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Quarterly vaccination coverage statistics for children aged up to five years in the UK (COVER programme) : April to June 2018

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Quarterly vaccination coverage statistics for children aged up to five years in the UK (COVER programme): April to June 2018

This report summarises UK quarterly vaccine coverage data for each routine childhood vaccination for children who reached their first, second, or fifth birthday during the evaluation quarter. Analyses are presented at NHS England local team (April 2018 configuration) and devolved administration levels only.

Key points for the first quarterly report for 2018/19

- The migration of GP data to the NE London CHIS hub has affected coverage estimates for many of the LAs reported by this hub. As a consequence, London-level coverage figures are under-estimated this quarter. Due to the impact London data has on national figures, England and UK estimates have not been calculated for this report
- On-going data quality issues have been reported for some LAs in the North (Lancashire and Greater Manchester) local team. There is low confidence in the data for one CCG within Lancashire and coverage figures for this area are under-estimated this quarter. This is under urgent investigation locally. If London data are excluded, coverage for the April to June 2018 quarter (current) is very similar to the previous quarter's for all antigens evaluated at 12 months, 24 months and five years (range +/-0.2%)
- Scotland was the only country to report increased coverage for any vaccine evaluated at 12 or 24 months of age, compared to the previous quarter
- NHS Digital published the [annual childhood vaccination coverage statistics for England 2017/18](#) last week. A continuation of the decreasing trends in coverage for children up to 5 years was reported. Of the 12 routine vaccinations measured at 12 months, 24 months or 5 years of age that were also measured in 2016/17, 10 have declined in 2017/18 in England compared to the previous year
- Some regional variation in coverage across the country are reported with annual levels of immunisation lowest for all routine childhood vaccinations in London and highest in the North East

1. Cohort definitions for April to June 2018

Children who reached their first birthday in the quarter (born April to June 2017) were scheduled for three doses of the combined diphtheria, tetanus, acellular pertussis, polio, and *Haemophilus influenzae* type b vaccine (DTaP/IPV/Hib vaccine), with the third dose scheduled between August and October 2017. Depending on local vaccine availability, a small number of children may have received dose(s) of DTaP/IPV/Hib/HepB vaccine (a hexavalent vaccine which also protects against hepatitis B) which replaced DTaP/IPV/Hib vaccine from autumn 2017 [1]. Children born April to June 2017 will also have been scheduled for two doses of pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV), Meningococcal B vaccine (MenB), and rotavirus vaccine [2].

Children who reached their second birthday in the quarter (born April to June 2016) were scheduled to receive their third DTaP/IPV/Hib, second PCV, MenB and rotavirus vaccinations between August and October 2016, and their first measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccination, a booster dose of Hib and MenC (given as a combined Hib/MenC vaccine), MenB and PCV vaccines at the same visit at 12 months of age, between May to July 2017.

Children who reached their fifth birthday in the quarter (born April to June 2013) were scheduled to receive their third dose DTaP/IPV/Hib and second PCV and either one or two MenC vaccinations (depending on month of birth) [3] between August and October 2013. They were also scheduled to receive their first MMR, Hib/MenC booster and PCV booster after their first birthday (April to June 2014) between May to July 2014, and their pre-school diphtheria, tetanus, acellular pertussis, inactivated polio booster (DTaP/IPV) and second dose MMR from July 2016.

Children born to hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) positive mothers, who reached their first birthday in this quarter (born April to June 2017) were scheduled to receive an initial dose of hepatitis B vaccine at birth, with further doses at one and two months of age, and those who reached their second birthday in this quarter (born April to June 2016) were scheduled to receive a fourth dose at one year of age.

Children born in areas where there is a universal neonatal BCG programme (i.e. TB incidence $\geq 40/100,000$) who reach their first birthday in this quarter (born April to June 2017) were scheduled to receive BCG at birth.

Coverage evaluated at the first, second and fifth birthdays by country and new NHS England local teams (configuration as at 1st April 2018) are described in the appendix.

