

# Covid-19 Update

## Cabinet 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2021

- Update on Covid-19 London and Harrow
- Covid-19 Winter Plan – strategic implications
- 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 remain at quite a high level in Harrow
- Harrow is now 216.4 cases per 100k people – cases have been falling recently but at a high level for sometime now
- Significant reduction in impact of Covid-19 on hospitalisation due to vaccination but pressures on NHS and Social Care continues
- The Government has announced Covid-19 Winter Plan to manage an expected increase in cases and impact over the next few months
- The vaccination programme is moving to a new phase including booster jabs for over 50's and vaccination for 12-15 year olds
- As Winter approaches Covid-19 will become an increasing challenge
- Significant focus on service pressures and recovery going forward

# Harrow Covid-19 Dashboard



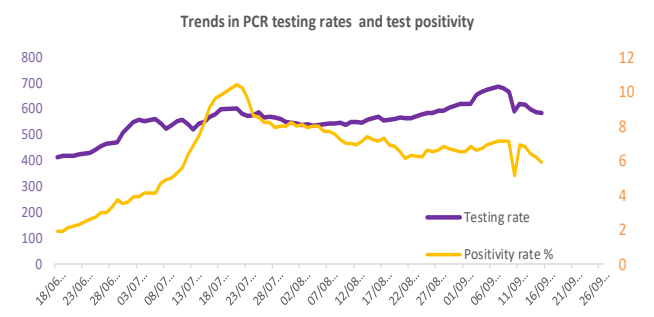
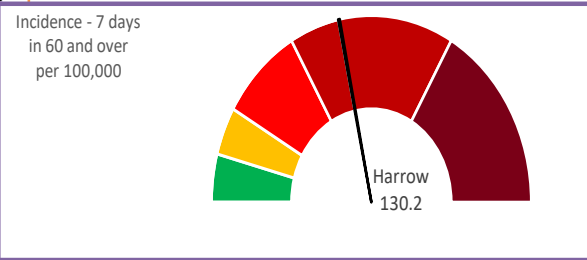
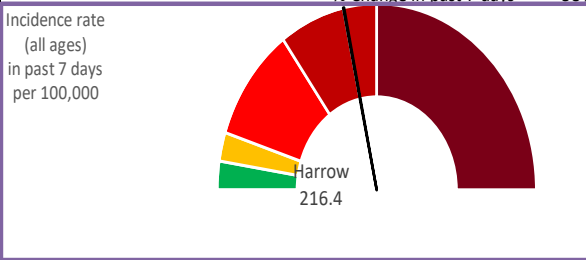
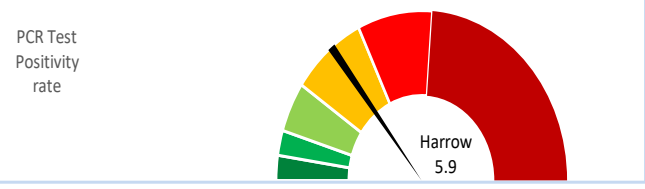
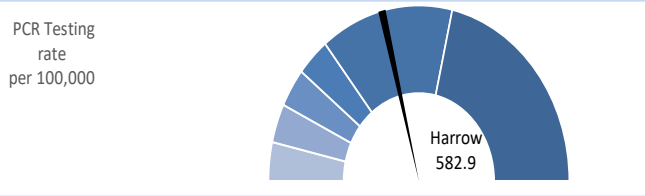
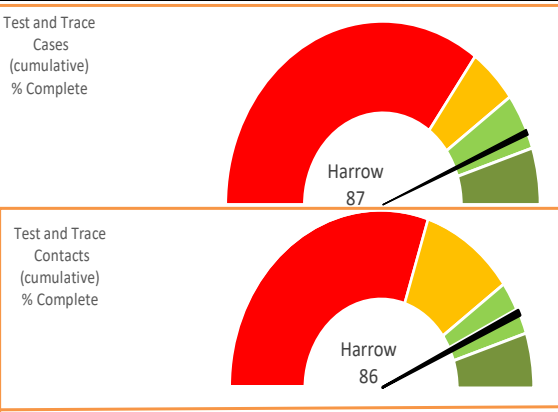
## Harrow COVID 19 Dashboard

