

COVID-19 Update

22/3/2021

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Director of Public Health

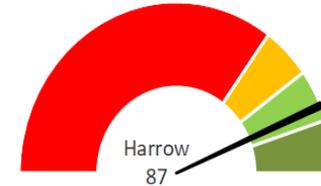
Latest data

- ▶ The current rate is 59.7 cases per 100,000 people in Harrow. For the past 2 weeks the rate had been a broadly plateaued picture albeit at high level.. Harrow's rate is currently the fourth highest in London (behind Hillingdon, Hounslow and Ealing) and in the highest third of local authorities in England
- ▶ The positivity rate is a good indicator of rates of sustained community transmission. This has been falling consistently over the past 6 weeks.
- ▶ The vast majority of the new cases in Harrow remain due to the new UK variant.
- ▶ The interim data suggests that rates will continue to plateau or fall slightly in the coming week.
- ▶ The impact of all school children returning to the classroom shows a small increase but with the introduction of lateral flow testing for school staff and pupils in secondary and further education, is being contained before it can spread within the school.

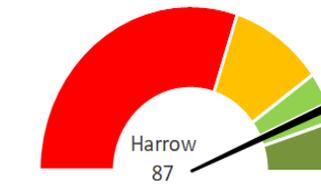
Harrow COVID 19 Dashboard report date: 21/03/2021 Data from March 10 2021 to March 16 2021

Confirmed Positive Cases in 7 days to 14/03/2021	150
% Change in past 7 days	-12%
Interim positive cases in 7 days to 21/3/2021	121
Confirmed Positive Cases in 7 days in 60+ age group to 14/03/2021	13
% Change in past 7 days	-23%

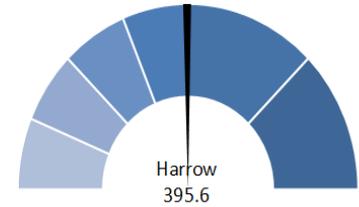
Test and Trace Cases (cumulative) % Complete



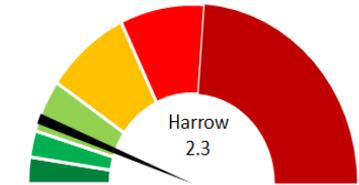
Test and Trace Contacts (cumulative) % Complete



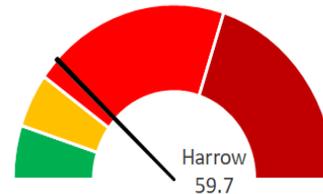
PCR Testing rate per 100,000



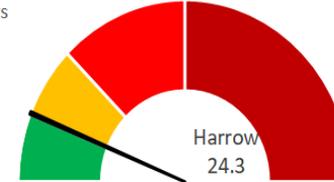
PCR Test Positivity rate



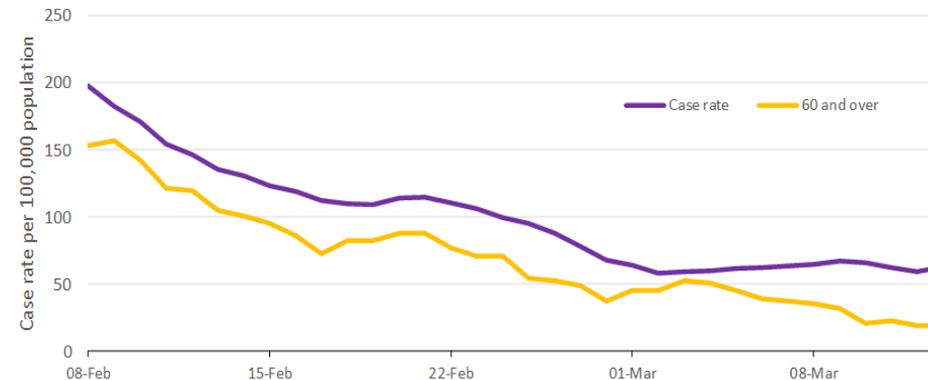
Incidence rate (all ages) in past 7 days per 100,000



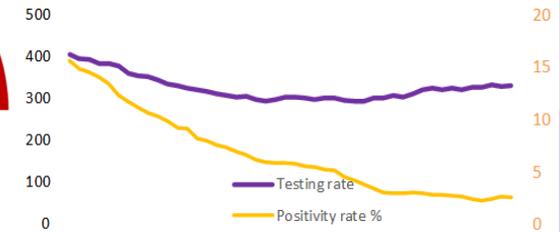
Incidence - 7 days in 60 and over per 100,000



