

FRONT PAGE: 'HOPE' QUICK NEWS: 'VACCINATION HELP' BIG NEWS: 'MASS COVID-19 TESTING BEGINS'



# HOPE

## AT LAST – A VACCINE TO BEAT COVID?

**THERE** are new hopes for an end to the coronavirus pandemic with news of a vaccine that can prevent the virus, **explains editor in chief Nicky Cox.**

Speaking on Tuesday, the Government’s Health Secretary Matt Hancock said the NHS is ready to start using the new coronavirus vaccine “as fast as safely possible”. And he said it was “absolutely a possibility” that vaccination could start before Christmas with clinics open seven days a week.

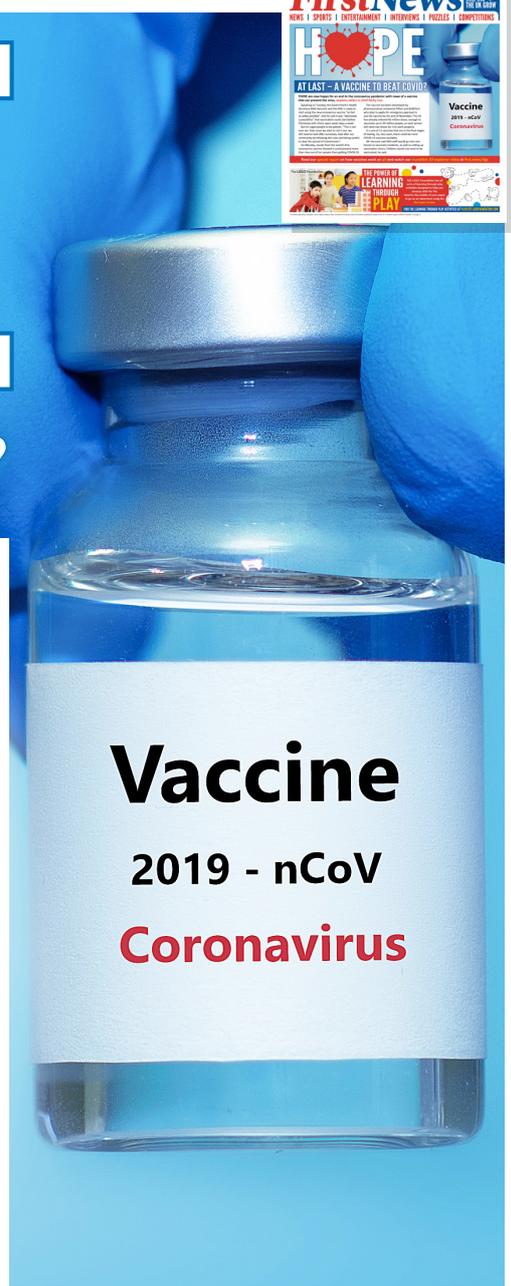
But he urged people to be patient: “This is not over yet. Even once we start to roll it out, we still need to look after ourselves, look after our community by following the rules and being careful to stop the spread of transmission.”

On Monday, results from the world’s first coronavirus vaccine showed it could prevent more than nine out of ten people from getting COVID-19.

The vaccine has been developed by pharmaceutical companies Pfizer and BioNTech who plan to apply for emergency approval to use the vaccine by the end of November. The UK has already ordered 40 million doses, enough to vaccinate up to 20 million people, as each person will need two doses for it to work properly.

It is one of 11 vaccines that are in the final stages of testing. So, very soon, there could be more COVID-19 vaccines available.

Mr Hancock said NHS staff would go into care homes to vaccinate residents, as well as setting up vaccination clinics. Children would not need to be vaccinated, he said.



### VACCINATION HELP

UNICEF and the World Health Organization are asking for emergency help to stop major measles and polio epidemics, because COVID-19 has disrupted their vaccination plans. The coronavirus pandemic has left millions of vulnerable children in some of the poorest areas of the world at risk of measles and polio. They say they need financial help from world leaders to safely resume vaccination campaigns. There has been a global rise in measles cases, and polio cases are expected to increase in Pakistan and Afghanistan as well as many under-immunised areas of Africa.

