vaccine coverage report for those becoming 70 through to 79 years of age in the year 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020, as at end of June 2020

Shingles vaccine coverage for quarter 1, quarter 2, quarter 3 and quarter 4 and overall shingles coverage among routine and catch-up cohorts by Local Team

Shingles vaccine coverage for quarter 1, quarter 2, quarter 3 and quarter 4 and overall shingles coverage among routine and catch-up cohorts by Local Authority

Shingles vaccine coverage for quarter 1, quarter 2, quarter 3 and quarter 4 and overall shingles coverage among routine and catch-up cohorts by CCG

Overall shingles coverage among routine and catch-up cohorts by Local Authority

Overall shingles coverage among routine and catch-up cohorts by CCG

# Cumulative shingles vaccine coverage report to end of June 2020: England

## Key points

- the routine and catch-up shingles vaccination programme offers the shingles vaccine to those turning 70 or 78 years old in any given year; they remain eligible until their 80<sup>th</sup> birthday
- this is the annual, and fourth quarterly, shingles report of the financial year 2019/20 based on current eligibility criteria, evaluating those eligible for the shingles vaccine from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020, assessed at the end of June 2020
- results from this report are comparable to figures from the 2018/19 annual report but are not comparable to earlier annual reports, which were based on a different methodology and eligibility criteria
- cumulative shingles vaccine coverage for all earlier routine cohorts (offered at 70 and now aged 71 to 76 years) continues to increase year-on-year through opportunistic vaccination
- cumulative shingles vaccine coverage at the end of June 2020, for cohorts first offered shingles vaccine prior to the financial year 2019/20, was highest among 76 year olds (76.7%) and lowest among 71 (48.2%) and 77 (48.0%) year olds – half of whom need to wait until their 78<sup>th</sup> birthday to become eligible for the vaccine as part of the final catch-up cohort
- cumulative vaccine coverage at the end of June 2020 among those turning 70 or 78 years old during quarters 1, 2, 3 and 4 (between 1 April 2019 and 31 March 2020) was 26.5% for the routine 70 year old cohort and 25.8% for the 78 year old catch-up cohort, compared to 31.9% and 32.8% respectively for the same age cohorts at the end of June 2019
- vaccine coverage for those turning 70 or 78 years old during quarter 4 (1 January 2020 to 31 March 2020) was 9.3% and 10.4%, respectively, compared to 13.1% for 70 year olds and 13.8% for 78 year olds in quarter 4 of the 2018/19 financial year

## Summary of updated coverage for Q1 to Q3 2019- 2020 birth cohorts to end of June 2020

- updated vaccine coverage for those who became eligible for the shingles vaccine during quarter 1 (from 1 April 2019 to 30 June 2019) was 38.7% for the 70 year old routine cohort and 38.0% for the 78 year old catch-up cohort. These estimates are lower than coverage achieved by end of quarter 4 last year for the quarter 1 birth cohorts, which were 39.5% for 70 year olds and 39.5% for 78 year olds
- updated vaccine coverage for those who became eligible for the shingles vaccine during quarter 2 (from 1 July 2019 to 30 September 2019) was 35.1% for the 70 year old routine cohort and 34.1% for the 78 year old catch-up cohort. These estimates are lower than coverage achieved by end of quarter 4 last year for the quarter 2 birth cohort, which were 35.8% for 70 year olds and 35.2% for 78 year olds
- updated vaccine coverage for those who became eligible for the shingles vaccine during quarter 3 (from 1 October 2019 to 31 December 2019) was 22.4% for the 70 year old routine cohort and 22.8% for the 78 year old catch-up cohort. These estimates are lower than coverage achieved by end of quarter 4 last year for the quarter 3 birth cohort, which were 24.4% for 70 year olds and 24.7% for 78 year olds
- the highest initial vaccine coverage occurred during quarter 2 for both 70 and 78 year olds. This is most likely due to more people receiving both the influenza and the shingles vaccine simultaneously during the influenza season which runs from September through to the following January

# 1. Introduction

The shingles vaccination programme began on 1 September 2013. The aim of the programme then was to offer routine shingles (herpes zoster) vaccination to all 70 year olds each year, with a catch-up programme for older cohorts each year until 2020/21 to capture individuals born up to 1 September 1942 (i.e. aged 71 to 79 years on 1 September 2013 at the programme launch). For the first five years, vaccine coverage of the vaccination programme was monitored in England by PHE through monthly cumulative collections via automatic uploads of GP practice-level data using the ImmForm\* website and regular estimates of coverage published on the [PHE website](#) [1].