Trends in case rates per 100,000



Trends in PCR testing rates and test positivity

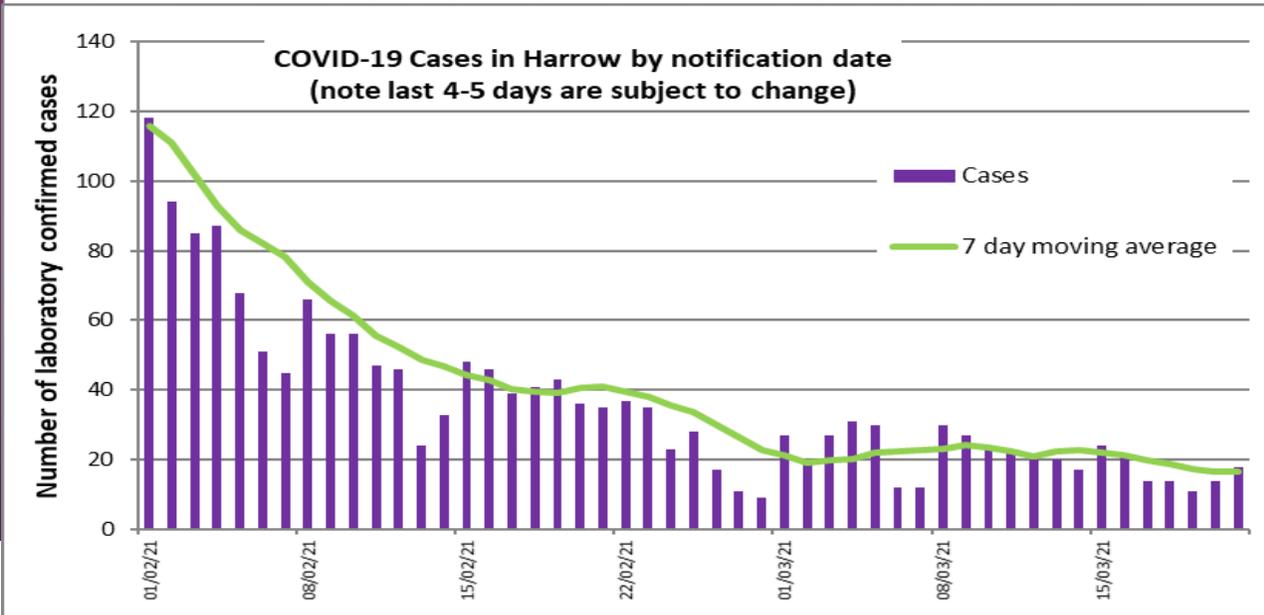
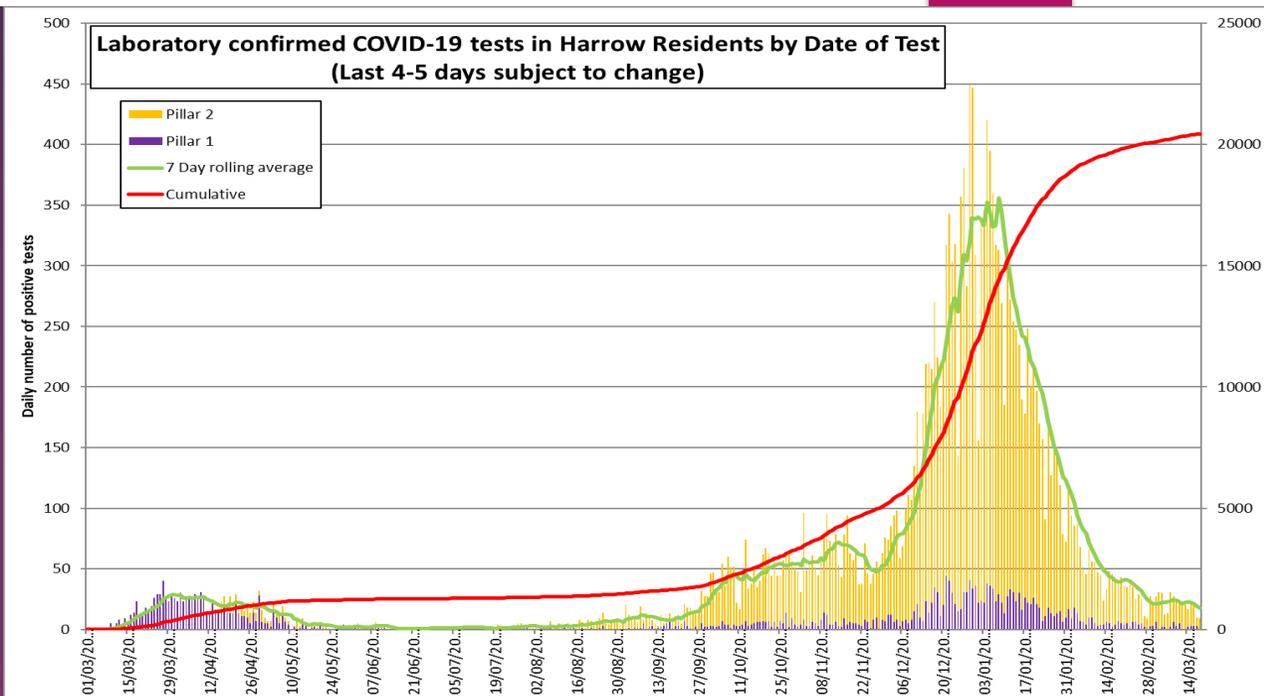