### MASS COVID-19 TESTING BEGINS

**LIVERPOOL** is the first major city in the UK to offer a COVID-19 test to anyone who wants one – even if they have no symptoms.

Everyone living or working in the city, which has a population of 500,000, is being encouraged to go to the test centres. By testing so many people it is hoped that those who are infected will be identified quickly, and the local council will then get a better idea of how the virus is spreading.

Doubts have been raised by several health experts about testing such huge numbers of people at once. There have been warnings that it may just be an “expensive mess”. However, the people of Liverpool have been very supportive. The response on the first day was so good that queues soon formed and plans were put in place to increase the number of test sites. The scheme may also be extended beyond the original two-week plan.



Questions on Front page: ‘Hope’ Quick News: ‘Vaccination help’ Big News: ‘Mass COVID-19 testing begins’



**GLOSSARY**

**pharmaceutical companies** — They discover, develop, produce and market drugs for use as medications  
**UNICEF** — A United Nations agency responsible for providing essential aid to children worldwide

**polio** — A serious viral infection that causes temporary or permanent paralysis in some people, and can be life threatening. It used to be common worldwide, but is rare nowadays because it can be prevented with a vaccination. However, there is no cure for polio

● ‘Hope at last – a vaccine to beat COVID?’

**Part A: Find and explain the facts**

A1. Identify the three TRUE statements with a tick.

There are new hopes for an end to the coronavirus pandemic with news of a vaccine that can prevent the virus.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Results showed that the world’s first coronavirus vaccine could prevent eight out of ten people from getting COVID-19.	<input type="checkbox"/>
The vaccine has been developed by pharmaceutical companies Pfizer and BioNTech.	<input type="checkbox"/>
The UK has already ordered 30 million doses.	<input type="checkbox"/>
The UK has ordered enough to vaccinate up to 20 million people, as each person will need three doses.	<input type="checkbox"/>
It is one of 11 vaccines that are in the final stages of testing.	<input type="checkbox"/>

A2. Who is Matt Hancock?

**Part B: Deduce and infer information**

B1. Despite the news about a new coronavirus vaccine, Matt Hancock said: “This is not over yet.” Why is he urging people to be patient?

B2. Suggest why Hancock has said that children won’t need to be vaccinated.

**Part C: Analyse the writing and presentation**

C1. Why is it important to check the source of the information when reading about the new coronavirus vaccine?

● ‘Vaccination help’

**Part A: Find and explain the facts**

A1. Why are UNICEF and the World Health Organization asking for emergency help?

**Part B: Deduce and infer information**

B1. What has been the effect of the disruption caused by COVID-19?

**Part C: Analyse the writing and presentation**

C1. How do ‘Quick News’ stories differ from other news stories in *First News*?

● ‘Mass COVID-19 testing begins’

**Part A: Find and explain the facts**

A1. Fill in the gaps in the sentences.

\_\_\_\_\_ is the first major city in the \_\_\_\_\_ to offer a COVID-19 test to \_\_\_\_\_ who wants one – even if they have no symptoms. Everyone living or \_\_\_\_\_ in the city, which has a population of \_\_\_\_\_, is being encouraged to go to the \_\_\_\_\_.

- UK
- 500,000
- working
- anyone
- test centres
- Liverpool

A2. What is hoped will be the outcome of testing so many people?

**Part B: Deduce and infer information**

B1. Why have doubts been raised by several health experts?

B2. Why might the scheme be extended beyond the original two-week plan?

**Part C: Analyse the writing and presentation**

C1. Analyse the use of the phrase “expensive mess”.



**B2.** Suggest why Hancock has said that children won't need to be vaccinated.

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**Part C: Analyse the writing and presentation**

**C1.** Why is it important to check the source of the information when reading about the new coronavirus vaccine?

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● **'Vaccination help'**

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**A1.** Why are UNICEF and the World Health Organization asking for emergency help?

