

Merton Council

Healthier Communities and Older People Overview and Scrutiny Panel

11 January 2021

Supplementary agenda

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Healthier Communities and Older People Overview and Scrutiny Panel – 11th January 2021

Situational Awareness Report: COVID-19 in Merton

Dr Dagmar Zeuner, Director of Public Health

Merton Public Health Intelligence

11th January 2021

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Overview

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Summary key messages

11th January 2021

London overview

- Estimated cases rate positivity in London is **2,540 per 100,000** (ONS)
- The current estimated London R value is between **1.1 and 1.4**

Cases (31st December – 6th January):

- 7 day case rate (all ages) **1,020.5 cases per 100,000** (up from 860.6 previous week).
- 7 day case rate (among 60+) **816.7 cases per 100,000** (up from 483.3 previous week).
- There were **2,177** new COVID cases in Merton.
- New COVID variant: estimated to be responsible for 63% of cases in London between 29th November and 22nd December.

Deaths:

- There **13** new registered Merton COVID death (in hospital) for the week ending 25th December. In total Merton has seen 250 deaths due to COVID.

Testing (29th December – 4th January / pillar 2 PCR tests only – this excludes Lateral Flow tests):

- 7 day testing rate **587.4 daily tests per 100,000**.
- 7 day test positivity increased to **22.2%**.

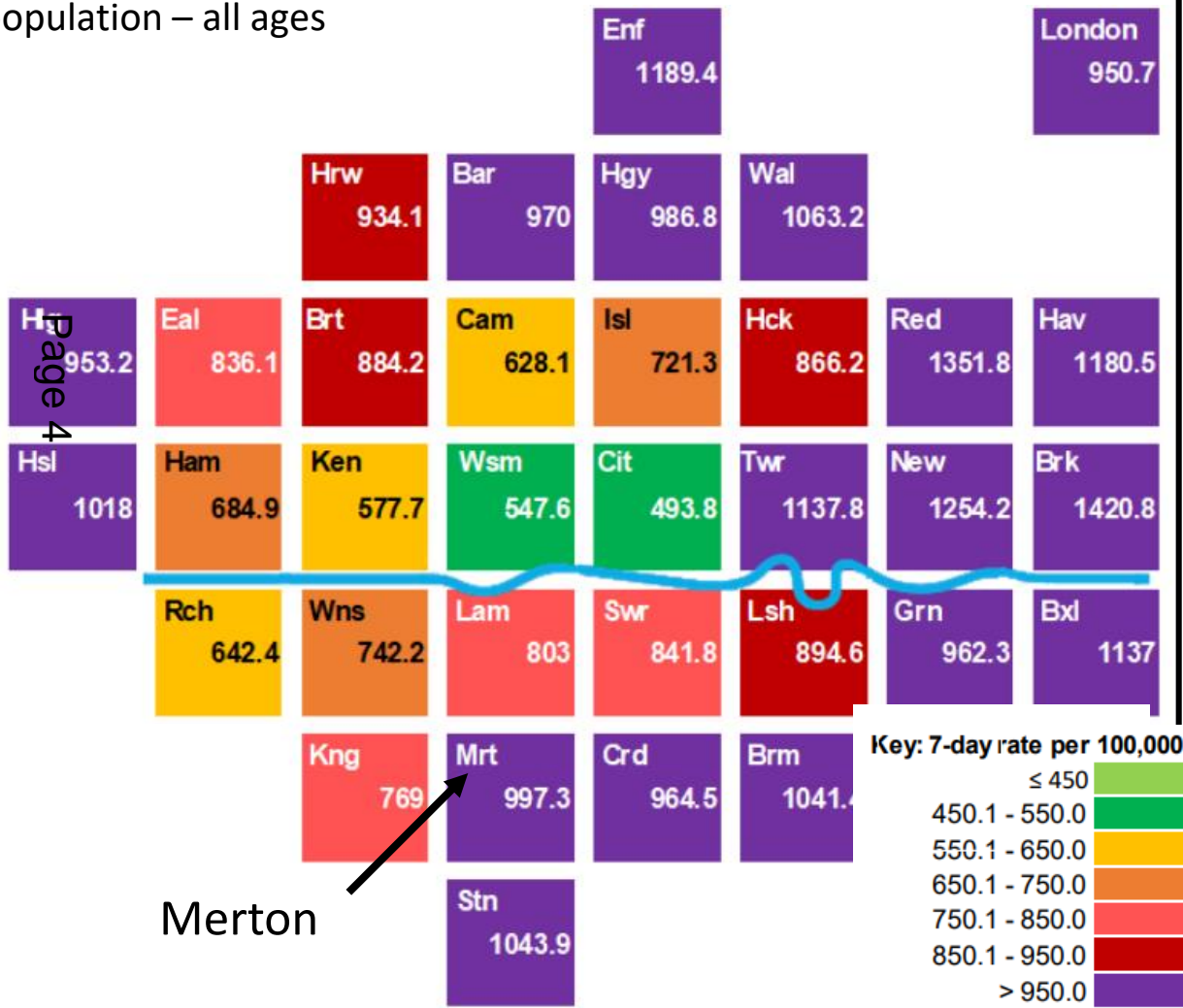
Positive cases per 100,000 across London boroughs

