

Public Engagement Board

COVID-19 Programme Team

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26 January 2022

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 **2062** confirmed cases during the week ending Wednesday 19 January 2022, with the highest number of cases (**398**) reported on **Monday 17 January**.
- Our 7 day case rate has decreased to **867.9/100k** from **1133.5/100k** in the previous week. We don't expect to see any further reductions in the coming days.
- Trafford's case rate is below the North West (**911/100k**) and England average (**985/100k**). Trafford has the 5th highest case rate across the 10 GM boroughs.
- Trafford's testing (at **509.4/100k** from **912/100k**) and positivity (at **22.9%** from **35.4%**) rates have dropped from the previous week. Please note that testing and positivity data is for the 7 days up to January 15th due to a lag in testing.

Age Profiles

- Case rates for residents above the age of 9 have decreased compared to the previous week.
- Most recent data also suggests an increase in daily cases for residents aged 30-44 years.
- Case rates are now highest for 5-9 year olds (at **2107.7/100k**), increasing by **28%** from the previous week.
- Case rates have reduced further for residents aged 60+ (at **416.9/100k** from **648.5/100k** over the most recent week).

Geography

- Cases remain widespread across the borough, however rates have dropped for most wards (19/21) when compared to the previous week.
- Case rates are highest for the wards of Broadheath (**1303.5/100k**), Bucklow-St Martins (**1278.8/100k**), Village (**1075.6/100k**), Ashton upon Mersey (**1057.2/100k**), and Brooklands (**1050.2/100k**).
- Case rates have decreased most for the wards of Bowdon (**-53.1%**), Flixton (**-40.7%**), and Longford (**-40%**) when compared to the previous week.

Hospital Activity

- Although still at a high level, we have started to see a reduction in local hospital admission linked to COVID-19 (7 days up to January 16th). This is also a regional and national trend.
- There were **441** COVID-19 admissions during the week ending Sunday 16 January 2022 compared with **551** 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

COVID-19 prevalence remains high, however the incidence of infections have been dropping over the past two weeks. As of the 7 days up to January 19th, Trafford's case rate is at **867.9/100k**. We are starting to see slight increases in the number of cases among primary school residents and 30-44 year olds, and do not expect much change in our case rate over the coming days. We have been seeing sharp reductions in the number of residents taking PCR tests (as well as a national trend); this may be a result of the recent policy changes for LFD testing and isolation. We will continue to keep an eye on testing trends, as this may start to effect the accuracy of our understanding of COVID-19 data.

Nationally, the North West region saw the highest case rates throughout the December/January surge in Omicron cases. Rates across the region have been dropping and are now below the England average. Trafford currently has the 5th highest case rate across the 10 GM boroughs, highest for the borough of Tameside (**1030.7/100k**). During the recent reduction in Trafford cases, infections have dropped most for residents above the age of 14. We have started to see a slight increase in cases among residents aged 5-9, and may expect to see further increases in the coming days. Case rates among our 60+ population have dropped (at **416.9/100k** from **648.5/100k** in the previous week), although they have not dropped back down to the same levels of infection that we were seeing prior to the surge in Omicron cases.

COVID-19 vaccinations continue to provide the most effective protection against COVID-19 infection and the link with hospital admissions/COVID-19 mortality. We have

now started to see a reduction in local hospital admissions (see figure 1 below), following a 3-week period from mid-December where there was a sharp rise in admissions linked to COVID-19. This is also a regional and national trend. Despite the substantial increase in hospital admissions over the past month, we have not seen an increase in the number of COVID-19 admitted residents occupying mechanical ventilation beds. This could be a positive indication of protective vaccine effects.

The Omicron variant is highly transmissible, and is now the dominant variant - although the delta variant is still prevalent in the population. We have also started to see an increase in the number of re-infections since the emergence of the Omicron variant. This indicates that people are still at risk of COVID, even if they have had the infection previously.

The Prime Minister announced the lifting on plan B restrictions on the 19th January. The local COVID-19 response team continues to focus on preventative measures, communicating COVID secure behaviors, and advising caution in high risk settings.

