

Covid-19 Update

Cabinet 29th April 2021

- Update on Covid-19 London and Harrow
- National Lockdown Exit Roadmap
- Council Response to Covid-19
 - Covid-19 related activity
 - service impact
 - wider agenda
- Vaccination roll-out update
- GLA Election update
- Planning for Recovery
- Overview of capacity and organisational issues
- Questions

- Overall Covid-19 cases are low and at a level last seen in September
- Harrow is now 29.9 cases per 100k people when at the peak almost at 1000 cases per 100k people
- Case levels are being monitored closely as Lockdown eases
- Hospital admissions and occupancy have fallen substantially over the last month
- Lockdown restrictions were eased on 12th April with non-essential retail and outdoor hospitality resuming
- The vaccination programme is progressing well overall but there are some challenges with supply

Harrow Covid-19 Dashboard

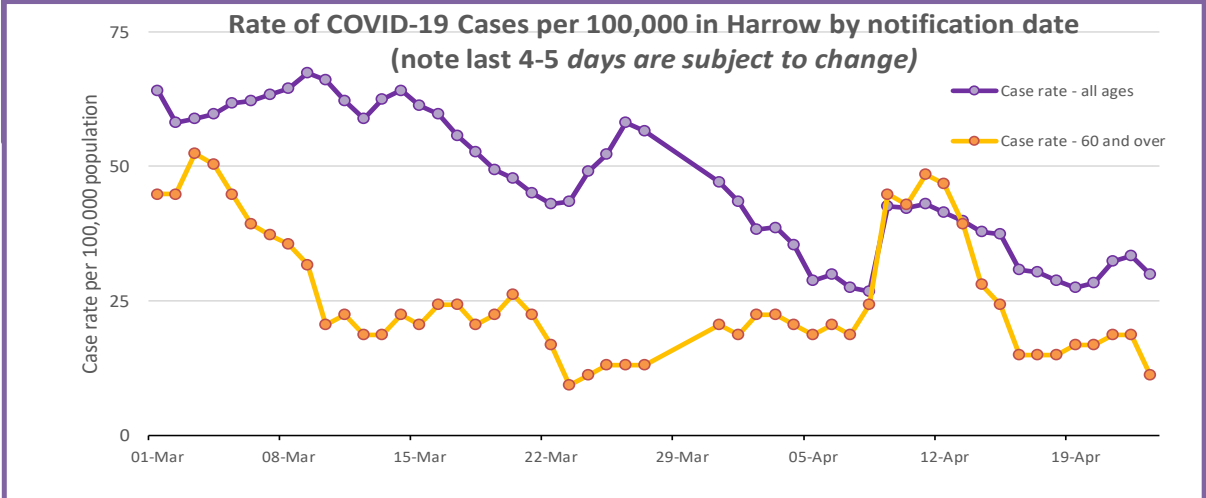
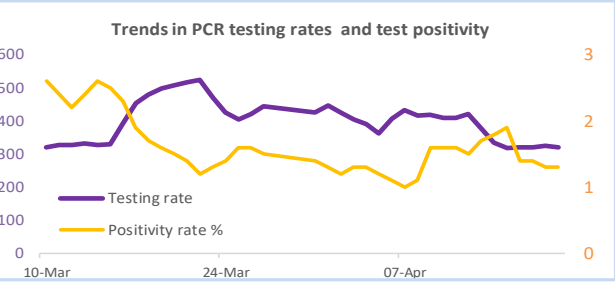
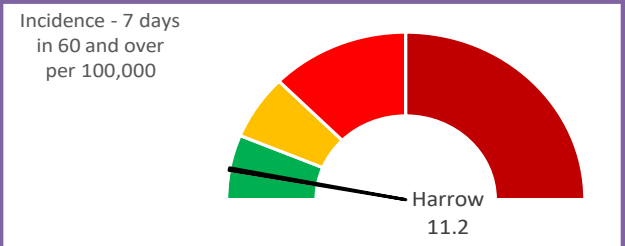
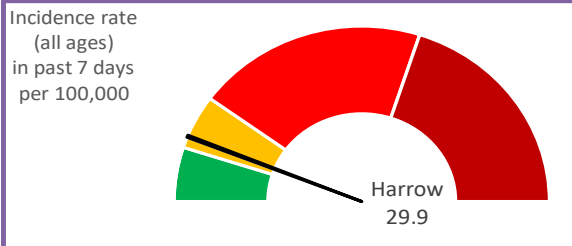
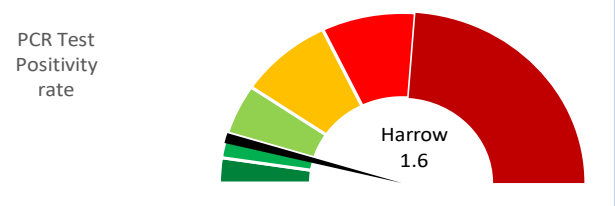
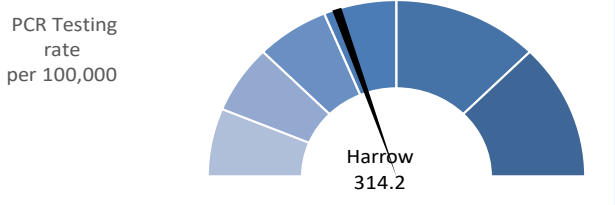
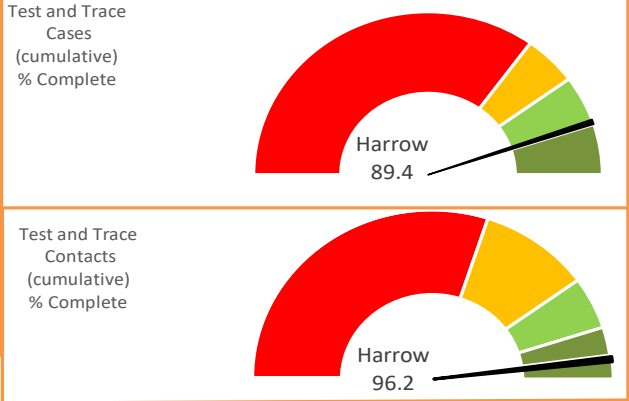


