

Public Engagement Board

COVID-19 Programme Team

CLT Lead: Helen Gollins, Director Public Health Trafford

15 December 2021

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:

Overview

- There were **1407** confirmed cases during the week ending Wednesday 8 December, with the highest number of cases (**262**) reported on **Monday 6 December**.
- We have seen an increase in our 7 day case rate to **592.2/100k** from **474.4/100k** in the previous week. Most recent data suggests we will see further increases in our case rate over the coming days.
- Trafford's case rate is well above the North West (**427.6/100k**) and England average (**509.6/100k**). Trafford has the highest case rate across GM.
- Trafford's testing (at **706.1/100k** from **606.2/100k**) and positivity rate (at **10.8%** from **10.5%**) has increased (for the 7 days up to 6th December) from the previous week.

Age Profiles

- When compared to the previous week, case rates have increased for all age groups below 60 years.
- We are seeing less variation in rates by age groups when compared to the period of increased transmission in September 2021.
- Case rates are highest for 5-14 year olds (at **1190/100k**), increasing by more **30%** from the previous week.
- Case rates remain low for residents aged 60+ (at **98.2/100k** from **129.7/100k** in the previous week).

- PCR testing rates are increasing for 15-74 year olds. Testing rates are now highest for 30-44 year olds, followed by residents aged 45-59.

Geography

- We are seeing case rates widespread across the borough, highest in Trafford South but lowest in Trafford North.
- Case rates are highest for the wards of Timperley (**1094/100k**), Altrincham (**813.4/100k**), Brooklands (**750.1/100k**), St Mary's (**744.4/100k**), and Village (**729.2/100k**).
- Case rates have increased most for Gorse Hill (**102.7%**) and Timperley (**76.8%**) during the recent week.

Hospital Activity

- There has been a reduction in hospital admissions over the past five weeks; we are seeing a similar trend for the North West region.
- There were **108** COVID-19 admissions during the week ending Sunday 5 December compared with **113** COVID-19 admissions during the previous week (*Including Manchester University Foundation Trust, Stockport Foundation Trust, and Warrington & Halton Teaching Hospitals Foundation Trust*).

Public Health Concern

We have been monitoring a steady rise in cases throughout November and into December, whilst the most recent week shows a sharper increase in our case rate. More recent data (incomplete) indicates that we will see a further rise in our case rate over the coming week. At present (**13/12/21**) we are aware of a number of confirmed Omicron cases in Trafford; incoming variant data is often delayed after an individual has taken a PCR test. It seems likely that we will start to see further Omicron cases in Trafford over the coming weeks.

Trafford has the highest case rate in GM, well above the North West (**427.6/100k**) and England average (**509.6/100k**). When compared to the sharp rise in cases in September 2021, we are seeing less variation in rates by age, as we are currently experiencing a sharper rise in cases for the adults below the age of 60. Trafford's testing rate remains highest across the 10 GM boroughs, experiencing a sharp increase over the past 7 days. Our positivity rate is 6th highest across GM, higher than the North West and England average. Despite an overall rise in our case rate, we are yet to see rates increase among residents aged 60+. We need to halt and reduce our current rate to protect our vulnerable populations, especially those aged 60+ and/or with preexisting health conditions.

The successful roll-out of COVID-19 vaccinations, including booster vaccinations has helped weaken the link between infection and hospital admissions/COVID-19 mortality, however there are still just under 1/5 of eligible residents not vaccinated with at least 1

dose. There is on-going evidence which suggests the booster vaccination acts as an increased protective factor against transmission/hospitalisation.

Although the North West (including surrounding hospitals to Trafford) has been experiencing an overall reduction in hospital admissions linked to COVID-19 over the past 5 weeks, hospitals have still experienced a sustained period of COVID-19 admissions, ever since the relaxation of lockdown measures in July 2021. Now we are into the winter months NHS pressures increase, and thus the need to keep hospital admissions low is imperative. Overall mortality trends is also a growing concern, as since the beginning of the pandemic (March 2020), registered deaths exceed expected deaths (1.13 times nationally; 1.14 times for Trafford).

