

Covid-19 Update

Cabinet 17th June 2021

- Update on Covid-19 London and Harrow
- Lockdown Exit Roadmap – 21st June delayed to 19th July
- Council response to Covid-19
 - Covid-19 related activity
 - service impact
- Testing update
- Vaccination update
- Planning for recovery
- Overview of capacity and organisational issues
- Questions

- Overall Covid-19 cases are increasing from a low base
- Harrow is now 36.6 cases per 100k people – this is an increase over the past few weeks
- Step 4 of Lockdown restrictions were delayed from 21st June to 19th July
- This was as a result of the impact of the Delta Variant driving an increase in covid-19 cases
- The key response to the Delta Variant is to vaccinate more people faster including 2nd doses
- The general vaccination programme is progressing well overall but there are challenges with supply of sufficient Pfizer vaccine to meet targets
- Significant focus on service pressures and recovery going forward

Harrow Covid-19 Dashboard

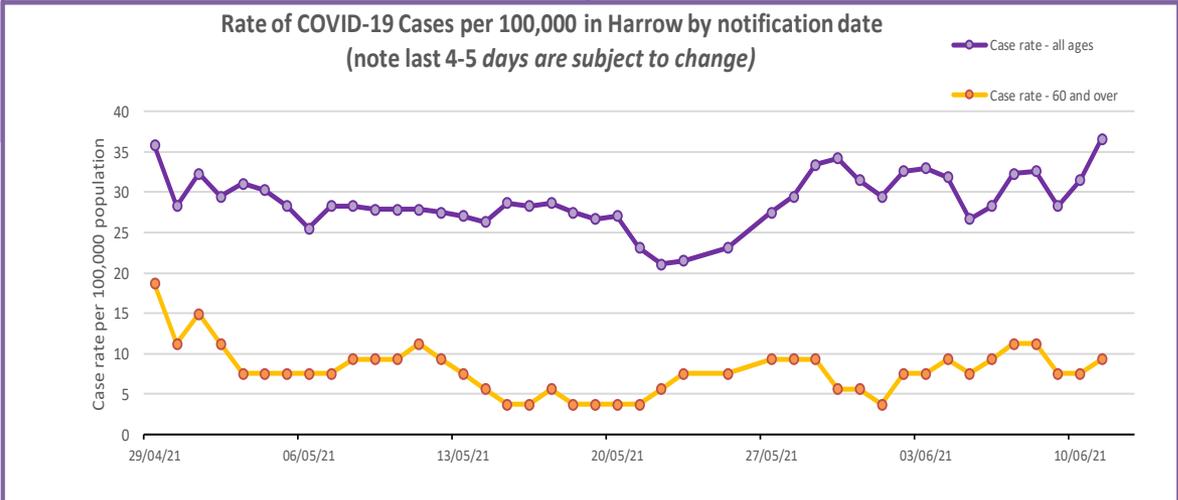
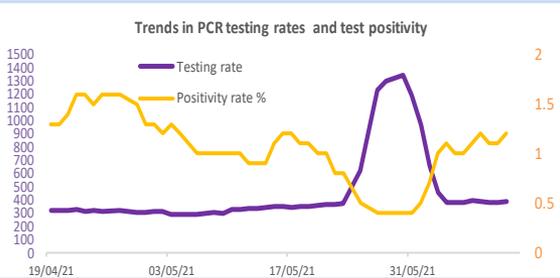
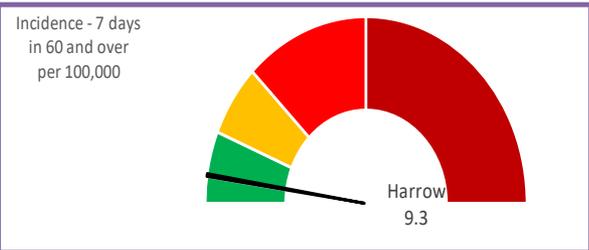
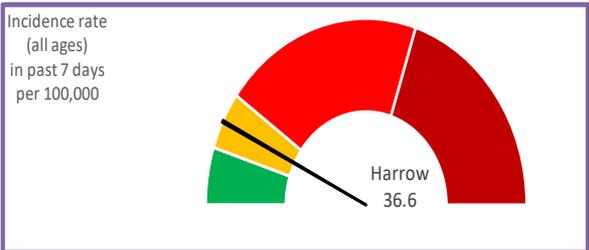
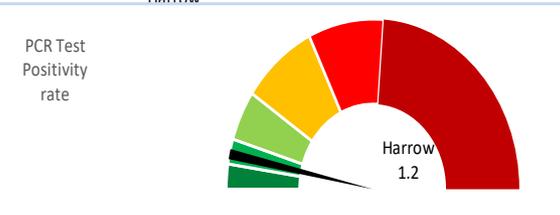
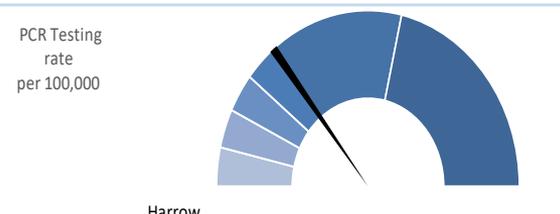
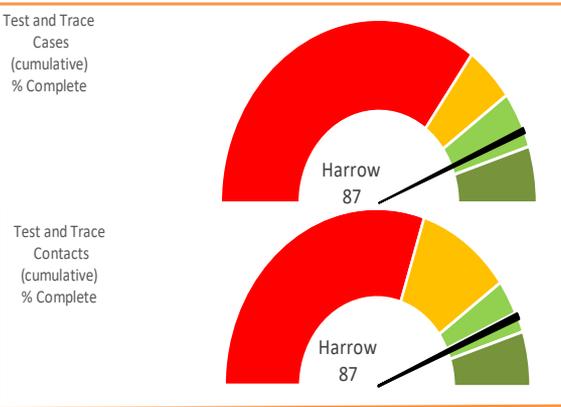


