

# COVID-19 Update and Winter Surge Plans

Report prepared (16/11/2020)

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# Harrow COVID 19 Dashboard

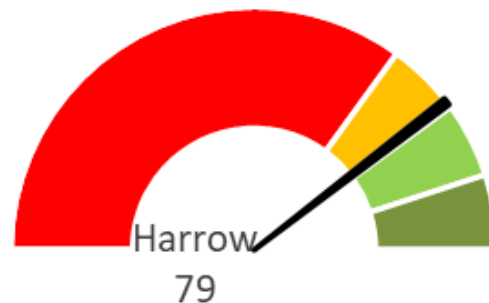
report date: 16/11/2020

Data from 5/11/20 to 11/11/20

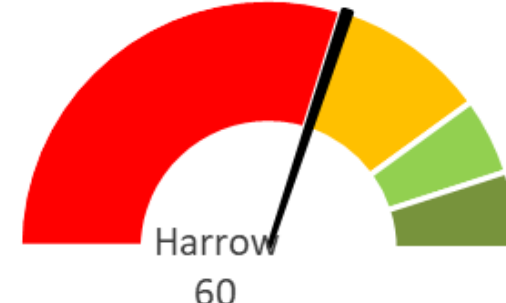
Positive Cases in 7 days to 11/11/2020

459

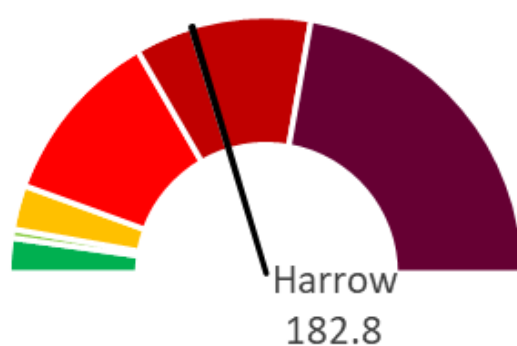
Test and Trace  
Cases  
(cumulative)  
% Complete



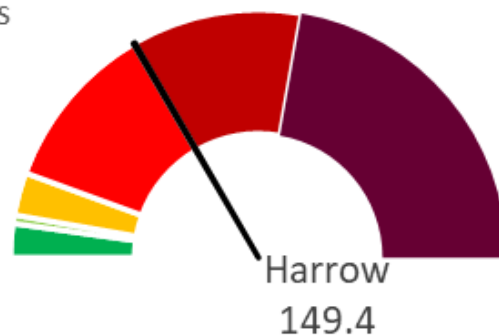
Test and Trace  
Contacts  
(cumulative)  
% Complete



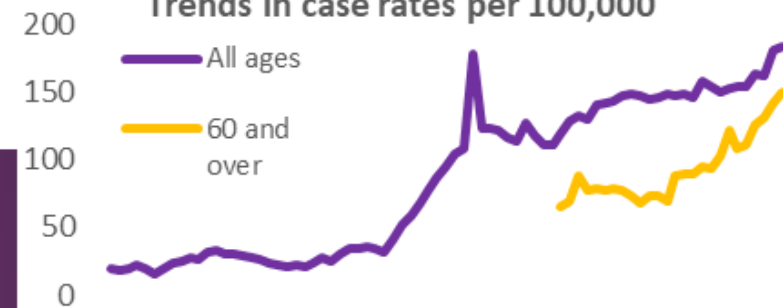
Incidence rate  
(all ages)  
in past 7 days  
per 100,000



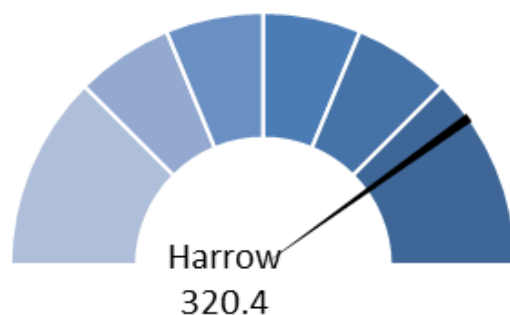
Incidence - 7 days  
in 60 and over  
per 100,000