From 1 April 2017 the eligibility criteria for receiving shingles vaccine changed so that individuals become eligible on their 70<sup>th</sup> birthday (routine cohort) or their 78<sup>th</sup> birthday (catch-up cohort). The catch-up programme will continue until 1 September 2021 in order that individuals born before September 1942 can be offered the vaccine as the routine programme started on 1 September 2013. All those who have been offered the vaccine either as part of a routine or catch-up cohort will remain eligible to receive shingles vaccine at their GP surgery up to their 80<sup>th</sup> birthday [2-5].

As a live viral vaccine, the shingles vaccine is contraindicated for immunosuppressed individuals. It is essential to assess the eligibility of individuals prior to offering the shingles vaccine and ensure that those who can benefit are not excluded. Further information on shingles vaccine eligibility is available in *Immunisation against infectious disease (the Green Book)*.

To continue to accurately evaluate cumulative vaccine coverage for the routine and catch-up shingles programme following the 1 April 2017 change in eligibility criteria, as well as monitor on-going cumulative coverage for all cohorts previously offered vaccine up to their 80<sup>th</sup> birthday, PHE changed the monthly specification for the ImmForm data extractions from GP IT systems to quarterly extractions and changed the methodology for the quarterly calculation of vaccine coverage to reflect the new delivery model.

This quarterly report is the fourth for the second year of using the revised specification and presents shingles vaccine coverage data for those who turned 70 for the routine cohort, or 78 for the catch-up cohort, between 1 January 2020 and 31 March 2020 (quarter 4), evaluated at the end of June 2020. It additionally provides cumulative vaccine coverage among those that turned 70 or 78 during quarter 1 (from 1 April 2019 to 30 June 2019), quarter 2 (1 July 2019 to 30 September 2019) and quarter 3 (1 October 2019 to 31 December 2019) evaluated at the end of June 2020.

\* ImmForm is the system used by Public Health England to record vaccine coverage data for some immunisation programmes and to provide vaccine ordering facilities for NHS England.

It is important to note that vaccine coverage for those who have become eligible under the revised criteria is not directly comparable to previous cumulative vaccine coverage estimates using the former eligibility criteria from the 2013/2014 to 2017/2018 programmes [1].

This report also describes cumulative shingles vaccine coverage among those becoming 70 to 80 years old between 1 March 2019 and 30 April 2020, assessed at the end of June 2020.

## 2. Methods

This report presents cumulative vaccine coverage for all those eligible for the routine or catch-up shingles vaccine (turning 70-to-77 or 78-to-80 years old, respectively, between 1 April 2019 and 31 March 2020) who were vaccinated by 23 June 2020.

GP practice-level shingles vaccine coverage data are automatically uploaded via participating GP IT suppliers to the ImmForm website on a quarterly basis. These data are then validated and analysed by PHE to check data completeness, identify and query any anomalous results and describe epidemiological trends.

This quarterly survey extracted coverage estimates as at 23 June 2020 for each financial year birth cohort (1 April to 31 March births) for individuals born between 1 April 1939 and 31 March 1950, i.e. aged 71 years to 80 years (minus future catch-up cohorts born 1 April 1942 to 1 September 1942 inclusive).

