



Department
for Culture,
Media & Sport



Easy
Read

Remembering and learning from Covid



**A Easy Read version of UK
government response to the
report by the UK Commission on
Covid Commemoration**

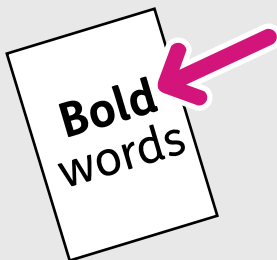
Easy Read



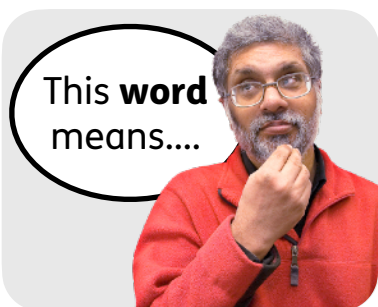
This is an Easy Read version of some information. It may not include all of the information but it will tell you about the important parts.



This Easy Read booklet uses easier words and pictures. Some people may still want help to read it.



Some words are in **bold** - this means the writing is thicker and darker. These are important words in the booklet.



Sometimes if a bold word is hard to understand, we will explain what it means.



[Blue and underlined](#) words show links to websites and email addresses. You can click on these links on a computer.

What is in this booklet

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You can fill in a quick survey to say what you think about this Easy Read booklet:
<https://www.easy-read-online.co.uk/easy-read-feedback-survey>

About this booklet



Department
for Culture,
Media & Sport

This booklet is from the Department of Culture, Media and Sport, part of the UK government.

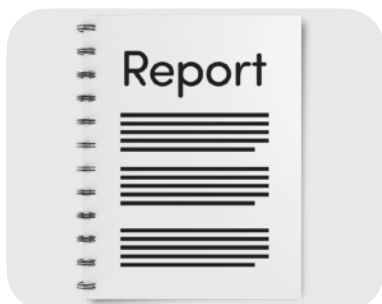


In May 2021, the government set up a group to think about how to remember **COVID-19**, and the people who died.

COVID-19 is also called Coronavirus or Covid. It is an illness that has spread around the world. It can affect your lungs and breathing.



The group is called the **UK Commission on Covid Commemoration**. In this booklet, we will call it **the Commission**.



The Commission wrote a report in September 2023 about what they think the government should do.



This booklet is about what the government is going to do about what the report says.

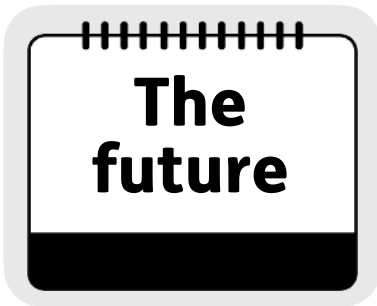
This booklet will tell you about:



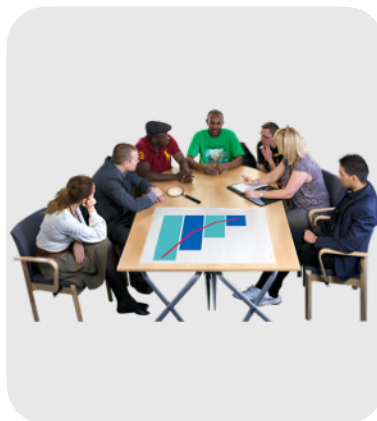
- Why we want to remember.



- How we will remember.

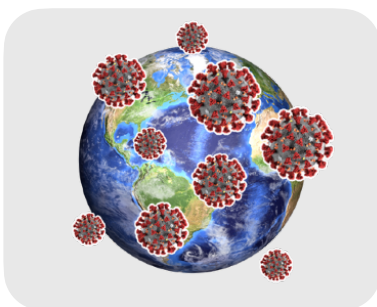


- What we are going to do in the future.



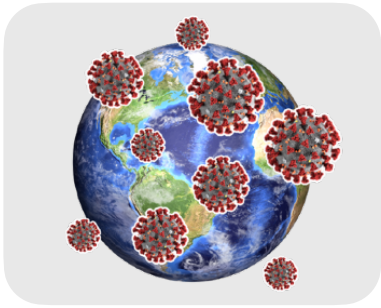
The Commission has nothing to do with the **Public Inquiry** about what happened during the COVID-19 **pandemic**.

A **Public Inquiry** is when the government asks an independent group to look into something.



A **pandemic** is an illness that spreads around the world.

Why we want to remember



COVID-19 made a big difference to everyone in the UK and the rest of the world.



It affected everyone, and still affects a lot of people now.

We will remember:



- The people who died.



- The people who gave up things in their own lives to help others.



- The amazing things people did to help others.

How we will remember



Because it is so important to remember the COVID-19 pandemic, the government will be in charge of remembering.



Sadly, a lot of people died from COVID-19.



We want to thank everyone who has talked to us about their friends or family members who died.



We will keep talking to them about our plans.



We will also use what they have told us when we write new laws about what to do when people die.

Remembering online



We will set up a website to tell people about all the different ways and places they can remember people who died.



