



Marie Rimmer CBE, MP
Member of Parliament for St. Helens
South & Whiston
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
Tel: 020 7219 4847/01744 752075

Excess Mortality Rate:

Excess deaths - the difference between expected and actual deaths - have increased in the last year. There are several reasons for this such as high flu prevalence, the ongoing challenges of COVID-19, a strep A outbreak, and conditions such as heart disease, diabetes and cancer. The Government said it is attempting to reduce excess deaths now with additional treatments and diagnostic procedures, by delivering more health checks, and through its Major Conditions Strategy.

Extensive independent research shows that COVID-19 vaccines are extremely successful at preventing deaths. Each COVID-19 vaccine was assessed by teams of scientists and clinicians and all potential vaccines must meet the robust standards of quality, safety and efficacy set by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) before they are approved for use. Vaccines save lives and have allowed us to reclaim the liberties that we were forced to forfeit over the course of the pandemic.

As 93.6% of the population have had at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, there will be a high rate of vaccination in excess deaths. But that is different from causality. It is not the same as saying that vaccination is the cause of those deaths.

During a debate on trends in excess deaths on 20 October, the Government highlighted the responsiveness of the MHRA during the vaccine rollout, for example, by not offering AstraZeneca to under 30s and under 40s once very rare cases of concurrent thrombosis and thrombocytopenia were discovered.

Serious side effects are rare, however, given the hundreds of millions of doses administered across the UK. Infection from COVID-19 without vaccine protection remains more dangerous than getting the vaccine itself. I encourage the use of the yellow card scheme for reporting any suspected reactions or side effects. Where vaccine damage does tragically occur, it is right that individuals and their families can access payments via the Vaccine Damage Payment Scheme.

The coronavirus public inquiry will investigate the pandemic up to and including 28 June 2022. It must have the support it needs to ensure lessons are learned and mistakes are not repeated.

Marie Rimmer CBE, MP

Constituency Office:

Marie Rimmer CBE, MP, 2nd Floor, Century House, Hardshaw Street, St. Helens WA10 1QU, 01744 752075,
marie.rimmer.mp@parliament.uk
Website: www.marierimmer.co.uk