

- *Number of Pakistani people being tested.*
- *Number of Pakistani people being diagnosed as Covid-19 positive.*
- *Neighbourhood and post code with the highest rates of Pakistani people testing positive.*

The Scottish Government does not have the information you have asked for. However, data collected by the Test & Protect programme is held by Public Health Scotland (PHS).

If you are interested in receiving this information, you can make an FOI request to PHS by e-mail (PHS.FOI@phs.scot) or write to them at:

*Communications and Engagement Team
Public Health Scotland
Gyle Square
South Gyle Crescent
Edinburgh
EH12 9EB*

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- *Number of Pakistani people being admitted to hospital with Covid-19.*

Public Health Scotland (PHS) first published an analysis of the variation in outcomes by ethnic group among those tested positive for COVID-19 on 20 May. Updates using more complete data on ethnicity were published on 15 July, 12 August and 2 December. The analysis focussed on the risk of a more serious outcome due to COVID-19 requiring hospitalisation, admission to a critical care unit care or dying.

The latest report re-enforced earlier findings that there was evidence of increased risks of serious illness due to COVID-19 in those of South Asian origin, particularly in relation to those needing critical care or dying following a positive test.

The PHS report from 2 December shows that South Asian ethnic groups (Pakistani, Indian and Bangladeshi) accounted for nearly 2% of patients (among those that tested positive for COVID-19), similar to the proportion of the population recorded at the last census. It also notes that among South Asians, the increased risk of hospitalisation or death was particularly evident among the Pakistani group, based on 94 cases.

Additionally the report shows that when the analysis is restricted to COVID-19 patients with the most severe outcomes, i.e. admission to a critical care unit (ICU or HDU) or death, the increased rate of severe disease among the South Asian ethnic group was seen most markedly within the Pakistani ethnic group.

All of the aforementioned reports are available [here](#).

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accessible to you. If, however, you do not have internet access to obtain this information from the website(s) listed, then please contact me again and I will send you a paper copy.

- *Number of Pakistani people who have died from Covid-19.*

National Records of Scotland (NRS) published a report on 8 July 2020 which showed that there were 23 deaths amongst the “Pakistani, Pakistani Scottish or Pakistani British” ethnicity category where Covid-19 was written on the death certificate, either as a suspected or probable contributing factor in the death. The report is available [here](#).

Subsequent analysis, following an update on methodology, was published by NRS later in November 2020. This reiterated the elevated risk to people in the South Asian group from COVID-19. The report is available on the NRS ‘ethnicity of the deceased person’ webpage [here](#).

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- *Number of Pakistani members of NHS staff who a) have been and b) are currently absent due to testing positive for Covid-19.*
- *Number of Pakistani members of NHS staff who a) have been and b) are currently absent due to being identified as close contact of a positive case and asked to self-isolate.*

The Scottish Government does not have the information you have asked for.

The health and wellbeing of our health and social care staff during the pandemic is a key priority, and we know that many minority ethnic staff will be feeling anxious about protecting themselves and their families. This is an issue we are taking very seriously.

Fostering an inclusive culture in the NHS is the cornerstone to improving everyone’s experience within NHS Scotland. We are working in partnership with Health Boards and staff on the best ways to support Minority Ethnic (ME) staff as well as people from all protected characteristics through the pandemic and beyond.

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- *Risk assessments carried out for Pakistani patients and NHS staff as a result of Covid-19.*

The Scottish Government does not have information on the numbers of COVID-19 occupational risk assessments carried out for NHS workers broken down by ethnic group. This is because they are done independently by Health Boards as employers.

You might find it helpful to know that the Scottish Government has developed [risk assessment guidance and an accompanying tool](#) (a COVID age calculator) to help line managers and staff minimise exposure to, and transmission of the virus in the workplace. The tool works by combining known risk factors including ethnicity, among others, to measure the risk of infection and to make sure

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preventative measures are in place.

However, this field is not disaggregated to the level of country-specific ethnicity – the Pakistani ethnic group is included in the 'Asian or British Asian' category in the COVID age calculator.