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**Part B: Deduce and infer information**

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● **'Mass COVID-19 testing begins'**

**Part A: Find and explain the facts**

**A1.** Fill in the gaps in the sentences.

\_\_\_\_\_ is the first major city in the \_\_\_\_\_ to offer a COVID-19 test to \_\_\_\_\_ who wants one – even if they have no symptoms. Everyone living or \_\_\_\_\_ in the city, which has a population of \_\_\_\_\_, is being encouraged to go to the \_\_\_\_\_.

UK	500,000	working	anyone	test centres	Liverpool
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**A2.** What is hoped will be the outcome of testing so many people?

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**Part C: Analyse the writing and presentation**

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## Teacher Answers

**AIM OF THE NEWS COMPREHENSIONS:** News reports are unique non-fiction texts. Being real, they naturally engage students, and with the range of topics that are covered, help to develop pupils' knowledge and understanding of the wider world outside the classroom. The reports are ideal for short, focused comprehension or discussion activities. Along with the opportunity to find fascinating facts and appreciate the opinions of those involved, there is plenty to be inferred and deduced to understand in more depth what is being reported. Like authors, journalists play with language, so news 'stories' are rich nuggets of text to investigate and provide the opportunity for literacy programmes.

**TEACHER ANSWER GUIDE:** The teacher answers are intended to provide a guide to the reading skill each question is practising. Suggestions are given for a starting point for responses that students would be expected to give at the start of KS3. Further suggestions then give fuller, more developed responses that students will work towards by the end of KS3, in preparation for the non-fiction elements of GCSE English language.

### ● 'Hope at last – a vaccine to beat COVID'

#### Part A

#### A1. Identify the three TRUE statements with a tick.

READING SKILL — Find and explain information

*Possible answer*

*Expected response*

There are new hopes for an end to the coronavirus pandemic with news of a vaccine that can prevent the virus.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Results showed that the world's first coronavirus vaccine could prevent eight out of ten people from getting COVID-19.	<input type="checkbox"/>
The vaccine has been developed by pharmaceutical companies Pfizer and BioNTech.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The UK has already ordered 30 million doses.	<input type="checkbox"/>
The UK has ordered enough to vaccinate up to 20 million people, as each person will need three doses.	<input type="checkbox"/>
It is one of 11 vaccines that are in the final stages of testing.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

#### A2. Who is Matt Hancock?

READING SKILL — Find and explain information

*Possible answer*

*Starting point*

- Matt Hancock is the UK Government's Health Secretary.

*Development*

- He spoke about the vaccine on Tuesday and said the NHS is ready to start using the new coronavirus "as fast as safely possible".

#### Part B

#### B1. Despite the news about a new coronavirus vaccine, Matt Hancock said: "This is not over yet." Why is he urging people to be patient?

READING SKILL — Infer information and justify with evidence from the text

*Possible answer*

*Starting point*

- Matt Hancock is urging people to be patient because it is important that everyone continues to abide by the rules currently in place. People mustn't use the promising news about the vaccine as an excuse for ignoring the lockdown regulations.

*Development*

- The vaccine isn't in use yet and even if it is given emergency approval, it will be a while before there is widespread vaccination. This is especially the case because people will need two doses for it to work properly. Therefore, people must continue to use the recognised methods for reducing the transmission of the virus. These are: practise good hand hygiene, wear a face covering in indoor settings where social distancing may be difficult and stay two metres apart from people you do not live with.

**B2. Suggest why Hancock has said that children won't need to be vaccinated.**

READING SKILL — Infer information and justify with evidence from the text

**Possible answer****Starting point**

- It is likely that Hancock said that children won't need to be vaccinated because they have a relatively low risk of developing complications from the coronavirus.

**Development**

- It will take a long time to manufacture enough of the vaccine for everyone, so the most vulnerable groups will be vaccinated first. Most children do not fall into this category.

**Part C****C1. Why is it important to check the source of the information when reading about the new coronavirus vaccine?**

READING SKILL — Develop personal ideas from reading news stories

**Possible answer****Starting point**

- It is important to check the source of the information when reading about the new coronavirus vaccine because vaccination is a contentious issue. Therefore, you need to check the information to ensure that it doesn't come from a biased source.

