

# Covid-19 – Cabinet Update

24<sup>th</sup> January 2022

- Update on Covid-19 London and Harrow
- National policy response to Omicron Variant
- Current situation and forward look
- Testing Update
- Vaccination update
- Overview of service pressures and organisational challenges
- Questions

- The Omicron Variant drove a very sharp increase in cases during December and January to record levels
- In Harrow this peaked at c1900 cases per 100k and over the past two weeks cases have fallen to 1057.7 cases per 100k people
- Response to Omicron Variant triggered massive ramp up of booster vaccination and move to Plan B which ends on 26<sup>th</sup> January
- Reduction in Covid-19 hospitalisation due to vaccination but pressures on NHS and Social Care were very significant but have now eased to a still high but more manageable level
- Council services were impacted by Omicron driven absence but this has now stabilised but social care in particular remains very stretched

# Harrow Covid 19 Dashboard

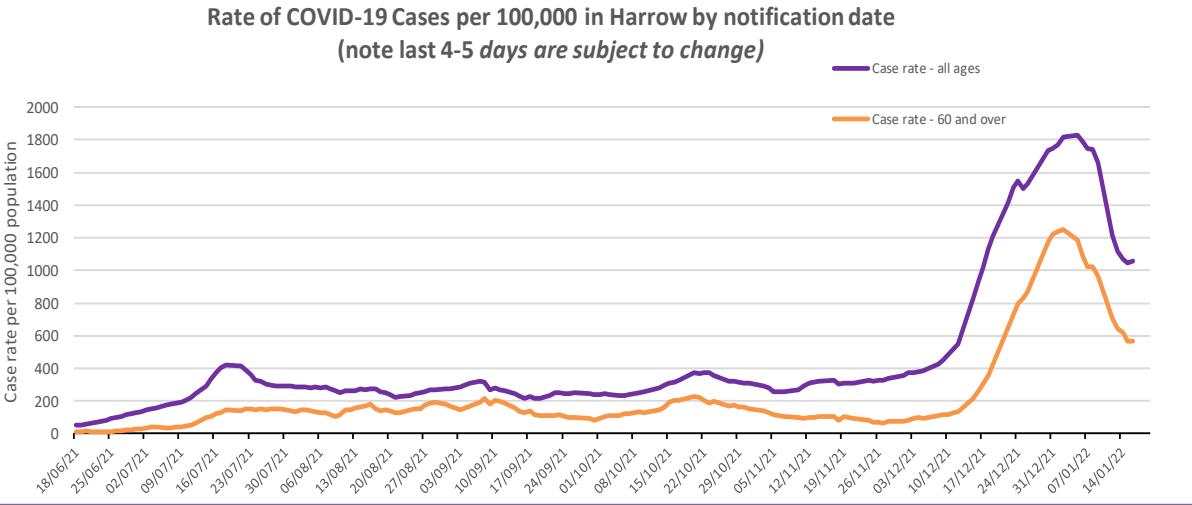
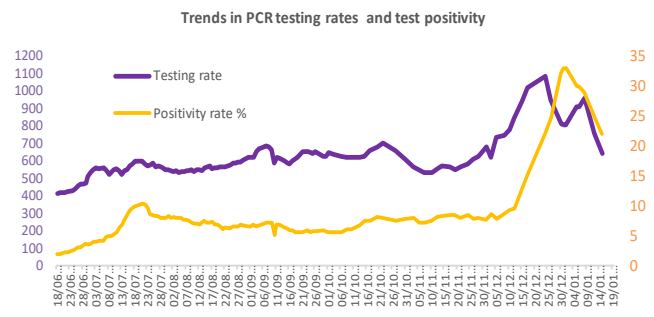
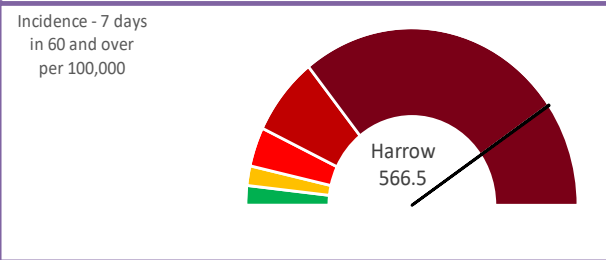
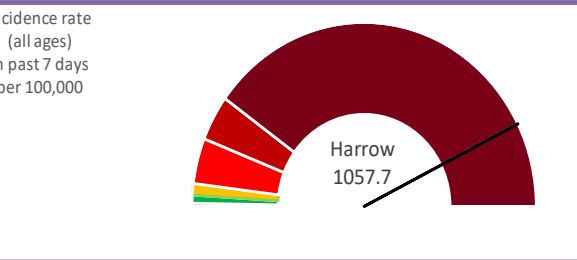
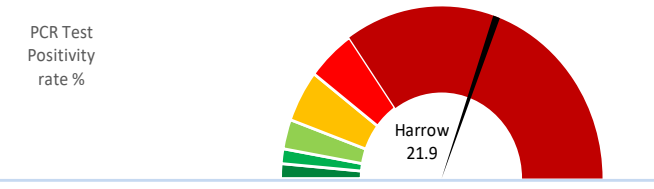
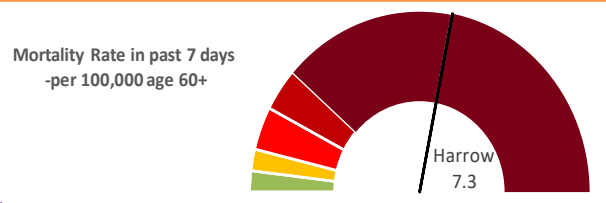
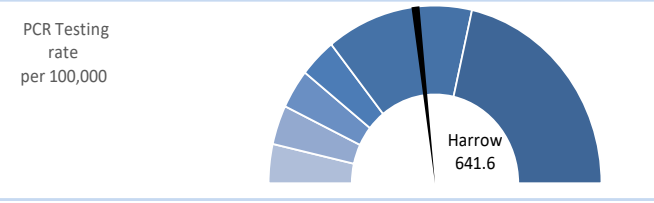
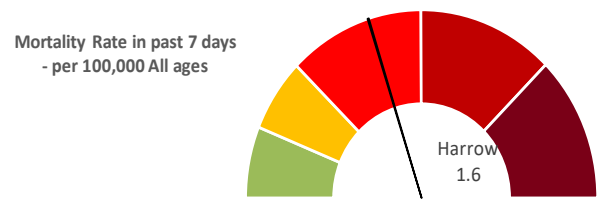