11th January 2021

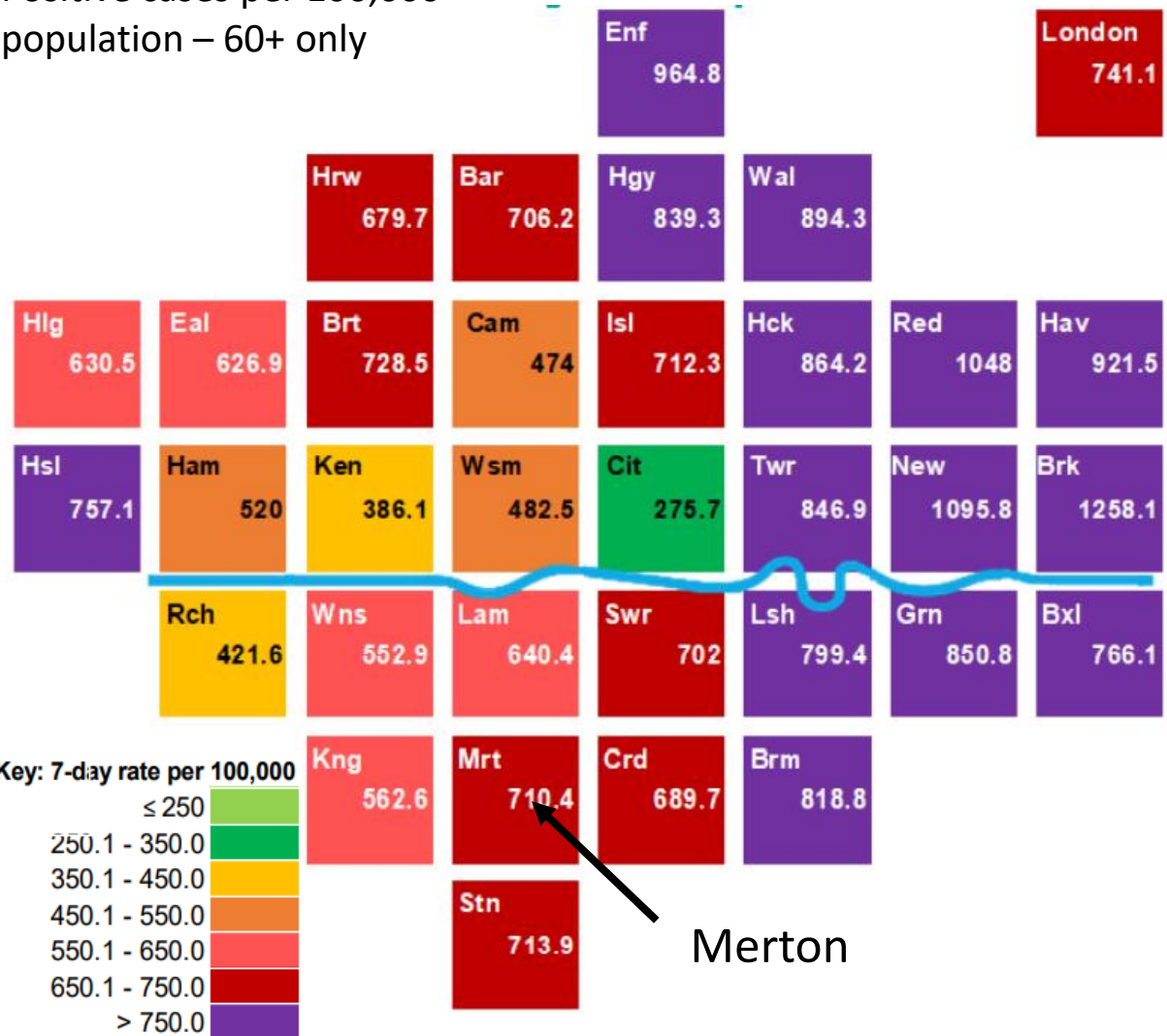
For reporting period 24.12.2020 – 30.12.2020

Colour of box illustrates weekly cases per 100,000 for that week

Positive cases per 100,000 population – all ages



Positive cases per 100,000 population – 60+ only



Positive cases per 100,000 across London boroughs – change since last week

11th January 2021

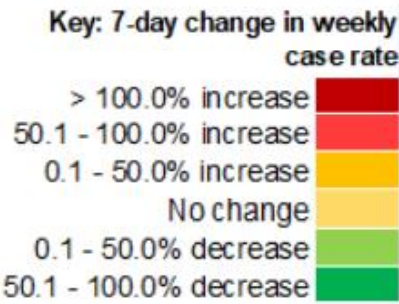
For reporting period 24.12.2020 – 30.12.2020

