



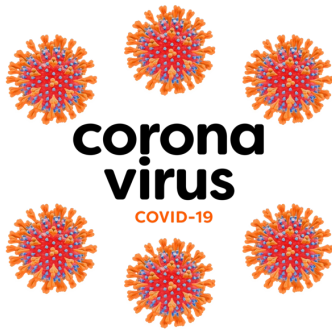
UK Commission
on Covid
Commemoration

How we want to remember what happened during the Covid pandemic

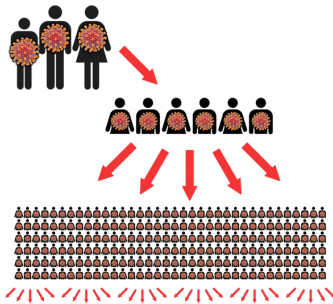


Easy read booklet

About Covid



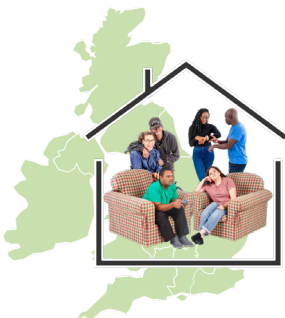
Covid-19 is an illness affecting people all over the world. We call it **Covid** for short.



When lots of people in a country or in the world get an illness at the same time it's called a **pandemic**.



The Covid pandemic was the biggest and most unusual event most people can remember.



It affected everyone in the UK, but in very different ways.

About us

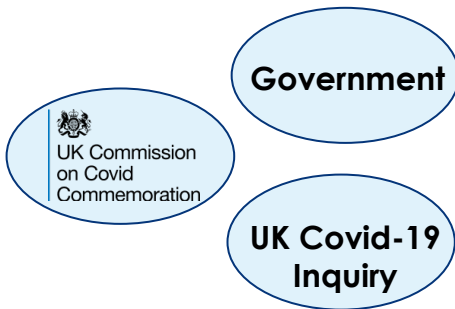


UK Commission
on Covid
Commemoration

We are the **UK Commission on Covid Commemoration**.



Commemoration means things that are done to officially remember something.



We are separate from the

- × **Government** which is in charge of running the country.
- × **UK Covid-19 Inquiry** which will think about what happened and how we can learn from it.



Our job is to find out how people in the UK want to commemorate, or remember, the Covid pandemic.

Why it's important to remember Covid



Covid affected everyone around the world in different ways.



A lot of people died because of Covid.



It's important to remember all the people who died, and to give support to all their families.



We can help by giving people ways to remember Covid together, so they don't feel like they're on their own.

People who helped during the Covid pandemic



It's also important to remember all the people who worked very hard during the pandemic.



This includes health and care workers, scientists who made medicines for Covid, people who kept important services going all around the country, and many more.



Lots of people also became **volunteers** to help in the pandemic. A **volunteer** is someone that works and is not paid for their work.



It's important that everyone is **recognised** for the work they did. **Recognised** means we remember what they did and say thank you.

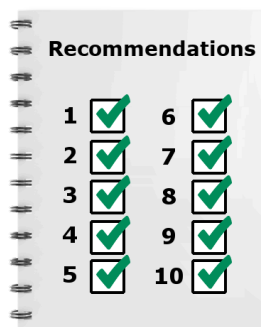
Our recommendations



We asked lots of people how they think we should remember the pandemic.



We did this at lots of meetings and events with different people all around the UK.



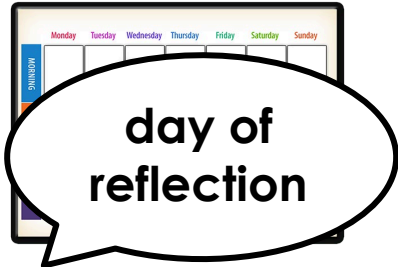
We thought about what everyone told us, and we now have 10 **recommendations**. **Recommendations** are ideas that we think should happen.



The next pages of this booklet tell you about our 10 recommendations.

Recommendation 1

A day of reflection



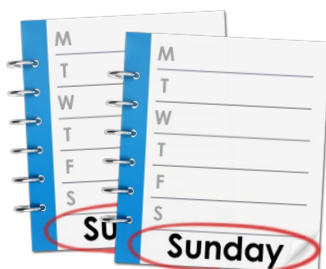
There should be 1 day every year that's called a **day of reflection**.



This will be a day when people think about everyone that died during the Covid pandemic, including those that died from different illnesses at the same time as the pandemic.



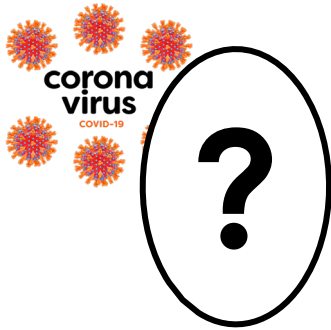
This should usually be on the first Sunday in March.



If the first Sunday in March already has an event like Mother's Day, then the Covid day of reflection should be on another Sunday in March.