It presents vaccine coverage for those who turned 70 (routine cohort) or 78 years old (catch-up cohort) during quarters 1, 2, 3 and 4 (between 1 April 2019 and 31 March 2020) and vaccinated by 23 June 2020 (Table 1). Coverage is presented cumulatively as well as a breakdown for each of the four quarters. The fourth automated quarterly survey measures vaccine coverage as the total number of patients turning 70 or 78 who received the shingles vaccine prior to 23 June 2020 (numerator) as a proportion of the total number of registered patients turning 70 or 78 between 1 April 2019 to 30 June 2019 (quarter 1), 1 July 2019 to 30 September 2019 (quarter 2), 1 October 2019 to 31 December 2019 (quarter 3) and 1 January 2020 to 31 March 2020 (quarter 4), (denominator). By collecting the data in late June, we allowed those eligible in quarter 4 between 3 to 6 months to receive the vaccine, depending on date of birth (Table 1).

**Table 1.** Birth range and collection dates for the routine (70 year olds) and catch-up (78 year olds) cohorts for quarters 1, 2, 3 and 4 of financial year 2019 to 2020

Quarter and age		Eligible birth dates	Duration of eligibility at 23 June 2020
Overall Quarters 1, 2, 3 and 4	70	01/04/1949 – 31/03/1950	3-15 months
	78	01/04/1941 – 31/03/1942	
Quarter 1	70	01/04/1949 – 30/06/1949	12-15 months
	78	01/04/1941 – 30/06/1941	
Quarter 2	70	01/07/1949 – 30/09/1949	9-12 months
	78	01/07/1941 – 30/09/1941	
Quarter 3	70	01/10/1949 – 31/12/1949	6-9 months
	78	01/10/1941 – 31/12/1941	
Quarter 4	70	01/01/1950 – 31/03/1950	3-6 months
	78	01/01/1942 – 31/03/1942	

### 3. Participation and data quality

Cumulative shingles vaccine coverage data for quarter 4 represented a total of 6,481/6,704 (96.7%) GP practices. Data from all the four IT suppliers were provided.

## 4. Results

### 4.1 Cumulative vaccine coverage for financial year April 2019 to March 2020 birth cohorts, as at 23 June 2020

- cumulative vaccine coverage for each of the earlier routine cohorts (now aged 72 to 76) continues to increase each quarter through opportunistic vaccination (Table 2, Figure 1)
- the highest cumulative coverage is observed among those turning 76 (76.7%), who were offered the shingles vaccine in the earliest routine cohort six years ago
- the lowest cumulative coverage is observed among 77 year olds (48.0%). Half of this birth cohort will have been offered vaccine as part of the routine programme in 2013/14 when they were 70 years old but those born 1 April 1942 to 1 September 1942 will not be eligible for the vaccine until their 78<sup>th</sup> birthday as part of the final catch-up cohort

