

'Wembley variant': England fans report soaring Covid cases after gathering for Euro 2020 final

One fan said he knew of people who had tested positive for the virus and gone to the match regardless



By Molly Blackall Hugo Daniel



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Covid tests following the match has led people to dub the illness “the Wembley variant”.

The final at Wembley, which was part of a Government trial to test the safety of large events, saw **60,000 fans attend with no social distancing or masks** after producing a negative test result. However, thousands more congregated outside and **dozens of ticketless fans stormed the stadium**.

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One fan, Sam*, was at Wembley for every England match. He is now self-isolating, and said that following the Euro 2020 final “pretty much everybody caught” the virus.

Sam said that from the group stages, “handfuls of people had been testing positive throughout”, but it was following the final that the numbers had soared. He said that suggesting hundreds of people had caught the virus at the match would be “conservative”.

“Pretty much every group I know of has at least one positive or isolating,” he told **i**. “It just seems like pretty much everybody caught it.”

Sam said he knew of fans who had tested positive but continued to attend the match, saying: “If you test positive the day before the final, would you have missed it? I know a couple admitted that they did.”

i was also shown several screenshots from a private fan Facebook group, in which one fan said that 20 people they had attended the match with had tested positive.



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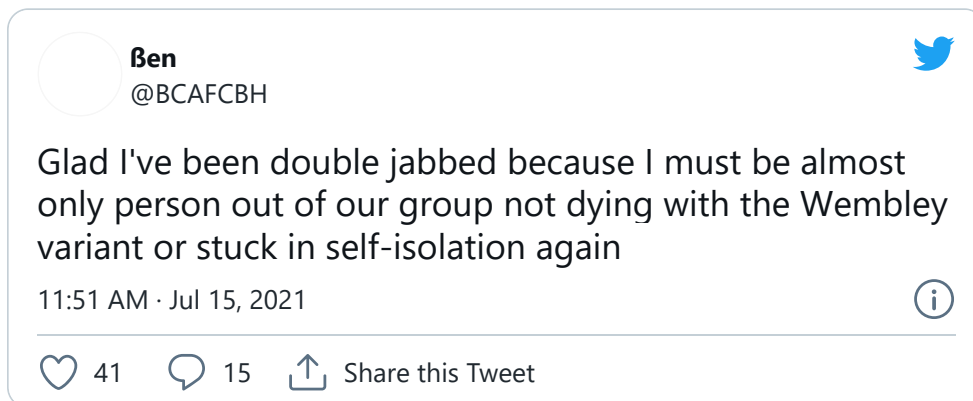
had contacted the virus.

“It seems like everyone behind that goal was riddled as everyone in the ESTC [England Supporters Travel Club] has Covid or is isolating,” one tweeted.

“Every man, woman and their dog riddled with the Wembley variant,” said another.



“Wembley aka Covid central it seems,” another fan added.



The Football Association (FA) said that “the behaviour of the people who illegally forced their way into the stadium was unacceptable, dangerous and showed total disregard for the safety and security protocols in place” and said it would work with authorities



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