

# Covid-19 – Cabinet Update

10<sup>th</sup> March 2022

- Update on Covid-19 London and Harrow
- Current situation and forward look
- Testing Update
- Vaccination update
- Overview of service pressures and organisational challenges
- Questions

- The Pandemic is easing and case rates are falling
- In Harrow the case rate is 311.1 cases per 100k people although likely to be higher in practice due to drop in testing
- Reduction in Covid-19 hospitalisation due to vaccination although there remains pressure on NHS and Social Care
- Government has announced a “Living with Covid” strategy which has seen legal restrictions replaced with guidance
- Activity to support Testing and Vaccination remains ongoing
- Overall position is stable and improving but with challenges
- Focus now shifts to “Living with Covid” and recovery

# Harrow Covid-19 Dashboard



## Harrow COVID 19 Dashboard

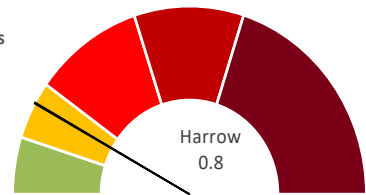
**Report date:** 07/03/2022  
**Data from:** February 26 2022 to March 4 2022

Confirmed Positive Cases (all ages) in 7 days to 04/03/2022 **785**

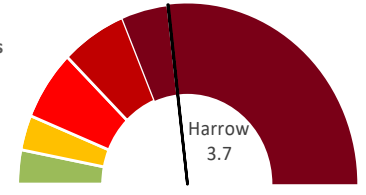
% Change in past 7 days **-6%**

Interim positive cases (all ages) in 7 days to 09/03/2022 **989**

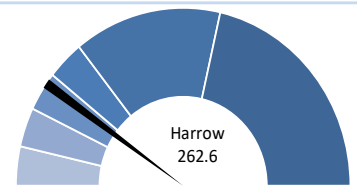
Mortality Rate in past 7 days - per 100,000 All ages



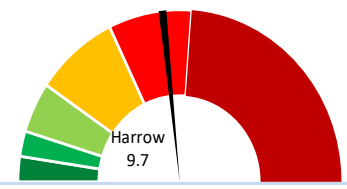
Mortality Rate in past 7 days -per 100,000 age 60+



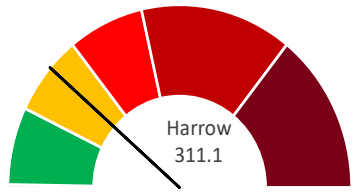
PCR Testing rate per 100,000



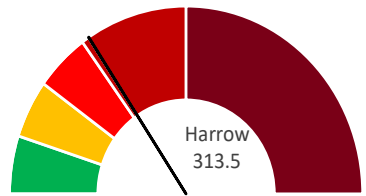
PCR Test Positivity rate %



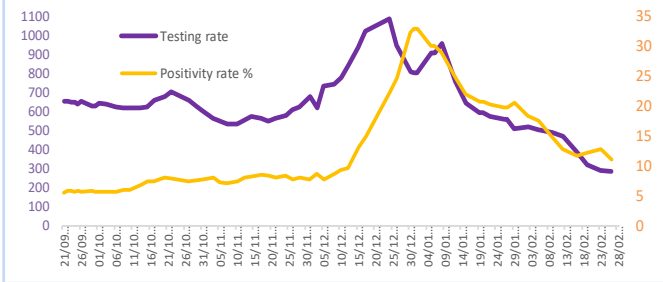
Incidence rate (all ages) in past 7 days per 100,000



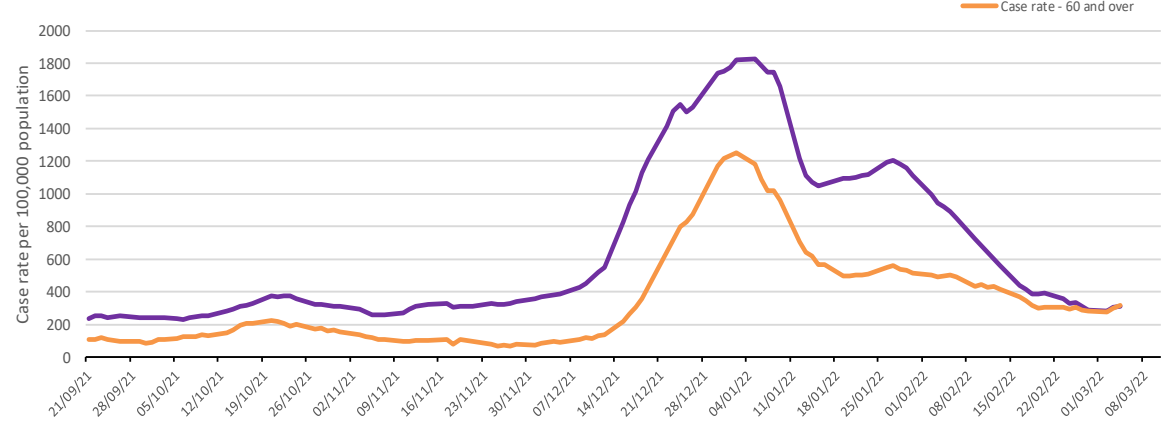
Incidence - 7 days in 60 and over per 100,000



Trends in PCR testing rates and test positivity



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



Harrow is currently in 24th position out of the 33 London boroughs for rate of covid (all ages) Interim data is showing an increase in cases and today is 200 cases higher than the confirmed cases for 4th March. Rates in over 60s are now higher than the all age rate.