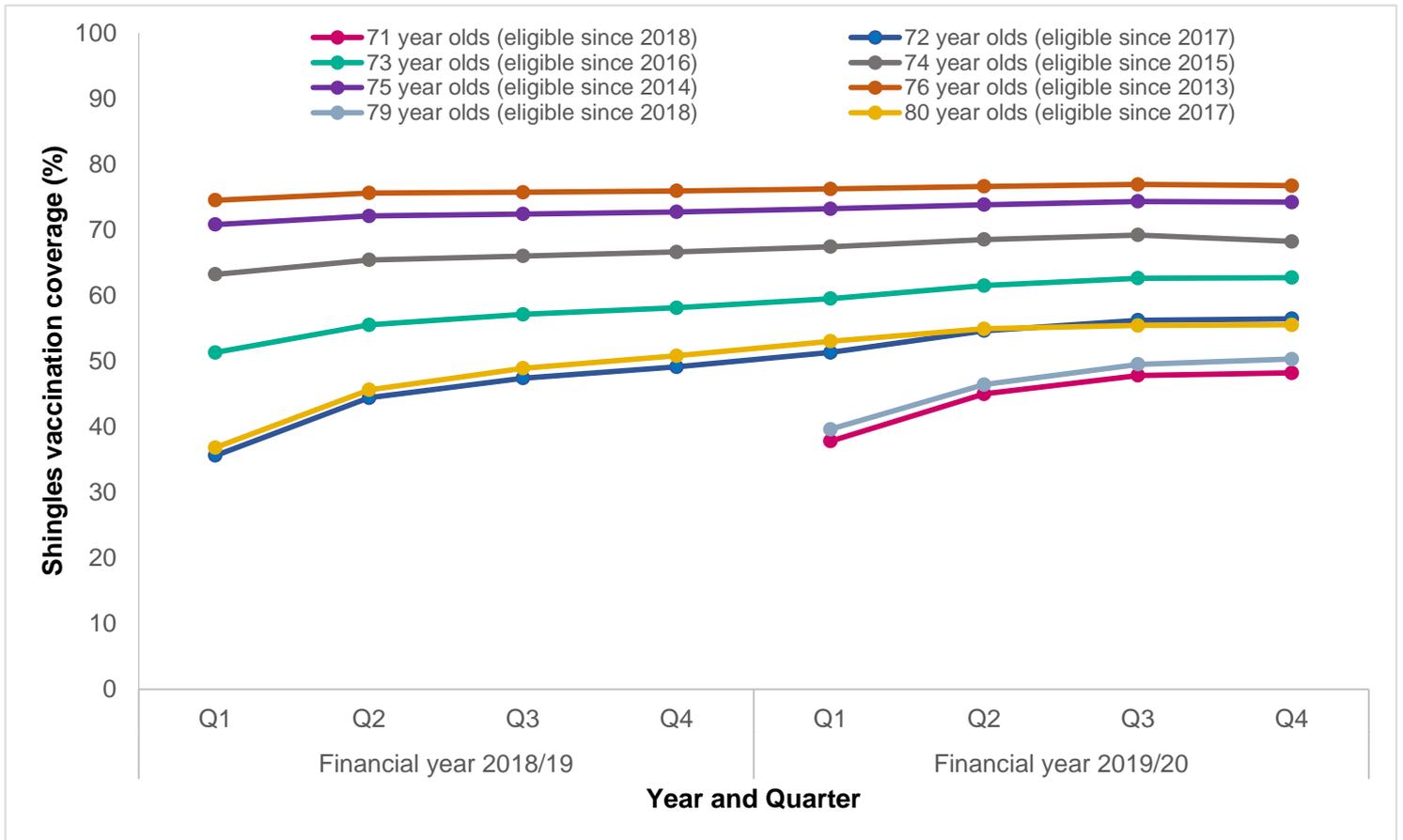
- cumulative vaccine coverage was also low among the cohorts currently aged 71 (48.2%) and 79 (50.3%), who became eligible for the routine and catch-up vaccination in 2018/19

**Table 2.** National cumulative shingles vaccine coverage for those turning 71 to 77 (previous routine cohorts) and 79 to 80 (previous catch-up cohorts) years old between 1 April 2019 and 31 March 2020 and vaccinated by end June 2020, by NHS Local Team