Outbreak Management and Risk Reduction

Business settings

- Face coverings will not be required in business settings from 27th January.
- 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 continue to promote the importance of COVID-19 vaccinations for all eligible populations.
- 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 homes should continue to PCR test residents and staff every 28 days, and staff should also do twice weekly LFD testing.
- If there are two or more linked cases in a care home setting, this should trigger whole home 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.
- The requirement for face coverings has been removed, however they may still be recommended in an outbreak situation.
- We would like to encourage people to register negative LFD test results on the national testing portal.
- Close contacts should do daily LFD testing for 7 days.

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1.0 Vulnerable Population groups

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

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

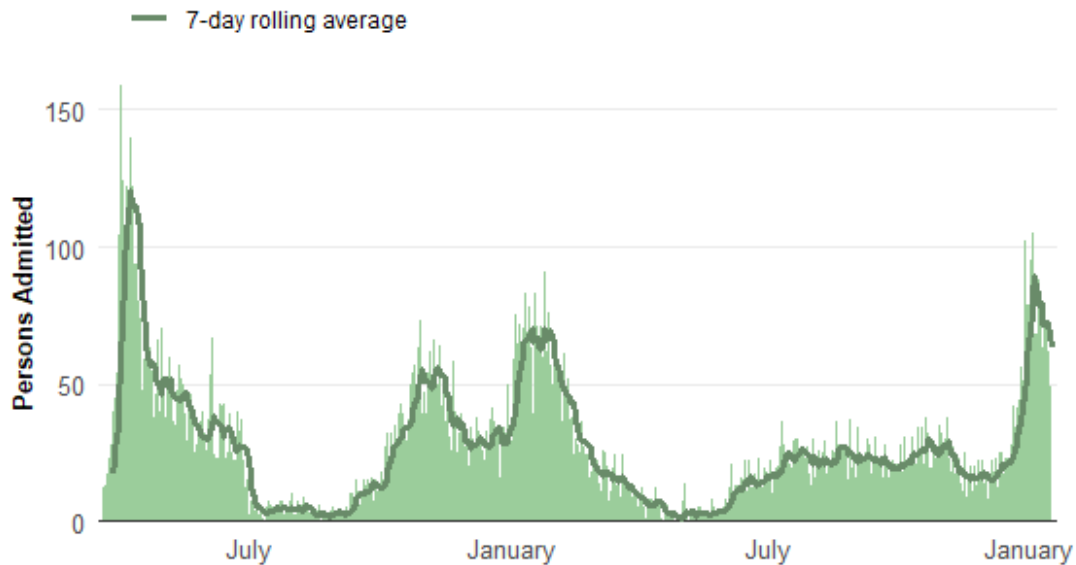
Table 1. Seven-day case rate for residents aged 60+ by locality

Trafford, 6 January to 19 January 2022

	Previous Week	Current Week	Percentage Change
North	555	472.4	-14.9%
West	743.7	427.1	-42.6%
South	608.9	407.7	-33.1%
Central	644.6	368.4	- 42.9%

1.3 We have now started to see a reduction in local hospital admissions, following a 3-week period from mid-December where there was a sharp rise in admissions linked to COVID-19. This is also a regional and national trend.