The announcement by the PM on 12/12/21 confirmed that the OMICRON variant is highly transmissible and appears to be evading immunity. It is likely to be the dominant variable in the next two weeks. The number of Omicron cases (confirmed/highly probable/probable/possible) in the North West is rising exponentially with a doubling time every 2.5-3 days. There are cases of Omicron (confirmed or suspected) being identified in hospital workers and patients across the UK. However early data suggests that getting a third booster dose gives an individual around 70% to 75% protection against symptomatic infection from Omicron. Trafford CCG are leading the programme to ensure boosters will be offered to everyone over 18 in England from this week. This has significant operational, logistical and workforce challenges.

Outbreak Management and Risk Reduction

Business settings

- From 4am Tuesday 30 November face coverings will be compulsory in shops and other settings such as banks, post offices and hairdressers, as well as on public transport unless individuals are exempt from doing so.
- Travellers arriving into the country from 4am on Tuesday 30 November will be required to take a PCR test on or before day two and self-isolate until they have received a negative test result. These PCR tests can be purchased from private providers. Free NHS tests are not valid for this purpose.
- We continue to urge all businesses to make their workplaces COVID-19 secure, including ensuring that staff are routinely testing and properly protected when they return to the workplace.
- We are monitoring the impact of events on COVID rates in the borough.

Health & Social Care Settings

- We need to work together to keep our most vulnerable populations protected. We are managing outbreaks in care homes. While some fully vaccinated staff and residents are testing positive, their disease is much milder than in unvaccinated people.
- Care home should continue to PCR test residents and staff every 28 days and staff should also do twice weekly LFD testing.

- Vaccination remains a safe and effective method of protecting yourself from severe illness.
- We will be encouraging all health and social care settings to continue to use all the current infection prevention and control measures to keep staff and service users safe.
- Care Homes are being supported to implement safe visiting over the coming weeks.

Education & Early Years Settings

- Secondary school pupils should continue with twice weekly LFD testing and all staff/pupils should wear face coverings in communal areas.
- We'd like to encourage people to register negative LFD test results on the national testing portal.
- School **household contacts**; children and young people and staff who attend/work in schools and are household contacts should do daily LFD testing for a period of 10 days.

Contact Officer:

Name: Tom Seery, Public Health Data Surveillance Analyst

Tel: 07929876642

Email: Thomas.seery@trafford.gov.uk

1.0 Vulnerable Population groups

1.1 We have seen a sharp reduction in cases for residents aged 60+ over the past four weeks.

1.2 Table 1 shows that we are now starting to see less variation in the 60+ case rate by geography.

1.3 60+ rates are highest for Trafford South and lowest for Trafford West.

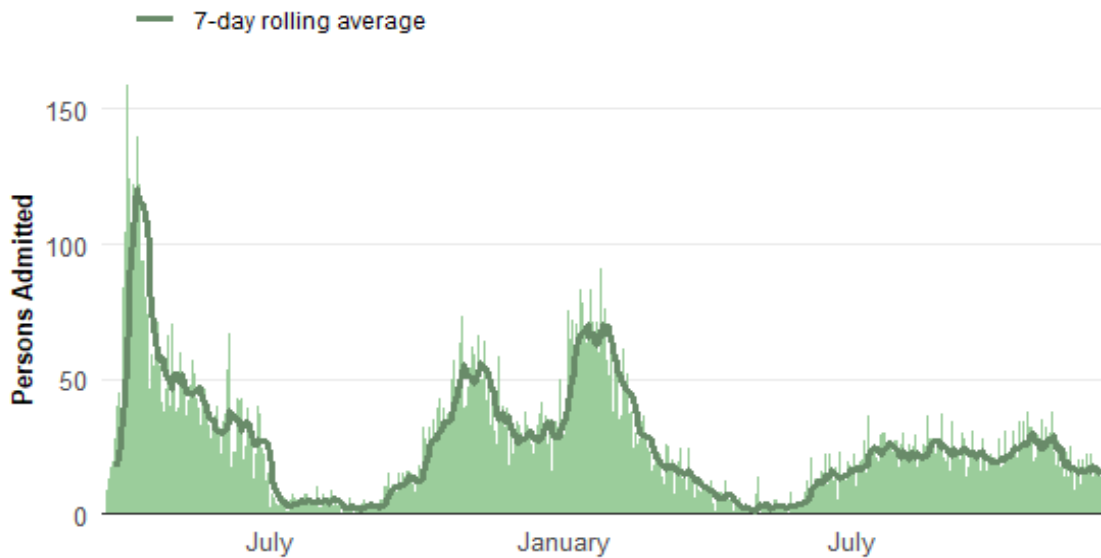
Table 1. Seven-day case rate for residents aged 60+ by locality

Trafford, 25 November to 8 December 2021

	Previous Week	Current Week	Percentage Change
South	118.7	118.7	0.0
North	118.1	118.1	0.0
Central	176.5	84.4	-52.2%
West	103.1	66.3	-35.7%

1.4 There has been little change in the number of hospital admissions associated with COVID-19 over the past week. We are also seeing a similar trend in reducing hospital admissions for the North West region.

