

**Report to:** Public Engagement Board

**Date:** 24/02/2021

**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

- Over the most recent 7-day period (11/02-17/02) our decline in rates appears to have stalled.
- We are seeing rates decrease more slowly for each of GMs boroughs when compared to the England average. Trafford has the lowest case rate across the boroughs in GM.
- There were 315 confirmed cases in Trafford during the week of February 11 – February 17, a rate of 132.7/100,000 residents. The highest number of cases on a single day was on Friday February 12<sup>th</sup>, with 60 cases.
- Despite the levelling of cases during the most recent week, we continue to see a reduction in Trafford's positivity rate, currently below 7%, a drop of 1% from the previous reported week (04/02-10/02). We have seen a very slight reduction in our testing rate.
- Further rate reductions have occurred in Trafford residents 65 years and over. Currently at a rate of 94.7/100k, previously as high as 153/100k.
- Despite case rates remaining highest for Trafford's 20-29 age group (240.7/100k), rates among age groups are starting to become more evenly distributed, particularly among the adult population.
- Cases continue to be spread across the borough, with all wards having rates above 50/100k. Overall, rates are highest in wards in the North and West of the borough.
- As there starts to be an overall reduction in Trafford cases, we are starting to see considerable volatility in the rates per ward per week.
- Outbreaks remain in a number of Trafford businesses, 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. We have been seeing large outbreak in some businesses and it's been clear that some businesses are expecting staff to be in the workplace unnecessarily. The increased infectivity of the new strain means that all precautions need to be rigorously applied to minimise spread.

- Outbreaks also remain in school settings, however this does not seem to be leading to an increase in case rates for our school age population.
- Further advances have been made with vaccination coverage. The percentage of adults in priority groups 1-4 continues to rise above 90%, whilst the vaccines are being rolled out to more adults in priority groups 5-9

Our key messages 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. When settings such as schools start to reopen, we are likely to see an initial increase in rates, as a result of increased social mixing. Maintaining the same protections as previously mentioned will continue to protect yourself and others.

Positive strides are being made in the vaccination programme, however we would encourage anyone who has received an invite for a vaccine to take up the offer. It is also important to remain cautious once you have received the vaccine; although the vaccine greatly reduces the risk of serious illness, you can still catch covid after being vaccinated.

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

1.1 During the week 11 February – 17 February, there were a total of **315** confirmed cases in Trafford, equivalent to a rate of **132.7** per 100,000 residents.

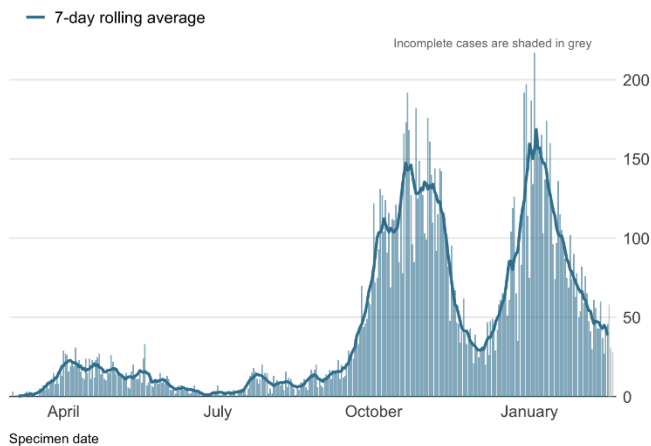
1.2 Below (figure 1) is the epidemic curve for Trafford, indicating the total number of confirmed cases and 7-day rolling average since March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

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.

1.6 We started to see a drop in cases from mid-January, continuing into February. Trafford's rate reduction for the current lockdown has been much slower than previous lockdown. Data from the most recent week indicates that case rates have started to flatten, and our rates are substantially higher than in the summer.