Harrow COVID 19 Dashboard
 report date: 16/06/2021
 Data from June 5 2021 to June 11 2021

Confirmed Positive Cases (all ages) in 7 days to 11/6/2021 **92**
 % Change in past 7 days **15%**

Interim positive cases (all ages) in 7 days to 15/06/2021 **111**

Confirmed Positive Cases (age 60+) in 7 days to 11/6/2021 **5**
 % Change in past 7 days **0%**



Although Harrow has the second lowest rate in the capital, the rate is now the highest it has been since the end of April. The interim numbers and the positivity rate increase suggests it will continue to rise.

At more than three times the borough average, the highest rate this week was in 19-24 year olds again. This is closely followed by a rate of almost three times the borough average in 17-18 year olds then 11-16 year olds whose rate is double the average. There were 5 or fewer cases in people aged over 60, in people aged 50-59 and in children under 10.

Fewer than one in 10 cases in Harrow are due to the Alpha variant and we assume that the majority of the remainder are due to the Delta variant. Two doses of the vaccines are effective against the Delta variant so it remains vital that people get both doses of the vaccine as soon as they can.

- The Delta Variant has created a new challenge due to a greater rate of transmission
- The Delta Variant is more resistant to just one dose of vaccine
- This has meant a delay to the end of Lockdown and a focus on accelerating both first and second vaccination doses
- The Council continues to be involved in four key areas:
 - Advice and Enforcement
 - Testing and Track and Trace
 - Variants of Concern
 - Vaccination programme
- Lockdown extension and council response to Covid-19 creates additional capacity pressures across the organisation

Lockdown Announcement

- Prime Minister announced that Step 4 of Lockdown Exit Roadmap to be delayed from 21st June to 19th July
- There is a review after two weeks with the possibility of the end of restrictions being brought forward
- Restrictions remain largely as Step 3 with some small changes to rules around weddings and wakes
- Working from home continues and this will delay the opening of the Civic Hub to after 19th July
- Vaccination programme will be key and Council working closely with NHS on delivery in Harrow and North West London
- Decision has impact on many Council services and Covid-19 response

- Community Testing becomes Targetted Testing from July
- Focus on disproportionately impacted groups, under-represented groups, areas of high and enduring transmission
- Business case for revised programme until March 2022 due 23rd June - to be reviewed every 3 months.
- Reimbursement of all reasonable costs stops and rate card caps introduced
- Proposed Harrow model to involve mixture of:
 - Fixed test sites for supervised testing – reduce from 4 to 2 (Civic Centre and Town Centre Library)
 - Pharmacy supervised testing
 - Community outreach via Council services and VCS organisations to promote and distribute home testing kits to priority groups
 - Mobile Pop up testing and home test promotion in specific geographical locations
 - Comms and engagement to raise awareness of home direct, pharmacy collect and local offer

- From the 7th June the Mass Vaccination Site at Byron Hall is now the only major vaccination centre in Harrow (and is offering Pfizer for all first doses)
- Current phase of vaccination includes residents over 21 years old
- Ongoing focus to also drive up numbers in highest risk cohorts 1-9 and deliver 2nd doses at pace -residents are being asked to bring forward their 2nd dose date where possible
- Challenges continue to maximise uptake for social care staff, certain Black and Multi Ethnic Communities and residents in our more deprived areas
- Continuing targeting those groups and communities who are more hesitant to be vaccinated – focus of Community Champions Fund
- Two Pop-Up clinics were set up on the weekend of the 6/7th June in Belmont and Roxbourne, vaccinating over 2,300 people - we will look to do more of these where possible

Vaccination Uptake in Harrow



Cohort	1 st Vaccination	2 nd Vaccination (as % of first doses)
Over 80's	91.0%	96%
75-79	91%	97%
70-74	89%	97%
CEVs	89%	95%
65-69's	87%	97%
60-64	82%	94%
55-59	78%	90%
50-54	74%	84%
40-49	64%	39%
30-39	49%	33%
18-29	35%	35%
Care home residents	92%	89%
Care home staff	80%	64%
Home care Agency staff	75%	40%
Social Care staff	72% (this is not now captured when booking for a vaccination so we expect this to be a lot higher now)	

- 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 16 months and is relentless
- This has involved delivering services, responding to covid-19 and dealing with lockdown – this continues to be a huge challenge with delay to Step 4
- 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
- Despite delay to end of Lockdown less public awareness of how covid-19 response continues to dominate work of the Council
- Staff will also need a to take their accumulated leave over the summer

- Covid-19 case rates are relatively low but rising
- The Lockdown Exit Roadmap delayed due to Delta Variant
- There is significant concern about the potential impact of Delta Variant on transmission and on those not vaccinated
- This has led to a plan across Harrow and NWL for an acceleration of the vaccination programme
- 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:

- To note the drafting a of a new business case for targeted testing and authorise Corporate Director of resources to enter into a new collaboration agreement with the DHSC for ongoing provision of asymptomatic Covid Testing