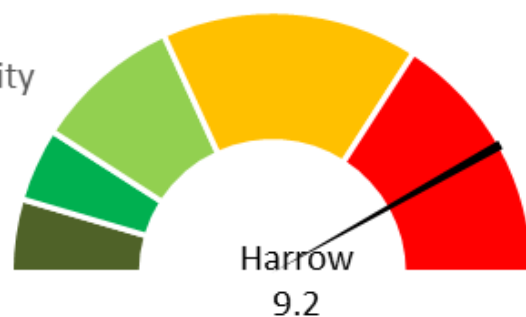
Trends in case rates per 100,000



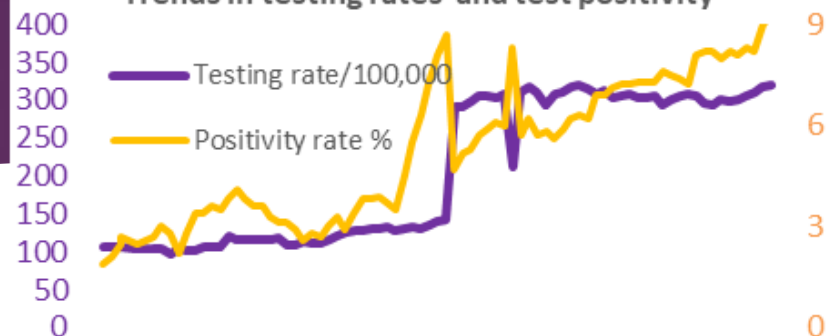
Testing rate  
per 100,000



Test Positivity  
rate



Trends in testing rates and test positivity

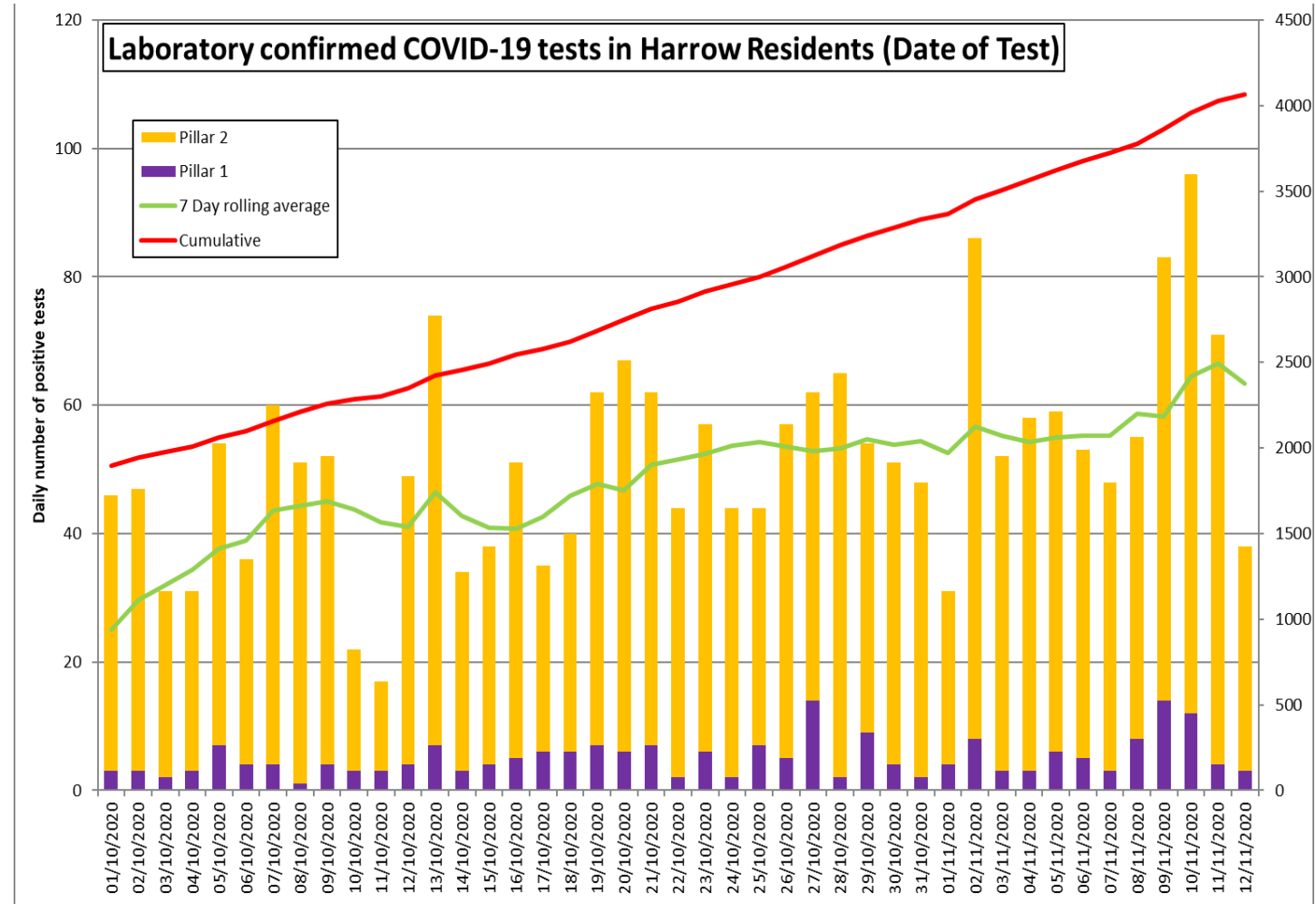


## Commentary:

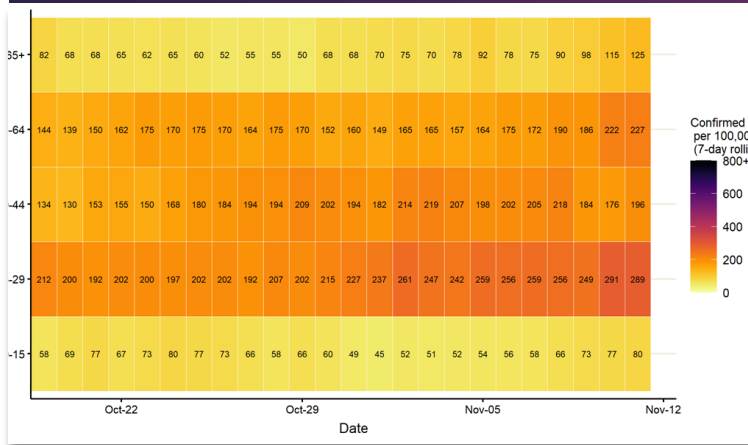
The trend in rates of COVID-19 has increased across all age groups to 182.8 per 100,000 population. The rate of covid in the 60 and over group has seen a marked increase this week, now at 149.4 per 100,000 population compared to 89.9 the previous week. As of the 11th November, London North West University Healthcare NHS Trust reported an increase to 125 Covid inpatients across all sites, but the increase is mostly at NPH, where numbers have more than doubled over the previous 5 days.

# Covid -19 Cases

- ▶ There has been a steady increase in the 7 day average number of cases over October and early November. In the past week there has been a steeper increase.
- ▶ There has also been an increase in the number of tests from pillar 1- NHS tests - which is reinforced with the data from Northwick Park.
- ▶ The number of admissions with COVID-19 in Northwick park has increased in the past week – doubling in number over 5 days.