Although rates in most age groups are decreasing, in particular in the older age groups that have been vaccinated, the rate of covid in Harrow has plateaued. The driver behind this is an increase in cases in 18-24 year olds. The rates have more than doubled since the end of February in this group. There has also been a small increase in cases in secondary school age (13-17) young people which is now decreasing again.

Testing rates have increased in past 7 days to 395.6/100,000 due to the surge testing. The positivity rate for PCR testing has decreased to 2.3% indicating lower levels of community transmission.

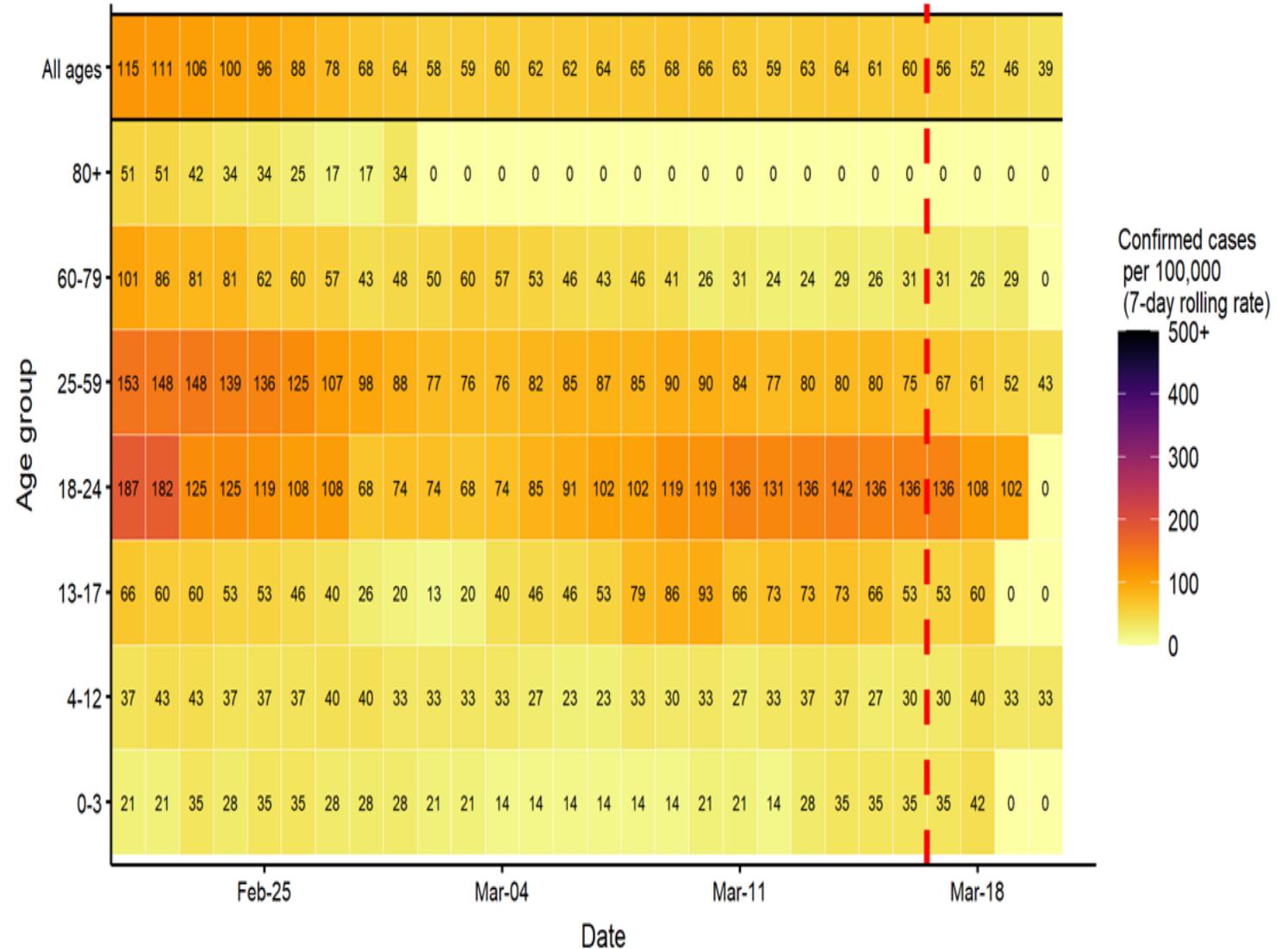
Covid -19 Cases

- The two graphs show the pandemic over time. The upper graph shows all of the cases since last March and the lower one is a close up of the past 6 weeks.
- We currently have 18 new cases per day on average, (ranging from 11 to 24 in the past week).
- As the number of cases has plateaued at a high level, we all still need to be vigilant and follow the guidelines even if we have been vaccinated - Hands, face space, and stay at home unless you are going out to do your daily exercise, going to supermarket or an essential worker who cannot work from home.