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 16 January 2022

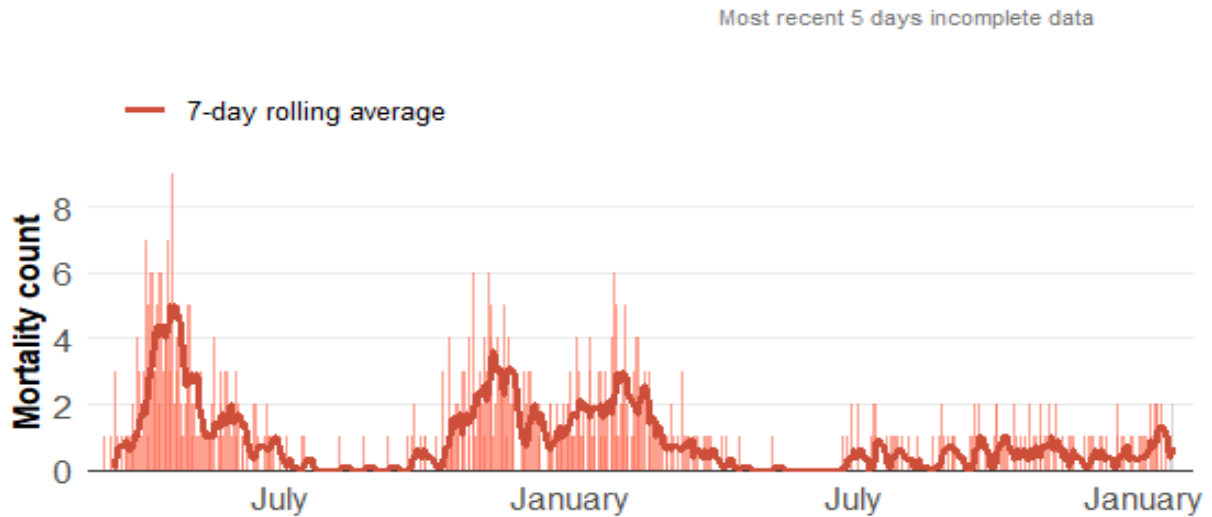


Source: PHE Coronavirus Dashboard

1.4 The past week showed a slight increase in the number of deaths linked to COVID-19, however most recent data suggests the trend has dropped down to the levels of the previous 5 months.

1.5 There were **12** deaths for Trafford residents testing positive from COVID-19 in the 14 days up to Saturday 22 January 2022. There were **8** deaths for Trafford residents in the 14 days up to Saturday 8 January 2022.

Figure 3. Daily Count of COVID-19 deaths within 28 days of positive test result
11 March 2020 to 22 January 2022



2.0 Trend of COVID-19 cases within Trafford

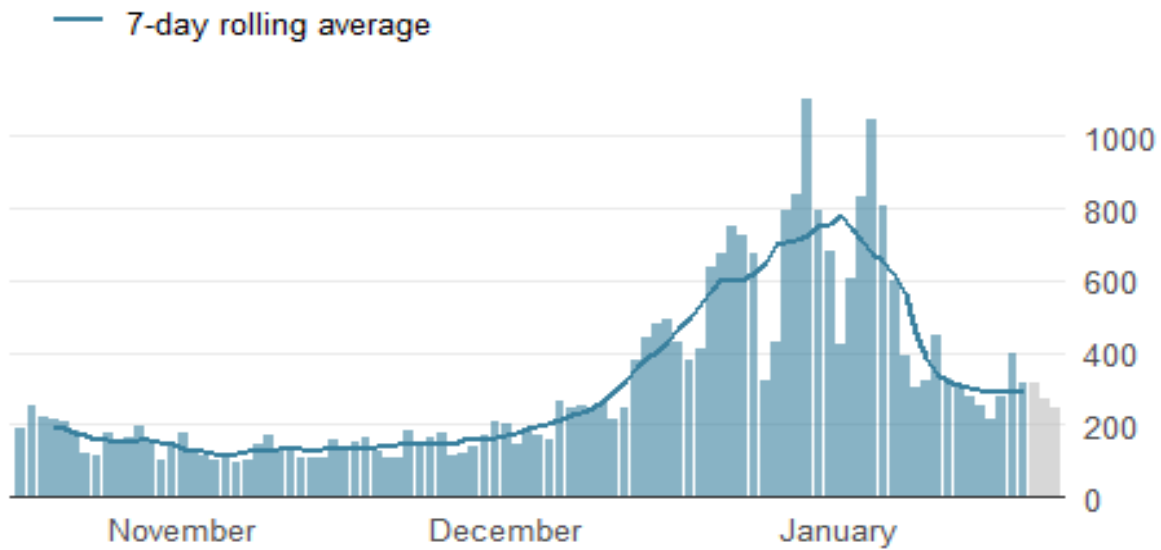
2.1 The proportion of cases attributed to the Omicron variant saw a substantial increase throughout December, leading to an exponential rise in daily cases, recording over **1,000** cases on December 29th and January 4th.

2.2 Total daily cases have been dropping since January 5th, and we are now starting to see cases level-off between 300-400 daily cases.