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- *Research carried out on the effectiveness and safety of possible vaccines on the Pakistani community.*

The Scottish Government does not have this information because safety and effectiveness is established via clinical trials which are conducted by vaccine developers. The evidence we have is what is publically available. The Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) then considers the evidence before authorising a vaccine for supply.

On that basis, we suggest that you check MHRA's [webpage](#) for more information. Also, you might want to check [Annex A](#) of the 'COVID-19 vaccine and health inequalities: considerations for prioritisation and implementation' paper published in January by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI).

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- *If there are no Pakistani health staff and interpreters or translation staff in wards, how are hospitals ensuring effective communication for Pakistani bilingual and native language speakers?*

The Scottish Government is unable to comment on any specifics with regard to ensuring effective communication with non-English speaking communities in healthcare settings. This is because these are operational matters, the detail on which is held by NHS boards.

The Patient Rights (Scotland) Act 2011 aims to improve people's experiences of using health services and support them to become more involved in their health and health care. It gives everyone the right that the health care they receive will consider their needs, and what would most benefit their health and wellbeing, encourage them to take part in decisions about their health and wellbeing, and provide them with the information and support they need to do so.

The Act made provision for Scottish Ministers to publish a [Charter of Patient Rights and Responsibilities](#), which summarises the duties of relevant NHS bodies as well as the behaviour expected from people accessing services. The Charter does not create any new rights, impose any new responsibilities, or alter in any way an existing right or responsibility.

The Charter of Patient Rights and Responsibilities makes clear that everyone should be given information about their treatment and care in a format or language that meets their needs. NHS staff can also arrange support, such as an interpreter.

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As part of our Scottish Government's marketing partnership activity, we have consulted across policy, public and third sector partners to understand language and accessibility requirements, and have worked collaboratively to create and disseminate this information to Minority Ethnic communities.

Given the fast-moving nature of our coronavirus campaigns, we took into consideration the lead time with translations and the danger of out-of-date information being shared and distributed, and focused on working in partnership to translate and distribute key coronavirus information to benefit the wider community. As an example, translated coronavirus-related guidance is available in Urdu on [NHS Inform](#). Our national mailings are also created in multiple languages formats including Urdu, with translations and accessible formats available on gov.scot.

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- *What arrangements are in place for Pakistani patients who require a halal diet and may not be familiar with the hospital diet?*

NHS Scotland Hospitals are required to comply with the [National Catering and Nutrition Specification for Food and Fluid Provision in Hospitals in Scotland](#).

The document sets out standards for nutritional care, nutrient and food provision for patients within hospitals. It provides information on how the standards/guidance can be met, through assessment of the hospital population's dietary needs, menu planning, and practical suggestions on food choices suitable for different dietary needs, including the Halal diet (p. 116).

The Specification aims to ensure a common and accurate understanding about different patients' nutritional and dietary needs by everyone involved in food provision in hospital settings. It sets out how not only caterers, but all those involved in the provision of food and fluids to patients, including menu planning groups, nurses, dietitians, Speech and Language Therapists (SLT) and Commodity Advisory Panels can help ensure appropriate food is procured, produced, available and provided to meet the varying dietary needs of such a diverse population.

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- *Number of Pakistani People being asked to self-isolate through Test and Protect.*

The Scottish Government does not have the information you have asked for. However, data collected by the Test & Protect programme is held by Public Health Scotland (PHS).

If you are interested in receiving this information, you can make an FOI request to PHS by e-mail (PHS.FOI@phs.scot) or write to them at:

*Communications and Engagement Team
Public Health Scotland
Gyle Square*

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South Gyle Crescent
Edinburgh
EH12 9EB

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- *Any data about impact of self-isolation and isolation in general for Pakistani people due to Covid-19.*

The Scottish Government does not have this information. We collect data from local authorities about the support offered to those who are asked to self-isolate as part of the Test & Protect programme. However, we do not collect ethnicity as part of this collection.

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- *Research carried out on the impact of Covid-19 on poverty and deprivation in the Pakistani community.*

The Scottish Government has considered and studied the impact of COVID-19 on already existing inequalities affecting, among others, people from Minority Ethnic backgrounds.