Harrow COVID 19 Dashboard

report date: 26/04/2021

Data from April 17 2021 to April 23 2021

Confirmed Positive Cases (all ages) in 7 days to 23/04/2021	75
% Change in past 7 days	-7%
Interim positive cases (all ages) in 7 days to 26/4/2021	95
Confirmed Positive Cases (age 60+) in 7 days to 23/04/2021	6
% Change in past 7 days	-25%



The highest rates this week have been in the 17-18 year old age group - predominantly in young men. This is followed by the secondary school age group and then people aged 30-50. There have been few cases in children under 4 or in people over 60.

In terms of ethnicity, rates in the Indian and other Asian populations are higher than average.

- Roadmap out of Lockdown was published 22nd February
- Significant activity took place to support the second phase of reopening particularly with businesses in Harrow Town Centre and various district centres
- Overall this has proved successful and there is good evidence of compliance
- The Council is involved in four key areas:
 - Advice and Enforcement
 - Testing and Track and Trace
 - Variants of Concern
 - Vaccination programme

- Phase One

March – initial but not much release

- Phase Two

April and May – businesses start up again and some release of social gathering constraints

- Phase Three

21st June – nearly back to normal but there is likely to still be a need to keep offices and businesses Covid-19 secure

Phase two and three timings are subject to four Government tests covering infection levels, vaccination rates, and variants

