

Covid-19 Update

Cabinet 17th December 2020

- Update on Covid-19 London and Harrow
- London in Tier 3 Implications and action plan
- Council Response to Covid
 - Covid-19 related activity
 - service impact
 - wider agenda
- Preparing for a vaccine
- Formal decisions relating to current developments
- Questions

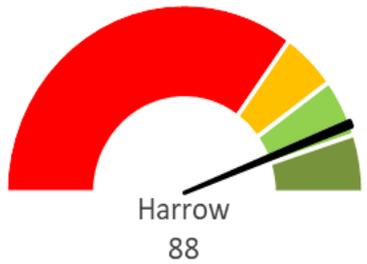
- London and Harrow position escalating rapidly post Lockdown – potential exponential spread
- London position overall is 298.8 cases per 100,000 people
- Harrow position is 302.6 cases per 100,000 people
- Hospital admissions increasing and cause for concern
- Very concerning situation has led to Tier 3 decision
- Requires a coordinated and extensive response

Harrow Covid-19 Dashboard

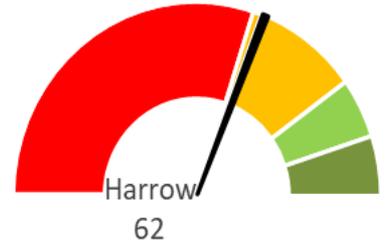
Harrow COVID 19 Dashboard
 report date: 16/12/2020
 Data from 5/12/2020 to 11/12/2020

Positive Cases in 7 days to 11/12/2020
760

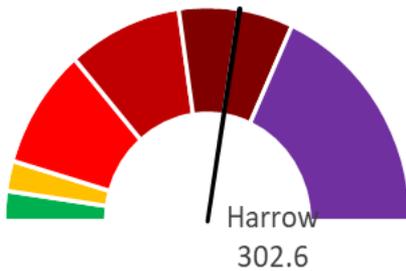
Test and Trace Cases (cumulative) % Complete



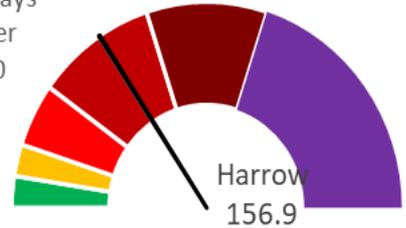
Test and Trace Contacts (cumulative) % Complete



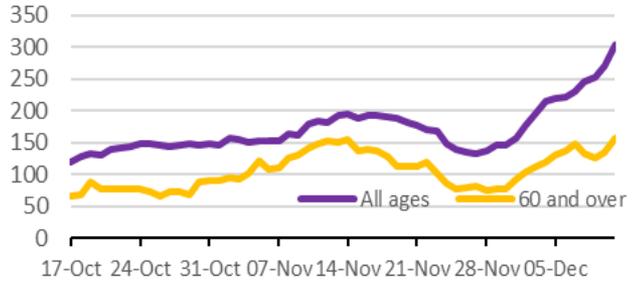
Incidence rate (all ages) in past 7 days per 100,000



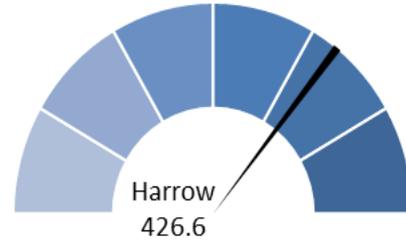
Incidence - 7 days in 60 and over per 100,000



