

**Report to:** Public Engagement Board

**Date:** 16/06/2021

**Report of:** COVID-19 Programme Team

**CLT Lead:** Eleanor Roaf, Director Public Health Trafford

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## **Report Title: Data surveillance update paper to Public Engagement Board**

### **Report Summary:**

This paper provides an update on the current data position for COVID-19 within Trafford and provides comparative information with other GM localities. Data insights into any potential trends are provided based on best available public health information and intelligence available.

### Overview of the current position

- There were **456** confirmed cases during the week of 03 June – 09 June, with the highest number of cases (84) on Tuesday 08<sup>th</sup> June.
- Following on from last week's increase in cases, we have seen a further rise in positive cases, as Trafford's case 7-day case rate is at **192.1/100k** (previously **117.5/100k** for the 7 days up to June 02<sup>nd</sup>).
- Apart from Bolton where rates are now coming down slowly, rates are continuing to rise in each of the GM boroughs (as well as the majority of boroughs in the North West). Although Trafford currently has the 3<sup>rd</sup> lowest rate out of the 10 GM boroughs, our rates are 17<sup>th</sup> worst in England.
- We are starting to see a steady increase in the number of people going for testing, although Trafford's 7-day testing rate still remains below **400/100k**. We continue to see an increase in Trafford's positivity rate, rising to above **6%**.
- Case rates remain highest in Trafford's 15-29 age group, increasing to a current rate of **599.6/100k** from **273.8/100k** in the previous week. Rates are increasing most for 17-24 year olds and a slight increase for young people aged 11-16 years – this may be due to people restarting regular testing as schools return after half term, so we will pick up cases more quickly.
- For the rest of the adult population, cases are not increasing at the same rate and remain at or below the Trafford average.
- Case rates remain lowest for residents 60 years and over (**40.7/100k**),. We remain among the worst 20 LAs in England for our over 60s rates.

- Rates have increased in all but 4 wards compared with the previous week. There are 9 wards with rates over 200/100k and only 2 wards with a rate below 100/100k.
- Over 76% of all Trafford residents aged 18 years and above have received their first vaccine dose. The percentage of Trafford residents 18 years and above receiving both doses has risen above 54%.

Along with the rest of Greater Manchester, we have seen a sharp increase in Trafford's case rate since the beginning of June. The dominant strain of Covid now circulating in Trafford is the Delta variant, which is more infectious than the previous strain. Our 7-day case rate is 192.1/100k as of June 09<sup>th</sup>.

The vaccination programme is progressing well as over 76% of Trafford residents aged 18 years and over have now been vaccinated, and over 54% of residents aged 18 years and over have received both vaccination doses. All cohort groups 1-9 have been offered their first dose vaccination, and over 90% have received their first dose vaccine. This still leaves a substantial number of people unvaccinated and we are striving to reach at least 95% in this group. Despite steady improvements, we are still seeing inequalities in vaccine uptake, with lower uptake in some of our more deprived areas and in some minority groups. We have seen rates of vaccination increase in the Asian/Asian British population in the North of the borough (with uptake now greater than in the White population); rates remain lower in our black/Black British population. We anticipate that inequalities in uptake will widen as the vaccine is rolled out to younger age groups and we are taking steps to reduce this risk.

The North of the borough remains our major area of concern both for endemic covid and for serious illness following Covid. We are working with local community groups to increase uptake of vaccination.

At time of writing, we are waiting to hear about any changes to the restrictions but are anticipating a delay in the relaxations. From a Public Health perspective, any delay is welcomed as even though the vaccination gives good protection, we still have large numbers of people who are still not vaccinated and so are at significant risk from Covid and long Covid. This delay will allow the vaccination programme to make even more impact on transmission and illness. I would like to emphasise the need for residents to continue to limit their social contacts, maintain social distancing, work from home wherever possible, stay outdoors, and keep good hand and respiratory hygiene habits at all times. We would strongly encourage all residents to take up the offer of vaccination as soon as they are eligible, and to remember the importance of the second dose in protecting themselves and others. While covid is generally not as serious in younger people, long covid can have a very significant impact, and vaccination protects against this too.

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**1.0 Distribution of COVID-19 cases within Trafford**

1.1 Early December saw a gradual increase in cases, rising more sharply near the end of the month and going into early January.