- Practical steps for supporting businesses to open
 - Opening up outside spaces
 - Providing signage
 - Informing residents on what's open
- Engage and inform residents on overall changes and rules
- Reopen Council services e.g. libraries and leisure centres
- Start roll-out of economic recovery plans
- Ensure our buildings are Covid-19 secure against new guidelines

- Testing now available for anyone – ‘Test twice a week’
 - Via workplace guidance published, expectation test twice a week or 24hrs before coming into work/meeting
 - Via community testing centres and pharmacies
 - Via home testing kits: collected from Civic, HAC, PCR test sites, pharmacies or ordered online for delivery
- Closed Beacon Centre and Temple sites
- Currently operating from 4 sites (St Ann's, Civic, HAC and Depot) with sufficient capacity for surge testing and increase in demand
- Improved access via community pharmacies - extended opening hours – evenings and Sundays and lowering age to 11+

Variants of Concern Update

- Council has developed an updated Outbreak Management Plan
- Key focus of OMP is dealing with Variants of Concern
- Three surge tests have been undertaken in Harrow recently
- One case in in Headstone North, one case in Wealdstone and one in South Harrow
- A strategy for undertaking surge testing has been put in place in partnership with PHE and DHSC
- Surge testing for variants of concern will become part of our response to Covid-19 going forward
- “Indian Variant of Interest” also being actively monitored

- Vaccination has been delivered very effectively in Harrow by the PCN sites at The Hive, Byron Hall and Tithe Farm for priority cohorts 1-9
- Current phase of vaccination includes residents over 42 years old
- Ongoing focus to also drive up numbers in highest risk cohorts 1-9 and deliver 2nd doses
- 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
- Mass Vaccination Site will go live at the beginning of May
- Some ongoing challenges re vaccine supply but confident of July target

Vaccination Uptake in Harrow

- Harrow has good overall vaccination rates but more needs to be done
- c89% of over 80's have been vaccinated
- c95% of 75-79's have been vaccinated
- c91% of 70-74's have been vaccinated
- c90% of CEV have been vaccinated
- c89% of 65-69 have been vaccinated
- c86% of 60-64 have been vaccinated
- c82% of 55-59 have been vaccinated
- c80% of 50-55 have been vaccinated
- c93% of care home residents have been vaccinated
- c84% of care home staff have been vaccinated
- c61% of social care staff have been vaccinated

- Poll cards and postal votes delivered to all Harrow residents eligible to vote
 - 10,000 postal votes returned
- Safe and socially distant postal vote opening under way
- Sufficient staff and reserves recruited and being trained
- Following recent government guidance that all election staff are expected to be tested
- All 120 Polling Stations risk assessed and ready to provide a safe welcome to residents who want to vote in person
- Brent and Harrow Council completed mock electronic count
- Additional Covid requirement a huge logistical exercise - most of Civic Centre full of PPE!
- Electronic Count taking place on Friday 8th at Alexandra Palace - overall result unlikely before Sunday

- 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

- Discussion at Cabinet in March re organisational and staff resilience and welfare
- Pandemic response has now been running for 14 months
- This has involved delivering services, responding to covid-19 and dealing with lockdown
- Vast majority of staff continue to work from home
- Overall morale has remained good but this has been an unprecedented time
- Covid-19 response will continue for many months
- Recovery will also be an increasing focus for the Council

- A range of measures in place to support staff practically and with any mental health challenges are ongoing
- Increased opportunity for small scale return to office environment from July for collaborative activity
- New office base at Forward Drive from 2022 will be significantly improved environment
- Important for staff to take leave this summer with many having built up considerable entitlements
- Plans for “Great People Great Culture” which will see greater investment in staff development
- Important to keep under review during next 12 months

- Covid-19 case rates are now at much lower levels
- Current focus is on supporting Lockdown Exit Roadmap
- Council response to the Roadmap includes supporting the unlock, testing, variants of concern and vaccination
- Vaccination programme is going very well and provides hope for the future in respect of reduced hospitalisation and deaths
- 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