2.3 We don't expect to see much change in Trafford's case rate over the coming days.

Figure 3. Epidemic curve of daily confirmed new cases

Trafford, 17 October 2021 to 21 January 2022



3.0 Age profiles

3.1 Case rates have decreased for all residents above the age of 14 when compared to the previous week.

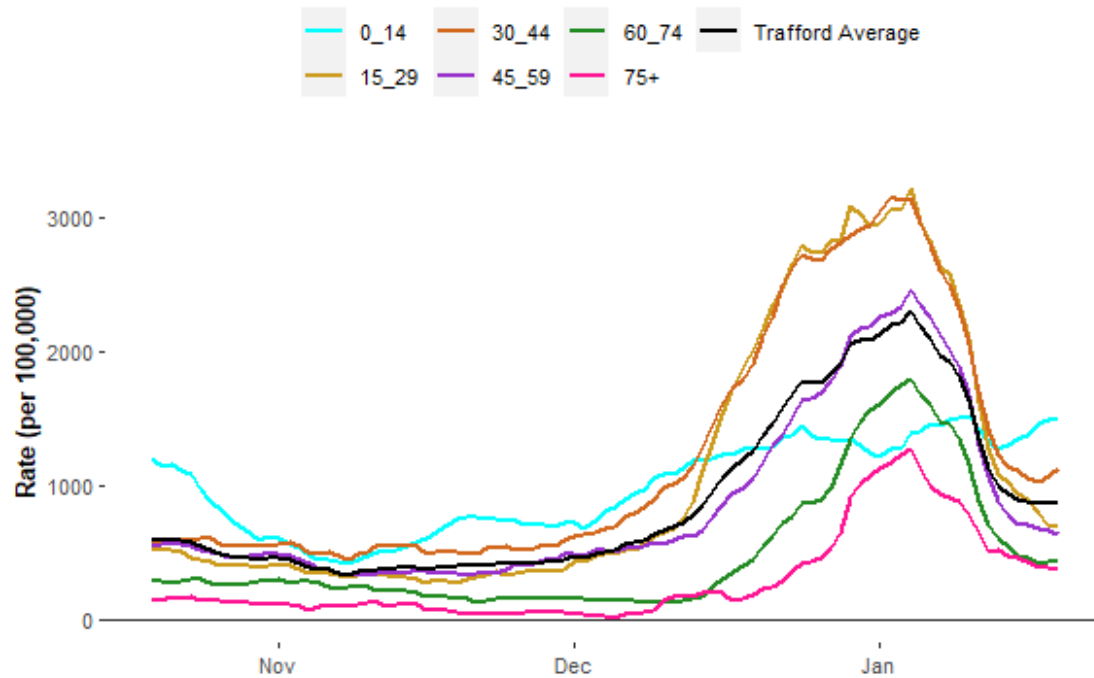
3.2 Recent days shows a small increase in the number of daily cases among residents aged 30-44.

3.3 Case rates are now highest for 0-14 year olds (at **1499.9/100k** from **1337.9/100k**).

3.4 Case rates have reduced further for residents aged 60+ (at **416.9/100k** from **648.5/100k** over the most recent week).