- As 1 in 3 people with Covid have no symptoms, it is important that we make regular lateral flow testing part of our weekly regime. All parents and members of a childcare bubble should have a test twice per week as should anyone else that has a job that they cannot do from home.



Cases by Age

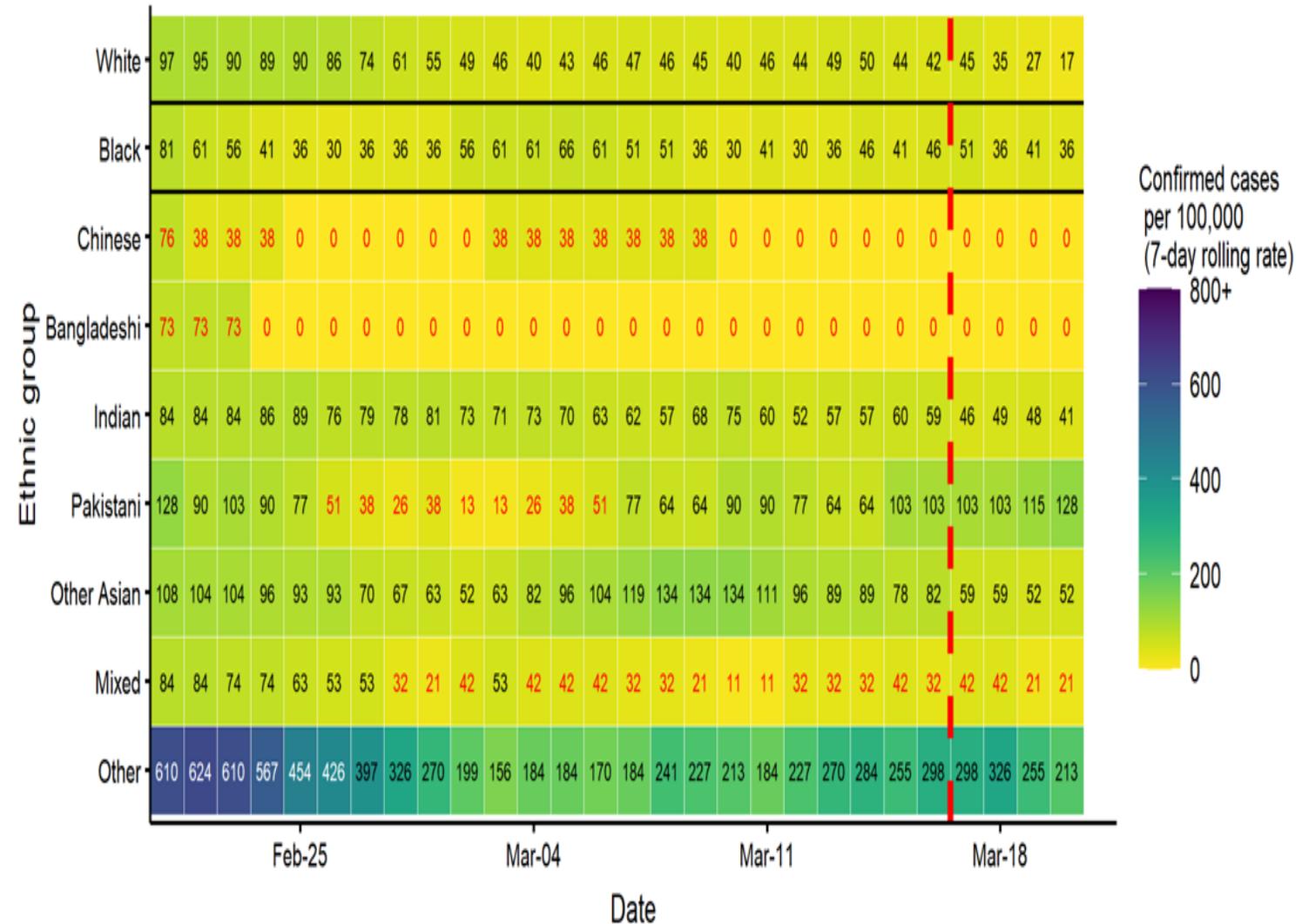
- This heatmap shows the rate of infection is different age groups over the past month. The darkest colors show the highest rates and the yellows, the lowest rates. This map now includes the interim data for the latest 4 days (marked by the red dotted line) which is subject to change
- There has been only one case in the over 70s in the past week and none in the over 80 age group – a likely impact of the high rates of vaccination in this age group and those who provide care for them.
- The driver behind the slowing decrease in COVID rates across the borough is an increase in cases in 18-24 year olds – which is more than double the borough average. This pattern is also seen across the rest of London. There has also been a small increase in cases in secondary school age (13-17) young people.
- Rates in younger children continue to be low.