Colour of box illustrates weekly cases per 100,000 for that week

Change in positive cases per 100,000 population – all ages



Change in positive cases per 100,000 population – 60+ only

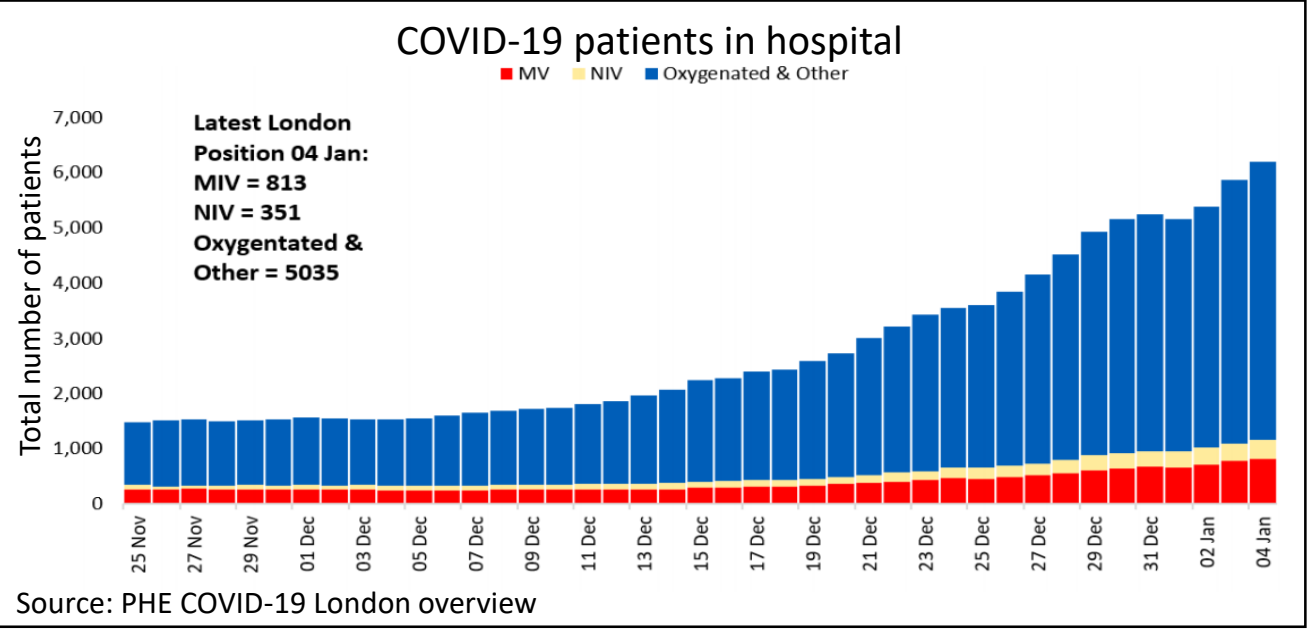
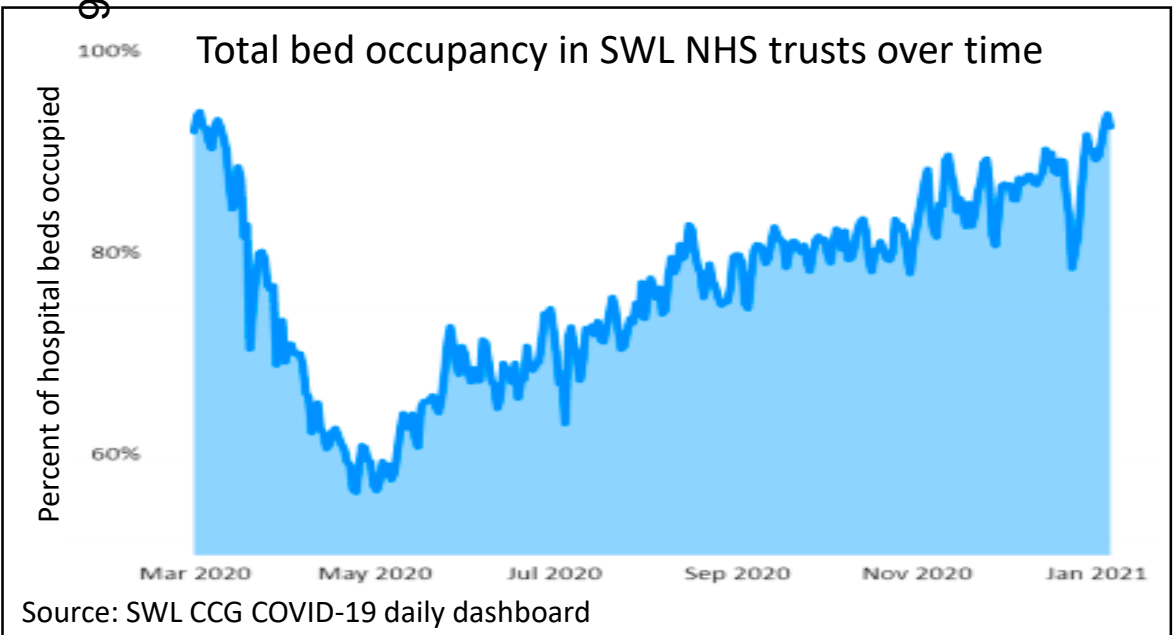
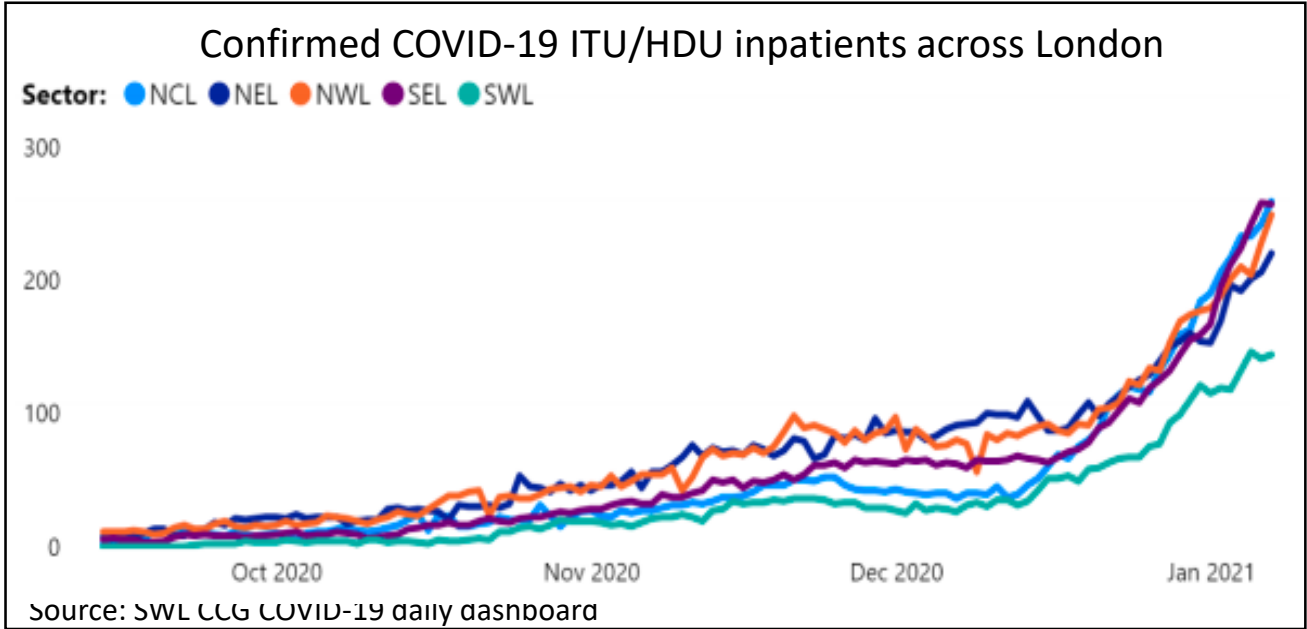
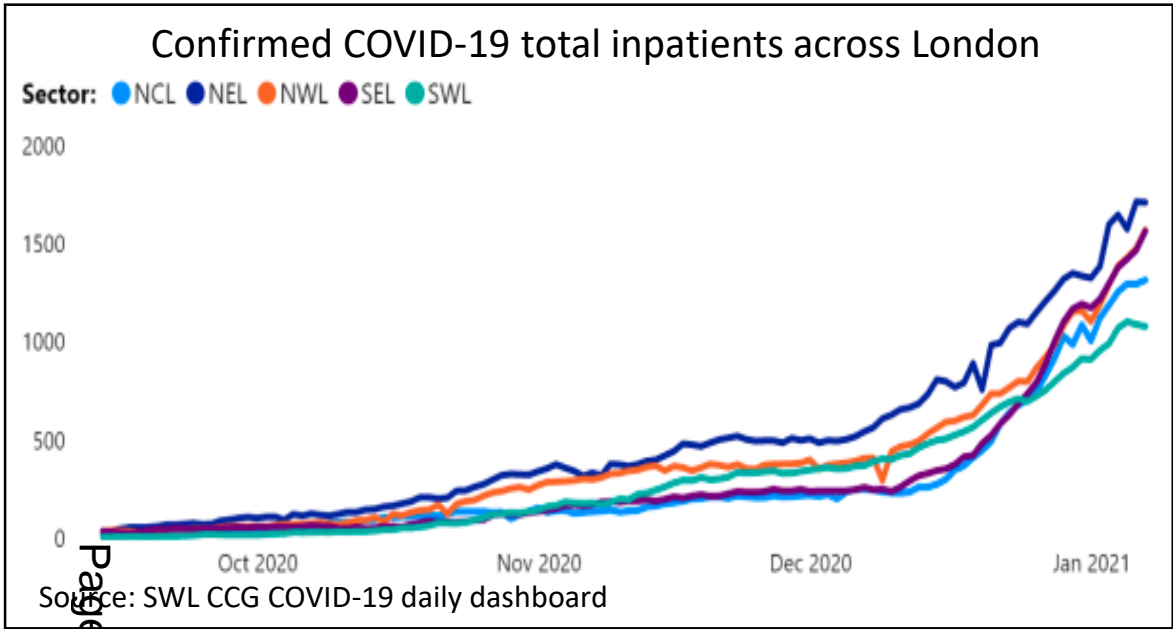


Merton

Merton

COVID-19 and NHS-related indicators (all figures are numbers unless stated)

11th January 2021



Local analysis: COVID-19 testing in Merton

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Key Messages:

