

**Report to:** Public Engagement Board

**Date:** 01/06/2021

**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 127 confirmed cases during the week of 20 May – 26 May, with the highest number of cases (30 cases) on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> May.
- Trafford's case rate has increased to **53.5/100k** residents from **36.7/100k** in the previously reported week (April 29 – May 05). The more recent (incomplete) data from May 26<sup>th</sup> is showing a continuing rising number of cases and our rates are likely to be nearer 80/100,000 by 3<sup>rd</sup> June.
- Case rates are increasing across most other GM boroughs following the recent surge in cases for the borough of Bolton.
- Although we are not seeing big changes in Trafford's testing rate, the most recent 7-day period indicates a slight increase in the number of residents getting tested, rising above a rate of **300/100k**. Trafford's positivity rate (**2.6%**) remains stable, but is still well above the England average (**0.9%**). **Coupled with the increase in testing, this suggests that we are seeing a genuine ongoing rise in the underlying rate of Covid in the borough.**
- Case rates remain highest for Trafford's 15-29 age group (greater than **101.3/100k**), followed by residents age 30-44 years (**65.4/100k**).
- We have seen a slight increase in the number of residents aged 45-59 years testing positive, and worryingly, we are starting to see more cases in people aged over 60.
- Ward rates remain volatile due to small numbers, increasing for 8 wards, decreasing for 11 wards, and remaining unchanged for 2 wards. Ward rates remain highest in the north, as Clifford and Longford are the only two wards in the borough with a rates over **100/100k**.

- We continue to see new workplace outbreaks. We would urge all businesses to increase their efforts to make their workplaces Covid secure and continue to encourage their staff to work from home, even as further lockdown restrictions are lifted over the coming weeks.
- Over 55% of all Trafford residents have been given their first vaccine dose. The percentage of Trafford residents receiving both doses has risen above 36%.

There has been an increase in Trafford's case rate over the past 5 weeks, and our rates are now well over 50/100,000. Most of our cases now are likely to be caused by the new variant VOC Apr21-02 (the 'delta' variant) . We are continuing to carry out enhanced contact tracing.

The vaccination programme is progressing well as over 55% of Trafford residents have now been vaccinated, and over 36% of residents have received both vaccination doses. However, in cohorts 1-9, who are the people most likely to be seriously ill, we are still not yet at 90% uptake of first dose. This still leaves a substantial number of people unvaccinated and we are striving to reach at least 95% in this group. Furthermore, 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 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. If we do not narrow this gap we are likely to see more illness in groups who are less able to withstand it.

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 this point, we feel that the safety of full lifting of restrictions on 21<sup>st</sup> of June could be in jeopardy unless rates start to come down again. We all have a part to play in ensuring that the restrictions can be lifted safely. We 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.

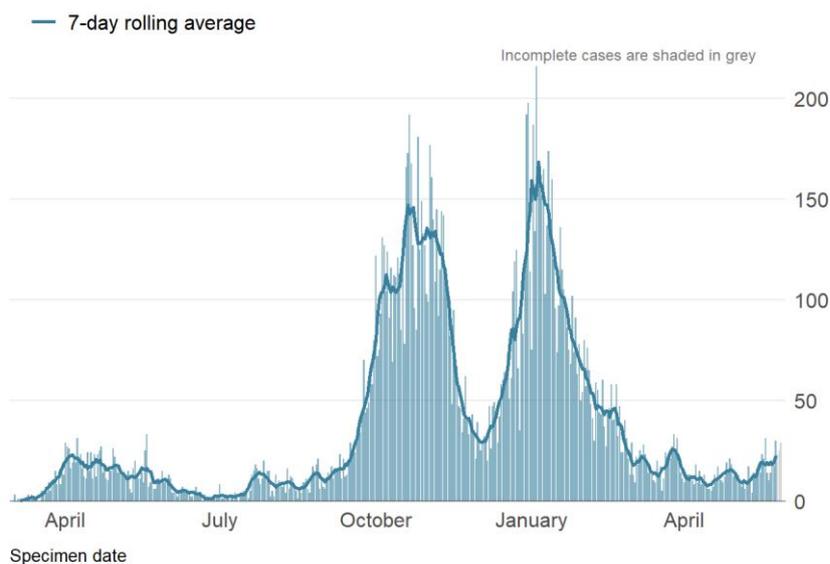
1.2 Trafford's cases started to drop following the national lockdown. We then started to see case rates stall over a 14-day period in mid-late February.

