

**Report to:** Public Engagement Board

**Date:** 06/04/2021

**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 (25 March – 31 March) we have seen an increase in Trafford's case rate.
- There were 163 confirmed cases in Trafford during the week of March 25 – March 31, a rate of 68.7/100,000 residents. The highest number of cases on a single day was on Sunday March 28th, with 31 cases.
- Our testing rates decreased over those 7 days, and we also saw our positivity rate increase from 2.4% to 3.4%.
- Our cases are spread across Trafford, but with a slightly higher rate overall in the North of the borough
- More recent data is showing a slight drop in cases, and we hope this will continue. We would encourage all our residents to take particular care over the next few weeks as we have a significant number of people still unvaccinated, and we know that rates can rise fast.
- We have seen a rate increase for our school age population, particularly those in their secondary years, in addition to the 19 – 24 age group
- The rate in our residents aged over 60 remains similar to the previous week, at 24.1/100k
- Ward rates remain volatile due to small numbers but have are static across majority of wards (18/21) in the reported time period. Five wards have rates over 100/100k, whereas 10 wards have rates on or below 50/100k.
- We continue to see new workplace outbreaks, although the size of the outbreaks are much smaller than previous weeks. We would urge all businesses to increase their efforts to make their workplaces Covid secure and encourage their staff to work from

home wherever possible. Increased infectivity of the new strain means that all precautions need to be rigorously applied to minimise spread.

- As predicted, we have seen a slight increase in rates since children have returned to school as a result of increased social mixing. At present, we are seeing an increase in rates for Trafford's secondary school age group over the past 7 days, and have been exceeding 100/100k in this age group. It is critical that people do not see the return of children to school as a green light for increased social activity.
- Over 95% of residents 75+, and over 90% of residents 70+ have been administered their first vaccine dose. Rollout of the 2<sup>nd</sup> dose has commenced in these priority groups and the vaccine is now available for residents aged 50+.

Trafford's case rates have increased over the past 14 days, exceeding 50/100k over the most recently reported week. We would like to emphasise the need for residents to continue to limit their social contacts, maintain social distancing, and keep good hand and respiratory hygiene habits at all times. It is especially important that residents continue to work from home wherever possible, and should not use the opening of schools as an opportunity to return to their place of work. The opening of hospitality and retail next week means that the risks of infection spreading increase, unless we all take extreme care.

The vaccination programme is progressing well, as coverage is exceeding 95% in residents 75+, and over 90% in residents 70+. Vaccinations are now available for residents aged 50+, and the rollout of the 2<sup>nd</sup> dose is underway among the 1-4 priority groups. We are still seeing inequalities in vaccine uptake, although work is ongoing to reduce them. There is lower uptake in some of our more deprived areas and in some BAME groups. These population groups have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic, so addressing these inequalities are essential to limit further harm.

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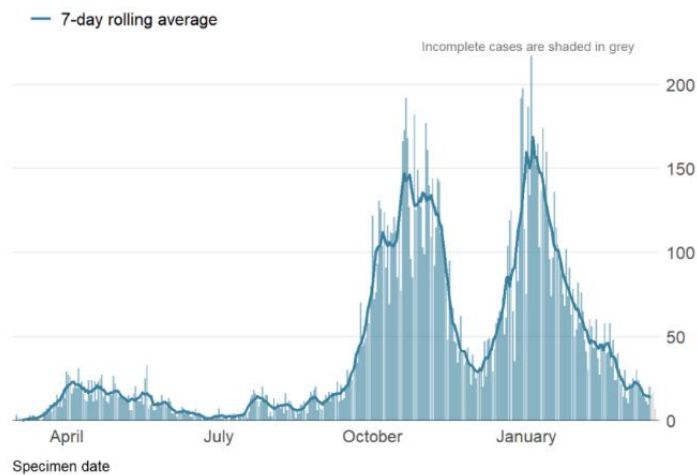
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## **1.0 Distribution of COVID-19 cases within Trafford**

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 We have seen case rates increase over the most recent 14-day period, averaging just over 23 cases per day and seeing a rate per 100,000 residents exceed 50/100k.



Source: PHE Covid-19 Situational Awareness explorer

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

Trafford, 02 March to 18 March 2021

1.4 As of week ending March 31, each of Trafford's age groups has a rate below 100/100k, with two exceptions. There is a notable rate increase in the secondary school age group,.

1.5 We have seen slight increases in the number of positive cases among Trafford's older population over the past 4 weeks, although seeing case rates remain below 25/100k for residents 60 years and over.

## 2.0 Geographical spread of COVID-19 in Trafford

2.1 Ward rates remain volatile due to small numbers, but we still see cases spread across the whole borough.

2.2 Five wards have rates over 100/100,000 (Gorse Hill, Village, Clifford. Longford and Davyhulme East)

## 3.0 Testing in Trafford

3.1 Over the week to 31<sup>st</sup> March, we had a decrease in our testing rate, with 286.4/100,000 taking a test. This is below the NW and England averages

3.2 As of March 31<sup>st</sup> Trafford's 7-day positivity rate is 3.4%, an increase on the previous week and well above the England average of 1.8%

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

4.1 As of March 31<sup>st</sup>, Trafford has 7<sup>th</sup> lowest 7-day incidence rate compared to the other 9 GM boroughs. This is a worse position than the previous week, and we have seen our rates rise while others have fallen.