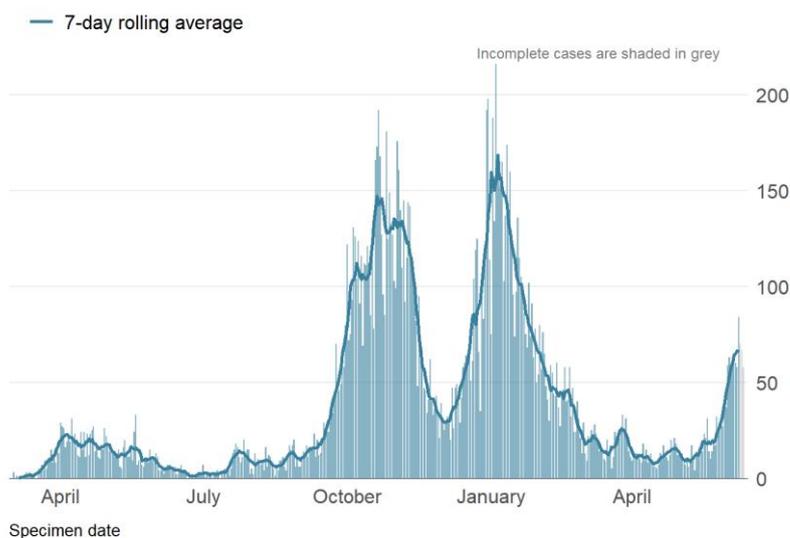
1.2 Trafford's cases started to drop following the national lockdown. We then started to see case rates stall over a 14-day period in mid-late February.

1.3 A drop in the number of daily cases during early March was followed by a 10-day period (March 21<sup>st</sup> – March 31<sup>st</sup>) where daily cases increased, increasing our 7-day case rate to greater than 70/100k on March 31<sup>st</sup>.

1.4 April saw a steady flow of cases, reporting, on average, between 15-20 cases per day.

1.5 We started to see volatility in our weekly rates in late April, going into May, however rates remained below a rate of 60/100k.

1.6 We have seen a sharp increase in positive cases for Trafford residents since June 1<sup>st</sup> – we are now averaging over 60 cases per day.