Figure 1. Daily Count of COVID-19 Hospital Admissions (including *Manchester University Foundation Trust, Stockport Foundation Trust, and Warrington & Halton Teaching Hospitals Foundation Trust*).
19 March 2020 to 5 December 2021

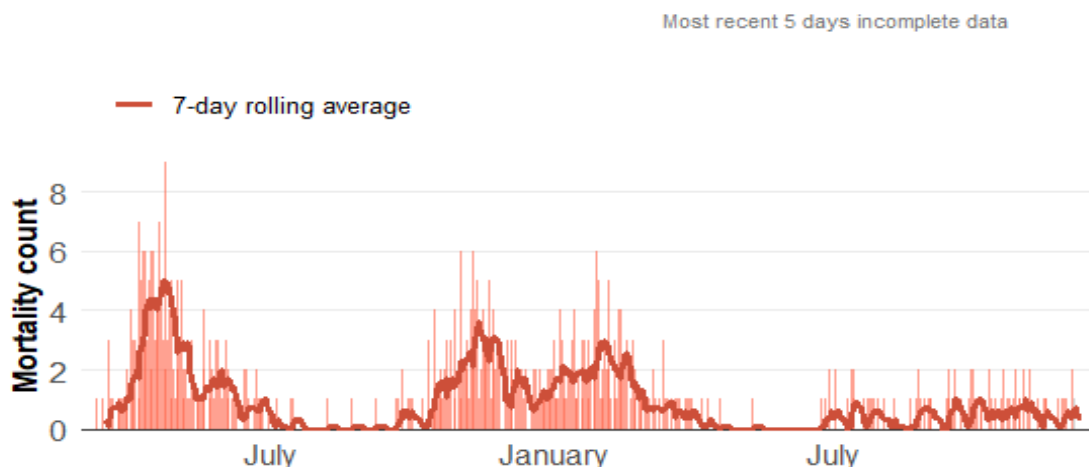


Source: PHE Coronavirus Dashboard

1.5 We have seen little change in the number of deaths linked to COVID-19 over the past 4 months.

1.6 There were **6** deaths for Trafford residents testing positive from COVID-19 in the 14 days up to Saturday 11 December. There were **4** deaths for Trafford residents in the 14 days up to Saturday 27 November.

Figure 3. Daily Count of COVID-19 deaths within 28 days of positive test result
11 March 2020 to 11 December 2021



2.0 Trend of COVID-19 cases within Trafford

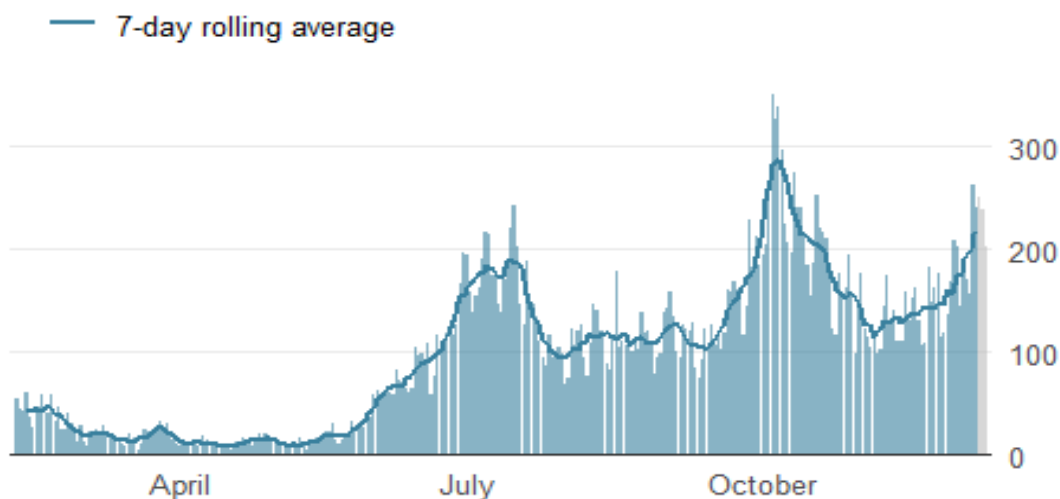
2.1 Daily positive cases spiked in early October, exceeding 300 daily cases and leading to a 7-day case rate greater than **800/100k**.