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 did see a slight rate increase during an 8-day period from April 25<sup>th</sup>, but our case rates dropped back down. However, rates were 29.5/100k as of the 7-days up to May 12<sup>th</sup> but are currently at 56.5/100k as of the 7 days up to May 26<sup>th</sup>.

1.6 We may continue to see weekly volatility in our rates, especially rates by ward, as a result of the low case numbers that are currently being reported.



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

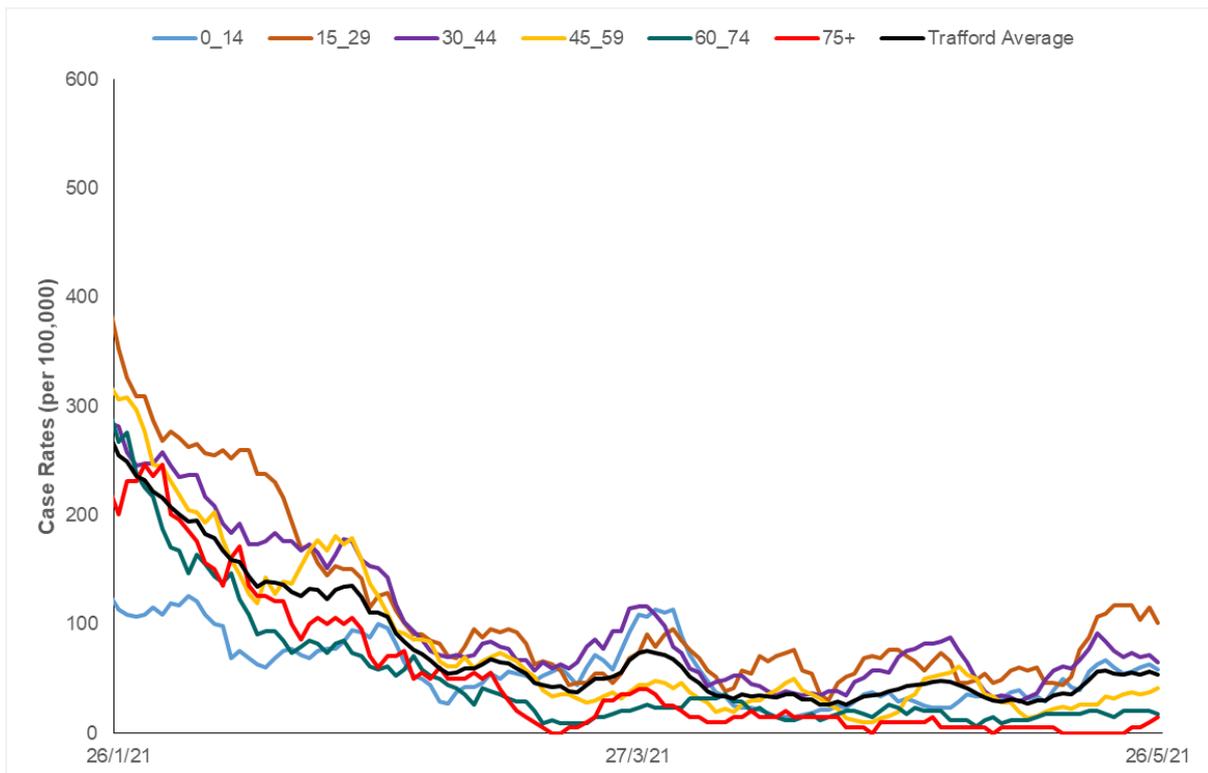
Trafford, 02 March to 28 May 2021

1.7 We have seen case rates remain below a rate of 100/100k for most our 15-year age groups over the past weeks, with the exception of 15-29 age group (101.3/100k) which has increased from 60.2/100k previously reported, followed by residents age 30-44 years (65.4/100k).