**Hospitalisations:**

**54** people with coronavirus went into hospital on 3rd March 2022. Between 21st February 2022 and 27 February 2022, **34** went into hospital with coronavirus. This shows a decrease of **-44.3%** compared to the previous 7 days. There were **34** patients in hospital with coronavirus on 25th February 2022. There were **3** coronavirus patients in hospital beds with a mechanical ventilator on 3rd March 2022.

**Deaths:**

Between 3 March 2022 and 9 March 2022, there have been **2** deaths within 28 days of a positive coronavirus test. This shows an increase of **100.0%** compared to the previous 7 days.

- The “Living with Covid” Strategy relies on a combination of guidance rather than legal requirements and an emphasis on the importance of vaccination.
- The legal requirement to self-isolate was lifted on 24<sup>th</sup> February, but guidance remains covering the expectation of self-isolation for 5 days
  - Council will continue to ask staff to self-isolate until at least end March
- Universal PCR and free LTF testing will remain available until end March
  - Testing will continue for vulnerable groups and probably social care post March
- Test, Trace and Isolate programmes will stand-down by end March
- Vaccination has been extended to all 5-11 year olds and a booster programme is planned for over 75s and vulnerable people from April
- Council role in onward distribution of PPE to stop by end March
  - Some services continue to be eligible for free PPE until March 2023
- Council will update its Outbreak Management Plan in order to respond to localised outbreak and to any new variant
- Council civic hub reopened and new offices at Forward Drive will enable more collaboration

# Standing Down Test, Trace & Isolate Programmes

- PCR testing
  - Northwick Park test site closes w/c 7th March, all other sites to close 31<sup>st</sup> March
  - Removal of infrastructure at Local Testing Sites expected to take up to 9 months
  - Council storing excess PCR tests until receive guidance from DHSC about what we can do with them
- LFT testing
  - LFT collection points at Civic, Depot and VCS will stop distributing kits end Mar/when stock runs out
  - Pop up to continue with phased reduction through to end march or when stocks run out
  - Give notice to end Pharmacy contracts for supervised testing, excess stock to care homes or Asylum hotels
- Local Contact Tracing
  - Stood down w/c 7<sup>th</sup> Feb
- Self Isolation grants
  - Local scheme closed 1<sup>st</sup> Feb
  - Main and Discretionary schemes to close to new applicants 24<sup>th</sup> Feb but people have 42 days to claim (6<sup>th</sup> April). Both schemes will be fully funded
- Practical Support
  - Programme to end, grant all allocated
  - Help Harrow/Community Hub, funded until Sept 2022.
- Business grants
  - Scheme has closed

- Vaccination now broadly a business as usual activity, through health settings (GP surgeries and pharmacies) offering first, seconds and boosters
- Civic 5 has now closed, but in last 2 weeks of February offered local residents who had approved vaccines abroad to get these registered on their NHS record
- Focus of our Covid Awareness Fund now more towards Health Inequalities than specifically vaccinations, but high correlation between communities with low vaccine take up and higher health inequalities so targeting of the Black Heritage and Romanian communities remains the focus of the fund
- Demand for vaccinations continues to fall reflecting the regional and national picture with average daily figures in NWL of around 2,500 vaccinations per day
- The 'at risk' 5-11 year old cohort are now being offered vaccinations in 3 approved locations across Harrow but activity remains low with uptake at 3.5%, slightly above the wider London picture
- Planning is underway to prepare for roll out to the wider (healthy) 5-11 year olds cohort which is likely to commence at the beginning of April
- Phase 4 planning guidance has now been issued: campaigns will be running in both the spring and autumn with continued effort on those most at risk i.e. over 75s, immunosuppressed etc

# 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%	78%
Over 80's	93%	98%	89%
75-79	93%	98%	93%
70-74	91%	98%	94%
CEVs	92%	98%	81%
65-69's	89%	98%	93%
60-64	83%	98%	90%
55-59	79%	98%	87%
50-54	76%	97%	83%
40-49	68%	97%	74%
30-39	58%	94%	65%
18-29	60%	91%	54%
16-17	62%	74%	14%
12-15	53%	53%	-

Overall **73%** of eligible Harrow residents have had a first dose, and **93%** of people who have had a first dose have had their second dose.

On the **Booster Campaign**, Harrow has delivered **125,795** doses, **75%** of those who have had a second dose.



- The Pandemic response has lasted two years and had multiple impacts across Harrow and the Council
- The Council has responded well to the direct challenges of the Pandemic but this has had a significant impact on capacity, delivery and finances
- The direct impact of the Pandemic on residents, businesses, council services and staff are now beginning to reduce
- There are significant backlogs in social care and other services due to the impact of Covid-19 that will take many months to address
- Significant work is also required to support recovery especially for vulnerable and disadvantaged residents e.g. education and mental health
- Future plans need to be cognisant of organisational capacity and resilience

- Covid-19 Legal restrictions ended on 24<sup>th</sup> February
- Covid-19 rates are reducing but the pandemic is not over
- The pressures on NHS and Social Care are reducing gradually
- Pressures on Council services due to covid have reduced but significant backlogs remain
- 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 role to play in responding to Covid-19 and needs to be ready to respond to developments
- Questions?