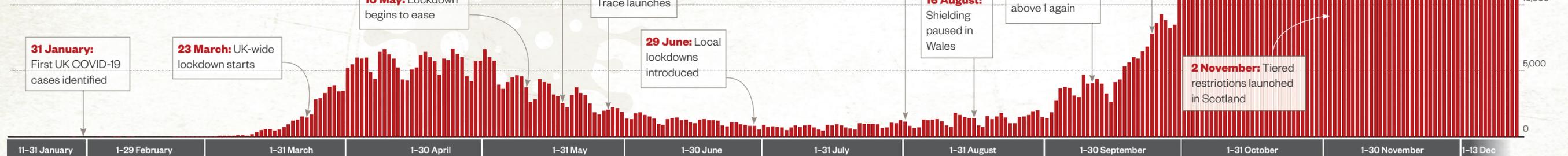


2020: THE YEAR OF COVID-19

This year has been dominated by a single topic. Here, we look back at an extraordinary 12 months, and an extremely challenging time for pharmacy teams.

DAWN CONNELLY

COVID-19 cases reported in the UK



<p>31 January: First UK COVID-19 cases identified</p> <p>COVID-19 vaccines</p>	<p>23 March: UK-wide lockdown starts</p> <p>Personal protective equipment</p>	<p>10 May: Lockdown begins to ease</p> <p>The Nightingales</p>	<p>18 May: Widespread testing becomes available</p> <p>Pressure on community pharmacy</p>	<p>28 May: NHS Test and Trace launches</p> <p>COVID therapies</p>	<p>29 June: Local lockdowns introduced</p> <p>Business Secretary Alok Sharma (right) says that the University of Oxford has signed a global licensing deal with AstraZeneca so, if its vaccine works, the UK will get first access to 100 million doses</p>	<p>1 August: Shielding paused in England and Scotland</p> <p>Phase I trial results for the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine and two mRNA vaccines from Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna suggest they are well tolerated and induce an immune response</p>	<p>16 August: Shielding paused in Wales</p> <p>Health secretary Matt Hancock (left) raises hopes that a COVID-19 vaccine is likely by early 2021; the UK now has 350 million doses from seven manufacturers on pre-order</p>	<p>11 September: R number rises above 1 again</p> <p>Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna release phase III trial results for their vaccines, both of which suggest >90% efficacy; Oxford/AstraZeneca say their phase III results show 70% efficacy</p>	<p>24 September: New restrictions imposed in England</p> <p>Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna release phase III trial results for their vaccines, both of which suggest >90% efficacy; Oxford/AstraZeneca say their phase III results show 70% efficacy</p>	<p>2 November: Tiered restrictions launched in Scotland</p> <p>Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna release phase III trial results for their vaccines, both of which suggest >90% efficacy; Oxford/AstraZeneca say their phase III results show 70% efficacy</p>	<p>5 November: One-month lockdown begins in England</p> <p>Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna release phase III trial results for their vaccines, both of which suggest >90% efficacy; Oxford/AstraZeneca say their phase III results show 70% efficacy</p>	<p>23 October: 17-day lockdown starts in Wales</p> <p>Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna release phase III trial results for their vaccines, both of which suggest >90% efficacy; Oxford/AstraZeneca say their phase III results show 70% efficacy</p>
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“There should be no compromise on safety for pharmacy teams and PPE supplies to pharmacy need to reflect this.”
SANDRA GIDLEY, RPS PRESIDENT

“I am incredibly honoured, humbled and proud to be receiving this award”
JATINDER HARROWAL, PHARMACY DIRECTOR, NHS NIGHTINGALE, LONDON

“To all the pharmacies that are relied on by their local communities – thank you!”
QUEEN ELIZABETH II

“HM Treasury appeared determined to constrain the amount of compensation offered to pharmacy businesses”
SIMON DUKES, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, PSNC