# Pattern of COVID-19

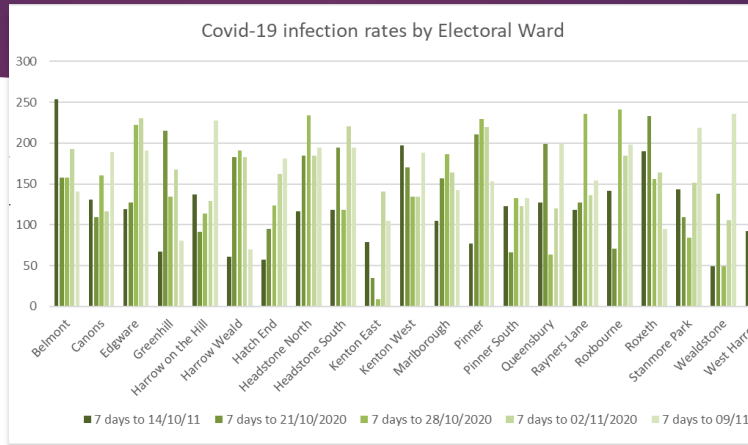


## Age

In the past month, the highest rates of COVID-19 have continued to be in the 16 to 29 age group - currently double the borough average.

The rates in the over 30s working age groups are steadily increasing. The rate in under 16s is low - with the youngest children having the lowest rates.

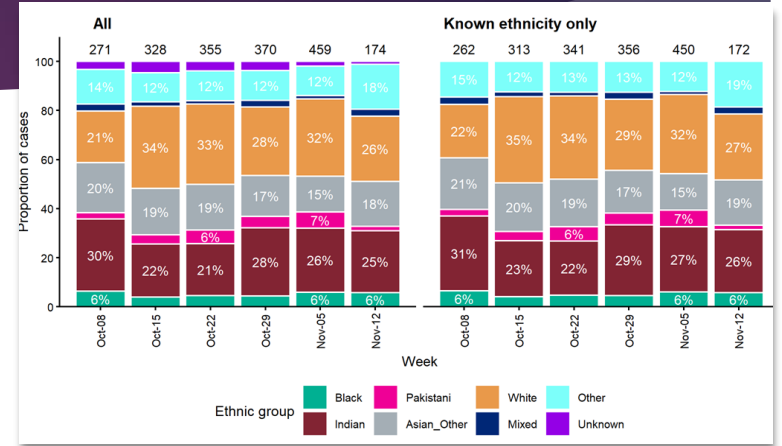
The rate in older adults has fluctuated but is increasing rapidly which raises concerns over increased admissions to hospital and deaths.



## Geography

There isn't a distinct pattern within Harrow. Wards with high rates one week are often lower in the following week. The vast majority of outbreaks are related to within households. At ward level, a single large household can change the rate.

Wards with very low rates may indicate low rates of infection or low rates of testing. We will be looking into this further to identify if we are missing cases.



## Ethnicity

The recording of ethnicity is good with only 5% missing. The ethnic breakdown for the positive tests shows broad similarities to the Harrow population. "Other ethnic group" is over represented and the White group under represented.

As with the age groups, this may represent a difference in either the number of cases or in the rate of testing in different communities.