NHS England Local Team	Per cent practices reporting data on 23/06/20	Routine Cohort							Catch-up cohort	
		Turning 71 year olds	Turning 72 year olds	Turning 73 year olds	Turning 74 year olds	Turning 75 year olds	Turning 76 year olds	Turning 77 years olds*	Turning 79 year olds	Turning 80 year olds
		Eligible since 2018	Eligible since 2017	Eligible since 2016	Eligible since 2015	Eligible since 2014	Eligible since 2013	Partially eligible >2013	Eligible since 2018	Eligible since 2017
East of England	97.9	48.4	56.0	61.6	68.0	73.9	76.1	48.8	48.8	54.9
London	96.9	44.8	53.6	59.7	65.6	70.0	72.6	46.5	47.0	51.6
Midlands (Central Mid's)	99.3	44.4	53.4	59.7	68.6	73.4	77.7	48.5	46.4	52.9
Midlands (N. Midlands)	96.0	49.5	57.6	63.6	69.8	75.2	77.9	48.6	51.3	56.2
Midlands (West Midlands)	95.9	46.7	55.5	61.8	68.9	73.8	76.7	47.5	49.3	55.4
North East and Yorkshire (Cumbria and North East)	95.6	51.0	58.3	64.3	71.3	76.1	78.4	48.5	52.5	56.3
North East and Yorkshire (Yorkshire and Humber)	98.4	49.3	58.2	63.4	69.3	74.7	77.3	48.1	50.2	55.9
North West (Cheshire and Merseyside)	97.2	48.6	56.0	63.5	70.9	75.7	77.9	47.8	51.1	55.1
North West (Greater Manchester)	95.5	46.3	55.0	62.2	68.6	74.2	76.1	46.6	47.7	53.6
North West (Lancashire and South Cumbria)	92.9	50.4	58.1	64.7	71.9	76.1	78.5	47.2	52.5	56.5
South East (Hampshire, IoW and Thames Valley)	96.4	52.5	60.4	66.6	72.7	77.5	80.0	50.1	55.5	59.9
South East (Kent, Surrey and Sussex)	94.3	48.8	56.8	63.8	70.0	74.2	76.7	47.5	52.6	56.6
South West (South West North)	97.1	49.8	58.5	65.0	71.5	76.0	79.0	48.7	53.1	58.3
South West (South West South)	98.2	45.0	53.5	59.7	66.0	71.0	73.1	46.8	48.7	55.7
<b>England</b>	<b>96.7</b>	<b>48.2</b>	<b>56.4</b>	<b>62.7</b>	<b>69.2</b>	<b>74.2</b>	<b>76.7</b>	<b>48.0</b>	<b>50.3</b>	<b>55.5</b>

\*Observed coverage is low in the 77 year olds as half (those born 1 April 1942 to 1 September 1942) will not become eligible until their 78<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2020, whereas half (those born 2 September 1942 to 31 March 1943) were offered the vaccine as part of the first routine programme in 2013/14.

**Figure 1.** National cumulative shingles vaccine coverage for the routine programme by quarter in the 2018 to 2019 and 2019 to 2020 financial year for those turning 71 to 76 years old between 1 April 2019 and 31 March 2020 (eligible from 2013 onwards)



\*The 77 year olds were excluded in this graph as half (those born 1 April 1942 to 1 September 1942) will not become eligible until their 78<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2020, whereas half (those born 2 September 1942 to 31 March 1943) were offered the vaccine as part of the first routine programme in 2013/14.

#### **4.2 Annual cumulative routine and catch-up coverage for those turning 70 or 78 between 1 April 2019 and 31 March 2020, as at 23 June 2020**

- overall 26.5% of those that turned 70 and 25.8% of those that turned 78 during 2019/20 (from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020) were vaccinated by the end of June 2020
- compared to 2018 to 2019, vaccine coverage decreased by 5.4 percentage points for 70 year olds and decrease of 7.1 percentage points for 78 year olds

#### **4.3 Quarterly routine and catch-up cumulative coverage in quarter 4, as at 23 June 2020**

- by the end of quarter 4, coverage was 22.4% among those turning 70 during quarter 3, 35.1% among those turning 70 during quarter 2 and 38.7% among those turning 70 during quarter 1 (Figure 2)
- by the end of quarter 4, coverage was 22.8% among those turning 78 during quarter 3, 34.1% among those turning 78 during quarter 2 and 38.0% among those turning 78 during quarter 1 (Figure 2)
- Regional cumulative coverage by quarter can be found in Table 3 and in [data tables](#).