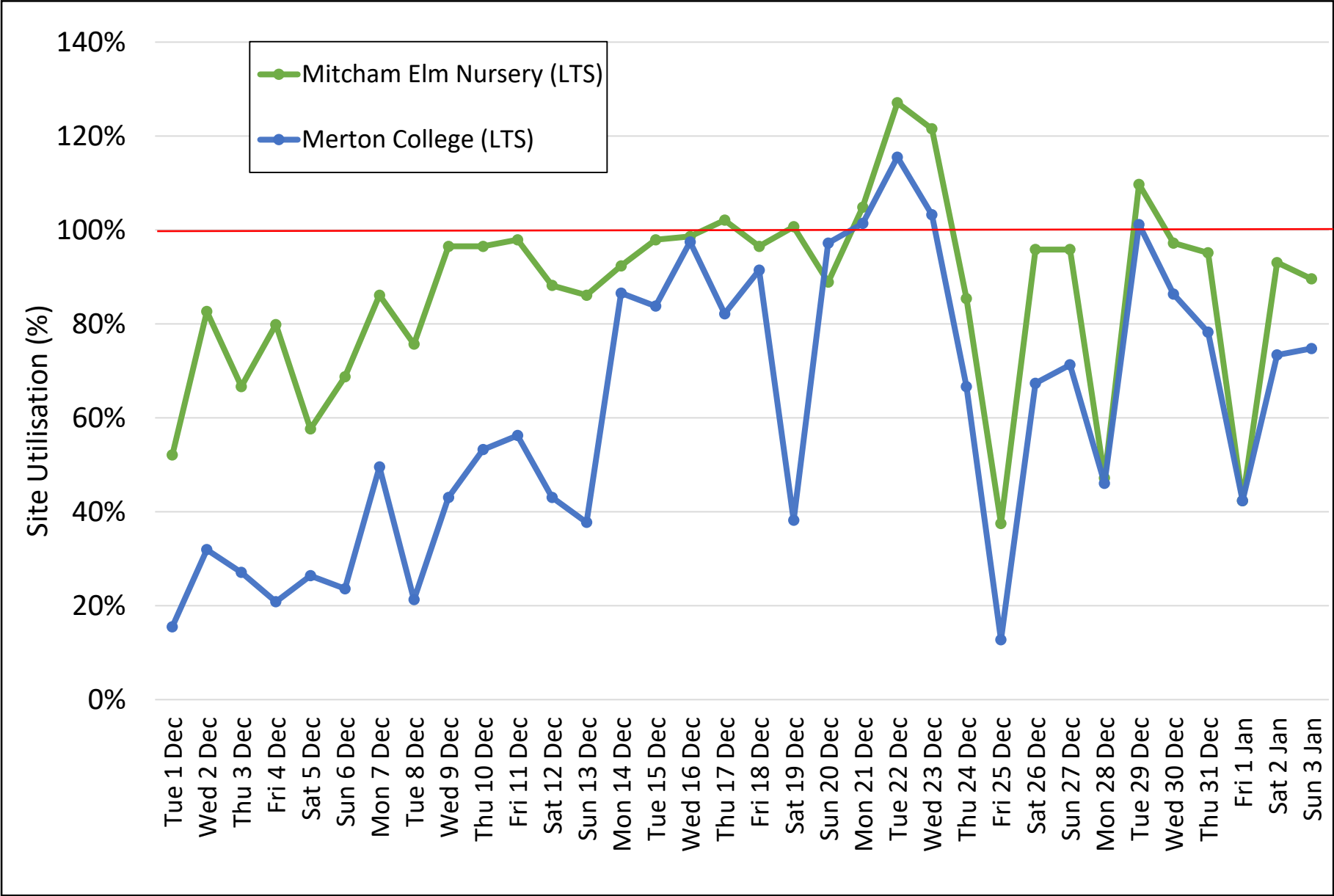
Local site capacity as:
Mitcham Elm: 144; Merton College: 432; (Source: RSP Merton).

Both sites exceeded their capacity on Tue 29 Dec:

- Mitcham Elm (110%)
- Merton College (101%)

Since then, both sites operating within capacity (last five-day average):

- Mitcham Elm (83%)
- Merton College (71%)



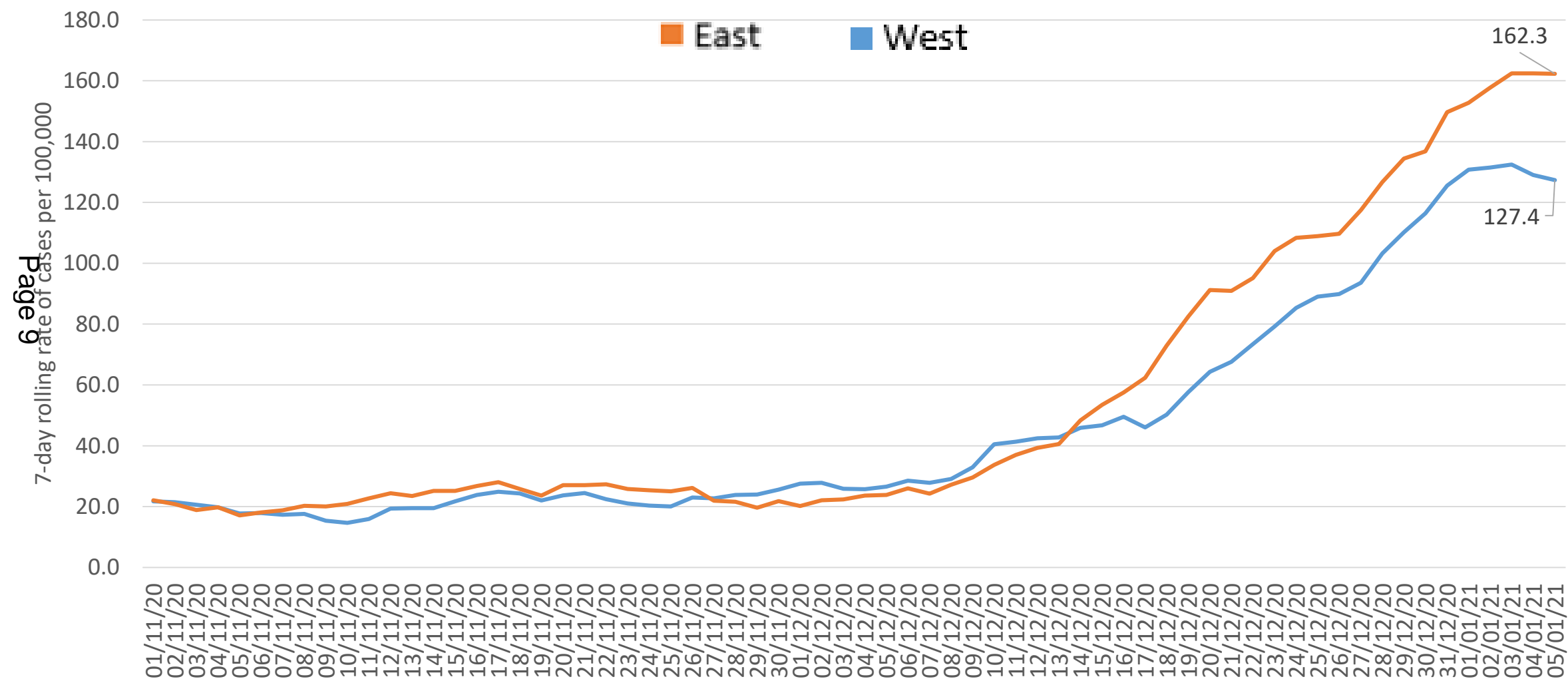
COVID-19 case rates in East and West Merton

