

Cabinet

Second Supplemental Agenda

Date: Thursday 27 May 2021

8. Covid-19 Update (Pages 3 - 18)

Presentation to the verbal update of the Chief Executive.

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Covid-19 Update

Cabinet 27th May 2021

- Update on Covid-19 London and Harrow
- National Lockdown Exit Roadmap
- Council response to Covid-19
 - Covid-19 related activity
 - 4 ➤ service impact
 - wider agenda
- New variant action plan – surge testing and surge vaccination
- Vaccination update
- Planning for recovery
- Overview of capacity and organisational issues
- Questions

- Overall Covid-19 cases remain low and broadly stable
- Harrow is now 23.1 cases per 100k people when at the peak almost at 1000 cases per 100k people
- Lockdown restrictions were eased on 17th May with indoor hospitality resuming and greater household mixing
- The increase in variant B 1.671.2 has led to a strategy of surge vaccination and surge testing being rolled out
- The general vaccination programme is progressing well overall
- Plans are being developed for next step in Lockdown Exit on 21st June
- Significant focus on service pressures and recovery going forward

Harrow Covid-19 Dashboard



Harrow COVID 19 Dashboard

report date: 26/05/2021

Data from May 15 2021 to May 21 2021

Confirmed Positive Cases (all ages) in 7 days to 21/05/2021 **58**

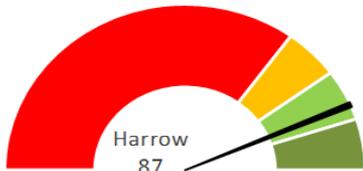
% Change in past 7 days **-12%**

Interim positive cases (all ages) in 7 days to 25/05/2021 **50**

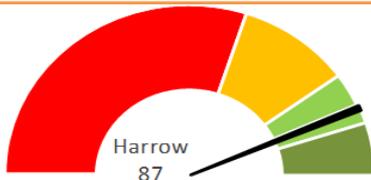
Confirmed Positive Cases (age 60+) in 7 days to 21/05/2021 **2**

% Change in past 7 days **-34%**

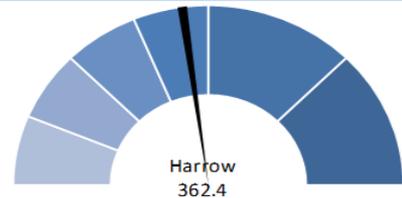
Test and Trace Cases (cumulative) % Complete



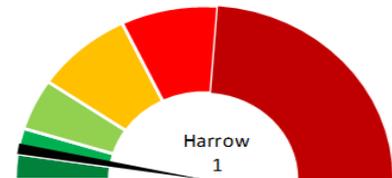
Test and Trace Contacts (cumulative) % Complete



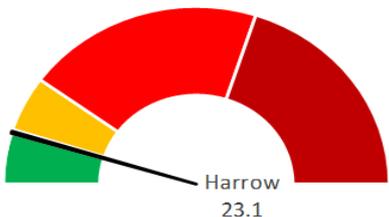
PCR Testing rate per 100,000



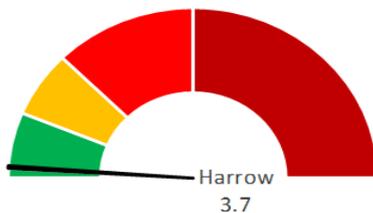
PCR Test Positivity rate



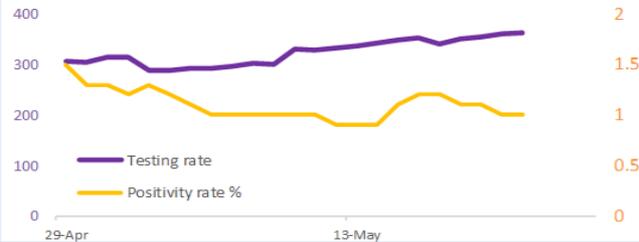
Incidence rate (all ages) in past 7 days per 100,000



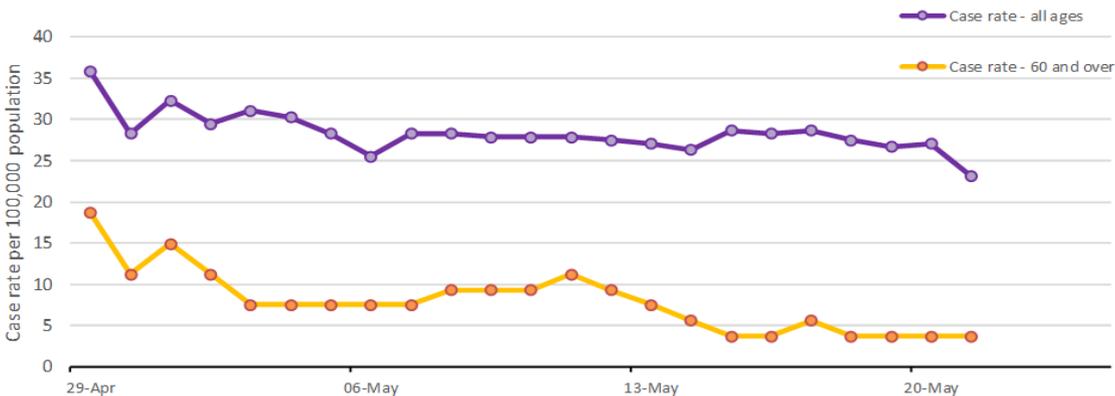
Incidence - 7 days in 60 and over per 100,000



Trends in PCR testing rates and test positivity



Rate of COVID-19 Cases per 100,000 in Harrow by notification date (note last 4-5 days are subject to change)



Rates are stable but at a higher rate than most of London.