2.2 Our case rate peaked at a rate of **846.8/100k** for the 7 days up to October 9th, reaching highest in the country.

2.3 Case rates dropped throughout the month of October and moving into early November. We started to see a steady rise in our case rate throughout November, whilst the most recent week has seen a sharper increase in the number of positive cases.

Figure 3. Epidemic curve of daily confirmed new cases

Trafford, 9 February 2020 to 10 December 2021



3.0 Age profiles

3.1 When compared to the previous week, case rates have increased for all age groups below 60 years.

3.2 We are seeing less variation in rates by age groups when compared to the period of increased transmission in September 2021.

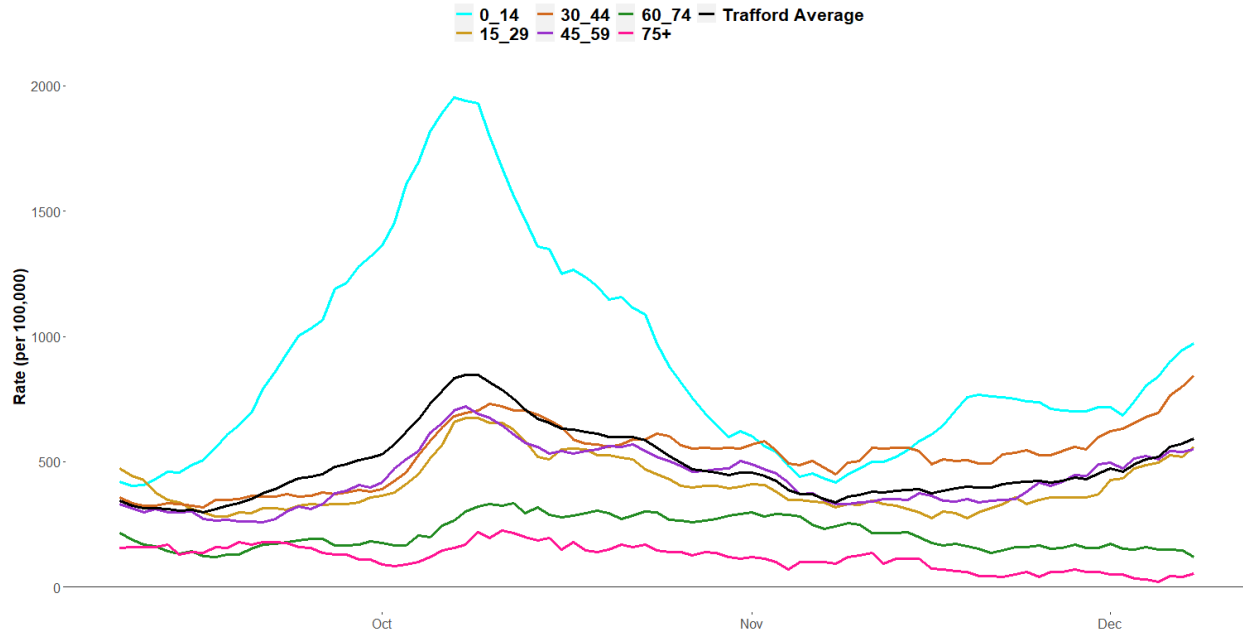
3.3 Case rates remain highest for 0-14 year olds (at **971.9/100k** from **719.4/100k** in the previous week), followed by 30-44 year olds (at **842.7/100k** from **623.3/100k** in the previous week).