11th January 2021

Source: LSAT daily line list

Reporting frequency: Daily

7-day rolling total number of cases in East and West Merton

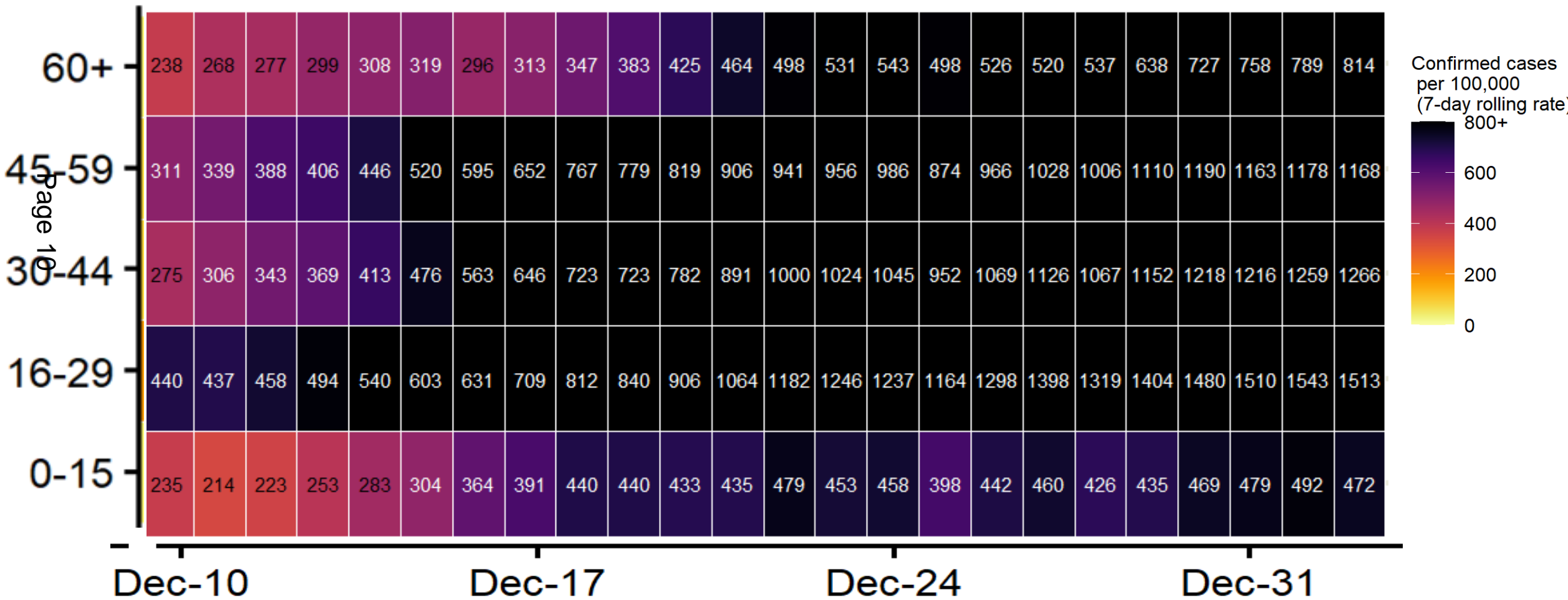


COVID-19 cases rates in Merton by age group heat map over time

7-day rolling total case rates per 100,000

11th January 2021

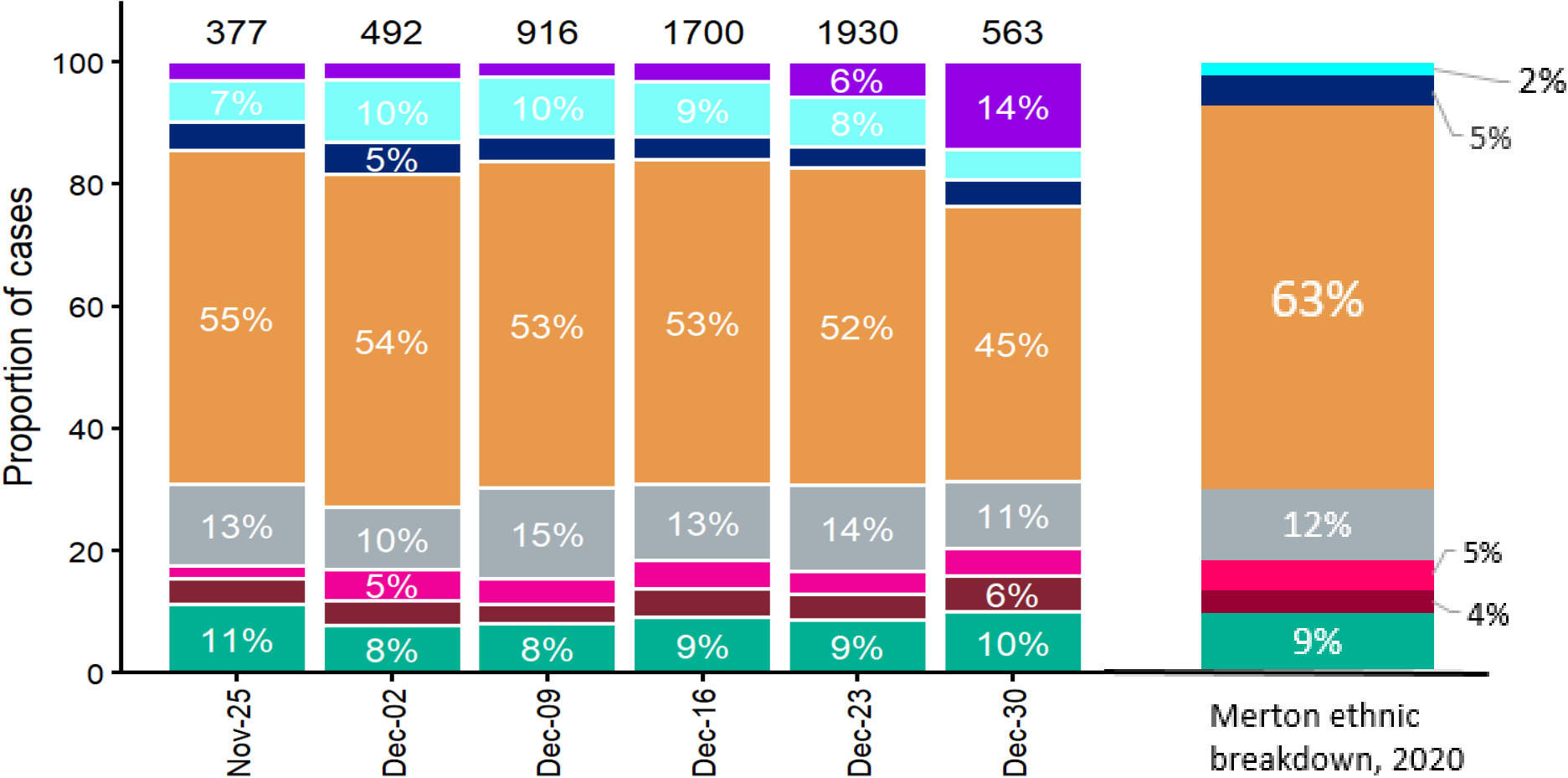
Source: PHE/PHEC Daily Report
Reporting frequency: Daily



COVID-19 total positive cases in Merton by ethnicity

11th January 2021

Weekly distribution of cases by ethnic group in Merton compared to 2020 overall Merton ethnic breakdown.



