*Institute for Research in Schools*Worksheet KS5.2 Answers

Using Covid-19 data from the ONS

The Office for National Statistics continuously collect data about the UK. The data that has been collected on COVID-19 is available through the ONS website.

You will need access to the internet to complete this worksheet.

1. Find the ONS website and go to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) page.

The content of this page varies as the news and information changes. What is the first article available under the ‘Spotlight’ heading?

1. Go to the data on [Deaths registered weekly in England and Wales.](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/datasets/weeklyprovisionalfiguresondeathsregisteredinenglandandwales)

Choose the data on the week ending 1st January 2021. Download and open the Excel spreadsheet for this week. Choose the tab ‘Weekly COVID-19 registrations’

1. Which week of 2020 were the first deaths from COVID-19 in England and Wales?

13th March 2020

1. What age band was the oldest person to die from COVID-19 that week?

Age 75-79

1. Older people are more at risk from COVID-19, yet 90+ is not the age group with the highest number of deaths. Explain why.

There are likely to be fewer people who live to 90+ than in the other age groups, so the numbers are lower.

1. The data seems to show that COVID-19 is either not serious for children, or that they could not get infected. Explain why.

Very few people under the age of 29 died from COVID-19.

1. Can you tell from the data whether COVID-19 is not serious for children or whether they cannot get infected from this information? Explain why.

No you can’t tell which of these it is. The data shows there are very few deaths, but it does not contain information on how many young people were infected.

1. Scroll down on the same spreadsheet to look at the data by region.
2. Which region had the first deaths from COVID-19?

The South East

1. Suggest why this region had the first deaths from the disease.

The South East has a high population density and is a transport hub. It contains many airports and tourist attractions. Any other sensible suggestion can also be accepted.

1. Go to the page that contains information about [Coronavirus and the social impacts on Britain.](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/healthandwellbeing/bulletins/coronavirusandthesocialimpactsongreatbritain/22january2021) Choose the data released on 27th November 2020.
2. What are the top three ‘main indicators’ used to record public attitudes to the risk of COVID-19? (You need to scroll down to find the answer to this).

Percentage of adults always/ often washing with soap and water after returning home from a public place

Percentage of adults that have used a face covering when outside their home in the past 7 days when meeting up with people outside their support bubble

Percentage of adults always maintaining social distancing

1. What percentage of adults had self-isolated in the survey that week?

8%

1. Go to the page [Coronavirus (COVID-19) latest insights.](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/conditionsanddiseases/articles/coronaviruscovid19/latestinsights) Click on the ‘Age’ tab. It will take you to this graph showing the impact of coronavirus (COVID-19) on different age groups.



Can you tell from the data whether COVID-19 is not serious for children or whether they cannot get infected from this information?

Explain why.

Unlike the data that shows just death rates, these graphs show that children can be infected with COVID-19 (the infection rates for the youngest age groups are in line with older age groups). However, the hospital admissions and deaths graphs show that young people are much less likely to be hospitalised or die from COVID-19 than older people.

1. The Office for National Statistics carries out random sampling of the population to discover the COVID-19 infection rates.

An App (the Zoe App) was also rolled out during the pandemic, where individuals could report each day whether they had symptoms of COVID-19, and report test results.

1. In what ways are each of these approaches useful?

Random sampling is useful because it can pick up asymptomatic cases. It can also get information on those who might not recognise the symptoms they have as COVID-19 symptoms. Random sampling can help researchers learn more about what symptoms people had when they tested positive for COVID-19.

1. Thinking about population demographics, what might be a limitation of the Zoe App?

The group most susceptible to serious illness and hospitalisation are in the age groups 70+. These people are less likely to have a mobile phone than younger people, so are less likely to use an App. The Zoe App might not have many older people reporting on it and this might impact on the information it can gather.

1. Can you suggest other ways that data could be easily collected on infection rates in the population?

Perhaps COVID-19 tests could be carried out routinely on those in the most vulnerable age groups or in professions where it is particularly important not to spread the virus; for example carers or those living or working with the elderly.