**Harrow COVID 19 Dashboard**  
**Report date:** 23/01/2022  
**Data from:** January 10 2022 to January 16 2022

Confirmed Positive Cases (all ages) in 7 days to 16/01/2022 **2669**

% Change in past 7 days **-36%**

Interim positive cases (all ages) in 7 days to 22/01/2022 **2917**



Harrow is currently in 5th position out of the 33 London boroughs, Rates show early signs of plateauing. However, in recent days we have seen an increase in new case numbers in the interim data. The policy change that no longer requires a confirmatory PCR after a positive lateral flow test will underestimate the numbers of infections as we know that many people do not register their lateral flow test results.

**Hospitalisations:**  
**27** people with coronavirus went into hospital on 16 January 2022. Between 10 January 2022 and 16 January 2022, **165** went into hospital with coronavirus. This shows a decrease of -1.2% compared to the previous 7 days. There were **170** patients in hospital with coronavirus on 18 January 2022 - **9** were in hospital beds with a mechanical ventilator on 18 January 2022.

**Deaths:** Between 17 January 2022 and 23 January 2022, there have been **6** deaths within 28 days of a positive coronavirus test.

- The Omicron Variant was a very significant challenge hence the major changes to Policy in respect of Plan B and the vaccination programme
- Omicron is much more transmissible meaning that the overall number of Covid-19 cases is rose very rapidly
- Omicron is more resistant to existing vaccines and immunity is reduced to 3 months rather than 6 months
- The Plan B response in respect of masks, working from home etc was aimed at slowing the rate of transmission
- The Vaccine Booster programme was aimed at improving immunity and slowing transmission
- These measures have generally proved effective in respect of reducing the impact on hospitalisation and led to the policy change re Plan B

- Omicron, the move to Plan B and the vaccination booster programme had major implications for the Council
- The pressures on Adult Social Care were exceptionally challenging as the numbers in hospital increased, staff absences increased and care homes closed
- The increase in cases due to Omicron created impacts on service resilience due to staff absence
- This manifested itself most significantly in waste services, SEN transport, libraries, careline, schools and social care
- The vaccination booster programme required significant Council input in respect of planning, logistics, engagement and communications
- Activity continued on key areas including testing, vaccination and isolation
- A new Business Grants programme for hospitality was launched
- The past 8 weeks has been incredibly pressurised dealing with Omicron