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

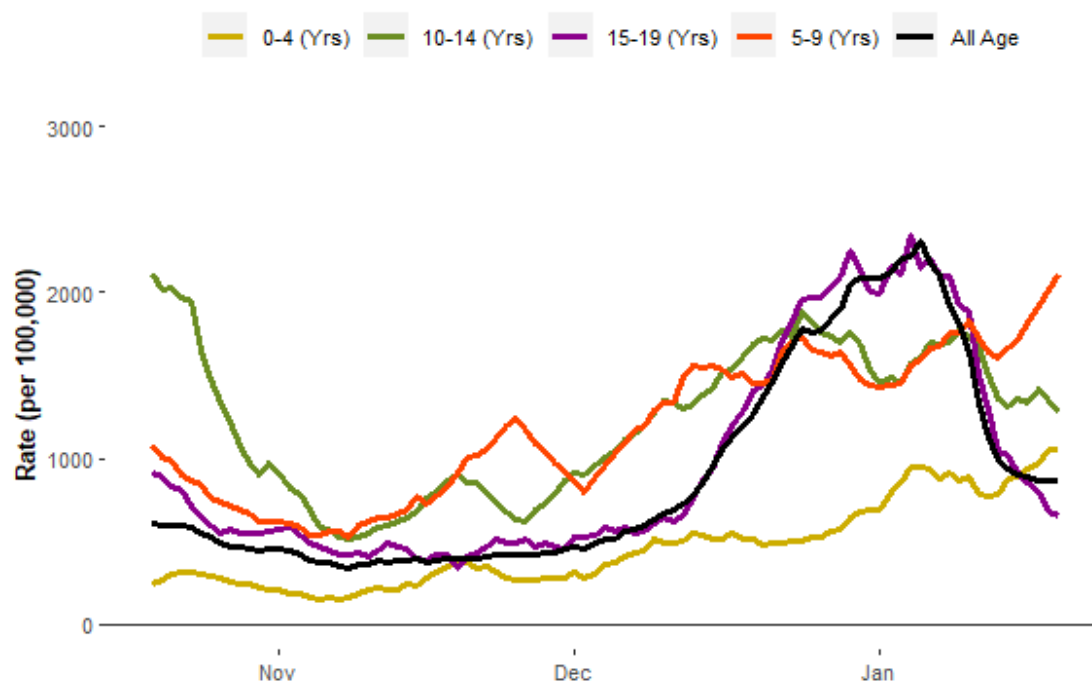
Trafford, 21 October 2021 – 19 January 2022



3.5 Case rates have continued to drop sharply for 15-19 year olds, whilst rates have increased among 5-9 year olds.

3.6 Case rates are now highest for 5-9 year olds (at **660.3/100k** from **1291.3/100k** in the previous week).

Figure 5. School case rate per 100,000 residents (7-day moving)
Trafford, 21 October 2021 to 19 January 2022



4.0 Geographical spread of COVID-19 in Trafford

4.1 Cases remain widespread across the borough, however rates have dropped for most wards (19/21) when compared to the previous week.

4.2 Case rates are highest for the wards of Broadheath (**1303.5/100k**), Bucklow-St Martins (**1278.8/100k**), Village (**1075.6/100k**), Ashton upon Mersey (**1057.2/100k**), and Brooklands (**1050.2/100k**).

4.3 Case rates have decreased most for the wards of Bowdon (**-53.1%**), Flixton (**-40.7%**), and Longford (**-40%**) when compared to the previous week.

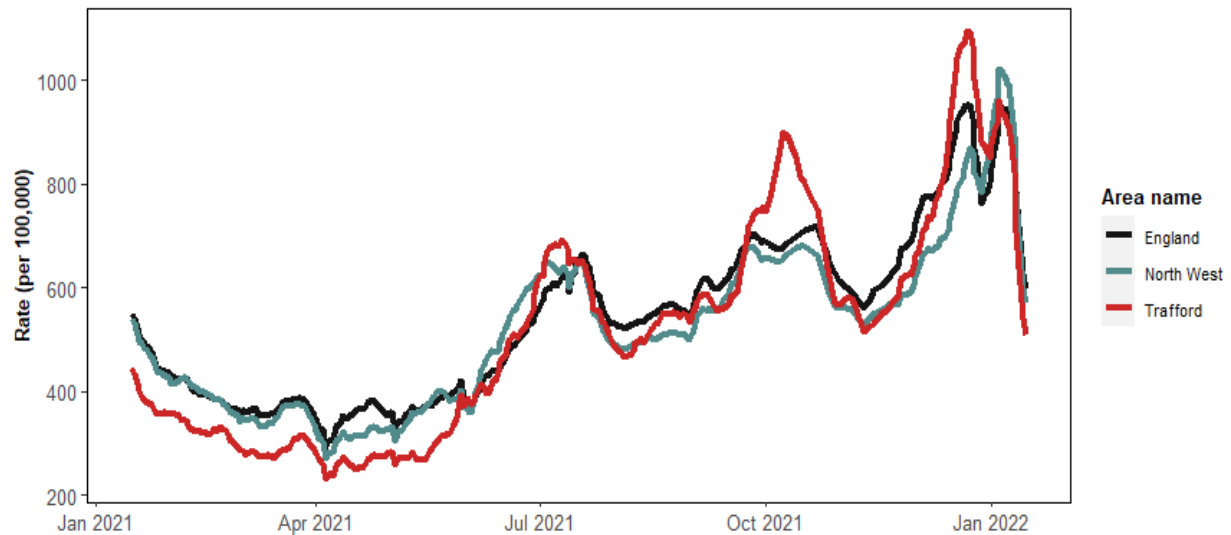
5.0 PCR Testing

5.1 Trafford reached its highest ever daily testing rate (**1095/100k**) on December 22nd, exceeding the England and North West averages for that time period.

