

Report to: Public Engagement Board

Date: 10/02/2021

Report of: COVID-19 Programme Team

CLT Lead: Eleanor Roaf, Director Public Health Trafford

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

- We continue to see the number of cases come down, but the rate of reduction is slower than in the previous lockdowns. This is probably because of the higher infectivity of the new variant virus, which is now the dominant strain circulating in Trafford.
- There is a similar pattern across the boroughs of Greater Manchester, with rates slowly decreasing. We are seeing rates decrease more slowly for each of GMs boroughs when compared to the England average.
- There were 462 confirmed cases in Trafford during the week of January 28 – February 03, a rate of 194.6/100,000 residents. The highest number of cases on a single day was on Monday February 1st, with 82 cases.
- We continue to have cases spread across the borough, and the rates in all wards are above 100/100k. Five wards (Longford, St Mary's, Urmston, Stretford and Clifford) have rates over 300/100k.
- Trafford's 7-day positivity rate continues to drop, currently below 10%. We have also seen a slight reduction in Trafford's testing rate during the 7-day period up to February 3rd.
- Cases from the most recent week indicate a large rate reduction for residents 65 years and over, currently at 153/100,000, dropping from 235.5/100,000 from the previously reported week (21/01-27/01).
- We are seeing high rates in our 80+ population (greater than 200/100k), partly due to cases associated to care home outbreaks. Age remains the biggest risk factor for serious illness from covid, so reducing rates in people aged 50 plus is critical to reducing the pressure on our hospitals.
- Cases remain highest in our young adult population (20-39), however the gap between these age groups and the Trafford average is much smaller than the previous two weeks.

- Outbreaks remain in Trafford business's, affecting both Trafford and non-Trafford residents. We would urge all businesses to increase their efforts to make their workplaces covid secure and to encourage their staff to work from home wherever possible. The increased infectivity of the new strain means that all precautions need to be rigorously applied to minimise spread.
- We have also seen smaller outbreaks in school, nursery and care home settings. As we continue to see Trafford's cases drop, any outbreaks in these type of settings will influence rate increases in specific age groups.
- Positive progress is being made with vaccinations, as uptake continues to increase among priority groups. To make the required impact on deaths and hospitalisations, we need to ensure that we get good uptake in the first four priority groups. Some groups are less likely to accept vaccination than others, and unfortunately vaccine hesitancy is disproportionately likely to affect people who are at the greatest risk from the disease. We need to do everything we can to ensure that everyone offered the vaccine is able to get to a vaccination centre easily, and is offered an opportunity to discuss any concerns they may have.
- Vaccination of our health and social care staff in continuing; again, we have identified some groups where vaccine hesitancy is higher and we are working to address this.

Our key messages are remain that the risk from Covid continues to be high in Trafford. We would encourage all our residents to continue to limit their social contacts, maintain social distancing, and keep good hand and respiratory hygiene habits at all times.

We would further ask anyone who has been vaccinated to remain very cautious as it takes about three weeks to work, and it may not stop you from passing the virus on. It should greatly reduce serious illness but you can still catch covid after vaccination, so please continue to take all the same precautions as previously to protect yourself and others.

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1.0 Distribution of COVID-19 cases within Trafford

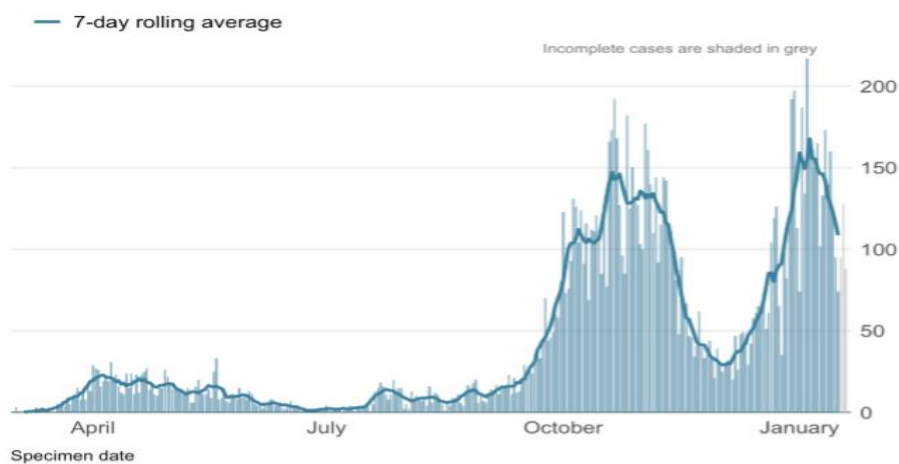
1.1 During the week 28 January – 03 February, there were a total of **462** confirmed cases in Trafford, equivalent to a rate of **194.6** per 100,000 residents.

1.2 Below (figure 1) is the epidemic curve for Trafford, indicating the total number of confirmed cases and 7-day rolling average since March 2nd.

1.3 The rise in daily cases since the end of August is represented by the sharp rise in the 7-day rolling average; indicating that total cases per day have consistently stayed high throughout the month of September, going into October.

1.4 Throughout the first two weeks of October daily cases started to level out, however since week beginning October 19, Trafford experienced a sharp rise in daily cases, mostly greater than 150 confirmed cases per day. A subsequent sharp drop in cases followed October's high case rates, hugely influenced by the national lockdown measures.

1.5 Early December saw a gradual increase in cases, rising more sharply near the end of the month and going into early January. Data from the previous two weeks indicates a steady drop in case rates, again, indicating the impact of national lockdown measures.



Source: PHE Covid-19 Situational Awareness explorer

Figure 1. Epidemic curve of daily confirmed new cases
Trafford, 02 March to 05 February 2021

1.6 As of week ending February 03, there is less of a gap between Trafford's age-specific case rates when compared to previous weeks.