An issue with the denominators for 80+ was corrected on 23/02/2021, because of this rates for that age group will be lower than in earlier reports.

Cases by Ethnicity

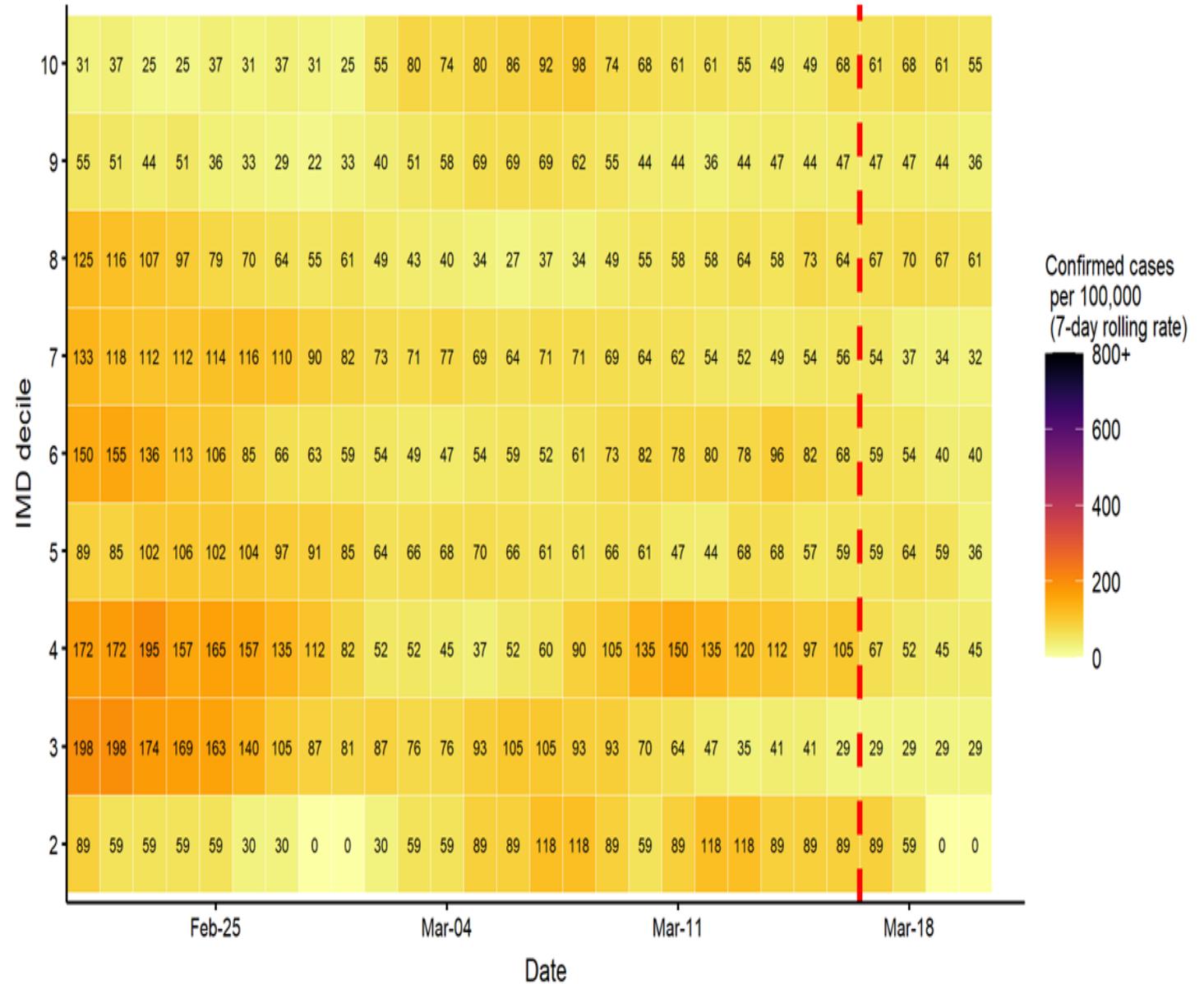
- This graphic shows the rate in each ethnic group over the past month.
- There were either no cases or fewer than 5 cases in most of the smaller ethnic population categories.
- Rates in Black, White, Indian and other Asian ethnic groups are lower than the borough average.
- Rates in the Pakistani ethnic group have increased in the past fortnight.
- The “other” group continues to have the highest rates and is difficult to interpret as it will include many people who fall into the other groups but have been misclassified.