1.8 Case rates have remained lowest for our 75+ population, maintaining below a rate of 50/100k since early March. Rates are also low for our 60+ residents, again, maintaining below a rate of 50/100k since early March.

1.9. We have seen a slight increase in the number of residents aged 45-59 years testing positive, however we are still recording less than 10 cases per week in residents 60 years and older.

1.10 We have reported less than 10 cases among residents 60+ during the reported week (20 May – 26 May).



**Figure 2. Age-specific case rates per 100,000 (January 12<sup>th</sup> – May 26<sup>th</sup> 2021)**

1.11 We are also seeing an increasing number of school outbreaks. Case rates for our school-age population remain above the Trafford average (particularly young people aged 15+), although we haven't seen the rates continue to rise over the most recent 7-day period.

1.12 Trafford's 'White' ethnic group, as of week ending May 27, contribute to the highest number of cases **(69)**, followed by the 'Asian / Asian British' ethnic group **(39)**.

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

Trafford, 21 May to 27 May 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	<10	181.8
Asian / Asian British	39	217
Black/Black British	<10	61.2
White	69	25.8
Mixed	<10	16.1

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

2.1 Ward rates remain volatile due to small numbers, increasing for 7 wards, decreasing for 11 wards, and remaining unchanged for 2 wards during the reported week (06 May – 12 May).

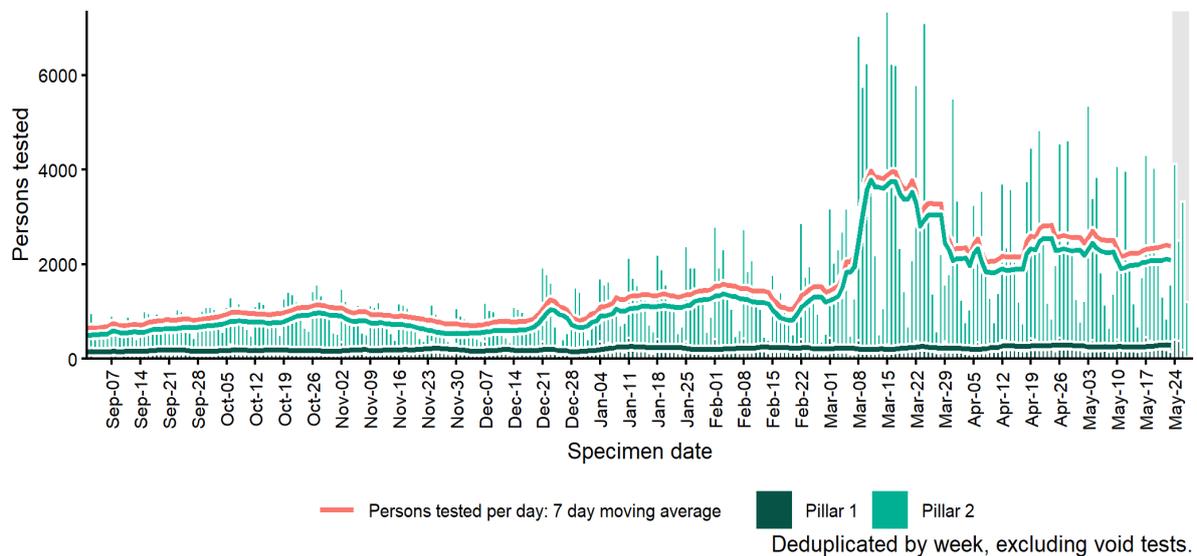
2.2 Each of Trafford's wards have a rate below 100/100k. We have seen rates dropped most for wards in the south of the borough, but have remained mostly unchanged for wards in our north, west, and south localities during the reported week (06/05 – 12/05).