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Local COVID-19 outbreaks in Merton

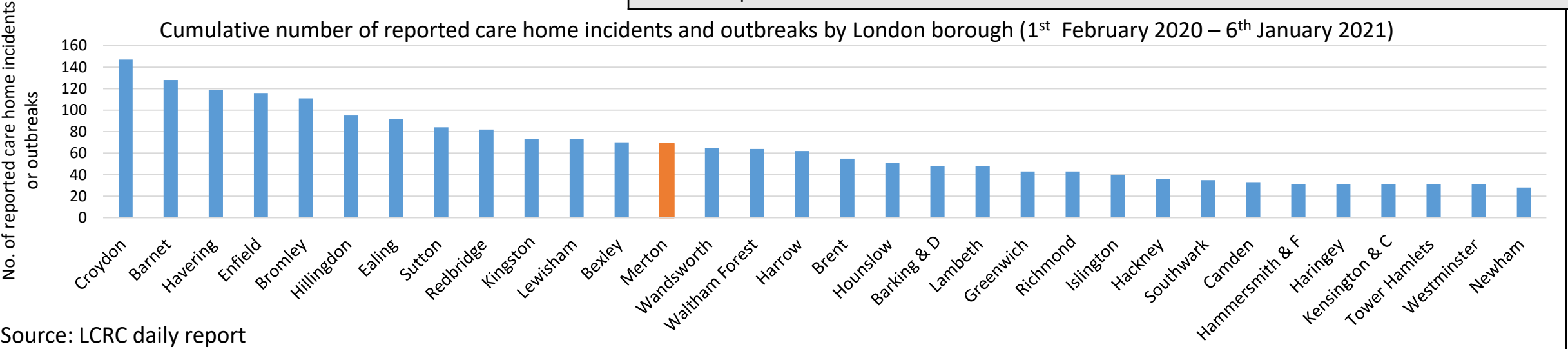
Key messages

- Outbreaks reported via **LCRC**:
 - 6 new reported this week in Merton – all in care homes
- Outbreaks reported **locally**:
 - Among current care home outbreaks:
 - 72 asymptomatic** cases (32 staff, 40 residents)
 - 37 symptomatic** cases (23 staff, 14 residents)
 - Number of outbreaks in schools down due to Christmas break.
 - Please note that this only refers to new outbreaks, does not include ongoing outbreaks.

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Source: LCRC	New exposures or possible outbreaks via LCRC*		New confirmed outbreaks locally*	
	Current (31 st Dec – 6 th Jan)	Previous (24 th – 30 th Dec)	Current (31 st Dec - 6 th Jan)	Previous (24 th - 30 th Dec)
Schools and nurseries	0	1	4	9
Care homes	6	3	1	4
Care settings**	0	0	2	4
Workplace (LBM and non-LBM)	0	0	0	1
Homeless accom.	0	0	0	1
Other	0	0	0	0

*Outbreak defined by two or more confirmed cases *or* one case in a care home or care setting.
** Supported living, sheltered living, extra care, and domiciliary care
*** LCRC reports this as a care home



COVID-19 deaths registered among Merton residents

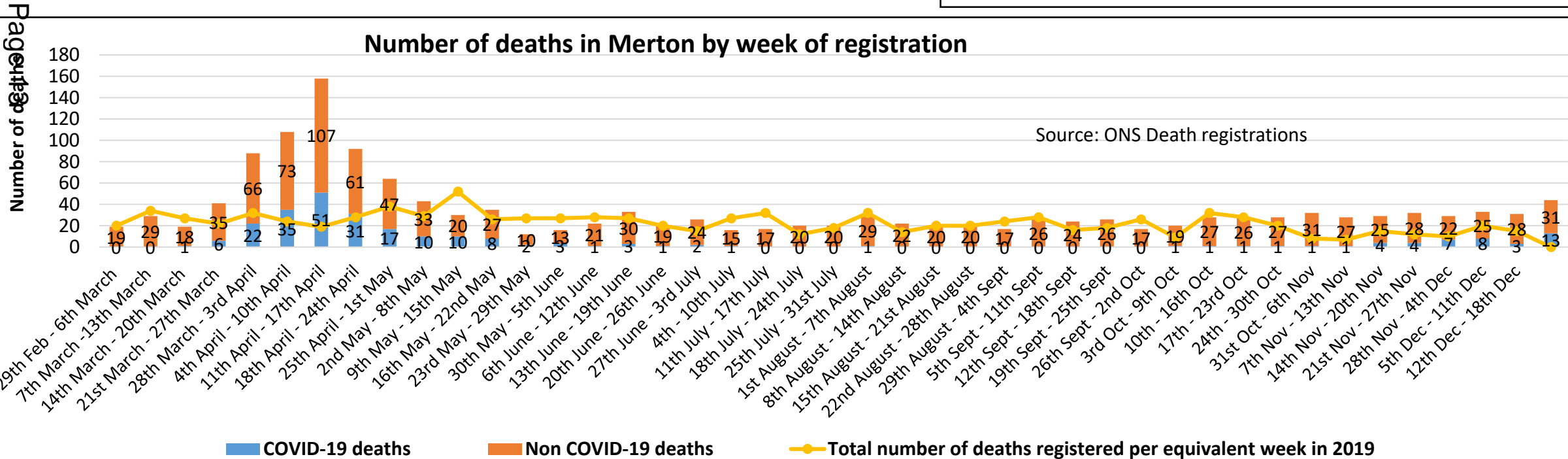
11th January 2021

Key messages

- 13 registered deaths in Merton week ending 25th December due to COVID-19 – all in a hospital.
- Merton has seen 250 cumulative registered COVID-19 deaths as of 25th December 2020.
- 36 of these 250 deaths (14%) have been in care homes. 187 (75%) have been in hospitals. Please note that hospital deaths may include care home residents.

