



Department
for Education

Make
evidence
based
decisions

A Government and Policy Perspective from DfE

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The plan:

No restriction on school attendance in a pandemic

The reality:

Two lengthy spells of attendance restrictions

Restrictions within Tiers

Other measures...

- School closures – on the agenda, really expensive.
- Measures – schedule shifts, in-school movement restrictions, temperature checks.
- Children unlikely to be prioritised for vaccination if lower risk.
- “In a worst case scenario, [the virus becoming endemic] could mean a much greater strain on educational infrastructure in future years.”

Other measures

Open windows

CO2 monitors

Hand washing

Myriad testing advice/requirements

Mechanical air cleaning

Enhanced cleaning

Face coverings in class

Face coverings in communal areas

No after school clubs

One way systems

No school trips

...



SAGE and subgroups
Talking to academics



Demand from policy
Improved engagement



SIS, CIS

Data access

Coronavirus

This article is more than 1 year old

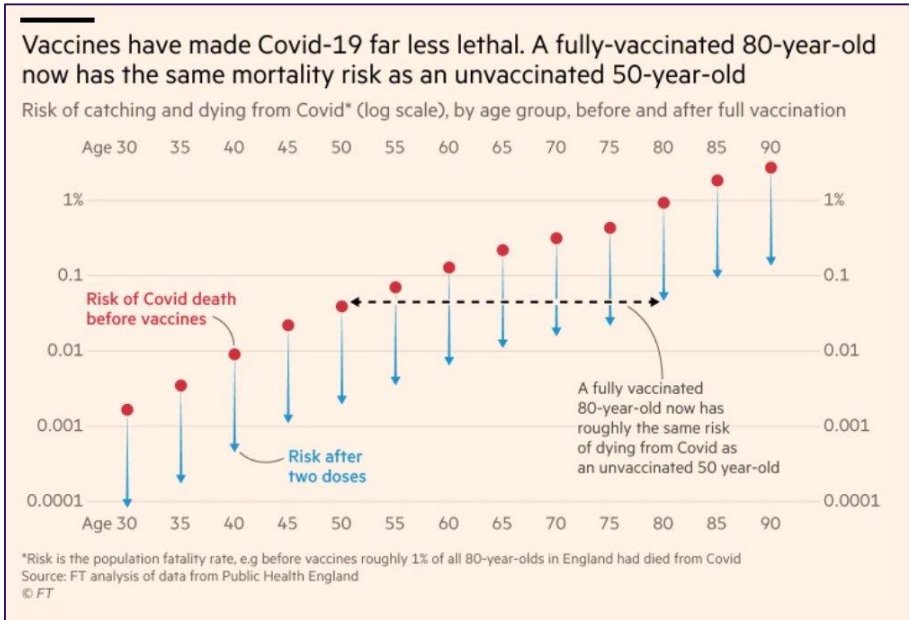
Government launches legal action against Greenwich school closures

Education secretary uses emergency Covid legislation for first time over London council's plans

- Coronavirus - latest updates
- See all our coronavirus coverage

We've been in the news!

Misjudged risk /
Miscommunicated risk



The future - ongoing known unknowns

What low-cost measures could be used in schools to effectively reduce transmission when needed?

- Could we design schools or the school day better?
- What do contact patterns look like in schools?

Effect of repeat infection

- Worse health versus better immunity?

Ongoing picture of ongoing illness

- What does staff and child absence look like?
- How much will illness vary through the year?
- How long until some form of stability?

Burden of long COVID, in children and in the workforce

Long term harms of measures

- Learning recovery
- (Hidden) home schooling
- Mental health
- Costs of specific measures – face coverings for kids at key developmental stages, limiting social activities