2. Participation and data quality

Data were received from all Health Boards (HBs) in Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales. In England, Local Teams (LTs) and Child Health Record Departments (CHRDs) provided data for all upper tier local authorities (LAs). Individual LA data including numerators, denominators, coverage and relevant caveats where applicable are available [here](#).

Since April 2017, four CHIS Hubs provide COVER data for the whole of London and the data submitted from these newly established Hubs reflects a system in transition (see 3.1). The NE London Hub has reported data quality issues associated with a second phase of migrating data in July 2018 which has resulted in decreases in London-level coverage estimates at 12 and 24 month and 5 year evaluations. Due to the impact London data has on national figures there will be no national or UK level data published in this quarter. If London data are excluded, coverage for the April to June 2018 quarter (current) is very similar to the previous quarter's for all antigens evaluated at 12 months, 24 months and five years (range +/-0.2%) [4]. On-going data quality issues have been reported for some LAs in the North (Lancashire and Greater Manchester) local team. Therefore, coverage figures for this area are under-estimated this quarter. There is low confidence in the data for one CCG within Lancashire, which is adversely affecting uptake across the area. This is under urgent investigation locally. Detailed caveats regarding any data quality issues for individual LA data are available [here](#).

3. Developments in Immunisation data

3.1 NHS Digital Child Health Strategy

The new NHS England Healthy Children: transforming child health information strategy [5] aims to transform child health information services by making these systems interoperable, reducing the administrative burden of information recording and sharing. Part of this programme includes merging CHIS systems into local hubs that can provide COVER data for several LAs in one submission. Since April 2017 four CHIS Hubs are providing COVER data for all London boroughs. In England, the number of CHIS systems has decreased from over 100 in 2015 to around 70 by mid-2017. As different phases of the digital strategy are implemented across the country it is anticipated that there may be further temporary local data quality issues associated with transition.

3.2 NHS England South Reconfiguration – 1st April 2018

From this quarter the COVER report uses the new NHS England configurations that came into effect from 1st April 2018, and has ceased to provide former Area Team tabulations for historical comparisons.

The South of England Commissioning Region (Y57) split into two new Commissioning Regions with each having two new NHS England Local Teams:

South West Commissioning Region (Y58)

NHS England South West (South West South) (Q85)

NHS England South West (South West North) (Q86)

South East Commissioning Region (Y59)

NHS England South East (Hampshire, Isle of Wight and Thames Valley) (Q87)

NHS England South East (Kent, Surrey and Sussex) (Q88)

Full details can be found [here](#).

3.3 Changes to COVER data tables

It was announced in the last COVER report that from the April to June 2018 quarter (Q1 2018-19) the format of the COVER report and its **associated data tables for England** will be changing in line with the April 2018 NHS England configurations (see above) [4]. Tables that included data for former Area Teams have been removed.

In addition, to align the **COVER data tables** with the **annual childhood vaccination coverage statistics publication** these now also include numerator data, alongside denominators, coverage and relevant caveats where applicable.

4. Results

4.1 Coverage at 12 months

Due to data quality issues for several London LAs London, national and UK level coverage data are not published this quarter (see section 2 above).

Scotland was the only country to report increased coverage for any vaccine evaluated at 12 months of age, compared to the previous quarter [4]. All devolved administrations achieved at least 95% for PCV2, and for DTaP/IPV/Hib3 coverage ranged from 96.1% in Wales to 94.0% in Northern Ireland. In England of the 13 local teams, coverage reached 95% in one for DTaP/IPV/Hib3 and in two for PCV2 (table 1).

Vaccine coverage for the eighth cohort of children routinely offered MenB vaccine was evaluated in this quarter. Two-dose MenB coverage (MenB2) was above 95% for all three devolved administrations. In Scotland coverage increased by 0.2% to 95.9%, in Wales it decreased by 0.5% to 95.2% and in Northern Ireland decreased 0.3% to 95.1% compared to the previous quarter. [4]. England MenB2 coverage at local team level achieved at least 90% in all areas except London and Lancashire and Greater Manchester, all of which reported data quality issues this quarter (see **LA vaccine coverage statistics** for more detail on caveats relating to data quality issues in these areas).