COVID-19 deaths in Merton – place of death

Place of death	Current week (19 th Dec – 25 th Dec)	Cumulative total
Care home	4	36
Hospital	8	187
Home	0	22
Hospice	1	4
Elsewhere	0	1
Total	13	250



Asymptomatic Covid testing model in Merton

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Principles and overview

Purpose

- **Test-to-find** – identify asymptomatic positive cases and ensure self-isolation to prevent onwards transmission (30-40% of Covid asymptomatic)
- **Test-to-enable** – confirm negative individuals in order to come out of self-isolation or enable activities that are otherwise restricted; requires daily testing for 7d (serial testing); approval outstanding (apart from secondary schools)

Tests

- **Polymerase chain reaction (PCR)** - highly accurate but requires laboratory, 24-72 hour result turn-around, currently used nationally for asymptomatic testing in certain settings e.g. care homes
- **Lateral flow test (LFT)** - lower accuracy point-of-care test, results in 20-30 minutes; used for most asymptomatic testing; home testing approved in principle by MHRA; not yet for current model

Merton model for asymptomatic testing

Focus

- Mainly targeted at front-line staff (regular testing 1-2x wk)
- Opportunity for resident testing (one-off)

Service offer from LBM

- 1 Support for national testing service** – ie secondary schools, care homes
- 2 Local community pharmacists**
- 3 Devolved LFT staff testing** to LBM teams and partner organisations
- 4 Morden Assembly Hall – site-based LFT use;** dual purpose for targeted staff testing & resident testing

Community Pharmacy LFT service

- Targeting VCS staff, volunteers and carers (formal and informal)
- Currently 10 Pharmacies participating and looking to increase coverage
- Two approaches
 - Standard (default option) - individual leaves after swabbing and receives result from NHS T&T
 - Enhanced option – individual waits for result and receives intervention on how to keep safe e.g. Hands, Face, Space and how to prevent severe COVID e.g. stop smoking.
- Potential for 'test to enable' in the future e.g. contacts of + case either isolate for 10 days or take daily LFT for 7 days
- Book via <https://www.merton.gov.uk/coronavirus/lateral-flow-test>

Devolved LFT staff testing

- Targeting LBM front-line teams (ie ASC) and partner organisations
 - Police, Fire service
 - Primary schools – until national programme starts;
 - Early Years
 - Others
- Teams/organisations manage regular staff testing programme
- LA provides oversight, SOP, training
- DHSC provides tests & supplies

Morden Assembly Hall

- Site based testing with LFTs
- Dual purpose
 - Targeted at LBM staff not covered otherwise (directly employed/commissioned services)
 - Resident testing (one-off; currently 6 wk programme)
- Launched 4th January; staffed by volunteers across LBM
- Key site for Merton residents to be able to access an LFT
- Building up to c 800 slots per day
- Book via <https://www.merton.gov.uk/coronavirus/lateral-flow-test>

Current national restrictions

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Lockdown 3 Restrictions (from 5th January 2021)

Stay at home – *and only leave to:*

- Shop for food and/or medicine
- Provide care or help to a vulnerable person
- Provide voluntary or charitable services not possible from home
- Exercise – with your household or bubble or just one person from another household – once a day and in your local area.
- Seek medical care or avoid risk of harm including domestic abuse.
- Meet a support or childcare bubble.
- Attend education or childcare if eligible.

Outdoor socialising and Exercise

- Socialising outside is allowed only with your household or bubble. Stay 2 metres from those not in your household.
- Sporting venues are closed. Playgrounds remain open.

Retail hospitality and Tradespeople

- Non-essential retail, hospitality & personal care services are closed. Tradespeople can visit people's homes.
- Takeaways and restaurants can offer click-and-collect but not sell alcohol.

Lockdown 3 Restrictions cont.

Public Events

- Elite sporting events continue with restrictions. Grassroots sport is on hold.
- Communal worship continues with social distancing.

Older and vulnerable people

- Close-contact indoor visits in care homes are not allowed. Visits involving screens, pods and through windows can go ahead.
- Those clinically vulnerable should not attend work.

Education & Childcare

- Schools, colleges and universities will be asked to close, remaining open only to vulnerable children and the children of key workers.
- Nurseries will be able to stay open.
- A-levels and GCSEs will not go ahead 'as originally envisaged'. Higher education will remain online until mid-February.
- Support and childcare bubbles will remain as they are.
- Children of divorced or separated parents can still move between both parents homes.

London Major Incident

- Called by Mayor on 8/1/2021, on behalf of SCG
- Follows infections rates of $>1000/100,000$ per 7d and severe/increasing NHS pressure
- Defined as beyond the scope of business as usual, likely to involve serious harm...
- Vital for Londoners to understand gravity and adhere to lockdown restrictions
- Further details to follow.

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Covid-19 vaccination programme

update on delivering the programme in Merton

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Phil Howell, Assistant Director, Community & Housing
(slides prepared by and used with permission of SWL CCG)
January 2021

Bringing together Croydon, Kingston, Merton, Richmond, Sutton and Wandsworth



Agenda Item 6

SWL overview

- **Hospital Hubs** - Croydon and St George's hospitals went live on 8 December. Kingston, Royal Marsden and St Helier went live 29 December 2020.
- **Care Home and social care staff** - Single points of contact have been established for these groups to allow easy and rapid access to Covid Vaccines. By 30 December just over 5000 Care Home (80%), Home Care and Social Care (20%) staff had logged a request for a vaccine.
- **Primary Care** - Between 15 -31 December 12 PCN vaccination sites opened across SWL delivering an estimated 15,000 vaccinations by 31 December 2020 across the three priority cohorts: over 80s; care home staff; patient-facing high risk health and social care staff. A further 14 PCN sites will be open by 11 January 2021 as part of Wave 5-6 roll out.
- **Care Homes** – Vaccination in care homes began in mid-December. Due to the characteristics of the Pfizer vaccine, care homes with over 50 residents were identified to receive the vaccine during the initial roll-out. The roll out of the vaccine to care homes will accelerate during January 2021
- **Large vaccination centres** – These will begin to open in January and February.
- **Workforce** - the NHS have recruited 174 people who have been cleared and trained to be vaccinators. 157 returners to practice identified - mixture of medical, nursing and AHP with 89 cleared and undertaken their training. Modelling shows that in SWL we need 464 vaccinators and we are track to secure this number as to date 1,203 applications have been received.
- **Communication and engagement** materials circulated and insight work to be completed to ensure good uptake across all population groups within the priority cohorts.



Current information on JCVI cohort prioritisation

Table 2 – Priority groups for vaccination advised by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation

Priority group	Risk group
1	Residents in a care home for older adults Staff working in care homes for older adults
2	All those 80 years of age and over Health and social care workers
3	All those 75 years of age and over
4	All those 70 years of age and over Clinically extremely vulnerable individuals (not including pregnant women and those under 18 years of age)
5	All those 65 years of age and over
6	Adults aged 18 to 65 years in an at-risk group (Table 3)
7	All those 60 years of age and over
8	All those 55 years of age and over
9	All those 50 years of age and over

Scheduling of the delivery of the vaccine to the priority cohorts is dependent on the vaccine characteristics



Modelling

* Priority	Cohort	Population	No of vaccinations
	1 Care Home Residents	4,547	9,094
	1 Residential Care Workers	8,253	16,506
	280+	35,404	70,808
	2 Healthcare workers	32,840	65,680
	2 Social care workers	21,803	42,166
	375-79	23,901	47,802
	470-74	34,133	68,266
	565-69	36,858	73,716
	6 High Risk Under 65	5,020	10,040
	7 Moderate Risk Under 65	68,955	137,910
	860-64	32,520	65,040
	955-59	42,299	84,598
	1050-54	52,816	105,632
	11 Key Workers 18-49 Not at Risk	68,890	137,780
	11 Other 18-49 Not at Risk (BAME)	176,687	335,374
	11 Other 18-49 Not at Risk (non BAME)	242,212	484,424
	Total	877,134	1,754,268

The table shows the SWL population totals against the priority cohorts and then the number of vaccinations that will be given that 2 doses are required. The modelling has been adjusted to assume 75% take up with 100% uptake in care homes. Definition of at risk still to be confirmed-the original COVID19 shielding categories have been used as a proxy measures. Key workers are defined as – Education and Childcare; Food and necessary Goods; Key Public Services; National and Local Government; Public Safety and National Security; Transport; Utilities and Communications



COVID-19: Vaccination Deployment Delivery Models

Delivery model overview

Delivery models have been defined centrally to ensure consistency in deployment across all regions. Each region has defined the mix and number of delivery models required based on local demographics.