3.4 Case rates remain low for residents aged 60+ (at **98.2/100k** from **129.7/100k** in the previous week).

3.5 Case rates have increased most for 30-44 year olds (**35.2%**) when compared to the previous week.

Figure 4. Age-specific case rates per 100,000 population Trafford, 7-day moving average)

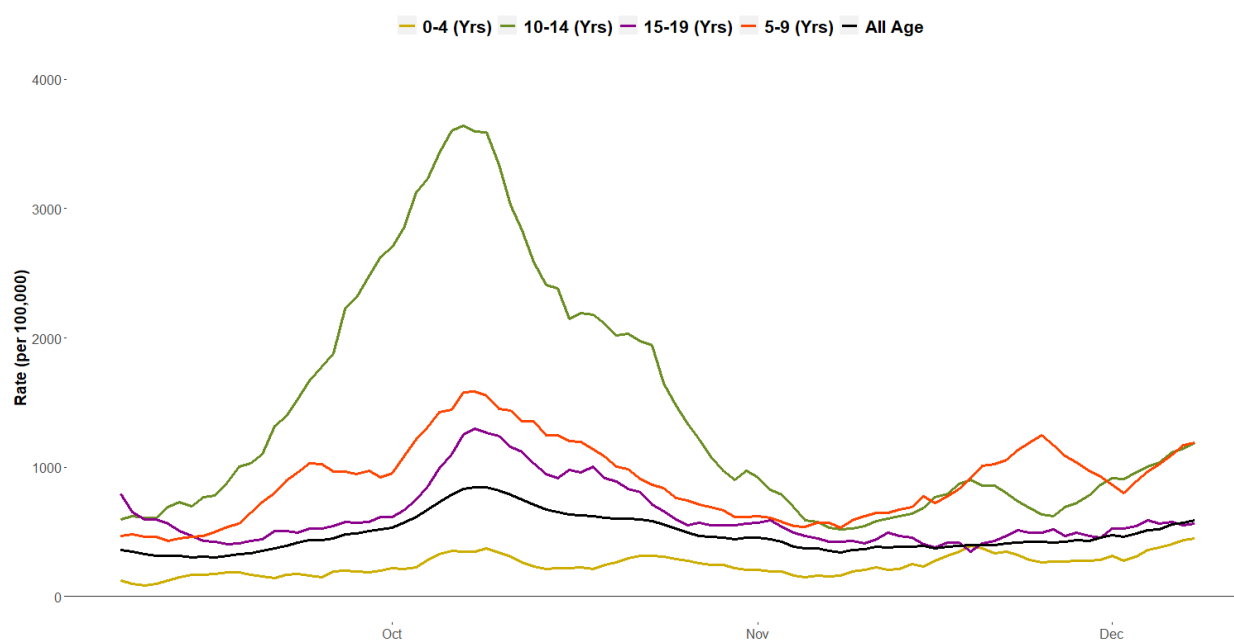
Trafford, 9 September 2021 – 8 December 2021



3.6 Among young persons below the age of 20, case rates have increased when compared to the previous week.

3.7 Case rates for 5-9 (at **1189.8/100k**) and 10-14 year olds (**1190.3/100k**) are similar and have increased by at least **30%** when compared to the previous week.

Figure 5. School case rate per 100,000 residents (7-day moving)
 Trafford, 9 September to 8 December 2021



4.0 Geographical spread of COVID-19 in Trafford

4.1 Case rates have increased for 15 wards and dropped for 6 wards when compared to the previous week.

4.2 We are seeing case rates widespread across the borough, highest in Trafford South but lowest in Trafford North.

4.3 Case rates are highest for the wards of Timperley (**1094/100k**), Altrincham (**813.4/100k**), Brooklands (**750.1/100k**), St Mary's (**744.4/100k**), and Village (**729.2/100k**).

4.4 Case rates have increased most for Gorse Hill (**102.7%**) and Timperley (**76.8%**).

5.0 PCR Testing

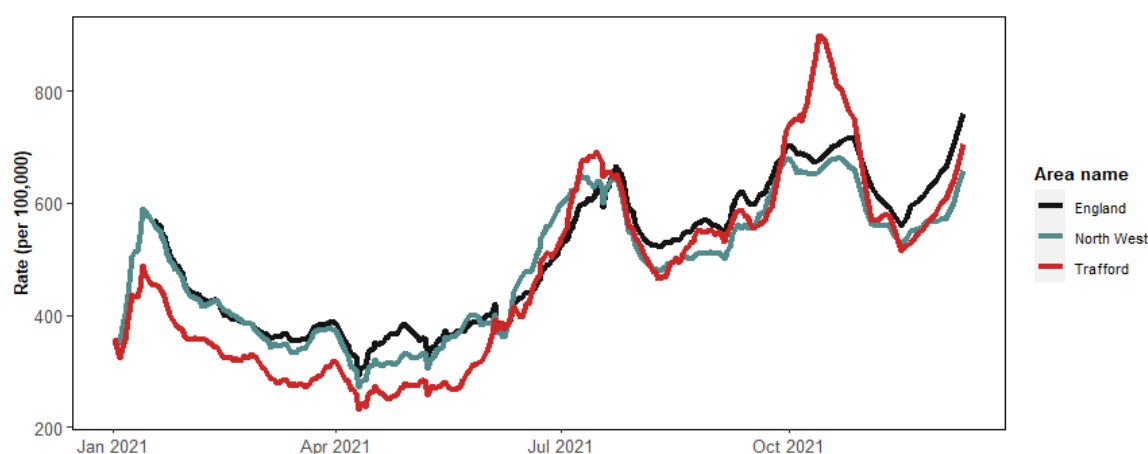
5.1 Trafford's testing rate peaked on October 10th, carrying out 900 daily tests per 100,000 residents, well above the England and North West averages.