You may find it helpful to read this Scottish Government [analytical note](#), published on April 2020, which analysed UK wide data. It indicated economic inequalities for Pakistani groups that increase their exposure to COVID-19, as people from Pakistani and Bangladeshi backgrounds have the lowest median hourly pay and are also the least likely to work from home.

On page 26 of [this document](#), produced on June 2020, also looking at UK-wide data, it was acknowledged that Pakistani households are larger in size than average, increasing the risk of COVID-19 transmission within the household, and making self-isolation more difficult. [This slide pack](#), lastly updated on October 2020, also highlighted that fact on slide 7.

The first June document also reported barriers to access healthcare experienced by Pakistani communities due to language problems and the inability to arrange interpreters at short notice (p. 26). It also highlighted the higher percentage of school leavers of Pakistani ethnicity moving into higher education in comparison with the white group (p.26).

The [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): impact on equality](#) report published in September 2020 specifically mentions Pakistani communities. This highlighted the higher health risk among Pakistani populations for cardiovascular disease (p. 15) and refers to the higher likelihood of serious health outcome from COVID-19 among Pakistani groups that was established by Public Health Scotland throughout several of its reports (see reply to Point 4).

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- *Number of Pakistani people fined for breaching Covid-19 regulations.*

The Scottish Government does not have this information. However, data on the issue of Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN) is held by Police Scotland.

You may find it helpful to review this [report](#) issued by the Understanding Inequalities project in late August 2020, which analysed the ethnicity of FPN recipients in Scotland to that date.

If you are interested in receiving more recent data, you can make an FOI request to Police Scotland by e-mail (foi@scotland.pnn.police.uk) or write to them at:

*FOI - Information Management
Police Scotland
Clyde Gateway
2 French Street
Glasgow
G40 4EH*

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- *Research carried out on the social behaviours of non-compliance of Covid-19 regulations of Pakistani people.*

The Scottish Government commissioned in May 2020 insight research into the attitudes of people from Minority Ethnic backgrounds towards the COVID-19 pandemic.

A series of 6 one-to-one online interviews in-depth were undertaken with members of the Minority Ethnic communities from Scotland. Four of the interviewees identified themselves as South Asian. A part of the interview specifically focused on their attitudes towards the restrictions and the government handling of the crisis.

This work informed our communication strategy for the Stay at Home messages during the first lockdown to ensure it was culturally sensitive.

Please find this research attached as Annex B.

- *Number of Pakistani pupils who are absent from school due to testing positive for Covid-19.*

On Thursday 3 December in local authority schools there were 22 pupils with an ethnic background of 'Asian – Pakistani' who were not in school due to a Covid-related sickness (i.e not in school as they had either tested positive for Covid-19 or were displaying symptoms of Covid-19).

- *Number of Pakistani pupils who are absent from school due to being asked to self-isolate due to being a close contact with a Covid-19 case.*

On Thursday 3 December in local authority schools there were 675 pupils with an ethnic background

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of 'Asian – Pakistani' who were not in school because they were self-isolating in relation to Covid-19.

- *Number of Pakistani members of school staff and teachers who are absent due to testing positive for Covid-19.*
- *Number of Pakistani members of school staff and teachers who are absent due to being identified as close contact of a positive case and have been asked to self-isolate.*

The Scottish Government does not hold the data you have asked for.

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Finally, I would like to use this opportunity to also inform you about the work the Scottish Government has been doing to tackle the disproportionate impacts of COVID-19 on people from minority ethnic communities.

In June 2020, the Scottish Government set up an Expert Reference Group on COVID-19 and ethnicity (ERG). In August, the ERG provided their initial advice and recommendations to the Scottish Government on two main areas: [data & evidence](#) and [systemic issues](#). Since then, we have started to implement the recommendations – which we broadly [accepted](#).

Moreover, in our Programme for Government 2020-21, we committed to improving outcomes for minority ethnic communities; and, in Scotland's Strategic Framework, we reflected the ERG's recommendations on the need to ensure that Test and Protect, vaccinations and public health messaging address the needs of minority ethnic and deprived communities.

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