Vaccination Centres

High volumes, high throughput in a fixed location for an extended period e.g. sports venues, conference venues

Target cohorts: All JCVI Cohorts (except care home residents and staff)



Local Vaccination Services

Community / Primary Care Led vaccination (centres and roving teams at vaccination peak)

Temporary use of primary care facility, retail, community facility or portacabin, to deliver capacity for temporary period / Vehicles with vaccinators visiting locations, such as care homes, detained estate and individual addresses for housebound

Target cohorts: All JCVI Cohorts for centres, roving to vaccinate eligible individuals in care homes, households, Secure MH estate, MHLDA estate, detained estate



Hospital Hubs

Delivered from NHS provider premises of a defined number of hubs and further NHS trusts

Target cohorts: NHS provider staff



GP-led vaccinations

Merton Primary Care Networks

- Merton GP practices are working together in Primary Care Networks (PCNs) to deliver the vaccine to people in the community.
- Merton has two Primary Care Networks delivering vaccinations at dedicated sites on behalf of the borough. The Wilson & the Nelson.
- Vaccinations may not take place at residents' usual GP practice, but at a primary care vaccination site (led by GPs and practice nurses).



GP-led vaccinations

Vaccination site	Primary Care Network	Go live date	GP practices involved
The Wilson Hospital	East Merton PCN North Merton PCN	Tuesday 15 December 2020	Cricket Green Medical Practice Figges Marsh Surgery Rowans Surgery Tamworth House Medical Centre Wide Way Medical Centre Colliers Wood Surgery Merton Medical Practice Mitcham Family Practice Mitcham Medical Centre Riverhouse Medical Practice
The Nelson Health Centre	Morden PCN North West Merton PCN South West Merton PCN West Merton PCN	Week commencing Monday 4 January 2021	Central Medical Centre Morden Hall Medical Centre Ravensbury Park Medical Centre Stonecot Surgery Alexandra Road Surgery Vineyard Hill Surgery Wimbledon Medical Practice Wimbledon Village Practice Grand Drive Surgery Nelson Medical Practice Francis Grove Surgery Lambton Road Medical Practice



Priority groups for the vaccine

- In line with national advice from the Joint Vaccination and Immunisation Committee (JVCI), in these first four weeks we have been delivering the Pfizer vaccine to the priority groups of people over 80 and care home staff.
- The vaccination programme is phased - we need to make sure that the most vulnerable people get it first, so the NHS will be advising people in priority groups when it's the right time for them to come forward for the vaccine.
- To reduce waste, vaccination sites have been using unfilled appointments to vaccinate healthcare workers who have been identified at highest risk of serious illness from Covid-19.
- Increased supply and the approval of the Oxford AstraZeneca vaccine means that vaccination can now immediately be expanded to all frontline health and social care workers.
- Currently, we expect most over 80s to have been offered the vaccine by the end of January, though over 80s will be able to come forward and receive the vaccine throughout the Covid-19 vaccination programme.



Care home staff, residents and front line care workers

- Before the first vaccines were delivered in early December we began to work with care homes across all 6 SWL boroughs to reach out to care home staff as a top priority group
- Around 4,000 care home workers out of about 14,000 have come forward. Currently around 500 in Merton. We continue to work hard to encourage them to do so.
- The local authority are working closely with health colleagues to coordinate vaccine appointments for front line social care workers including front line domiciliary and agency staff and all those who work directly with vulnerable adults. We are also coordinating the roll out to the workforce working with clinically vulnerable children and young people.



Oxford AstraZeneca vaccine approval and new guidance on the second dose

- The approval of the UK-developed and manufactured Oxford AstraZeneca vaccine provides a major boost to our plans to offer protection to those who would benefit most as quickly as possible.
- [This new vaccine is easier to transport and store, which means it is perfect for helping to vaccinate many more people in our communities](#) - including being able to more easily vaccinate residents in care homes and for the over 80s who are housebound in their own homes.
- Our PCN sites have begun to receive supplies of the Oxford AstraZeneca vaccine, starting last week



New guidance on 2nd dose

- The Government has decided to increase the gap between the two doses of the COVID-19 vaccines from three to four weeks to up to three months.
- This new guidance on the period between doses is important as it means that we will be to get the maximum benefit for the most people in the shortest possible time and will help save lives.
- Therefore, focusing on giving the first dose of the vaccine to as many people and front line health and care staff as possible.



How people are being contacted

- The NHS will continue to contact people directly to invite them to receive the vaccine - when it is their turn, they will receive an invitation for an appointment.
- This may be via the phone, text message or letter either from a Merton GP practice and there is likely to be a national booking system coming on line.
- This will be the same for those patients who are housebound and would require a home visit. If those people who are housebound are offered an appointment at a centre, they should talk to their GP or respond to the contact details in their invitation.
- As only a proportion of PCN sites are live at this time, many over 80s will not yet have been contacted.



Large vaccination centres

- As well as hospital hubs and primary care sites, we are working to bring on line community vaccination centres to help further expand our capacity to deliver the vaccine programme
- Plans in place to open large vaccination centres in SWL in the coming weeks and this will be capable of treating large numbers of patients.
- Across South West London there has been a large scale recruitment campaign to recruit teams to manage and deliver vaccines at these vaccination centres across six boroughs. Currently running a volunteer recruitment campaign which has generated a good response.



Sharing key messages

- The SWL CCG communications and engagement team has been sharing all the latest public facing materials and Q&As with Merton & Wandsworth partnership communications and engagement group members.
- Members of the public have an important part to play to help us with this programme of work, please share these important messages:
 - please don't contact the NHS to seek a vaccine, we will contact you
 - when we do contact you, please attend your booked appointments
 - and please continue to follow all the guidance to control the virus and save lives.



Building confidence

- The government has set out the challenging ambition of vaccinating all those in the top four priority groups by February 2020 as set out by the Joint Vaccination and Immunisation Committee (JVCI).
- We will continue to work hard to build confidence in the vaccine with local residents and we would appreciate your support with this.
- The CCG engagement team has started to reach out to community groups and organisations to help raise awareness of the benefits of the vaccination and address the questions and concerns that people have. The local authority will actively support with this engagement



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