- Cases levels remain high and pressures on the NHS and Social Care continue to be significant
- The position is improving and the outlook is more positive going forward but the impact of covid-19 will continue throughout the Winter
- The Council will continue to have an important role in Covid-19 response
  - Social Care in partnership with the NHS
  - Public Health advice
  - Business grants and support
  - Self-isolation support
  - Testing Support
  - Vaccination delivery
  - Public engagement and communication
- The focus on supporting recovery activity will increase as the emergency response reduces e.g. education, economy, mental health

- Extra capacity was put into test sites in Harrow over Christmas with a second MTU and extended opening hours
- Change in policy (no confirmatory PCR if positive LFT and asymptomatic) and reduction in case levels has seen demand for testing drop from 117% over Christmas to approx. 50% now
- As result UKSHA looking to redeploy some of London's additional MTU capacity to the NW



- Supply in the online home delivery channel has been stabilised and is back up and running
- Supplies to pharmacies are improving with more regular deliveries incl. weekends
- Supply for the Council's Community Testing Programme is reduced, but we have sufficient stock to continue to deliver our activities to under-represented and disproportionately impacted groups
- In total we distributed 10,416 test kits in emergency local mutual aid over Christmas to Care Homes, GP's, Pharmacies and schools

- On the basis of the spread of the Omicron variant, the Vaccination Programme was accelerated during December based on the following:
  - boosters at 3 months post second vaccination
  - all over 18s are eligible
  - all eligible people to have been vaccinated by 7<sup>th</sup> January 2022
  - 15 minute observation time after vaccination suspended
  - focus to continue on first and second vaccination including 12-15, and flu
- In addition, during January:
  - 2nd vaccination for 12-15 has started through schools and all primary care settings can now vaccinate 12-15 year olds
  - Planning has started for vaccinating Clinically Vulnerable 5-11 year olds, and the JCVI are considering whether to roll out first doses for all 5-11 year olds

# Vaccination Update - Delivery

- Harrow mobilised during December in order to deliver up to 20,000 vaccines a week, although demand since the end of December has significantly reduced
- Civic 5 has been made available to act as a vaccination site 7 days a week until the end of February 2022, for booked appointments as well as being available for walk-ins
- Byron Hall made available from 19th December and closed on 23rd January
- Civic 1 was also made available for NHS use, but only needed to be used one weekend in December
- Nine pharmacies continue to offer vaccinations across the borough (boosters as well as first and seconds) - which can be booked via the NHS National Booking Site or walk-ins
- Focus of our Covid Awareness Fund still on those who have not had a first dose, especially our Black heritage and Romanian Communities, with new funding being rolled out through Health Inequalities Funding and the new Community Vaccine Champions Fund
- NHS Communications Campaigns and local campaigns continue, including the importance of Flu Vaccination – e.g. webinars being delivered for parents of 12-15 year olds

# Vaccination Uptake in Harrow



Cohort	1 <sup>st</sup> Vaccination	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vaccination (as % of first doses)	Booster (as % of second doses)
Care home residents	95%	92%	81%
Over 80's	93%	98%	91%
75-79	93%	98%	94%
70-74	91%	98%	94%
CEVs	92%	98%	89%
65-69's	89%	98%	92%
60-64	84%	98%	89%
55-59	80%	98%	86%
50-54	77%	97%	82%
40-49	69%	96%	72%
30-39	60%	94%	62%
18-29	61%	91%	50%
16-17	60%	68%	-
12-15	51%	31%	-

Overall **93%** of people who have had a first dose have had their second dose.

On the **Booster Campaign**, Harrow has delivered **122,168** doses, **74%** of the overall adult population. However, only **1,812** were administered in the last week showing how demand has significantly dropped since December.

- Covid-19 rates are reducing from the peak caused by Omicron but remain high
- The pressures on NHS and Social Care are still significant but reducing
- Pressures on Council services due to staff absence have abated
- Plan B restrictions end from Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> January
- The impact of the Pandemic is reducing but caution and good public health practice – hands, face, space and ventilation remains important!
- The Council will continue to have a significant role to play in responding to Covid-19 for some months
- Questions?