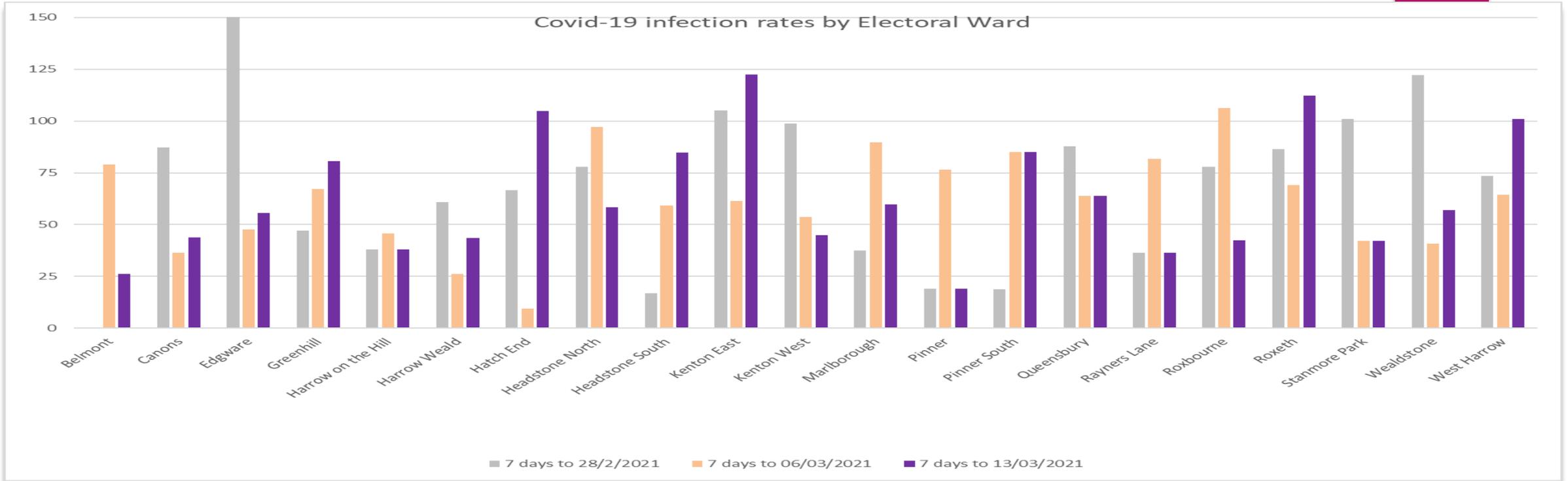


Excluding 6.7% ethnicity data classified as Na or Unknown.
Where text is red rates should be interpreted with caution as underlying case numbers are <5.

Cases by Deprivation

- ▶ This heatmap shows rates of infection based on the address of those infected. Areas are grouped into 10 national bands based on the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD). Band 1 is the most deprived and band 10 the most affluent. None of the Harrow areas are in the lowest band.
- ▶ The heatmap show that there are generally higher rates in the more deprived part of Harrow with the highest rates in most deprived and the groups likely to have low paid work that cannot be done from home.