#### **4.4 Routine and catch-up cohort coverage for those turning 70 or 78 during quarter 4 (between 1 January to 31 March 2020), as at 23 June 2020**

- 9.3% of those turning 70 years old during quarter 4 were vaccinated by the end of June 2020, compared to 21.5% vaccinated for those turning 70 during quarter 3, 28.8% vaccinated for those turning 70 during quarter 2 and 21.1% vaccinated for those turning 70 during quarter 1 after the same eligibility interval (Figure 2)
- coverage for routine 70 year old cohort in quarter 4, as at 23 June 2020, was 3.8 percentage points lower than coverage for routine 70 year old cohort in quarter 4 last financial year (at 23 June 2019)
- 10.4% of those turning 78 years old during quarter 4 were vaccinated by the end of June 2020, compared to 22.0% vaccinated for those turning 78 during quarter 3, 27.8% vaccinated for those turning 78 during quarter 2 and 21.3% vaccinated for those turning 78 during quarter 1 after the same eligibility interval (Figure 2)
- Coverage for routine 78 year old cohort in quarter 4, as at 23 June 2020, was 3.4 percentage points lower than coverage for routine 78 year old cohort in quarter 4 last financial year (at 23 June 2019)

#### **4.5 Updated routine and catch-up cohort coverage for those turning 70 or 78 during quarter 3 (between 1 October and 31 December 2019), as at 23 June 2020**

- 22.4% of those that turned 70 and 22.8% of those that turned 78 during quarter 3 were vaccinated by the end of June 2020 (Table 3); 0.9 and 0.8 percentage points higher respectively compared with coverage for this cohort in last quarter (Figure 2)
- coverage for the routine 70 year old and 78 year old catch up cohorts in quarter 3, as at 23 June 2020, was 2.0 and 1.9 percentage points lower than coverage for the same cohorts as at 23 June 2019

#### **4.6 Updated routine and catch-up cohort coverage for those turning 70 or 78 during quarter 2 (between 1 July and 30 September 2019), as at 23 June 2020**

- 35.1% of those that turned 70 and 34.1% of those that turned 78 during quarter 2 were vaccinated by the end of June 2020 (Table 3); 0.7 and 0.6 percentage points higher respectively compared with coverage for this cohort last quarter (Figure 2)
- coverage for the routine 70 year old and 78 year old catch up cohorts in quarter 2, as at 23 June 2020, was 0.7 and 1.1 percentage points lower than coverage for the same cohorts as at 23 June 2019

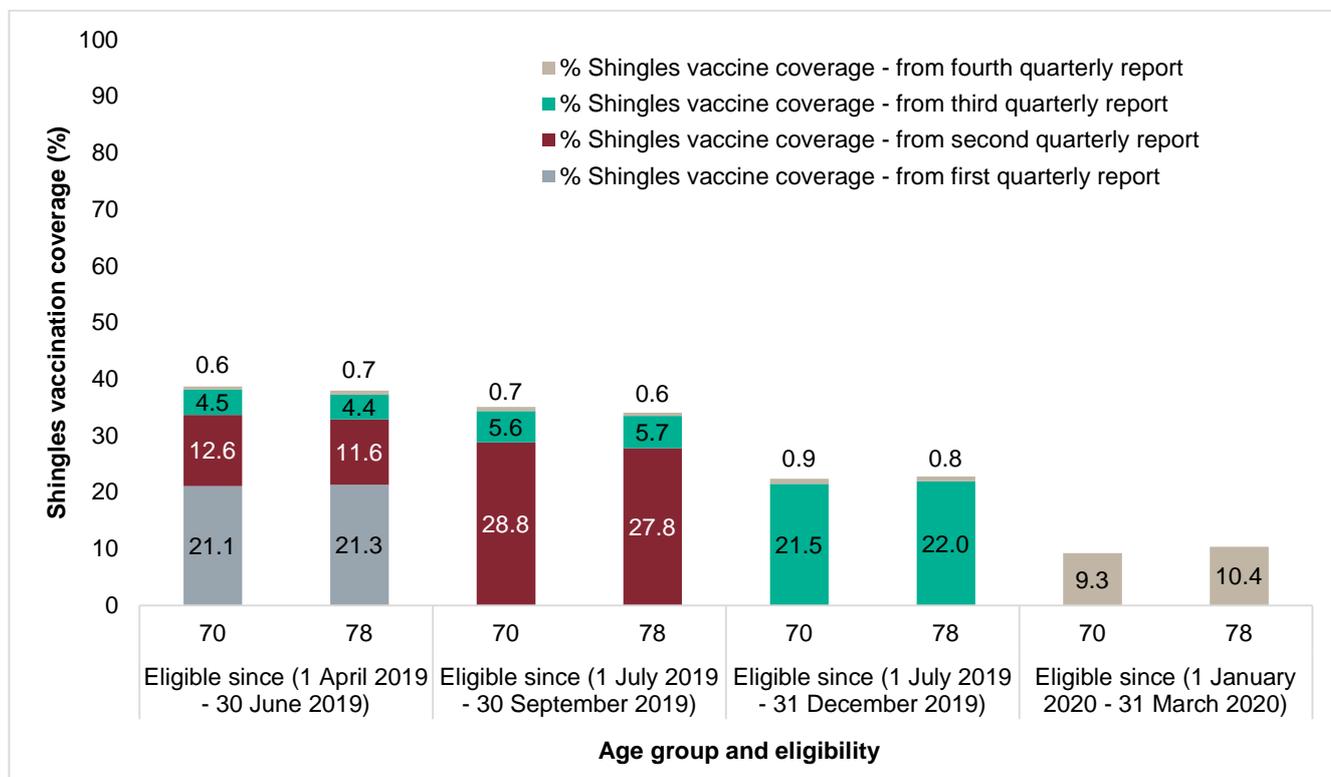
#### **4.7 Updated routine and catch-up cohort coverage for those turning 70 or 78 during quarter 1 (between 1 April and 30 June 2019), as at 23 June 2020**