4.2 Coverage at 24 months

Scotland was the only country to report increased coverage for any vaccine evaluated at 24 months of age, compared to the previous quarter [4].

Quarterly coverage for DTaP/IPV/Hib3 evaluated at two years of age in the three devolved administrations was above 97%, with PCV and Hib/MenC boosters and MMR1 exceeding 93% (table 2) [4]. In England, nine of 13 local teams achieved above 95% for DTaP/IPV/Hib3, and four exceeded 93% coverage for PCV, Hib/MenC and MMR2.

MenB booster coverage, reported for the third time, ranged from 93.3% in Northern Ireland to 94.3% in Wales and Scotland. In England, MenB booster coverage at LT level achieved at least 90% in nine of 13 local teams.

4.3 Coverage at five years

Five year coverage at five years increased for all antigens in the three devolved administrations (except for DTaP/IPV/Hib in Wales) compared to the previous quarter [4]. MMR1 coverage for the three devolved administrations and for 11 of 13 English local teams continued to exceed the 95% WHO target. For DTaP/IPV3 the target of 95% coverage was achieved by Scotland, Northern Ireland and 11 English local teams. Coverage at 5 years for these vaccines primarily reflects children vaccinated four years ago.

Both MMR2 and pre-school booster (DTaP/IPV) coverage was at least 90% in Scotland and Northern Ireland, but only three English local teams reached this level for both (table 3) [4].

4.4 Neonatal hepatitis B vaccine coverage in England

Vaccine coverage data in England for three doses of hepatitis B vaccine, in infants born to hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) positive mothers, who reached the age of one year in this quarter (i.e. those born between April to June 2017), and coverage of four doses of vaccine in infants who reached two years of age (i.e. those born between April to June 2016) are presented by local team in table 4. The quality of these data is variable and coverage by former local team relies on small numbers. As such, data should be interpreted with caution. Where an area reported no vaccinated children, a check was made to ensure that this was zero reporting rather than absence of available data.

Data for London is not available this quarter (see Section 2 above) and national coverage has not been calculated. From the July to September 2018 quarter, COVER will start to report coverage on babies receiving five doses of HepB-containing vaccine by the age of one year (i.e. those born July to September 2017; only those born from 1 August will have been offered five doses) although full data will not be available until the October to December 2018 quarter. Likewise, six doses by the age of two years will start to be evaluated from the July to September 2019 quarter evaluation.

5. Relevant links for country-specific coverage data

Quarterly England data: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/vaccine-uptake#cover-of-vaccination-evaluated-rapidly-programme>

Annual England data: <https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/nhs-immunisation-statistics>

Quarterly Northern Ireland: <http://www.publichealthagency.org/directorate-public-health/health-protection/vaccination-coverage>

Scotland: <http://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Child-Health/Immunisation/>

Wales: <http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sites3/page.cfm?orgid=457&pid=54144/>

COVER submission and publication dates:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/vaccine-coverage-statistics-publication-dates>

Other relevant links

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immunisation>

6. References

1. Public Health England. Hexavalent combination vaccine: routine programme guidance.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hexavalent-combination-vaccine-programme-guidance>
2. Public Health England. The complete routine immunisation schedule.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-complete-routine-immunisation-schedule>
3. Public Health England (2014). Quarterly vaccination coverage statistics for children aged up to five years in the UK (COVER programme): January to March 2014. 2014 HPR 8 (25). Available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/cover-of-vaccination-evaluated-rapidly-cover-programme-2013-to-2014-quarterly-figures>
4. Public Health England (2017). Vaccination coverage statistics for children up to the age of five years in the United Kingdom, January to March 2018. 2018 HPR 12 (23). Available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/cover-of-vaccination-evaluated-rapidly-cover-programme-2017-to-2018-quarterly-data>
5. NHS England. Digital Child Health Transformation Programme.
<https://www.england.nhs.uk/digital-technology/child-health/>

Appendix: Tables

Table 1. Completed UK primary immunisations at 12 months by country and England local team : April to June 2018 (*January to March 2018*)

Table 2. Completed UK primary immunisations at 24 months by country and NHS England local team: April to June 2018 (*January to March 2018*)