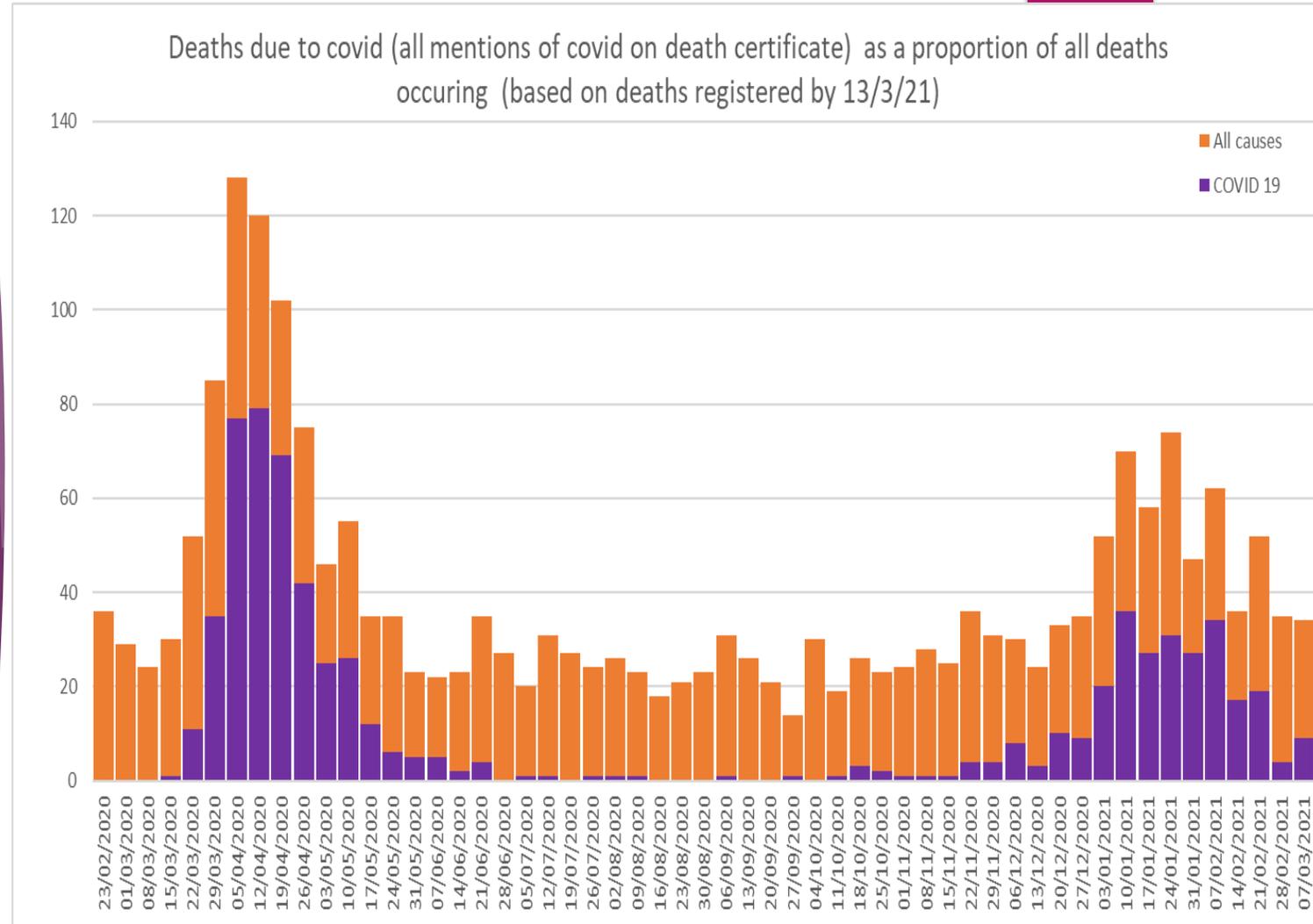


Cases by Geography

The highest rates in the 7 days to 13/3 2021 were seen in Kenton East, Roxeth and Hatch End. The lowest rates were in Pinner and Belmont.

Deaths from Covid have increased

- ▶ The number of deaths from COVID is continuing but appears to be falling.
- ▶ We think we have seen the peak of the second wave of deaths from Covid 19 although there are likely to be further deaths in the weeks to come.
- ▶ Nationally, the impact of vaccination is being seen on the death rates with fewer deaths in the over 70s.
- ▶ The rate of hospital admissions has been decreasing and the need for ventilator beds is easing. However, there are still people who have been in hospital for extended period.



How to stay safe and break the chain of infection – It's everyone's business!