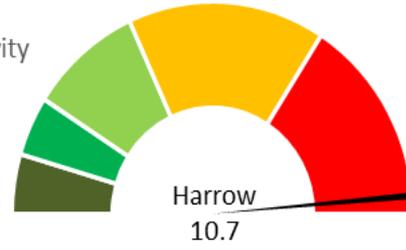
Trends in case rates per 100,000



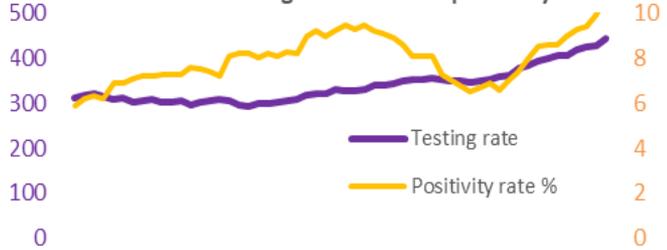
Testing rate per 100,000



Test Positivity rate



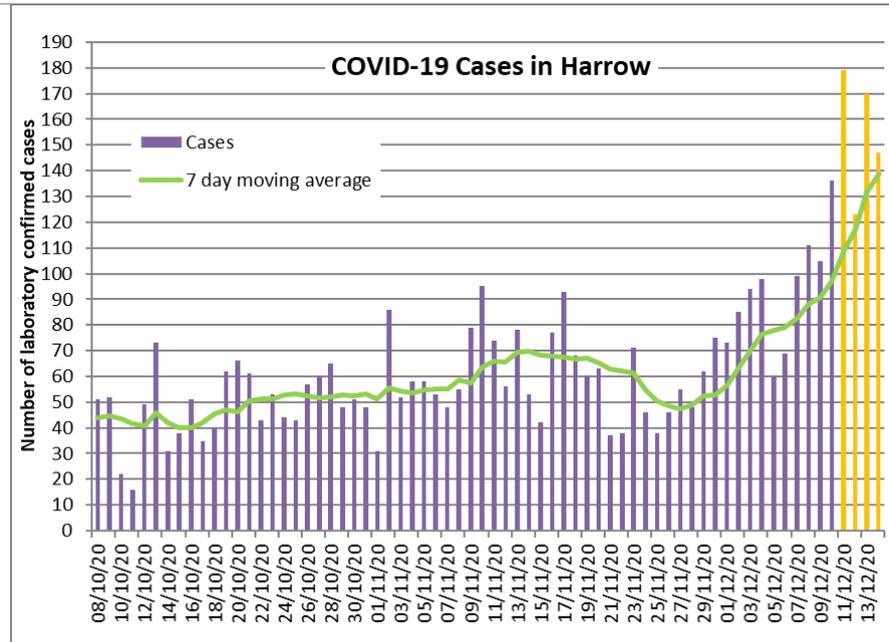
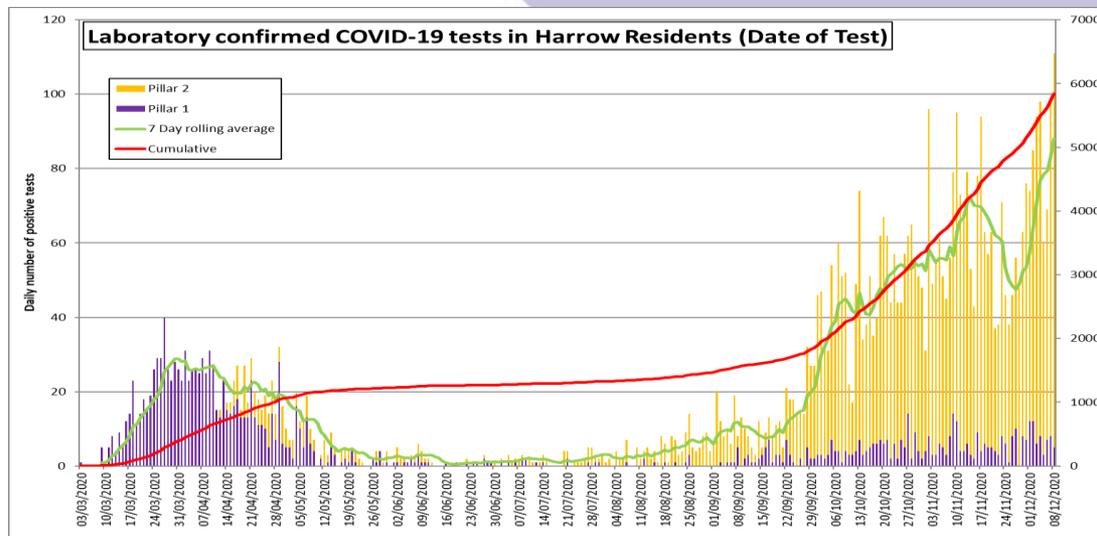
Trends in testing rates and test positivity



