



Press Release

## Covid by Numbers

Making Sense of the Pandemic with Data

David Spiegelhalter and Anthony Masters

Pelican Books 7 October Hardback £10.99

**A 'situation room' view of the data behind the COVID-19 pandemic by our most-trusted statisticians**



**'David Spiegelhalter is probably the greatest living statistical communicator; more than that, he's one of the great communicators in any field.'** Tim Harford

In a year in which making sense of the numbers has become a matter of life-and-death, Professor Sir David Spiegelhalter has stood out as a calm voice of authority. In the media and in his *Observer* column with RSS Statistical Ambassador Anthony Masters, he has interpreted these statistics, held the government to account, and offered a vital public service by giving us the tools we need to make sense of the virus for ourselves.

In *Covid by Numbers*, Spiegelhalter and Masters crunch the data on the COVID-19 pandemic, exposing the leading misconceptions about the virus and the vaccine, and answering our essential questions. This timely, concise and approachable book offers a rare depth of insight into one of the greatest upheavals in history, and a trustworthy guide to these most uncertain of times. Never have numbers been more central to our national conversation, and never has it been more important that we think about them clearly.

**'A statistical national treasure'** Jeremy Vine, BBC Radio 2  
**'A superstar statistician'** *Financial Times*

**Professor Sir David Spiegelhalter** FRS OBE is Chair of the Winton Centre for Risk and Evidence Communication in the Centre for Mathematical Sciences at the University of Cambridge. His bestselling book, *The Art of Statistics*, has been published in 11 languages. Knighted in 2014 for services to medical statistics, he was President of the Royal Statistical Society (2017-2018), and became a Non-Executive Director of the UK Statistics Authority in 2020. He is [@d\\_spiegel](#) on Twitter.

**Dr Anthony Masters** is a Chartered Statistician, a Statistical Ambassador for the Royal Statistical Society, and a frequent blogger and explainer of statistical ideas. He is [@anthonybmasters](#) on Twitter.

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