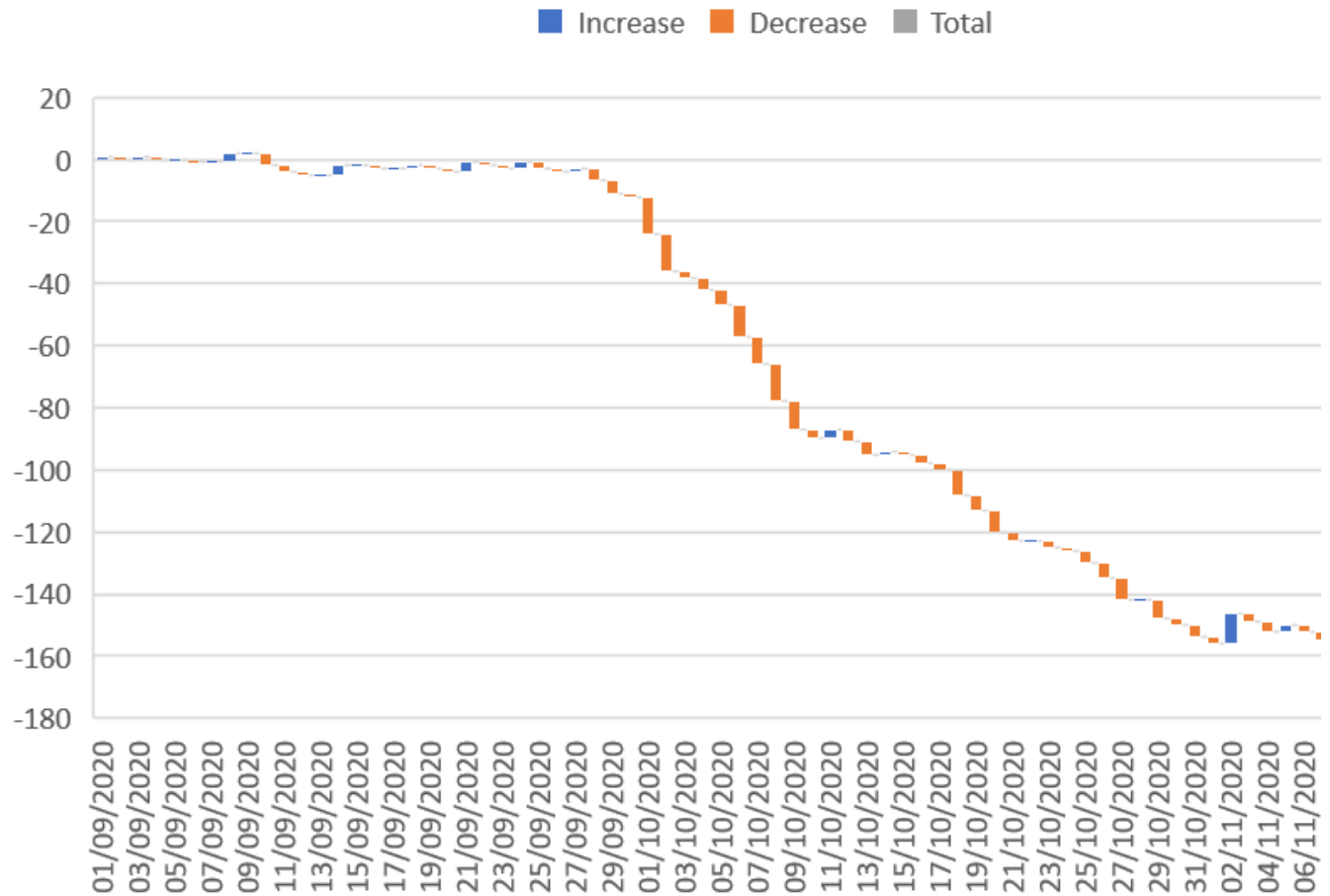
# Change in data

▶ In October, many areas saw increases in case numbers in the 18-21 age group. The data showed that these cases had two different addresses – one at a university and another “home” address which came from matching with GP records. Cases were allocated to the local authority of the address on the GP records. This meant following up cases outside of the borough and at the same time, missing data on local outbreaks related to students living locally.

▶ On 16 November, PHE amended the data. The impact in Harrow shows that since October there were over 160 cases additional cases allocated to Harrow – most in October. The data for rates have been amended from early September onwards in the coming days.

▶ These changes do not materially change our recent data.