Commentary: The number of cases of Covid-19 continues to rise quickly in Harrow. At 302.6/100,000, Harrow has 12th highest rate in London and 48th highest nationally. More people are getting tested than ever before and our testing facilities are working at close to their maximum capacity. Test positivity is the highest it has been indicating that there is more disease in the community than is being picked up and that our rates will rise further in the coming week.

Covid -19 Cases

- ▶ The upper graph shows the pattern of the pandemic since it began in March.
- ▶ The green line shows the steep increase in the 7-day rolling average number of tests per day. The data is complete to 11 December but may increase for the last 2 bars on the graph.
- ▶ The lower graph includes the interim test data to 14th December which will increase once all of the data is complete.
- ▶ In October, there were fewer than 50 test per day, this increased in November, pre/early lockdown to 70 per day. Lockdown reduced it down to a low of 47 new cases per day on 27th November. Although lockdown ended in early December cases increased from this date suggesting increased social mixing from around 17th November.
- ▶ The latest interim data shows almost 140 cases per day – a trebling of cases per day from 27 November.



- Council continues to play a major role in Covid-19
- Considerable work on Covid-19 specific tasks - this increases each week
- Tier 3 will have a major impact on activity and capacity
- Delivering Services during Lockdown and in Covid-19 secure environment
- Prioritising delivery of strategic projects
- Situation will continue and increase at least until spring
- Capacity and resilience is a challenge

- The move to Tier 3 is very significant and requires a significant increase in Council activity and action
- Agreed that sub-regionally and locally to developed a detailed action plan to tackle rapid rise in cases
- This will required extensive activity across a range of measures – will be a major impact on other priorities and capacity
- This is already taking happening and is likely to be in place for two – three months

- Roll out of extensive community testing via PCR and LFT routes
- Maximising existing testing sites and creating new ones – large scale and mobile venues
- Enhancement of education and enforcement in wider range of settings – more resources and locations
- Increase in community engagement and communications to deliver key messages and increase compliance
- Tier 3 and mass community testing brings financial resources but will require significant Council staffing resources to deliver
- Service reprioritisation and reductions will be required

Our Response to Latest Increase in C-19 Infections and Moving to Tier 3

15 December 2020

The Plan to 'Break the Chain'

- Support Vaccination roll-out
- Maximise and increase current symptomatic testing
- Accelerate adoption of asymptomatic (lateral flow) testing and extend to the community
- Extend support to enforcement
- Extend contact tracing
 - Tracing the contacts not just the tested
- Massively increase communications and community engagement



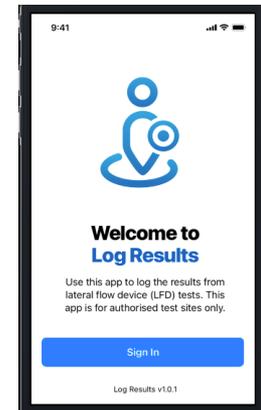
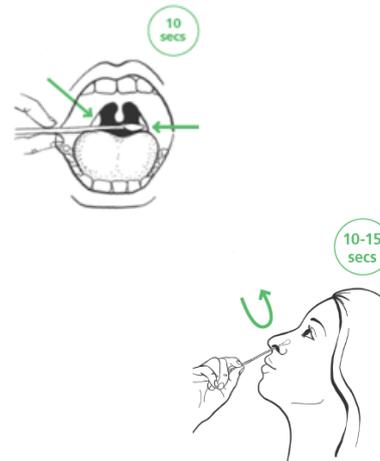
Break the chain!