**Development**

- For example, there is an anti-vaccine movement and information from that source would be likely to be biased against the new coronavirus vaccine and question its safety. However, information from Pfizer and BioNTech might be too biased in favour of the new coronavirus vaccine because they have developed it and want to make money from it. Therefore, it is wise to look for information from a neutral source that is objective and adheres to the facts.

**● 'Vaccination help'****Part A****A1. Why are UNICEF and the World Health Organization asking for emergency help?**

READING SKILL — Find and explain information

**Possible answer****Starting point**

- UNICEF and the World Health Organization are asking for emergency help to stop major measles and polio epidemics, because COVID-19 has disrupted their vaccination plans.

**Development**

- They say they need financial help from world leaders to safely resume vaccination campaigns.

**Part B****B1. What has been the effect of the disruption caused by COVID-19?**

READING SKILL — Infer information and justify with evidence from the text

**Possible answer****Starting point**

- The COVID-19 pandemic has meant that millions of vulnerable children in the poorest areas of the world are at risk from measles and polio because they haven't been able to access the necessary vaccinations.

**Development**

- Consequently, there has been a global rise in measles cases, and polio cases are expected to increase in Pakistan and Afghanistan as well as many under-immunised areas of Africa.

**Part C****C1. How do 'Quick News' stories differ from other news stories in First News?**

READING SKILL — Make comparisons between texts

**Possible answer****Starting point**

- 'Quick News' stories are less developed than other news stories in First News.

**Development**

- The 'Quick News' section provides a snapshot of a variety of news stories. As lots of stories have to fit on one page, the focus is on a summary of key facts. The stories are quick to read and easy to understand. They provide a good overview of all of the news. The article on the front page is considered to be the leading story at the time of publication and the stories in 'Big News' are also considered to be among those of most interest. Therefore, these articles tend to be developed with additional information, quotations and pictures.

## ● 'Mass COVID-19 testing begins'

## Part A

## A1. Fill the gaps in the sentences.

READING SKILL — Find and explain information

*Possible answer**Expected response*

- **Liverpool** is the first major city in the **UK** to offer a COVID-19 test to **anyone** who wants one – even if they have no symptoms. Everyone living or **working** in the city, which has a population of **500,000**, is being encouraged to go to the **test centres**.

UK

500,000

working

anyone

test centres

Liverpool

## A2. What is hoped will be the outcome of testing so many people?

READING SKILL — Find and explain information

*Possible answer**Starting point*

- By testing so many people it is hoped that those who are infected will be identified quickly.

*Development*

- This would enable the local council to get a better idea of how the virus is spreading.

## Part B

## B1. Why have doubts been raised by several health experts?

READING SKILL — Infer information and justify with evidence from the text

*Possible answer**Starting point*

- Several health experts have raised doubts about testing such huge numbers of people at once.

*Development*

- If a lot of people are tested at once then it may be more difficult to support those who do test positive. People who are asymptomatic may not be keen to self-isolate if there isn't enough assistance available. There are also worries that this system goes against the advice to prioritise testing for those with symptoms and could lead to money being wasted on unnecessary testing.

## B2. Why might the scheme be extended beyond the original two-week plan?

READING SKILL — Infer information and justify with evidence from the text

*Possible answer**Starting point*

- The scheme might be extended beyond the original two-week plan because the people of Liverpool have been so supportive of it.

*Development*

- Indeed, the response has been so good that people have been queuing to get tested and there are plans to increase the number of test sites. Therefore, the scheme might be kept in place for longer to ease the pressure and enable everyone who wants to get tested to do so.

## Part C

## C1. Analyse the use of the phrase "expensive mess".

READING SKILL — Recognise effect of language choices

*Possible answer**Starting point*

- In this context, a "mess" is a situation that is full of problems. The use of the adjective "expensive" with the noun suggests that such a situation could cost a lot of money.

*Development*

- The phrase is put in quotation marks to show that it is a view held by some health experts. It shows that some hold the view that the mass testing in Liverpool will cost a lot of money, but may cause more problems than it solves.