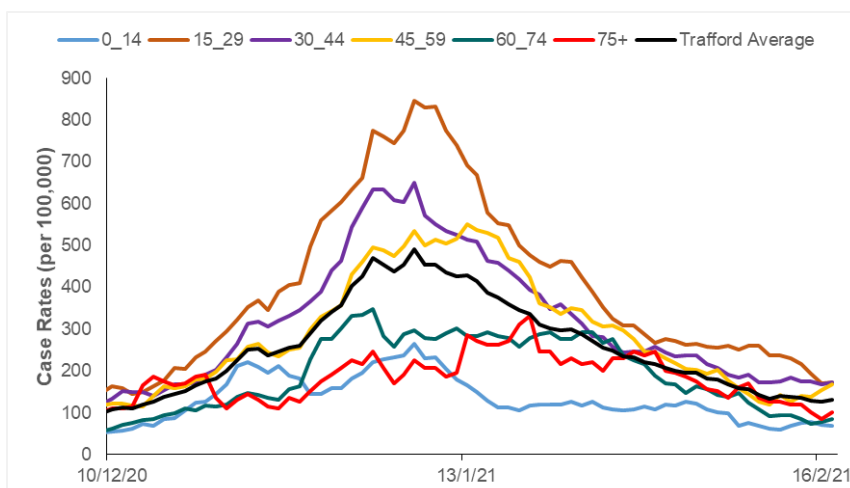
Source: PHE Covid-19 Situational Awareness explorer

**Figure 1. Epidemic curve of daily confirmed new cases**  
Trafford, 02 March to 19 February 2021

1.7 As of week ending February 17, case rates among Trafford's age groups, and particularly Trafford's adult population, are more evenly distributed.

1.8 Case rates still remain highest for Trafford's 20-29 age group, at a rate of 240.7/100k.

1.9 We continue to see a positive reduction in rates for Trafford residents 65 years and over. Rates have dropped below 100/100k, similar to the England average for this age group (94.3/100k).



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

Trafford, 7-day moving average

1.10 Trafford's 'White' ethnic group, as of week ending February 17<sup>th</sup>, contribute to the highest number of cases (**210**), followed by the 'Asian / Asian British' ethnic group (**32**).

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

Trafford, 11 February to 17 February 2021

Source: PHE Daily COVID-19 Surveillance Reports

Cases in last 7 days		
Ethnic group	n	Per 100,000
Other	9	409.1
Black / Black British	16	244.6
Mixed	12	199
Asian / Asian British	32	178
White	210	108.3

## 2.0 Geographical spread of COVID-19 in Trafford

2.1 Case rates continue to be spread across the borough. Due to an overall reduction in Trafford cases, weekly ward rates will start to become more volatile.

2.2 We have seen a few wards experience an increase in case rates during the most recent week, most notably, Ashton upon Mersey, as rates in this ward (213/100k) are the highest for Trafford. Longford (203.2/100k) and Davyhulme West (199.8/100k) are the other wards with the highest rates.

## 3.0 Testing in Trafford

3.1 Over a 7 day period, ending February 20, the majority (**72.1%**) of COVID tests were conducted in our pillar 2 sites, consisting of all out-of-hospital testing sites.

3.2 As of February 16, Trafford's 7-day positivity rate sits at **6.3%**, above the England average (**5.4%**).

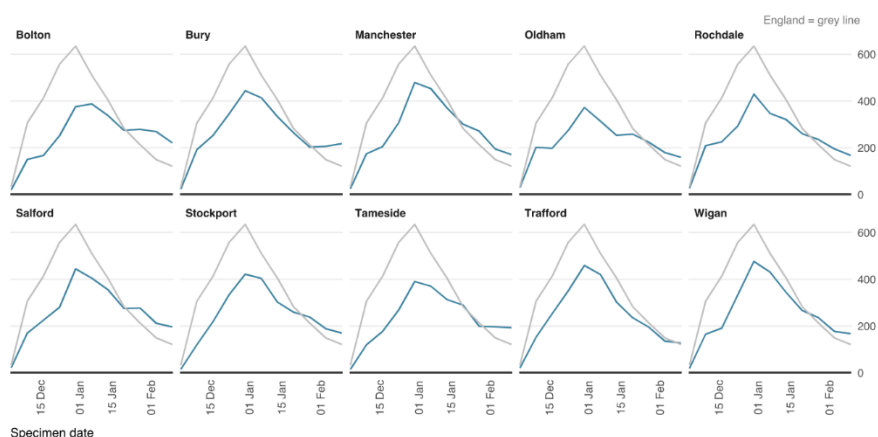
#### 4.0 Comparative data of COVID-19 cases within the local authorities of Greater Manchester

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 18<sup>th</sup>, Trafford has the lowest 7-day incidence rate when compared to the other 9 GM boroughs.

4.3 The grey line in figure 3 indicates that rate reduction is much slower for GM than it is for the England average.

4.4 Figure 3 also shows a flattening of rates, and in some instances a rate increase, for a number of GM boroughs.



Source: PHE Coronavirus Dashboard

**Figure 3. Weekly incidence per 100,000 population by local authority Greater Manchester, 12 December to 18 February 2021**