**Report date:** 21/09/2021  
**Data from:** September 10 2021 to September 16 2021

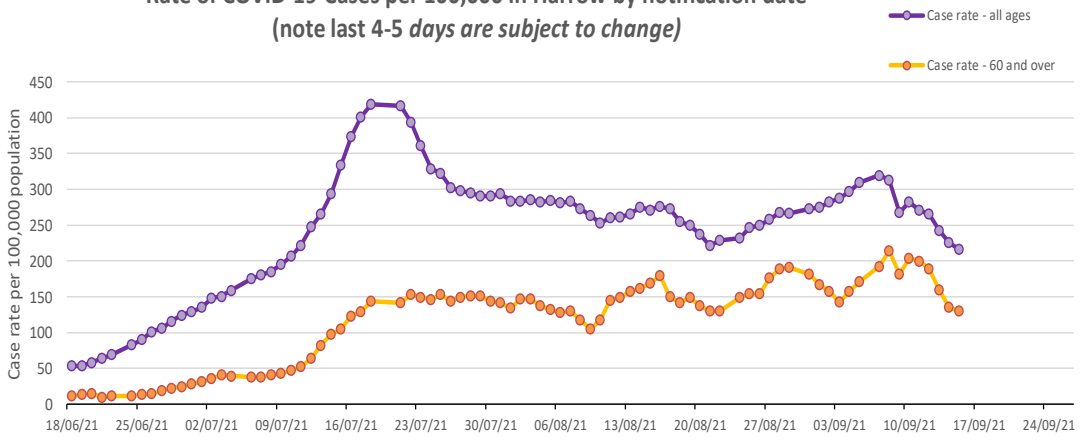
Confirmed Positive Cases (all ages) in 7 days to 7/9/2021 **546**  
 % Change in past 7 days **-29%**

Interim positive cases (all ages) in 7 days to 19/09/2021 **682**

Confirmed Positive Cases (age 60+ ) in 7 days 7/9/2021 **71**  
 % Change in past 7 days **-38%**



**Rate of COVID-19 Cases per 100,000 in Harrow by notification date**  
 (note last 4-5 days are subject to change)



Rates of covid remain high in NW London with Harrow having one of the highest rates in London. The all age rate continues to decrease and the over 60 rate has also begun to decrease.

**Hospitalisations:**  
 There has been a noted decrease in the number of hospitalisations and deaths in the last fortnight. Between 5th September 2021 and 11th September 2021, **63** went into North West London Hospital Trust with coronavirus, a decrease of **13.7%** compared to the previous 7 days. There were **102** patients in hospital with coronavirus on 13 September 2021 and **7** coronavirus patients in hospital beds with a mechanical ventilator on 13 September 2021.

**Deaths**  
 Between 10th and 16th September 2021, there were no deaths within 28 days of a positive coronavirus test.

- Winter anticipated to be very challenging for NHS and social care due to Covid-19 and normal Winter pressures e.g. Flu
- Government's Winter Plan focusses on a "Plan A" based upon vaccination and a "Plan B" which would see other measures such as mandatory face covering and a greater focus on home working
- Other key aspects include testing, self-isolation, encouragement to continue with hands, face, space and general caution
- Vaccination programme is underway and will involve new cohorts, boosters and an evergreen offer to those who are currently not vaccinated
- Government consultation is ongoing in respect of mandatory vaccination for those working in NHS and Social Care
- Council is preparing detailed contingency plans and current mitigations re services will remain in place as part of our support of the Winter Plan

- Pandemic continues and advice remains to go forward cautiously
- Services have reopened and access widened to others e.g. Libraries, Arts Centre, Civic Centre reception
- New Civic Hub has opened for c200 staff at anyone time – majority of staff will remain working from home
- Face coverings and aspects of social distancing will remain in Civic Hub and service delivery sites
- Cleaning and ventilation regime will remain as will expectation of regular testing for staff
- PPE use will continue for Social Care staff dealing with vulnerable clients
- Review will take place on ongoing basis as part of Winter Plan

- Pandemic response will continue to be a major focus of the Council for many months
- Activity will continue on key areas including testing, vaccination and isolation support
- Significant demand on services due to covid-19 especially social care, environment, benefits and via the community hub
- The demand on services is causing both a capacity and financial pressure in the system and is likely to grow as Winter approaches especially in Social Care
- The vaccination programme from September is very important and will require ongoing Council support for c6months