Source: PHE Covid-19 Situational Awareness explorer

**Figure 1. Epidemic curve of daily confirmed new cases**

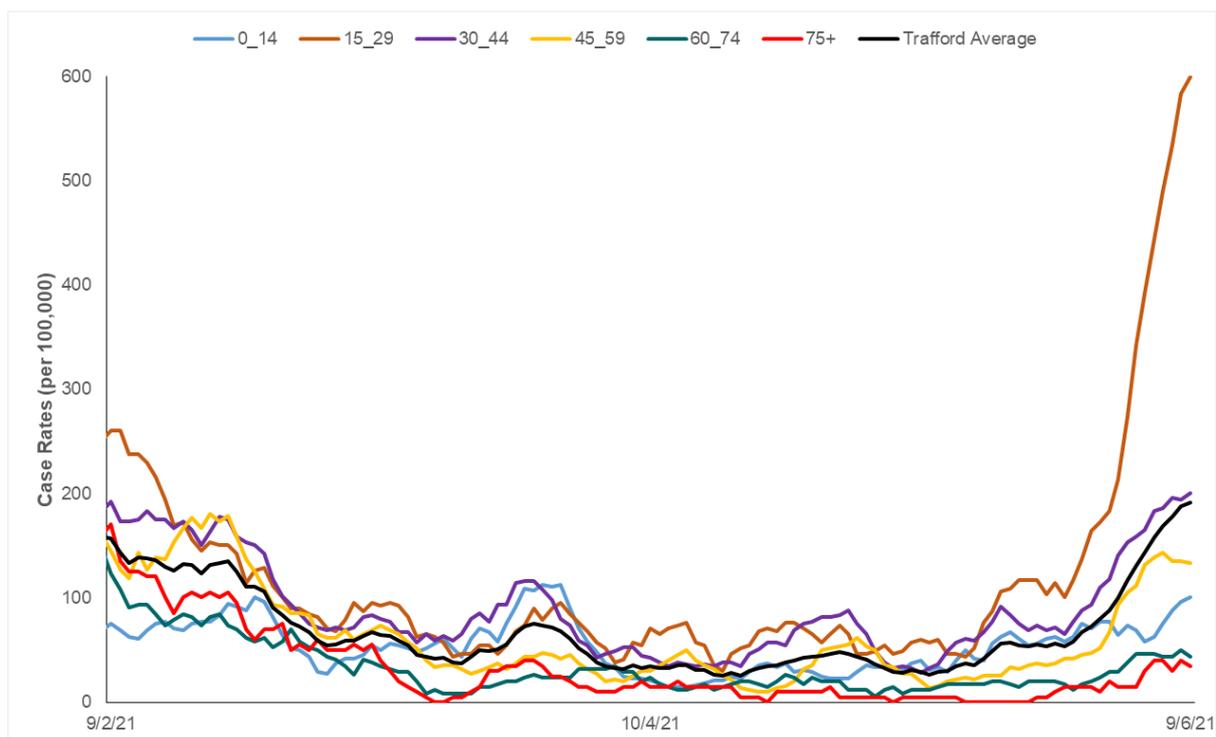
Trafford, 02 March to 11 June 2021

1.7 Case rates have increased for each of our age groups over the past two weeks. Rates have risen most for Trafford's 15-29 age group, currently at 599.6/100k. We have also seen rates increase for residents aged 30-44 years (200.3/100k), although the rates for this age group more closely resemble the Trafford average.

1.8 Among Trafford's 15-29 age group, rates are highest (and are continuing to rise) for residents aged 17-24 years.

1.9. Although rates have increased slightly for residents aged 60 years and above (40.7/100k), rates are more stable than the rest of the Trafford population, and are well below the Trafford average.

1.10 The most recent days are showing an increase in the number of positive cases for the school-age population, particularly young people aged 11-16 years. We have also started to experience more school outbreaks as pupils have started to return from the holiday period.



**Figure 2. Age-specific case rates per 100,000 (February 9<sup>th</sup> – June 09<sup>th</sup> 2021)**

1.12 Trafford's 'White' ethnic group, as of week ending June 09, contribute to the highest number of cases (**308**), followed by the 'Asian / Asian British' ethnic group (**48**).

**Table 1. Case count and incidence per 100,000 population by ethnicity**

Trafford, 03 June to 09 June 2021

Source: PHE Daily COVID-19 Surveillance Reports

<b>Cases in last 7 days</b>		
<b>Ethnic group</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Per 100,000</b>
Other	12	545.5
Asian / Asian British	48	267.1
Mixed	15	248.7
Black / Black British	13	198.8
White	308	158.7

## **2.0 Geographical spread of COVID-19 in Trafford**

2.1 Rates have increased in all but 4 wards compared with the previous week. There are 8 wards with a case rate greater than 200/100k and only 2 wards with a rate below 100/100k.

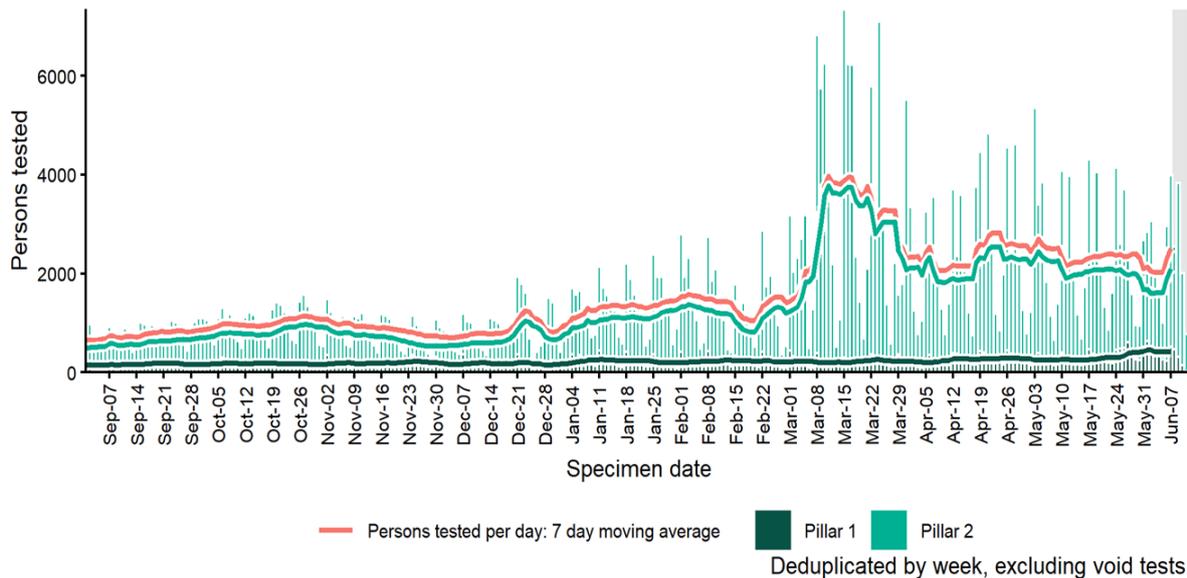
2.2 Case rates remain highest in the north of the borough, as each of the 4 wards have rates above 200/100k. Rates have not continued to rise in the west of the borough, but have increased most for wards in the south of the borough, particularly Hale Central and Bowdon.