5.2 Following a drop in testing in late December, we saw a slight increase at the start of January, however testing rates are now at their lowest since November 2021.

5.3 Trafford has a lower testing rate than the North West and England average, and the 5th highest across the GM boroughs.

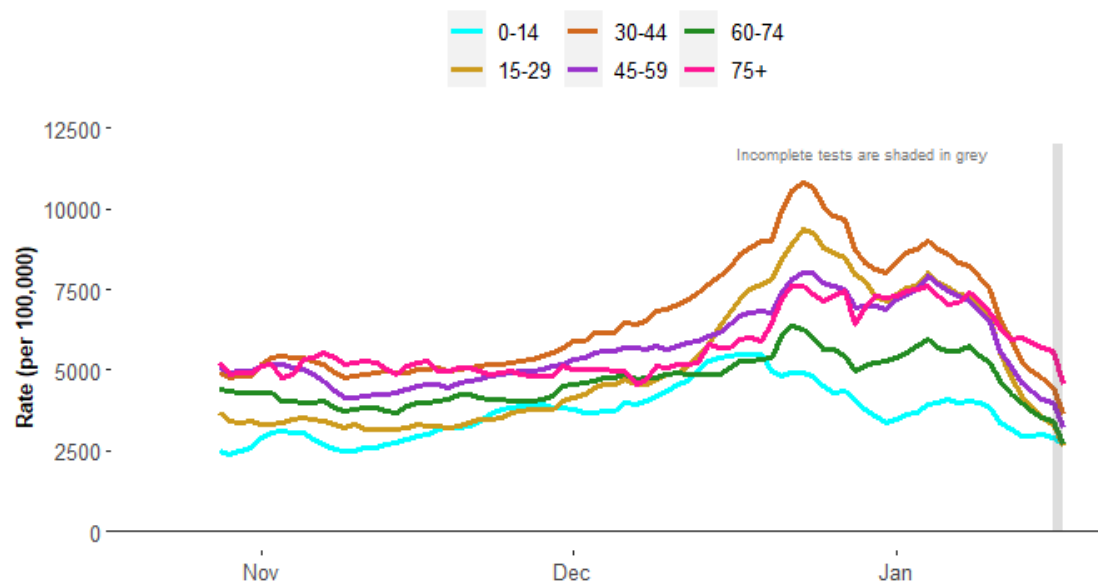
Figure 6. Daily testing rate (7-day average): England, North West, & Trafford
Trafford, 15 January 2021 to 15 January 2022



5.4 We have seen further reductions in PCR testing among all age groups - although residents aged 15-74 are currently seeing a sharper reduction in the rate of testing.

5.5 PCR testing is now highest for residents above the age of 74 (**4567.2/100k**), but is lowest for 0-14 year olds (**2679.1/100k**).

Figure 7. Age-Specific Testing rate per 100,000 residents (7-day moving)
Trafford, 28 October 2021 to 17 January 2022