5.2 There was a sharp reduction in Testing throughout November, however testing rates have since increased over the most recent two weeks.

5.3 We are also seeing national increases in PCR testing.

5.4 As of December 6, Trafford's daily testing rate sits at 706.1/100k which is an increase from the previous week (606.2/100k). Trafford's testing rate is above the North West average but below the England average.

Figure 6. Daily testing rate (7-day average): England, North West, & Trafford
Trafford, 1 January to 6 December 2021

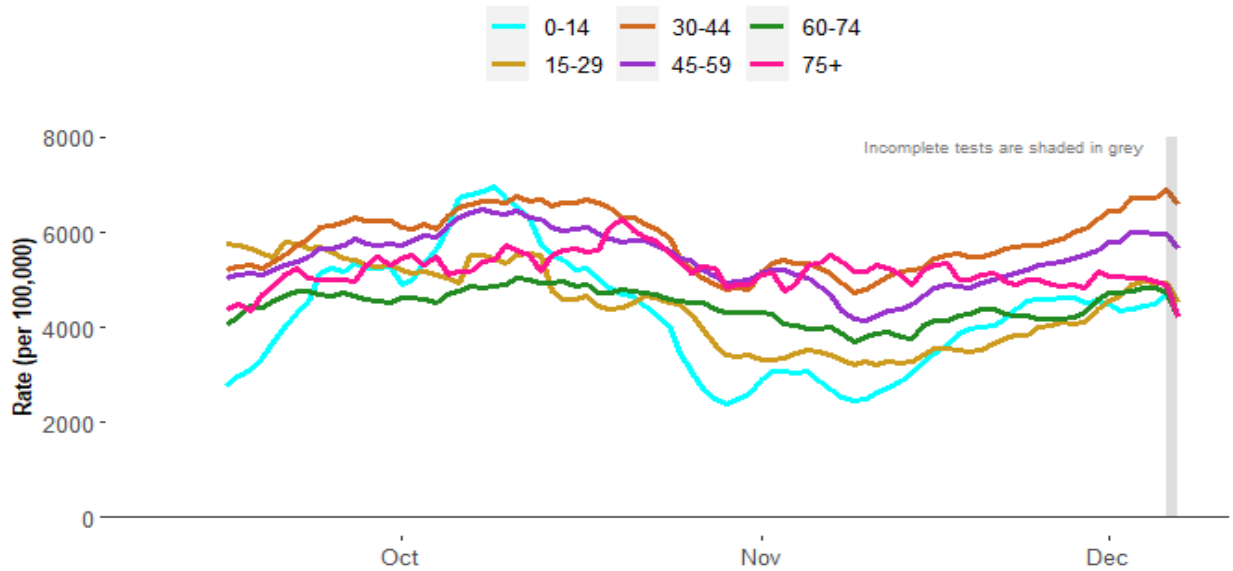


5.5 When compared to the previous week, testing rates have increased for residents aged 15-74.

5.6 We were starting to see a rise in testing for 0-14 year olds, however those testing rates have stabilised over the past week.