Recommendation 2

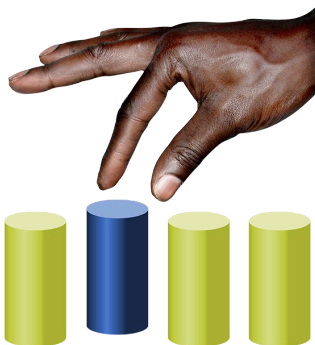
A symbol



There should be a **symbol** to remind people of the Covid pandemic that is used on the day of reflection and in other commemorations.



A **symbol** is an object or a shape. It could be something like a yellow heart, a red heart or a flower.



More work needs to be done to choose the right symbol.



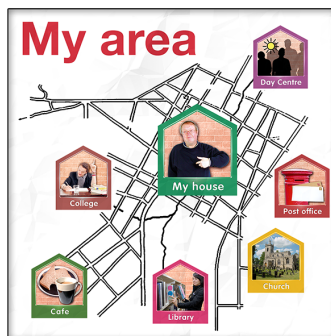
It's important that the families of people who died during the pandemic, and people who are still affected by Covid now, agree which symbol to use.

Recommendation 3

A website

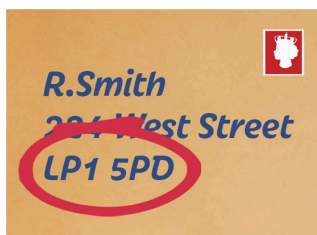


There should be a website that gives information about the day of reflection and other commemorations.



The website should have

- a map of local events and places to remember the pandemic.
- a way to search using your postcode.
- links to museums and other groups that have stories about the Covid pandemic.
- a link to the **online book of remembrance** which has a list of some of the people who died in the pandemic.
- information to help people learn about what happened in the pandemic.



Recommendation 4

Teach and learn



It's important to teach people, now and in the future, about what happened in the pandemic.



The Covid pandemic will become an important event in history. It affected many people in different ways, and still affects lots of people now.



People need to know what happened and learn what to do if there's another pandemic in the future.



The Government should ask schools and colleges to teach children about the Covid pandemic.

Recommendation 5

A Covid Commemoration Trust



The Government should set up a **Covid Commemoration Trust** to organise commemoration activities.



The Covid Commemoration Trust will



- organise the day of reflection in Recommendation 1.



- agree on and use the symbol in Recommendation 2.



- setup and run the website in Recommendation 3.
- make information to teach people about the pandemic for Recommendation 4.



- help museums and other groups that have stories about the pandemic. We will talk about this more in Recommendation 9.

Recommendation 6

Keep our memorials



A **memorial** is a statue, object or place to remind people of a person or an event.



Some memorials have already been made for the pandemic, like

- the **National Covid Memorial Wall** in London.
- the **Commemorative Woodlands** in Wales.
- the **Remembering Together Programme** in Scotland.



We should keep and look after these memorials.



They are important for the families of people that died. They give people the chance to think and to remember.

Recommendation 7

New memorials



There should be about 10 new memorials around the UK.



These will be new sculptures in green spaces like parks, gardens or woods.



These places will be open to the public so anyone can visit or meet there to think and remember.



These places will be spread around the UK so everyone can get to one easily.

Recommendation 8

Local memorials

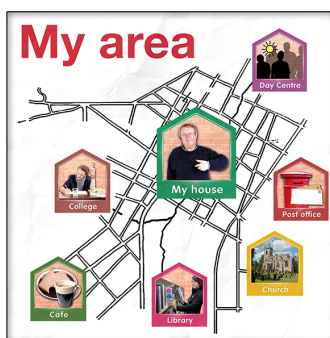


There should be **funding** for local areas to be made into spaces to remember the pandemic.

Funding means a pot of money.



These spaces could be in parks or gardens, and have benches where people can sit.



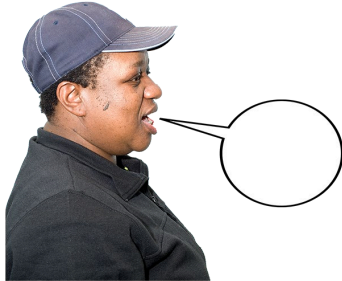
This will mean there can be quiet places in the **community** for people to think and remember.



The **community** means the area where you live. It's important to remember what happened in your community in the pandemic.

Recommendation 9

Stories and museums



Stories from the pandemic should be collected and kept safe. They are important to help us remember the work done and the people who died.



Everyone has a different story to tell. Museums are already collecting lots of different stories and information.



We should collect stories from different groups of people like families, health workers, scientists, volunteers and young people.



These stories will make up a record for history so people can learn about this time in the future.

Recommendation 10

Science



Science experts did lots of important **research** that helped in Covid. **Research** is when people collect information and think about it carefully.



This research can help them work out what to do in other events in the future.



The Government should set up a university course for science experts to learn from the Covid pandemic.



They can help write better plans for what to do in the future.

The full version of this document is called
“The UK Commission on Covid
Commemoration: Final Report”