

Covid has not gone away

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I [noted this in the Guardian](#) overnight:

Covid is on the rise in England, and experts have warned that more must be done to prevent and control infections after a “capitulation to the virus”.

Prof Danny Altmann, an immunologist at Imperial College London, said those working in the field were perplexed by the current attitude to the battle against Covid, as the latest figures showed an increase in hospital admissions.

[The latest data for England](#) from the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) showed that hospital admissions increased to 3.71 per 100,000 population for the week between 16 and 22 September 2024, compared with 2.56 per 100,000 the previous week.

Danny Altmann was one of those who shone through the Covid crisis, talking sense throughout it. He still is. And he is right to point out that we have capitulated to this crisis.

Johnson did that, claiming for political reasons that it had been defeated and then encouraging the belief that it was all over. It has never been, and it will not be until this attitude towards a major public health risk continues, but it has become a token of the right-wing political belief to think that COVID has gone. And, precisely because Labour is now firmly positioned in right-wing political territory, it would appear that it shares this belief.

Labour wants to increase UK productivity. It can't without tackling Covid.

Wes Streeting wants to tackle issues in the NHS. He can't without tackling Covid.

And no one will improve education in the UK without tackling the Covid-related illnesses that hit schools in waves.

But politicians pretend that none of these issues exist because Boris Johnson said Covid had been beaten.

Johnson talked a lot of nonsense; some of it was just stupid, and some of it was dangerous. The current approach to Covid falls firmly into the latter category, but no one is willing to do anything about it.

I wish I knew why.