1.7 We were seeing rates drop more slowly in residents 65 years and over, however, the most recent week shows a large case reduction in this age group. Rates for this age group (153/100,000) are now well below the Trafford average.

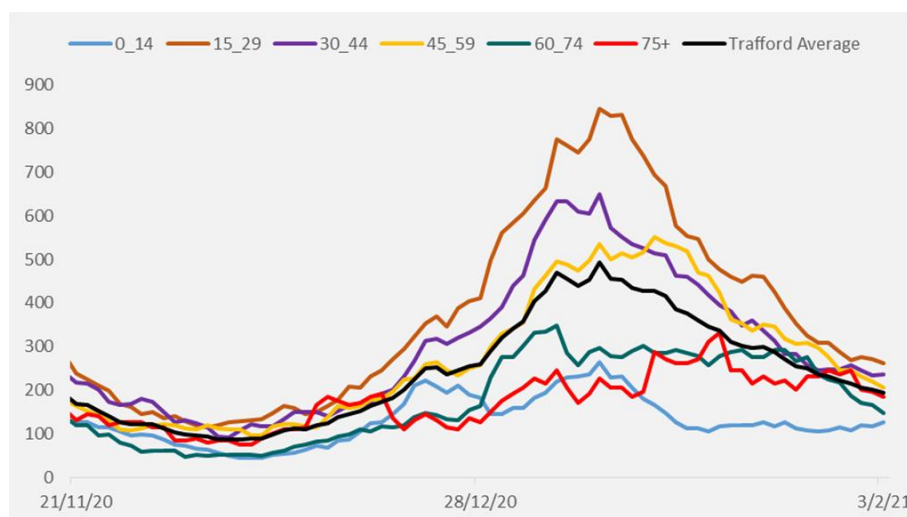


Figure 2. Age-specific case rates per 100,000

Trafford, 7-day moving average

1.8 Trafford’s ‘White’ ethnic group, as of week ending February 03rd, contribute to the highest number of cases (**306**), followed by the ‘Asian / Asian British’ ethnic group (**54**).

1.9 We have not seen much change in the distribution of positive cases between ethnic groups. Case rates are still greatest in Trafford’s ‘Other’ ethnic group, although this ethnic group only makes up a small proportion of the total population.

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

Trafford, 28 January to 03 February 2021

Source: PHE Daily COVID-19 Surveillance Reports

Cases in last 7 days		
Ethnic group	n	Per 100,000
Other	20	909.1
Black / Black British	20	305.8
Asian / Asian British	54	300.5
White	306	157.9
Mixed	6	99.5

2.0 Geographical spread of COVID-19 in Trafford

2.1 Cases continue to be widespread throughout the borough, but we are starting to see a gradual reduction in the majority of Trafford wards. There are currently 10/21 wards with case rates below 150/100k.

2.2 Overall, we are seeing ward rates lowest in the south of the borough and highest in the north of the borough. The north and south are Trafford's most and least deprived areas.

3.0 Testing in Trafford

3.1 Over a 14 day period, ending February 04, the majority (**92.2%**) of COVID tests were conducted in our pillar 2 sites, consisting of all out-of-hospital testing sites.

3.2 As of January 30th, Trafford's 7-day positivity rate sits at **10.8%**, above the England average (**9.9%**).

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

4.1 As presented in figure 3, each of GMs boroughs started to experience rate reductions, after the spike in December and early January.

4.2 As of February 04th, Trafford has the lowest 7-day incidence rate when compared to the other 9 GM boroughs.

4.3 The grey and blue lines in figure 3 indicate that the rate of reduction is much slower for GM than it is for the England average.

4.4 As of week ending February 04, Trafford has the lowest weekly incidence rate throughout the whole of GM.

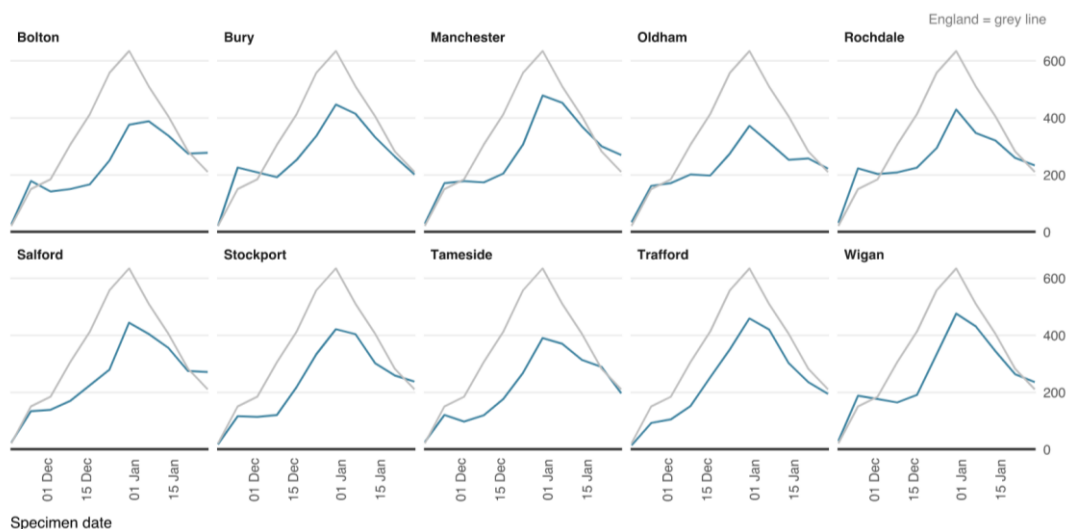


Figure 3. Weekly incidence per 100,000 population by local authority
Greater Manchester, 11 January to 04 February 2021