Table 3. Completed UK primary immunisations and boosters at five years by country and NHS England local team: April to June 2018 (*January to March 2018*)

Table 4. Neonatal hepatitis B coverage at 12 and 24 months in England by NHS England Area Team : April to June 2018 (*January to March 2018*)

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Public Health England, Wellington House, 133-155 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8UG

Tel: 020 7654 8000 www.gov.uk/phe

Twitter: [@PHE_uk](https://twitter.com/PHE_uk) Facebook: www.facebook.com/PublicHealthEngland

Queries relating to this document should be directed to:

Immunisation, Hepatitis and Blood Safety Department,
National Infection Service, PHE Colindale,
61 Colindale Avenue, London NW9 5EQ.

COVER@phe.gov.uk

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Appendix

Table 1. Completed UK primary immunisations at 12 months by country and English Local Teams¹: April to June 2018 (*January to March 2018*)

	Country	No. of LAs/HBs [†]	DTaP/IPV/Hib3%	PCV2%	Rota2%	MenB2%
	United Kingdom ²	177	n/a (93.1)	n/a (93.3)	n/a (90.8)	n/a (92.9)
	Wales	7	95.5 (96.2)	95.5 (96.2)	94.1 (94.5)	95.2 (95.7)
	Northern Ireland	4	94.0 (95.5)	95.4 (95.8)	93.5 (93.7)	95.1 (95.4)
	Scotland	14	96.1 (96.0)	96.5 (96.4)	93.5 (93.5)	95.9 (95.7)
	England ²	152	n/a (92.6)	n/a (92.8)	n/a (90.3)	n/a (92.5)
LT code	NHS England Local Teams ¹					
Q71	London	33	86.3 (89.1)	87.2 (89.5)	84.7 (87.1)	86.1 (88.5)
Q72	North (Yorkshire & Humber)	15	94.2 (94.4)	94.4 (94.6)	92.2 (92.4)	94.2 (94.3)
Q73	North (Lancashire & Gt. Manchester)	13	88.2 (90.7)	87.9 (88.2)	84.6 (86.8)	89.3 (89.9)
Q74	North (Cumbria & North East)	13	95.8 (95.1)	95.9 (95.3)	94.5 (93.5)	95.7 (94.9)
Q75	North (Cheshire & Merseyside)	9	93.2 (94.2)	94.3 (94.6)	91.8 (91.6)	94.6 (94.8)
Q76	Midlands & East (North Midlands)	8	94.7 (94.0)	95.1 (94.5)	93.0 (92.2)	94.3 (94.1)
Q77	Midlands & East (West Midlands)	10	92.6 (92.0)	93.0 (92.7)	88.5 (88.6)	92.4 (92.3)
Q78	Midlands & East (Central Midlands)	10	93.2 (93.4)	94.0 (94.1)	91.2 (91.2)	93.6 (93.6)
Q79	Midlands & East (East)	7	94.3 (94.4)	94.6 (94.8)	91.8 (92.4)	94.2 (94.5)
Q85	South West (South West South)	9	94.2 (94.6)	94.6 (94.7)	91.6 (91.2)	94.3 (94.6)
Q86	South West (South West North)	7	94.4 (95.0)	94.7 (95.1)	92.1 (92.7)	94.5 (94.8)
Q87	South East (Hampshire, Isle of Wight and Thames Valley)	12	94.7 (94.5)	94.9 (94.6)	92.5 (92.6)	94.3 (94.0)
Q88	South East (Kent, Surrey and Sussex)	6	91.6 (91.3)	92.5 (91.8)	90.2 (89.4)	92.4 (91.6)

[†] Local Authorities /Health Boards.

¹ April 2018 configuration of NHS England Local Teams

² Data quality issues associated with data migration to the NE London CHIS hub has affected many of the LAs resulting in London coverage be significantly under-estimated this quarter. Due to the impact London data has on national figures England and UK estimates have not been calculated this quarter.