Very few cases in children under ten and adults over 50

Most cases are in 11-19 year olds with the rates being 4 times the borough average in the 17-18 year olds and more than double the borough average in 11-16 year olds.

We are conducting surge testing in these groups.

- Significant activity took place to support the third phase of reopening particularly with the hospitality sector
- This has proved successful and there is good compliance
- The Council is involved in four key areas:
 - Advice and Enforcement
 - Testing and Track and Trace
 - Variants of Concern
 - Vaccination programme
- Major focus has been on challenge of new variant and the risk this potentially poses to unvaccinated residents
- This has involved a coordinated approach across NWL

- Strategy developed to accelerate vaccination and increase testing to help contain spread of new variant
- Vaccination 2nd doses brought forward to 8 weeks
- ∞ ● Increased capacity for 1st doses via PCN and Mass Vaccination site at Byron Hall
- Extra Pfizer vaccine for Harrow and NWL
- Potential roll out of pop-up vaccination sites across the borough in development
- Aim to provide faster 1st and 2nd doses over next six weeks

- In parallel to increasing vaccination a surge testing plan has been put in place in Harrow and other NWL Boroughs
- The aim is to identify the extent of any spread of the new variant and to stop spread by identifying cases so people can self-isolate
- This week PCR tests are being offered on site in Harrow secondary schools and colleges
- PCR test kits are also being made available to families of pupils and via general community access at various sites in Harrow
- Testing programme will be taking place this week and around 100k of tests will be available
- Self-isolation support is being enhanced to help residents isolate

- We are making changes to the Test & Trace Support Payment Scheme to encourage more people to comply with self-isolation
- Reducing the evidence requirements following a London Pilot - now extended to all boroughs
- 10 ● Increasing the thresholds for the discretionary scheme - £30k income, £16k capital and partner's income removed
- Piloting a local scheme for 6 weeks with greater flexibility to align with the current surge testing
 - Expand eligibility to non-working parents - subject to thresholds above
 - Expand eligibility to people with no recourse to public funds
 - Award £300 grant payment to 16-18 years olds who have to self-isolate
 - Award £25 book token to children under 16 who have to self-isolate

- Community Testing extension - April – June
- Plan 18,200 tests via 4 sites - St Ann's, Civic, HAC and Depot - and 15 community pharmacies with sufficient capacity for surge testing
- 11 ● Collection of home testing kits available from Civic and HAC.
- Conducted 3 Surge testing programmes to date with a total of 9,735 tests completed - total additional cost £311k
- Further surge testing for new variant to take place
- Focussed on staff, students and their families in secondary schools and FE colleges in the borough - estimated cost £505k

- Vaccination was delivered very effectively in Harrow by the PCN sites at The Hive, Byron Hall and Tithe Farm for priority cohorts 1-9
- Mass Vaccination Site has now gone live at Byron Hall
- Current phase of vaccination includes residents over 30 years old
- Ongoing focus to also drive up numbers in highest risk cohorts 1-9 and deliver 2nd doses at pace
- Challenges continue to maximise uptake for social care staff, certain BAME Communities and our most deprived residents
- Priority to target those groups and communities who are more hesitant to be vaccinated – focus of Community Champions Fund

Vaccination Uptake in Harrow

- c89% of over 80's have been vaccinated
- c91% of 75-79's have been vaccinated
- c90% of 70-74's have been vaccinated
- c87% of CEV have been vaccinated
- c87% of 65-69 have been vaccinated
- 13 ● c83% of 60-64 have been vaccinated
- c78% of 55-59 have been vaccinated
- c73% of 50-55 have been vaccinated
- c63% of 45-49 have been vaccinated
- c56% of 40-44 have been vaccinated
- c37% of 35-39 have been vaccinated
- c91% of care home residents have been vaccinated
- c71% of care home staff have been vaccinated
- c72% of social care staff have been vaccinated

- The whole of 2021 is likely to be dominated by Covid -19 response
- Gradual move from an emergency response to mix of an emergency response and recovery and then recovery
- The timing and detail is reliant on vaccination roll-out, impact of any new variants and the pace of the lifting of restrictions
- NHS and social care will be focussed on treatment catch up
- Economic challenge for business and residents will increase as furlough and other grant support schemes end
- Major focus on catch up for children re missed education
- Longer-term impact of “hidden harm” and mental health very likely
- Capacity and resilience will remain stretched impacting on priorities

- Pandemic response has now been running for 15 months and is relentless
- This has involved delivering services, responding to covid-19 and dealing with lockdown – this continues to be a huge challenge
- Pressures are building in many services such as adult social care, children's services and environment
- Anticipation that there is significant pent up demand in many services e.g. housing and social care
- There is a potential economic shock to come when furlough and other measures end impacting residents and businesses
- Increasingly with 21st June approaching less public awareness of how covid-19 response continues to dominate work of the Council
- Civic hub offering limited access to collaborative space for staff from July
- Staff will also need a to take their accumulated leave over the summer

- Covid-19 case rates are now at much lower levels overall
- The Lockdown Exit Roadmap continues to progress successfully
- There is significant concern about the potential impact of new variant
- This has led to a plan across Harrow and NWL for an acceleration of the vaccination programme and surge testing
- Planning for recovery and ensuring capacity and resilience is in place is a key focus
- Covid-19 will continue to dominate Council's work and priorities for many months challenging organisational and staff resilience

Cabinet is requested to agree the following:

- Authorise the payment of £975k being the estimated cost of extending Harrow's Community Testing Programme until the end of June 2021, which includes premises, staffing, contractors, consumables, waste and communications.
- To note the additional costs for surge testing of £311k
- Authorise the payment of £505k being the estimated cost for the new variant surge testing
- To note that the actual costs of both the community testing programme and all surge testing are reimbursed by Government on a monthly basis.

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