- Revised business case for a targetted testing programme until Dec 2022 being developed for submission
- Between 5<sup>th</sup> July and 19<sup>th</sup> Sept 12,811 tests were carried out and 28,687 home test kits were distributed
- Focus remains on disproportionately impacted groups, under-served groups, areas of high/enduring transmission
- Harrow business plan for next 3 months involves:
  - Closing the 3 fixed supervised testing sites from 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 2021 (Civic 5&6, Depot and Pavilion) due to low and declining numbers and significant alternative provision through pharmacies and home testing.
  - Continuing pharmacy supervised testing
  - Expanding Community Collect outreach network via Council services and VCS organisations to distribute home testing kits to priority groups
  - Mobile Pop ups promoting home testing in specific geographical locations and community events
  - Comms and engagement to raise awareness of continued need to test



- Phase three now being rolled out in Harrow, including:
  - Vulnerable 12-15 years olds have been offered vaccinations from the start of September through our Special Schools
  - Roll out of vaccinations for general 12-15 population, through schools to start in Harrow from 27<sup>th</sup> September, with a target of 75% receiving a single dose
  - Third vaccination for those over 50 and clinically extremely vulnerable has started
- The third vaccination will be offered through Primary Care Hubs with sites available across the borough - patients contacted directly by their local surgery
- This will be supplemented by nine pharmacies across the borough, offering third doses as well as first and seconds, known as the 'Evergreen Offer' - which can be booked via the NHS National Booking Site or walk-ins
- Byron Hall will act as a 'pop-up' from Thursdays to Sundays for both third doses and walk ins / bookings for first and second doses
- Focus of our Covid Awareness Fund still on those who have not had a first dose, especially our Black and Eastern European Communities

# Vaccination Uptake in Harrow

Cohort	1 <sup>st</sup> Vaccination	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vaccination (as % of first doses)
Over 80's	92%	97%
75-79	92%	98%
70-74	90%	98%
CEVs	91%	97%
65-69's	88%	98%
60-64	83%	98%
55-59	80%	97%
50-54	76%	96%
40-49	68%	94%
30-39	57%	90%
18-29	56%	90%
Care home residents	93%	90%

Big gains made in second doses since rates were reported at July Cabinet – overall 93% of people who have had a first dose have had their second dose, the best performance in North West London

- The whole of 2021/2 is likely to be dominated by Covid -19 response
- Current focus is on recovery and Winter Plan
- 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
- Housing and homelessness will become a greater challenge in the Autumn
- Capacity and resilience will remain stretched impacting on priorities

- Covid-19 response and recovery will be major focus
- Ensuring delivery of core Council services with extra demand
- HSDP and wider regeneration and housing
- Accommodation strategy delivery and flexible futures
- Health and Social Care Integration
- Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion
- Modernisation – Dynamics, Great People Great Culture, IT, HR/OD
- Budget and MTFs – ongoing challenge of 2021/2 and planning for 2022/3 and beyond
- Very limited capacity to respond to other priorities as planned pre Covid-19

- Pandemic response has now been running for 19 months and has stretched the organisation and staff significantly
- Positive that staff have been able to take accumulated leave over the summer in advance of a challenging Winter period re Covid-19
- Pressures are building in many services such as adult social care, children's services and environment and will continue to do so over Winter
- Significant pent up demand in many services e.g. housing and social care
- The local economy has recovered well but there are many local residents and businesses who have been hit hard by the pandemic
- Public awareness of how covid-19 response continues to dominate work of the Council is dwindling
- Staff resilience will need to continue to be a priority over the Winter

- Covid-19 case rates are high but serious illness and hospitalisation remains lower as a result of vaccination programme
- Significant move to normality over the summer but onset of Winter will be a challenge in respect of Covid-19
- Major focus for Council on supporting the Winter Plan response e.g. vaccination and delivery of social care
- 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:

- Authorise a further 3 month extension to the contract with Number8 Events for the continued provision of Community Testing in line with the extension of the Community Testing programme until end Dec 2021. The estimated value is: £90k
- To note that the estimated cost of extending Harrow's Community Testing Programme until the end of December 2021, which includes: staffing, contractors, consumables, waste and communications is £247k which is under the rate card cap.
- To note that the costs of the Community Testing programme are reimbursed by Government on a monthly basis up to a rate card maximum, any costs above the cap are funded through the COMF grant.