## Impact of allocating cases to current address rather than address on GP records on the number of Covid 19 Cases

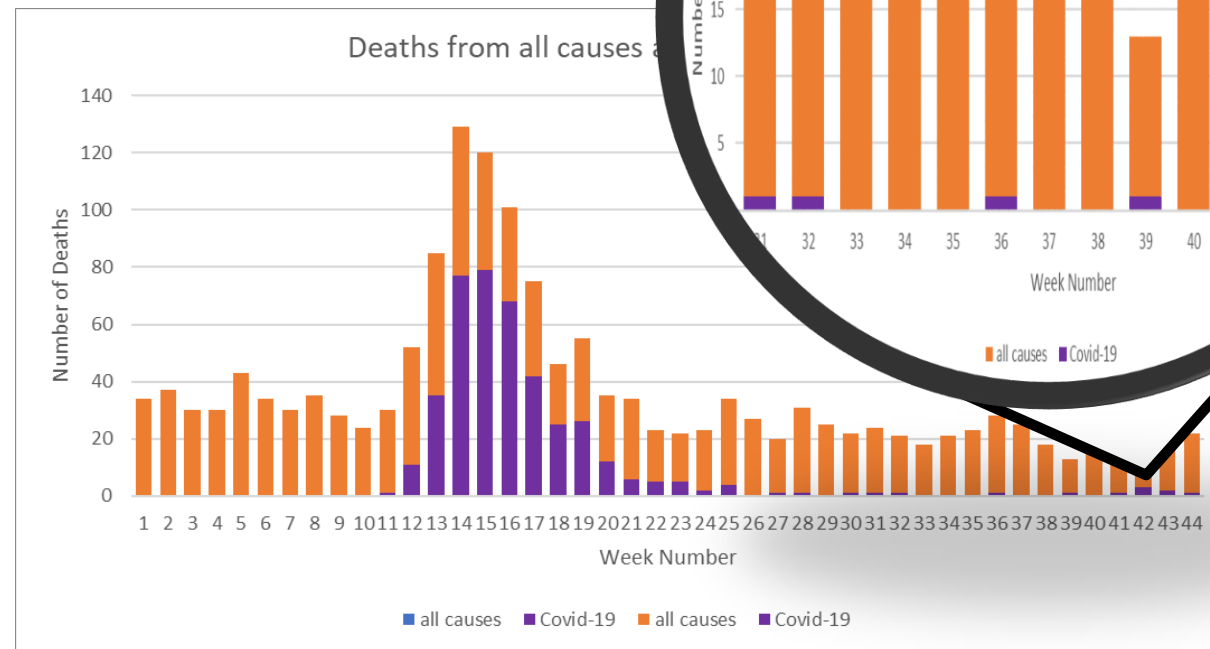


# Covid Deaths

Since the beginning of the pandemic and end of October, there have been 412 deaths.

The majority of these deaths (398) occurred in between March and early June.

Seven deaths occurred in October. All of these deaths occurred in hospital.



# Testing

- ▶ A local testing site opened in S Harrow on 9 October. The site was initially booking at half capacity and has, in the past fortnight, increased to full capacity (up to 288 tests per day). The site is well utilised with a high proportion of slots filled.
- ▶ The mobile testing units continue to be deployed twice per week at Civic Centre and once at weekends at Northwick Park Hospital. These are also well utilised.
- ▶ Work is currently underway to develop a second local testing site and scope out a third within the borough.
- ▶ Testing within care homes is in place although there are some delays in getting the results, which we have escalated to the regional convenor in DHSC.
- ▶ In the coming weeks, we will be developing a programme for targeted rapid testing for asymptomatic groups using new lateral flow devices (LFD).
- ▶ New rapid testing is also being expanded within the NHS using LFD or LAMP/LAMPore tests.

# Promoting awareness

- ▶ Community engagement with different communities and with faith groups
  - ▶ E.g. Somali (through HASVO); Romanian (through the R&EE network); Tamil (Through temples and school); Black African and Caribbean (through BACA and Carramea); Indian Community leaders (wide range of organisations)
  - ▶ General updates and Q&A with VAH; Jewish Community; Wealdstone Active Community
- ▶ Multilingual information
  - ▶ National information limited
  - ▶ London information – Keep London Safe – limited languages
  - ▶ London info – GLA and Doctors of the World – Over 60 languages
  - ▶ Local translations working with the communities in Harrow
- ▶ Videos
  - ▶ Keep London Safe script circulated
  - ▶ Local script developed and communities encouraged to make informative videos that will appeal to their friends and families.
  - ▶ Halloween video produced by Young Harrow Foundation – Christmas themed videos in preparation.