6.0 Positivity

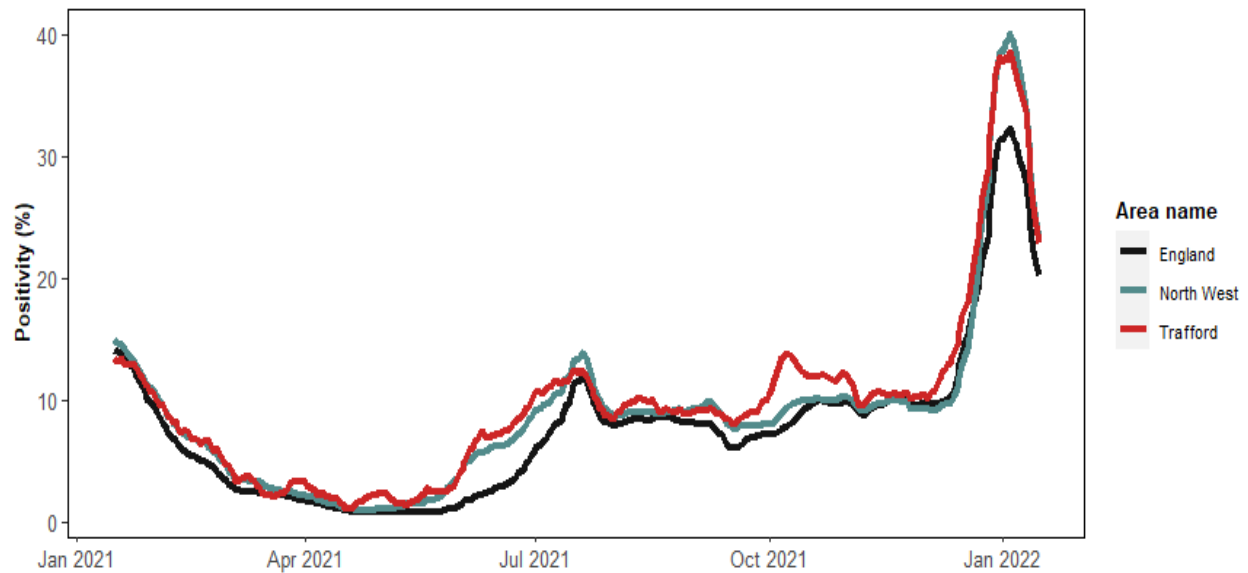
6.1 National positivity rates experienced an exponential rise in mid-December.

6.2 Trafford's positivity rate has closely resembled the North West average over the past 4 weeks, and remains above the England average.

6.3 Trafford currently has the 2nd lowest positivity rate across the 10 GM boroughs, at **22.9%**.

Figure 8. 7-day Positivity rate: England, North West, & Trafford

Trafford, 15 January 2021 to 15 January 2022



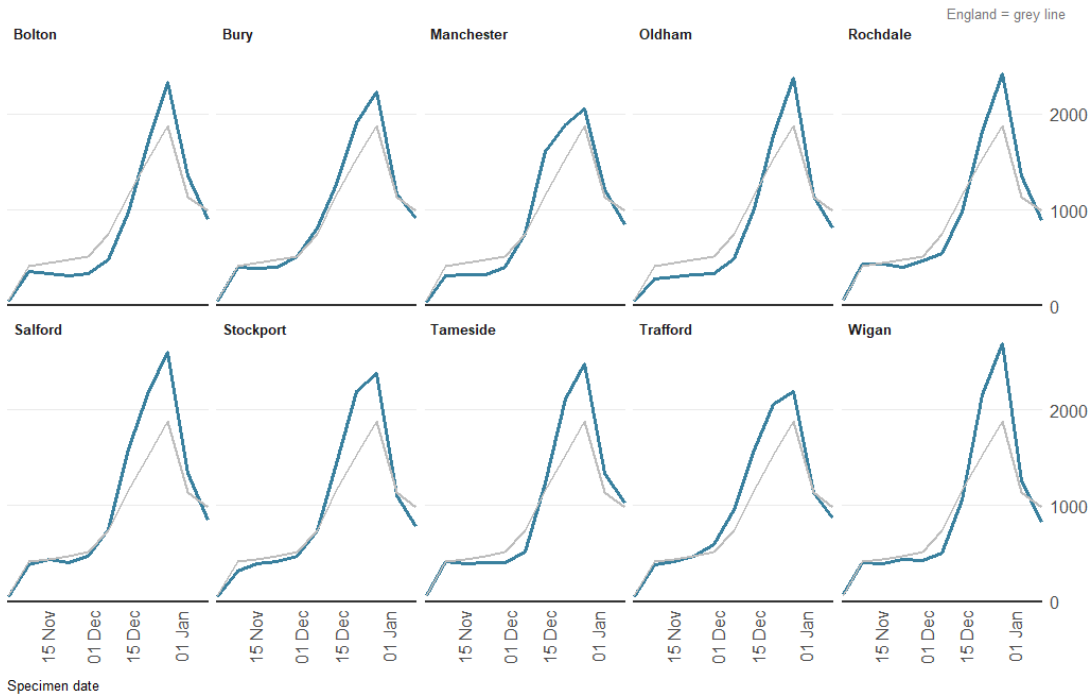
7.0 Comparative data of COVID-19 cases within the local authorities of Greater Manchester

