



Commercial

[Getting London moving post lockdown: providing more choice and a better alternative](#)

By FREE NOW London

16 Jul [Coronavirus](#)

Press releases

17 Jul

[People can return to using buses and trains with confidence](#)

By [Go-Ahead](#)

17 Jul

[Transport Focus responds to changed travel advice](#)

By [Transport Focus](#)

17 Jul

[BGC welcomes green light for casinos to reopen in England – but calls on Wales and Scotland to follow suit](#)

By [Betting And Gaming Council](#)

## Matt Hancock orders urgent review into 'misleading' PHE coronavirus death statistics



The Health Secretary has reportedly ordered an urgent review (PA)



[John Johnston](#)

[@johnjohnstonmi](#)

3 min read 17 July

Matt Hancock has reportedly ordered an urgent review into claims Public Health England have published 'misleading' coronavirus death statistics.

The Health Secretary has reportedly ordered a probe into how England's Covid-19 death toll is calculated after a leading statistician published new research suggesting there is a "flaw" in how PHE record fatalities.

It follows confirmation from PHE that deaths may have included those who had tested positive from the illness but later died from other causes.

The analysis carried out by Dr Yoon K Loke and Dr Carl Heneghan - which they caution has not been peer reviewed - appears to show that PHE and NHS labs simply check whether someone who has previously tested positive for Coronavirus has died, but do not consider the cause of death or the length of time elapsed since their test.

They wrote: "By this PHE definition, no one with COVID in England is allowed to recover from their illness.

#### Related



[Boris Johnson promises 'independent inquiry' into Covid-19 response but says now is not the 'right moment'](#)

15 Jul

"A patient who has tested positive, but successfully treated and discharged from hospital, will still be counted as a COVID death even if they had a heart attack or were run over by a bus three months later."

The pair said they had conducted the research due to concerns over the "relentless daily toll" in England compared to neighbouring regions where the number of deaths has begun to drop.

The Department of Health, which uses the PHE data for its announcements, have so far recorded 45,199 deaths from the illness, while the Office for National Statistics, which does not use the same counting method, have confirmed at least 50,698 deaths in England and Wales up to July 3.

But the academics highlighted that if the counting method is not changed it would mean all 290,000 people who have tested positive for coronavirus would eventually be added to the death toll, regardless of when and how they died.

According to the Evening Standard said the findings had triggered calls from the Health Secretary for an "urgent review" of the data.

A source told the paper: "We noticed that hospital deaths were falling but community deaths were up and wondered why.

"It turns out you could have been tested positive in February, recovered, then hit by a bus in July and you'd be recorded as a Covid death."

Speaking to the Daily Mail, Dr Loke said the statistics were "misleading" the public.

"The public are asking questions about why England is doing so badly, when actually the truth is that the healthcare professionals in NHS are doing a great job in ensuring thousands of Covid survivors. The statistics here are misleading the public," he said.

"Because of this major flaw in the statistics, and the fact that tens of thousands of older people are being monitored, there is going to be a very very long tail of daily deaths."

The Department of Health and Social Care have been contacted for comment.

#### Related

[Boris Johnson promises 'independent inquiry' into Covid-19 response but says now is not the 'right moment'](#)

[Boris Johnson promises 'independent inquiry' into Covid-19 response but says now is not the 'right moment'](#)

15 Jul

Read the most recent article written by John Johnston - [Boris Johnson hands councils power to order local lockdowns as he floats coronavirus 'normality' by Christmas](#)

Tags

[Pandemic](#) [Matt Hancock](#) [Public Health England](#) [death figures](#)

Categories

[Coronavirus Health](#)



# SPONSORED FINANCIAL CONTENT BY DIANOMI



Fund utilizes artificial intelligence to outperform the markets  
World Markets



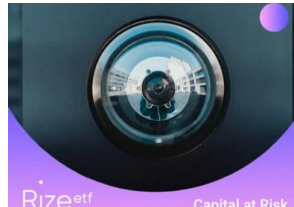
Dream Of Retiring Early? Discover Expert Tips  
Hargreaves Lansdown



Looking to Retire Soon? Benefit from These 99 Retirement Tips  
Fisher Investments UK



How Far Does £1 Million Go in Retirement?  
Fisher Investments UK



Invest in the Cloud/Cybersecurity Revolution with this Fund  
Rize ETF



3 Must-Watch Stocks for the 5G \$12.3 Trillion Boom  
Exponential Investor



How to beat the Inheritance Tax trap  
Wealth Club Limited



5 pharma stocks to watch during the COVID-19 pandemic  
eToro

React to market volatility. 80.5% of retail CFD accounts lose money.  
Plus500

3 Years From Now, You'll Probably Wish You Grabbed These 3 Stocks  
Exponential Investor

Partner content



**NHS Parliamentary Awards**

The NHS Parliamentary Awards sponsored by Fujifilm are a chance for all MPs in England to celebrate the outstanding care they and their constituents receive.