It will also have a list of all the museums that have stories about what happened during COVID-19.



We will make sure that we get information from all parts of the UK.

COVID-19 Day of Reflection



Reflection means thinking and remembering.



There has been a Day of Reflection every year since 2021.

The Day of Reflection is a chance for people to:

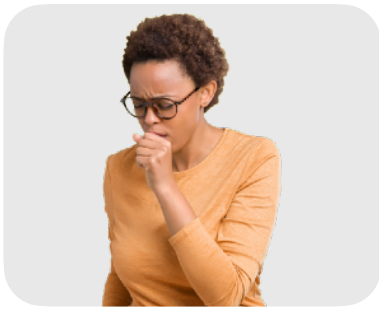


- Remember people who died.



- Think about what people gave up, and how the country and people's lives changed.

The Day of Reflection is also a chance for people to:



- Think about people who are still feeling the effects of COVID-19, like people with Long Covid.



- Say thank you to everyone who worked or gave their time during COVID-19.



2025 was the 5th year since the COVID-19 pandemic.



Nearly 300 events happened around the country and online, like this one in Manchester.



We will make sure that the COVID-19 Day of Reflection keeps happening.

The dates for the next Days of Reflection are:



- Sunday 8 March 2027.



- Sunday 14 March 2028.



- Sunday 12 March 2029.

COVID-19 memorials



Memorials are special places to go to remember what happened or people who died, like this one in London.

There are a lot of different memorials around the country, like:

- Outdoor green spaces.



- Statues, like this one in Barnsley, Yorkshire.



Memorials are very important.



They can be places to remember, and to have events.





We want to make sure that we know and tell people about all the different memorials.



Being outdoors in nature was very important to people during the pandemic.



So we will make new memorials in forests.



We will also make memorial gardens in hospitals that people can visit.

The National Covid Memorial Wall



The National Covid Memorial Wall is in London, opposite the Houses of Parliament.



There are about 250,000 hearts drawn on the wall, 1 for each person who died from COVID-19.



People whose friend or family member died look after the wall.

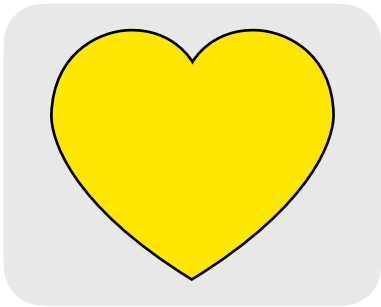


We will work with the people who look after the wall to make sure it is kept safe.

Symbols to remember



We asked if there should be 1 symbol to remember COVID-19, maybe a Zinnia flower.



But different groups already use different symbols, like a yellow heart.



So we will make sure we use all the symbols on the Day of Reflection and at other times when we remember.

People's stories

We want to collect stories from different groups of people, like:



- People who had family members who died.



- People who worked with patients in hospitals.



- Young people.



We want to learn from everyone's stories.



We are glad that lots of museums and libraries have already collected stories.



We will make sure all the stories are kept safe, for people to learn from them.



Stories have been collected in different ways, like recording people talk or painting pictures of people.

Children and young people



We know that COVID-19 made a big difference to children and young people.



A lot of children are not ready to start school, which makes it difficult for teachers and other children.



We want to do more to help babies and young children.



We have also worked hard to help young children learn to speak.



We want to keep working to help teachers do their best to help children learn.



We also want schools to teach children about what happened during the pandemic.



And we want to make sure that we listen to young people's stories about what the pandemic was like for them.

Volunteers



Volunteers are people who work to help others without getting paid.



About 12.4 million people were volunteers in their local area.

Volunteers did things like:



- Being friends to others.



- Delivering food.



- Supporting people who were **clinically extremely vulnerable**.

Clinically extremely vulnerable means they had health issues which meant they were more likely to be very ill if they caught COVID-19.



Volunteers also helped with **vaccines** against COVID-19.

Vaccines are injections or jabs that help to stop you from being ill with a certain illness.



We want to make sure that people still have the chance to volunteer, if they want to.



We also want to thank people who had friends or family who died, who supported other people going through the same thing.

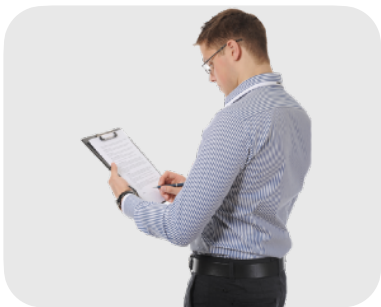
The future



Lots of scientists made a big difference to what we did in the pandemic, and to getting the vaccines that saved people's lives.



We want to make sure that the government and scientists keep working together, so we are ready for the next emergency.



We have started a programme for scientists to look into what we need to do to be ready.

Working together

Other organisations are working together to:



- Make sure we use new technology, like computers and new discoveries in science, to help people.



- Collect information about new medicines and treatments.



- Build new factories to make new vaccines.



- Make sure we are ready for any new health emergencies.

Find out more



You can look at our website here:

www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-culture-media-and-sport

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