7.1 Among the 10 GM boroughs, Trafford saw the earliest rise in its case rate during the December/January wave in Omicron cases.

7.2 The past two weeks shows a sharp drop in the case rate for each borough.

7.3 Trafford has the 5th highest case rate across the GM boroughs.

Figure 9. Weekly incidence per 100,000 population by local authority
Greater Manchester, 13 November 2021 to 19 January 2022



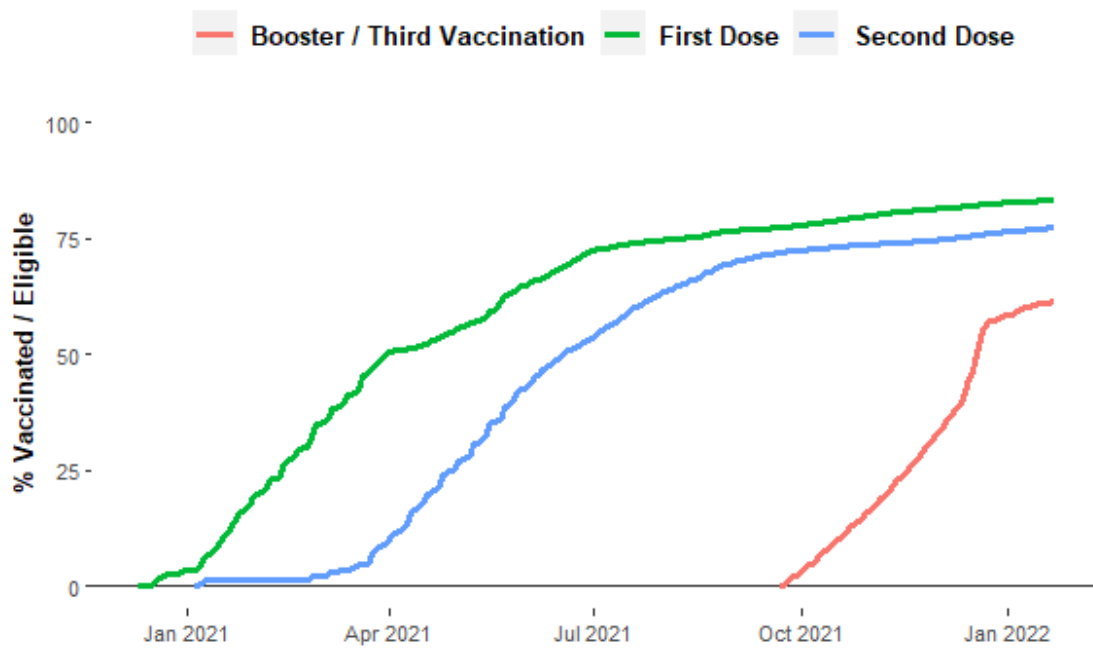
8.0 Vaccinations

8.1 The total percentage of Trafford residents (Aged 12+) administered their first vaccine dose on **Saturday 22-01-2022** was **83.3%**.

8.2 The total percentage of Trafford residents (Aged 12+) administered both vaccine doses on **Saturday 22-01-2022** was **77.5%**.

8.3 The total percentage of Trafford residents (All eligible) administered a third dose/booster vaccine **Saturday 22-01-2022** was **61.5%**.

Figure 10. Running total of First, Second, and Third/Booster dose vaccines for Trafford, 09 December 2020 to 22 January 2022



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 **67%** (Clifford) to **90.6%** (Timperley).

Figure 11. First dose vaccine uptake (%) for all eligible residents (12+) by Ward
Trafford, up to 22nd January 2022