- 38.7% of those that turned 70 and 38.0% of those that turned 78 during quarter 1 were vaccinated by the end of June 2020 (Table 3); 0.7 and 0.6 percentage points higher respectively compared with coverage for this cohort last quarter (Figure 2)
- coverage for the routine 70 year old and 78 year old catch up cohorts in quarter 1, as at 23 June 2020, was 0.8 and 1.5 percentage points lower than coverage for the same cohorts as at 23 June 2019

**Table 3.** National cumulative shingles vaccine coverage for those turning 70 or 78 years old between 1 April 2019 to 30 June 2019 (quarter 1), 1 July 2019 to 30 September 2019 (quarter 2), 1 October 2019 to 31 December 2019 (quarter 3) and 1 January 2020 to 31 March 2020 (quarter 4) vaccinated by the end June 2020, by NHS England Local Team

NHS England Local Team	Per cent practices reporting data on 23/06/20	Turning 70 in Q1: (dobs 1/4/49 to 30/6/49)	Turning 70 in Q2: (dobs 1/7/49 to 30/9/49)	Turning 70 in Q3: (dobs 1/10/49 to 31/12/49)	Turning 70 in Q1: (dobs 1/01/50 to 31/03/50)	Turning 78 in Q1: (dobs 1/4/41 to 30/6/41)	Turning 78 in Q2: (dobs 1/7/41 to 30/9/41)	Turning 78 in Q3: (dobs 1/10/41 to 31/12/41)	Turning 78 in Q4: (dobs 1/01/42 to 31/03/42)
East of England	97.9	41.3	36.5	24.6	10.5	38.2	34.8	25.0	13.7
London	96.9	32.9	30.4	18.7	7.3	31.4	28.6	19.0	7.8
Midlands (Central Midlands)	99.3	36.7	33.3	22.5	11.4	35.0	30.8	19.9	9.7
Midlands (North Midlands)	96.0	39.9	36.0	23.2	10.3	41.1	35.7	24.0	10.7
Midlands (West Midlands)	95.9	34.8	32.1	19.8	7.0	34.7	31.6	20.8	8.5
North East and Yorkshire (Cumbria and North East)	95.6	41.8	37.1	23.3	10.6	39.3	36.2	23.6	11.9
North East and Yorkshire (Yorkshire and Humber)	98.4	42.2	37.4	25.7	12.1	39.5	36.1	23.9	11.9
North West (Cheshire And Merseyside)	97.2	38.8	34.9	19.2	6.5	38.1	32.4	20.0	7.6
North West (Greater Manchester)	95.5	33.5	32.5	19.5	7.1	34.3	30.6	20.1	8.1
North West (Lancashire and South Cumbria)	92.9	40.8	37.2	20.8	6.6	41.4	37.0	21.6	7.4
South East (Hampshire, IoW and Thames Valley)	96.4	41.8	36.6	22.7	7.7	41.1	36.1	23.5	9.4
South East (Kent, Surrey and Sussex)	94.3	38.2	34.4	21.2	7.5	39.9	35.0	24.1	9.8
South West (South West North)	97.1	40.9	37.3	25.3	11.3	40.8	37.7	24.0	12.2
South West (South West South)	98.2	37.0	36.1	24.2	11.9	38.1	34.9	25.4	12.4
<b>ENGLAND</b>	<b>96.7</b>	<b>38.7</b>	<b>35.1</b>	<b>22.4</b>	<b>9.3</b>	<b>38.0</b>	<b>34.1</b>	<b>22.8</b>	<b>10.4</b>