Table 2. Completed UK primary immunisations at 24 months by country and NHS England local team¹: April to June 2018 (*January to March 2018*)

Country	No. of LAs/ HBs [†]	DTaP/IPV/Hib3%	PCV booster%	Hib/MenC booster%	MMR1%	MenB booster%
United Kingdom ²	177	n/a (95.4)	n/a (91.7)	n/a (91.7)	n/a (91.4)	n/a (88.8)
Wales	7	97.1 (97.4)	95.2 (95.5)	94.7 (94.9)	94.9 (94.9)	94.3 (94.7)
Northern Ireland	4	97.3 (98.0)	93.7 (95.1)	93.6 (95.0)	93.4 (94.6)	93.3 (94.6)
Scotland	14	97.5 (97.4)	95.3 (94.9)	95.1 (94.9)	94.5 (94.3)	94.3 (93.8)
England ²	152	n/a (95.0)	n/a (91.2)	n/a (91.2)	n/a (90.8)	n/a (87.9)
NHS England local teams*						
Q71	33	89.9 (92.3)	81.8 (84.7)	82.2 (85.2)	81.6 (84.3)	78.9 (82.7)
Q72	15	96.0 (96.3)	93.7 (93.7)	93.7 (93.6)	93.4 (93.3)	91.8 (91.5)
Q73	13	94.5 (93.2)	91.4 (91.1)	92.0 (91.6)	92.0 (91.6)	83.4 (79.0)
Q74	12	97.5 (97.7)	95.2 (95.6)	95.0 (95.6)	94.6 (95.4)	92.9 (92.9)
Q75	9	96.4 (96.8)	93.9 (93.9)	94.0 (94.1)	93.5 (93.7)	94.5 (92.4)
Q76	8	96.5 (96.5)	93.0 (93.8)	92.9 (93.0)	92.8 (93.3)	90.9 (90.9)
Q77	10	94.7 (94.7)	90.5 (89.8)	91.0 (89.4)	90.5 (90.1)	90.4 (87.8)
Q78	10	95.6 (96.1)	92.6 (92.9)	92.9 (93.4)	92.3 (92.9)	90.0 (89.7)
Q79	7	95.5 (95.6)	92.4 (92.5)	92.4 (92.4)	91.9 (89.5)	90.4 (90.1)
Q85	9	96.6 (96.6)	93.9 (93.7)	93.7 (93.3)	93.5 (93.6)	93.1 (93.3)
Q86	7	96.1 (96.6)	93.2 (93.8)	93.3 (93.9)	92.9 (93.6)	92.0 (92.7)
Q87	12	96.4 (96.0)	92.6 (92.3)	92.8 (92.5)	92.7 (92.7)	88.0 (86.8)
Q88	6	93.8 (90.6)	90.3 (90.9)	90.5 (90.6)	90.2 (90.6)	86.7 (87.4)

[†] Local Authorities/Health Boards

* See table 1 for key to local team organisational code

¹ April 2018 configuration

² Data quality issues associated with data migration to the NE London CHIS hub has affected many of the LAs resulting in London coverage be significantly under-estimated this quarter. Due to the impact London data has on national figures England and UK estimates have not been calculated this quarter.

Table 3. Completed UK primary immunisations and boosters at five years by country and NHS England local team¹: April to June 2018 (*January to March 2018*)