- South Harrow, Brigade Close walk-in test site.
 - Capacity of 288 and using 50 to 75%.
- Mobile testing site outside Civic
 - Capacity of 400 and operating at that capacity during the week.
At weekends use drops to less than 60%.
- Harrow Weald site recently opened.
- Asked for Mobile Testing Units, but priority given to NE London

Asymptomatic (Lateral Flow) Testing

What is it?

- A swab tests that require no laboratory processing and can produce results in 20-30 minutes



LFT is a **new kind of technology** that will enable us to **identify and isolate more asymptomatic people** who are at high likelihood of spreading virus, whilst simultaneously **minimising disruption** for those who test negative.

It does not replace the lab test, but augments it

1. 6 week testing programme for the whole of the Harrow Community and support to Primary Care
 2. Building capacity to undertake up to 212,000 tests in two phases (pre and post Christmas)
 3. Tiered approach of:
 - 2 main sites.
 - 5 small sites.
 - 2 Semi mobile.
 - 1 mobile rapid reaction.
- Government funding of £14 a test.
 - Bid for £2.968m plus £450k ancillary costs.

Before Christmas

- First main site hopefully open in old H&M building
 - Priority – business and then general community



- One semi-mobile trailer operational
 - Staff testing at the Depot and general testing at another site

- Using an 'Events' contractor and our own staff.
- Training and set-up supported by Brent



After 4 January

- SEN staff school pilot planned to start
 - Now dependent of Government approach to school testing
- Other sites set-up
- Rapid reaction testing vehicle available, coordinated by DirPH, for deployment to hot-spots.

- Implement Covid-19 Marshals to:
 - promote social distancing and encourage public compliance with COVID-19 public health measures
 - educate and explain COVID-19 Secure guidelines in the public realm and for business premises
 - identify and support businesses and premises not following guidelines, escalating as appropriate.
- Specifically working in hot spots
- Recruit and train c20 Covid-19 marshals from Middlesex University EH students and through HR recruitment.
- Redeploy own staff

Communications

- All household mailers, e-mails, social media
- Testing specific signs
- Digital notice boards
- Webinars

Engagement

- Community Leaders meeting tonight
 - Community messages

Spreading the Message

- Housing and Refuse Teams to spread the message
- Members spreading the messages in their wards

Capacity

- Prioritising Comms and Policy Teams workload
- Request for mutual aid

- Delivering many services in new and innovative ways
- Most employees work from home – resilience issues
- Pressures on adults and children’s social care
- Increased homelessness and housing pressures
- Support for schools to deliver in covid-19 secure way
- Ensuring waste services are resilience
- Preparing for elections May 2021
- Council staff delivering above and beyond

- First Vaccine has been approved with others in pipeline
- First vaccinations in Harrow are imminent for over 80's
- Delivery initially via PCN site at The Hive
- Further major site at Byron Hall and PCN site at Byron Hall and Tithe Barn
- Care Home and other vulnerable groups to be home vaccinated hopefully soon
- “Mass” Vaccination programme - Mid - Jan – April??

- Cabinet is asked to note the update on the pandemic and to authorise Corporate Directors to implement local responses to it using the recently announced Central Government Funding, in consultation with the appropriate Portfolio Holder.
- These responses include but are not limited to:
- Distribution of the Covid Winter Grant in accordance with the proposed Harrow Scheme;
- Large scale community testing, to include procuring and contracting for the necessary supplies, sites, services, event support and transport, signing collaboration agreements with the Department of Health and Social Care, subcontracting where appropriate and employing additional staff;

- Local contact tracing;
- Education about and enforcement of local tier restrictions; and Community engagement.
- The site referred to is the former H&M retail unit in St Anne's Shopping Centre. This has been secured for use as a C19 testing facility for 6 months at a cost of £30,000 and should be available before Christmas.

- Covid-19 continues to dominate all aspects of council's activity
- The situation has deteriorated significantly since the last update to Cabinet
- This has resulted in Tier 3 for London and Harrow
- Council is responding with range of new and enhanced measures in response to Tier 3 and increased cases
- Significant impact on priorities and capacities to deliver action plan