[Find out more](#)

Read next





6 hr [Coronavirus](#)

[Dominic Raab accuses Russia of 'pariah-like behaviour' over alleged coronavirus vaccine theft](#)

## SPONSORED FINANCIAL CONTENT



### How Far Does £1 Million Go in Retirement?

Fisher Investments UK



### Which tax reliefs could reduce your Inheritance Tax bill?

Wealth Club Limited



### Personal Retirement Calculator

Fisher Investments UK



### 3 Years From Now, You'll Probably Wish You Grabbed These 3 Stocks

Exponential Investor




### Top 5 stocks to watch in Q3


eToro



Read more [All](#)

 [Coronavirus: Boris Johnson rules out second national lockdown comparing measure to 'nuclear deterrent'](#)  
[Coronavirus: Boris Johnson rules out second national lockdown comparing measure to 'nuclear deterrent'](#)

19 Jul [Coronavirus](#)

 [At a glance: All the latest lockdown changes announced by Boris Johnson — including back-to-work rules, council powers and the return of gigs](#)

[At a glance: All the latest lockdown changes announced by Boris Johnson — including back-to-work rules, council powers and the return of gigs](#)

17 Jul [Coronavirus](#)

 [Boris Johnson hands councils power to order local lockdowns as he floats coronavirus 'normality' by Christmas](#)

[Boris Johnson hands councils power to order local lockdowns as he floats coronavirus 'normality' by Christmas](#)

17 Jul [Coronavirus](#)


 [Boris Johnson denies split with science chief over back-to-work push and says it's 'not for government' to tell firms what to do](#)

[Boris Johnson denies split with science chief over back-to-work push and says it's 'not for government' to tell firms what to do](#)

17 Jul [Coronavirus](#)

 [Coronavirus: Boris Johnson vows £3bn NHS funding boost to get NHS 'battle ready' for winter](#)  
[Coronavirus: Boris Johnson vows £3bn NHS funding boost to get NHS 'battle ready' for winter](#)

17 Jul [Coronavirus](#)


 [Extend free childcare to one-year-olds to protect vulnerable from coronavirus fallout, ministers urged](#)  
[Extend free childcare to one-year-olds to protect vulnerable from coronavirus fallout, ministers urged](#)

17 Jul [Coronavirus](#)


 [Coronavirus: Matt Hancock eases Leicester lockdown as schools and shops can re-open — but pubs and restaurants to stay shut](#)

[Coronavirus: Matt Hancock eases Leicester lockdown as schools and shops can re-open — but pubs and restaurants to stay shut](#)

16 Jul [Coronavirus](#)

 [Coronavirus outcome in the UK has 'not been good', chief scientific adviser says](#)  
[Coronavirus outcome in the UK has 'not been good', chief scientific adviser says](#)

16 Jul [Coronavirus](#)

 [Government suspends use of NHS coronavirus test kits over 'safety' issue](#)  
[Government suspends use of NHS coronavirus test kits over 'safety' issue](#)

16 Jul [Coronavirus](#)

[Drive the political debate](#)

[Are you looking to engage with the most influential people in UK politics?](#)

[Join our membership service today](#)

[Join now](#)

Close

Subscribe now for our FREE daily Breakfast Briefing

[Subscribe](#)

[Find out more about our events](#)

[PoliticsHome & The House Magazine organise a number of industry leading political events throughout the year.](#)

[Find out more](#)

Get our FREE daily Breakfast Briefing newsletter

 [Subscribe](#)

[Your essential early morning e-mail briefing.](#)

[Subscribe](#)

Registered office: 11th Floor, The Shard, 32 London Bridge Street, London SE1 9SG

Company number: 04267888

© Dods Group PLC 2020

Quick links

- [Home](#)
- [News](#)
- [The House Live](#)
- [Must Reads](#)
- [Events](#)
- [Members Search](#)
- [Register & Personalise](#)
- [About Us](#)

Services

- [Dods People](#)
- [Dods Monitoring](#)
- [Dods Research](#)
- [Dods Events](#)
- [Dods Training](#)

More from Dods

- [Total Politics](#)
- [PublicTenders.net](#)
- [Holyrood](#)
- [Dods Information](#)
- [Parliament Magazine](#)
- [Dods Public Sector](#)
- [Civil Service World](#)
- [Dods Monitoring](#)
- [Training Journal](#)
- [Dods EU Monitoring](#)
- [Westminster Briefing](#)
- [Dods Shop](#)
- [Dods Training](#)
- [Electus](#)
- [Public Affairs News](#)
- [PublicTechnology.net](#)

About Dods

- [Dods Group](#)
- [Investor Relations](#)
- [Terms & Conditions](#)