Country	Number of LAs/HBs [†]	Primary		Booster		
		DTaP/IPV/Hib3%	MMR1%	MMR2%	DTaP/IPV%	Hib/MenC%
United Kingdom ²	177	n/a (95.8)	n/a (95.3)	n/a (87.7)	n/a (86.4)	n/a (93.0)
Wales	7	93.3 (93.4)	96.7 (96.5)	89.7 (89.3)	92.6 (92.2)	92.7 (92.6)
N. Ireland	4	97.5 (97.2)	97.1 (96.3)	92.1 (91.8)	92.6 (92.3)	96.1 (95.8)
Scotland	14	98.0 (97.9)	96.9 (96.7)	91.1 (91.0)	91.6 (91.5)	95.9 (95.9)
England ²	152	n/a (95.7)	n/a (95.1)	n/a (87.2)	n/a (85.5)	n/a (92.7)
<i>English Local Teams</i>						
Q71	33	89.0 (93.4)	87.5 (91.9)	72.2 (77.6)	69.2 (75.5)	84.9 (89.2)
Q72	15	96.3 (96.7)	96.3 (96.3)	90.3 (90.3)	89.3 (89.7)	94.2 (94.2)
Q73	13	95.2 (95.5)	95.2 (95.5)	88.0 (88.6)	87.2 (88.2)	93.4 (93.4)
Q74	13	98.1 (97.7)	97.7 (97.3)	92.5 (92.3)	91.4 (91.6)	96.0 (95.4)
Q75	9	96.5 (96.6)	96.1 (96.0)	90.1 (90.2)	90.2 (90.7)	93.6 (94.0)
Q76	8	97.2 (97.0)	96.8 (96.6)	89.1 (88.9)	88.2 (88.5)	94.7 (94.8)
Q77	10	96.5 (96.3)	95.9 (95.8)	87.8 (87.0)	86.7 (84.7)	94.2 (93.4)
Q78	10	96.6 (96.7)	96.2 (96.3)	90.0 (90.0)	88.1 (88.4)	94.2 (93.5)
Q79	7	96.6 (96.9)	96.1 (96.4)	88.3 (89.5)	86.7 (85.9)	93.8 (93.9)
Q85	9	97.4 (97.2)	96.2 (96.2)	91.6 (91.8)	90.3 (90.1)	95.8 (95.0)
Q86	7	96.8 (97.4)	96.0 (96.3)	90.3 (90.4)	89.5 (90.1)	95.3 (95.4)
Q87	12	96.7 (95.9)	95.4 (94.8)	88.7 (88.1)	85.7 (84.5)	93.5 (92.8)
Q88	6	92.8 (92.4)	92.8 (92.7)	86.9 (86.3)	83.9 (83.7)	89.6 (88.5)

* See table 1 for key to NHS England local team organisational code.

¹ April 2018 configuration

² Data quality issues associated with data migration to the NE London CHIS hub has affected many of the LAs resulting in London coverage be significantly under-estimated this quarter. Due to the impact London data has on national figures England and UK estimates have not been calculated this quarter.

Table 4. Neonatal hepatitis B coverage at 12 and 24 months in England by NHS England Local Team: April to June 2018 (*January to March 2018*)

NHS England Local Team Code*	LA returns with 12 month data	12 month denominator	% Coverage at 12 months	LA returns with 24 month data	24 month denominator	% Coverage at 24 months
Q71 ¹	32 of 33	n/a	n/a (n/a)	31 of 33	n/a	n/a (n/a)
Q72	15 of 15	49	96 (100)	15 of 15	41	90 (92)
Q73	10 of 13	157	25 (59)	10 of 13	102	25 (71)
Q74	12 of 13	10	100 (100)	12 of 13	14	100 (100)
Q75	6 of 9	6	17 (33)	6 of 9	8	63 (100)
Q76	8 of 8	25	100 (95)	8 of 8	19	89 (89)
Q77	10 of 10	65	100 (100)	8 of 10	46	100 (100)
Q78	10 of 10	78	82 (96)	10 of 10	56	86 (95)
Q79	7 of 7	27	93 (82)	7 of 7	30	87 (81)
Q85	9 of 9	5	100 (100)	9 of 9	5	100 (100)
Q86	7 of 7	13	100 (92)	7 of 7	12	83 (93)
Q87	12 of 12	39	100 (100)	12 of 12	42	98 (96)
Q88	6 of 6	25	96 (95)	6 of 6	22	100 (100)
England¹	144 of 152	n/a	n/a (n/a)	141 of 152	n/a	n/a (n/a)

* See table 1 for key to NHS England Local Team organisational code

¹ The new established CHIS Hubs in London only provided data for all babies vaccinated with HepB vaccine and not just those born to HepB positive mothers and therefore these data were excluded from the analysis. For the current quarter London coverage data has been excluded as data migrated from legacy systems has only provided partial data for those born to HepB positive mothers, resulting in a significant reduction in both the 12 month and 24 month birth cohort denominators. As almost half of all babies born to HepB positive mothers in the national denominator are in London national coverage estimates at 12 and 24 months were not calculated.