**Figure 2.** National shingles vaccine coverage for those aged 70 or 78 at end June 2020 for quarter 1 (1 April 2019 and 30 June 2019), quarter 2 (1 July 2019 to 30 September 2019), quarter 3 (1 October 2019 to 31 December 2019) and quarter 4 (1 January 2020 to 31 March 2020)



## 5. Discussion

Overall vaccine coverage in financial year April 2019 to March 2020 was lower than the previous year, and lower each quarter compared to the same time periods in 2018/19. Similarly, as last year, coverage among individuals who became eligible in quarter 1 2019/20, and had been eligible for over 12 months, was below 40%. Previous routine and catch-up cohorts remain eligible for vaccination until their 80th birthday and longer term vaccine coverage data has shown coverage in these cohorts increases in subsequent years [1]. It is important GPs continue to offer shingles vaccine to all eligible patients, particularly those who were 71 or 79 years old in 2019/20 who may have missed the vaccine when there was a change in the eligibility criteria, to prevent an increased susceptibility to shingles among these cohorts.

Coverage among those most recently entering the routine or catch-up cohorts – those turning 70 or 78 years old during quarter 4 – who were vaccinated up to the end of June 2020 achieved lower coverage (9.3% and 10.4%, respectively) than among those who turned 70 or 78 after the same eligibility interval during quarter 3, quarter 2 and quarter 1.

Disruption to the delivery of the shingles vaccination programme caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the guidance for elderly groups to shield may account for the lower coverage reported, particularly during quarter 4 when the lockdown measures were enforced. From 1 July 2020 GPs have been advised to re-instate the shingles vaccination programme and offer vaccine on an opportunistic basis (unless contraindicated) to individuals who hadn't receive the vaccine and had turned 80 since 1 February 2020. This offer has been scheduled to end on 31 December 2020 [6].

To date, for the 2019/20 quarterly evaluations, the highest initial vaccine coverage was achieved during quarter 2 for both those turning 70 or 78. As seen in previous years, this is most likely due to more people receiving both the influenza and the shingles vaccine simultaneously during the influenza season which runs from September through to the following January.

The next quarterly report will present data for quarter 1 of the financial year 2020/21 and will report on all those previously eligible for routine (aged 71 to 77) and catch-up (aged 79 to 80) vaccination as well the first coverage estimates for those turning 70 or 78 between 1 April 2020 and 30 June 2021.

It should be noted that only half of the current age 77 cohort (those born between 1 April 1942 and 1 September 1942, who did not meet the former definition of age eligibility) will become eligible for catch-up when they turn 78. The other half of the cohort (those born between 2 September 1942 and 31 March 1943) were eligible for the vaccine when they were 70 at the beginning of the vaccination programme and therefore remain eligible until they turn 80. The current (2019/20) 70 year olds will be included in the 71 year old cohort, and the current 78 year olds will be in the 79 year old cohort. We expect to see increasing coverage in future evaluations of these cohorts as they continue to receive shingles vaccination.

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