Multiple Layers Improve Success

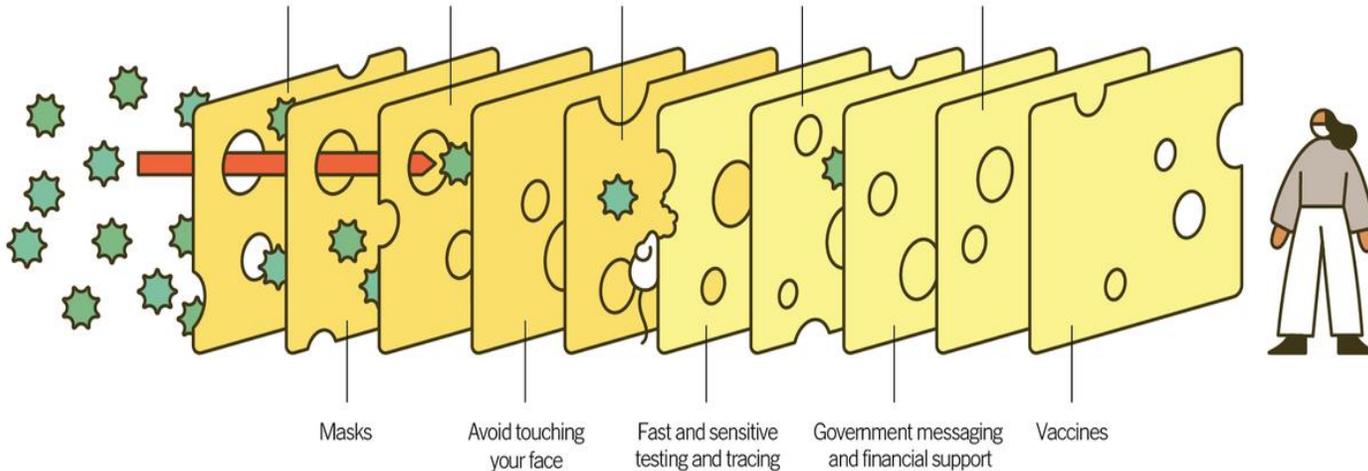
The Swiss Cheese Respiratory Pandemic Defense recognizes that no single intervention is perfect at preventing the spread of the coronavirus. Each intervention (layer) has holes.

Personal responsibilities

Physical distance, stay home if sick
Hand hygiene, cough etiquette
If crowded, limit your time

Shared responsibilities

Ventilation, outdoors, air filtration
Quarantine and isolation



Even though we are vaccinating many people, we all still need to follow the guidelines and do what we can to reduce the rate of infection across the borough.

There are lots of things we can all do to reduce our chance of getting or spreading Covid.

Think of them as slices of swiss cheese – no one action or intervention is perfect and all will have holes.

But the more actions we take, the less chance we have of the holes lining up to allow the infection to pass through.

You can break the chain of infection.

GET TESTED

FEEL FINE? BOOK YOUR FREE, FAST COVID-19
TEST NOW AT [HARROW.GOV.UK/TEST](https://www.harrow.gov.uk/test)



Harrow COUNCIL
LONDON

NHS

Test and Trace

Community Testing Programme

- ▶ The programme has been extended to end June at least.
- ▶ The key message remains get tested twice a week
- ▶ There are a number of ways to access asymptomatic testing – the council's testing venues (which will include pharmacists in the coming week); schools or care home based testing; home testing for teachers, care workers and secondary school pupils; workplace testing and home testing kits.

Testing

With symptoms of fever, new persistent cough or loss of taste or smell

Isolate and get tested as soon as your symptoms start

- ▶ Civic Centre car park A
- ▶ Northolt Rd, South Harrow
- ▶ Boxtree Lane, Harrow Weald
- ▶ Kenton Rec
- ▶ Northwick Park Sports pavilion
- ▶ Watling Community Centre, Burnt Oak

- ▶ Book online through www.gov.uk or call 119

Without symptoms: all adults in households with children at school, and those who are unable to work from home

Test twice a week – even after you've been vaccinated!

- ▶ St Ann's shopping centre, Harrow town centre
- ▶ Sri Swaminaryan Temple, Stanmore
- ▶ Harrow Art Centre
- ▶ Harrow Civic Centre
- ▶ Beacon Centre, Rayners Lane
- ▶ Pharmacies – to start soon

- ▶ Book online at www.harrow.gov.uk/test

Surge Testing

- ▶ Two VOCs have been identified in Harrow. They are both the South African variant not associated with travel. Both individuals have isolated and recovered well
- ▶ They were picked up through routine national random genomic sequencing. The cases occurred in February and the council were notified about two weeks ago of the first of these cases.
- ▶ Our rationale for surveillance testing
 - Areas surrounding case address
 - Workplaces or schools attended (although not applicable to these cases)
 - Areas /premises/events identified through enhanced contact tracing
- ▶ Two areas identified for door to door testing in Headstone North and Wealdstone
- ▶ People living in areas around Hatch End and Harrow Weald have been asked to attend for testing at Harrow Art Centre.
- ▶ A pop-up testing unit will be covering the area of Wealdstone High Street over the weekend.
- ▶ In the first three days of testing, over 2,500 tests were returned.

Local Outbreak Management Plan

- ▶ Council has developed an updated Local Outbreak Management Plan
- ▶ In addition to topics in the previous plan , which largely focused on testing in various settings, the new plan covers inequalities issues in testing and vaccination, enduring transmission, monitoring and surveillance, supporting self isolation, community engagement and communications, enhanced contact tracing and Surge testing for variants of concern.
- ▶ The plan also looks forward to the impact of coming out of lockdown and recovery but recognises risks associated with this.
- ▶ The plan will be posted on the council website in the coming weeks after it has been through the regional scrutiny.