# Contact tracing

- ▶ Eighty percent of the positive cases had been contacted by the NHS T&T team. We aim to increase this percentage by our local contact tracing service.
- ▶ We have a team of contact tracers who have been trained to the national standard required by NHS Test and Trace.
- ▶ The team is made up of Public Health professionals, Environmental Health professionals and staff from the community contact centre.
- ▶ The process:
  - ▶ Everyone with a positive test is sent a text or email link for them to put details on the T&T website.
  - ▶ If after 8 hours this has not happened, the NHS T&T team will call the case over the next 24 hours.
  - ▶ All cases that have not been successfully contacted by the NHS T&T team are passed to the local team who will attempt to call them over the following 24 hours.
  - ▶ If this is unsuccessful, the case will be sent an urgent letter asking them to contact us.
  - ▶ In the next week, we will be adding a text message before the letter gets sent out.
  - ▶ We are looking at whether we need to introduce door knocking to contact cases.

# Covid Support Grants

- ▶ Business grants
  - ▶ Available for businesses affected by COVID-19 lockdown.
  - ▶ Two elements: mandated grants to defined groups (different to the first lockdown) and a small discretionary grant (local arrangements to be decided)
- ▶ Personal Isolation payments
  - ▶ £500 to people on low incomes to enable them to stay at home
  - ▶ Requires an NHS T&T number which doesn't cover all of the people being asked to isolate (e.g. parents unable to work due to children being off school)

# Covid Vaccination programme

- ▶ Delivery is being led by NHS
- ▶ Identifying sites for mass vaccination across the borough – probably 4-6 sites – will be agreed by 1 December
- ▶ Vaccine likely to be available from Mid December in small quantities initially
- ▶ To be offered to highest risk groups first e.g.
  - ▶ Care home residents;
  - ▶ Care home staff;
  - ▶ People over 80 living in the community;
  - ▶ People over 75 living in the community;
  - ▶ Health and social care staff; etc
- ▶ Significant communications input will be needed to encourage high vaccination uptake in high risk groups.

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# Winter Preparedness

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# Adult Social Care Winter Plan 20/21

- ▶ The Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) published their national ASC winter plan in September 2020.
- ▶ The national plan sets out national support and expectations for local authorities, NHS organisations and care providers.
- ▶ Every local authority has to ensure they have a winter plan in place to ensure there are COVID-19 contingencies to ensure local delivery of social care through the challenges of the winter and COVID period.
- ▶ Harrow Council has completed its ASC Winter Plan in co-ordination with partner agencies. It has incorporated the recommendations from DHSC.

# Adult Social Care Winter Plan 20/21

- ▶ The plan ensures contingency and collaborative work across several key areas including:
  - *Infection Prevention and Control*
  - *Seasonal Flu Vaccinations*
  - *Health and Care Service Joint Work (including discharge planning)*
  - *Supporting people who receive social care and carers*
  - *Supporting the care workforce*
  - *Care market funding and provider sustainability*
  - *Local, regional and national oversight and support*
- ▶ The plan is shared with key staff and is continually reviewed and updated and is currently showing key contingencies are in place within Harrow.

# Service Continuity and Care Market Review

- ▶ DHSC is carrying out a nationwide review to understand:
  - *the risks to the continuity of the care market*
  - *the contingency plans in place to mitigate those risks*
  - *local needs for support via national and regional arrangements*
- ▶ DHSC is supported by the LGA and ADASS to ensure this information is captured as a local and regional level
- ▶ Harrow Council has taken part in the review and has submitted key information to present the local view of the above
- ▶ The key message is there are identified risks in the market that require national support such as ongoing market funding to ensure provider sustainability and continued infection control via testing, PPE and staff contingency support.