## **3.0 Testing in Trafford**

3.1 Over a 7 day period, ending May 29, the majority **(96.4%)** of COVID tests were conducted in our pillar 2 sites, consisting of all out-of-hospital testing sites. 5 cases were reported from pillar 1 sites.

3.2 As of May 29, Trafford's 7-day positivity rate sits at **2.7%**, above the England average **(0.9%)**.

3.3 Figure 3 shows a slight increase in testing rates over the past 3 weeks. Although we are not seeing big changes in Trafford's testing rate, the most recent 7-day period indicates a slight increase in the number of residents getting tested, rising above a rate of **300/100k**. We are seeing more volatility in our testing rates when compared to periods prior to March 2021 due to increased availability of testing from community and educational settings.



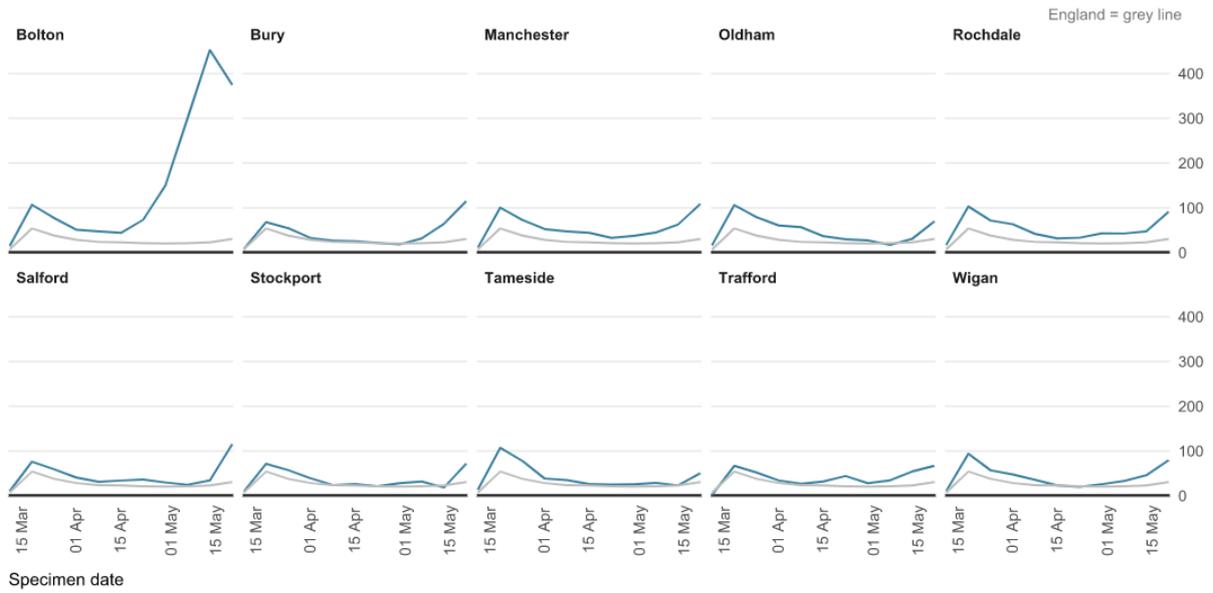
**Figure 3.** Number of individuals tested for COVID-19 (overall and by pillar) among residents of Trafford (September 01 2020 to May 27<sup>th</sup> 2021) 4 most recent days are provisional - indicated by a grey background.

#### 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.

4.3 As of May 28<sup>th</sup>, Trafford's 7-day case rate is (53.5/100k) is similar when compared to all other boroughs apart from the borough of Bolton. Following the recent surge in cases for the borough of Bolton, we are starting to see rates increase across most other GM boroughs. The 7-day case rate for the North West (**60/100k**) is well above the England average (**25.7/100k**).



**Figure 4. Weekly incidence per 100,000 population by local authority**  
Greater Manchester, 06 March to 27 May 2021