## **3.0 Testing in Trafford**

3.1 Over a 7 day period, ending June 09, the majority (**95.4%**) of COVID tests were conducted in our pillar 2 sites, consisting of all out-of-hospital testing sites. 21 cases were reported from pillar 1 sites.

3.2 As of June 08, Trafford's 7-day positivity rate sits at **6.8%**, above the England average (**2.1%**).

3.3 Figure 3 shows that Trafford's testing rate has been mostly stable over the past two weeks, although the most recent days show that the number of residents getting tested is starting to increase (following a brief reduction in testing in late May). Trafford's 7-day testing rate remains below 400/100k.



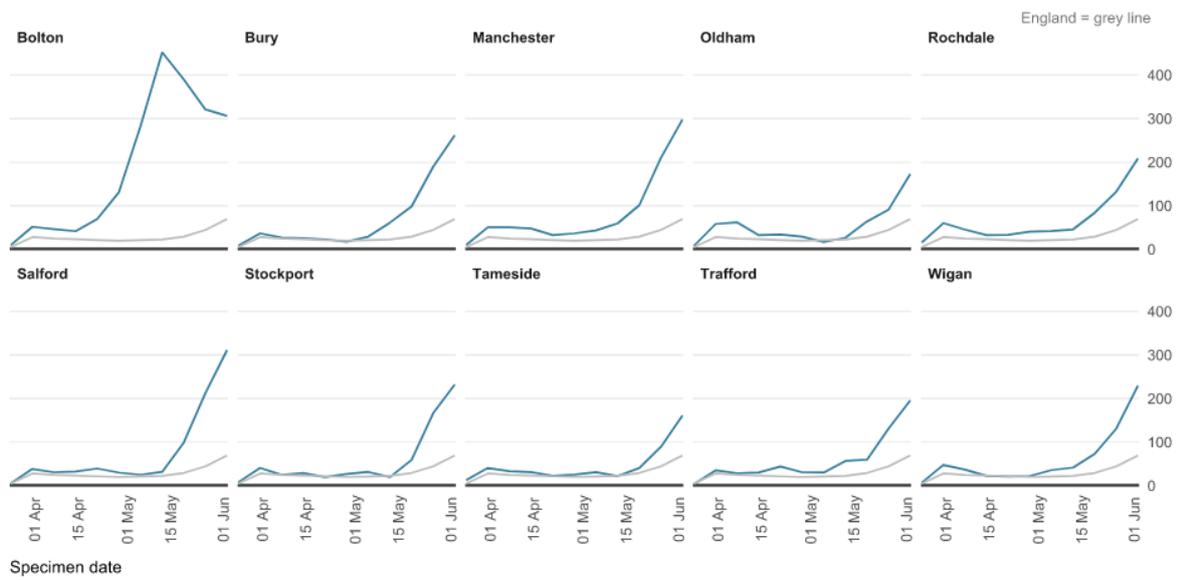
**Figure 3.** Number of individuals tested for COVID-19 (overall and by pillar) among residents of Trafford (September 01 2020 to June 11<sup>th</sup> 2021) 4 most recent days are provisional - indicated by a grey background.

#### 4.0 Comparative data of COVID-19 cases within the local authorities of Greater Manchester

4.1 As presented in figure 3, regional case rates dropped sharply in early February, continuing into March.

4.2 Due to the low number of positive cases that were being reported throughout April, we started to see volatility in borough rates. However we did see a sharp increase in only Bolton's case rate in mid-April, with their rates increasing above 400/100k into May.

4.3 Figure 3 shows a sharp rate increase for each of the Greater Manchester boroughs (apart from Bolton who are experiencing a steady reduction). As of June 10<sup>th</sup>, each borough has a rate above 160/100k, which is well above the England average (63.9/100k).



**Figure 4. Weekly incidence per 100,000 population by local authority**  
Greater Manchester, 03 April to 10 June 2021