5.7 Testing rates are now highest for 30-44 year olds, followed by residents aged 45-59.

Figure 7. Age-Specific Testing rate per 100,000 residents (7-day moving)
 Trafford, 16 September to 7 December 2021



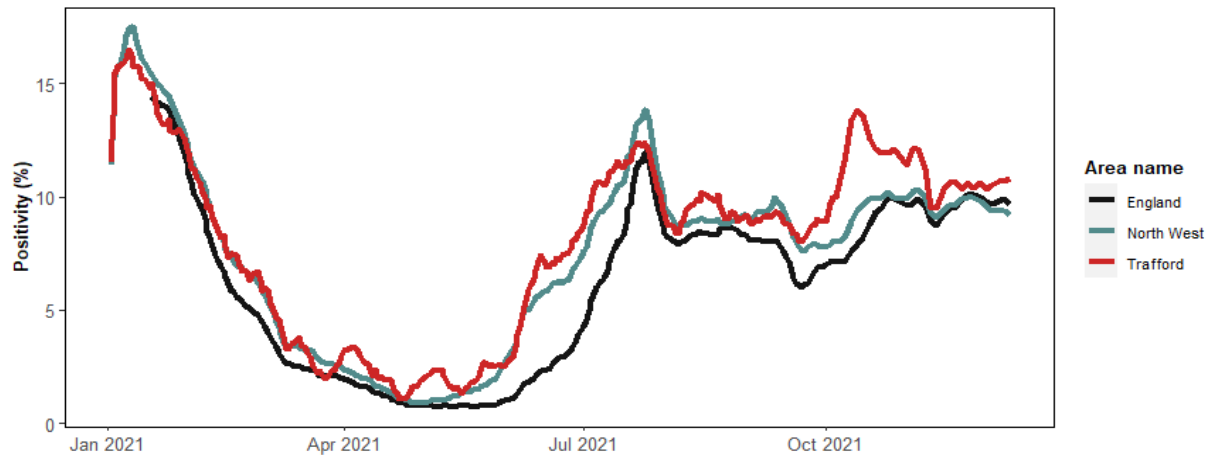
6.0 Positivity

6.1 Following a 3-week period (at the end of October) where we were seeing reductions in our positivity rate, we have started to see a slight increase in positivity, remaining above the North West and England averages.

6.2 Trafford has the 6th highest positivity rate across the 10 GM boroughs.

6.3 As of December 6, Trafford's 7-day positivity rate sits at **10.8%** which is a slight increase from the previous week (**10.5%**). Trafford's positivity rate is above the North West and England averages.

Figure 8. 7-day Positivity rate: England, North West, & Trafford
Trafford, 1 January to 6 December 2021



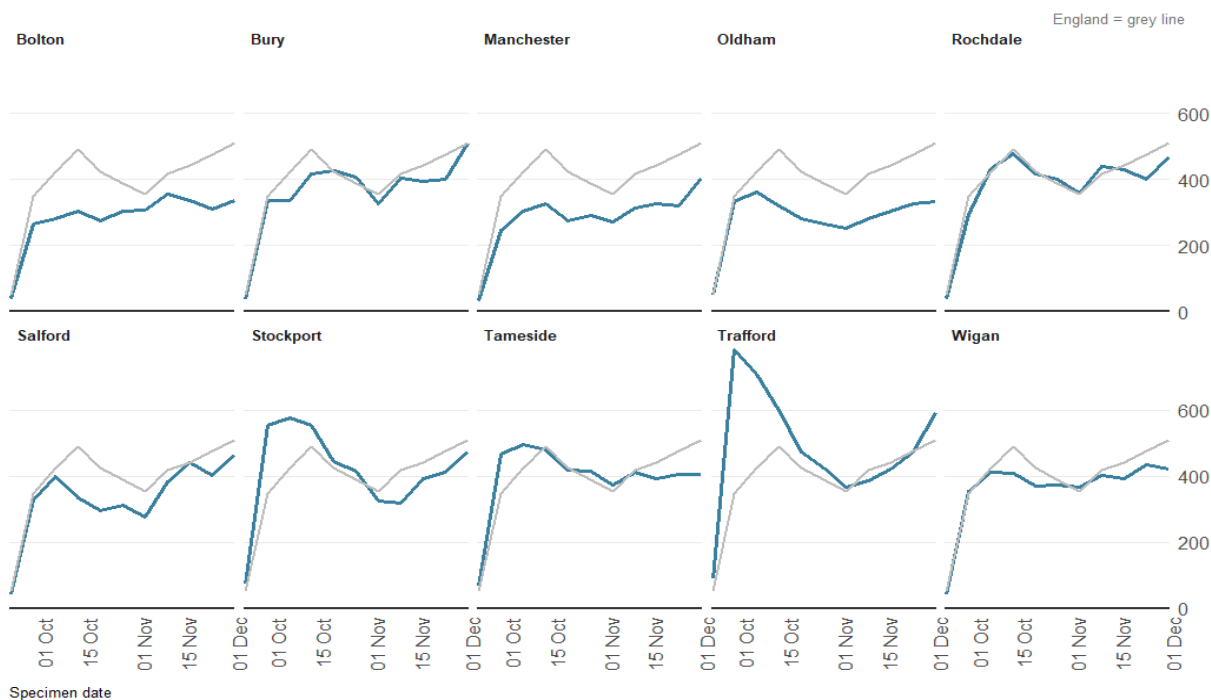
7.0 Comparative data of COVID-19 cases within the local authorities of Greater Manchester

7.1 Trafford saw the sharpest rise in its case rate throughout September and October, followed by Stockport.

7.2 Most recent data shows that most boroughs are starting to see an increase in their case rate.

7.3 Trafford has the highest case rate across the GM boroughs.

Figure 9. Weekly incidence per 100,000 population by local authority
Greater Manchester, 2 October to 8 December 2021



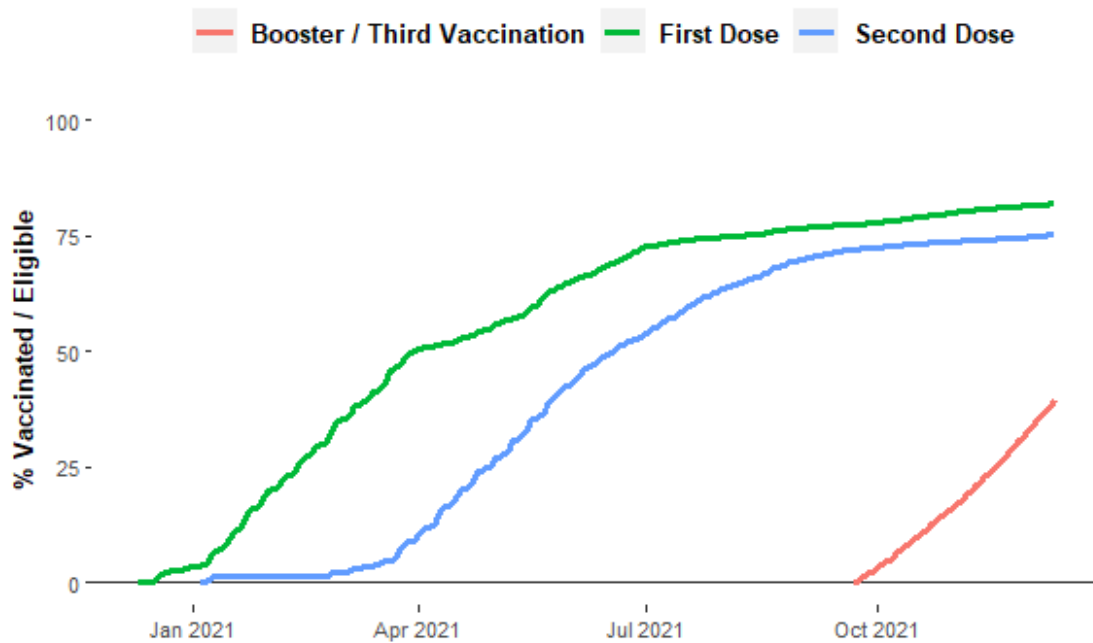
8.0 Vaccinations

8.1 The total percentage of Trafford residents (Aged 12+) administered their first vaccine dose on **Saturday 11-12-2021** was **81.9%**.

8.2 The total percentage of Trafford residents (Aged 12+) administered both vaccine doses on **Saturday 11-12-2021** was **75.4%**.

8.3 The total percentage of Trafford residents (eligible only) administered a third dose/booster vaccine on **Saturday 11-12-2021** was **39.8%**.

Figure 10. Running total of First, Second, and Third/Booster dose vaccines for Trafford, 09 December to 12 December 2021



Source: COVID-19 Situational Awareness Explorer

8.4 Vaccine uptake is lowest in Trafford North and highest for Trafford South.

8.5 We are seeing variation in vaccine uptake (first dose) across the borough, ranging from 65.5% (Clifford ward) to 89.7% (Timperley ward).

Figure 11. First dose vaccine uptake (%) for all eligible residents (12+) by Ward Trafford, up to 12 December 2021

