

WIMBLEDON COMMUNITY FORUM
1 DECEMBER 2020

(7.15 pm - 8.00 pm)

PRESENT Councillors Councillor James Holmes (in the Chair),

1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS (Agenda Item 1)

The meeting was held via Zoom, and chaired by Councillor James Holmes. 20 residents and nine councillors attended on Zoom with 51 additional views on YouTube. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained how the meeting would work.

2 UPDATE ON COVID IN MERTON (Agenda Item 4)

Dagmar Zeuner, Director of Public Health provided a presentation, which is attached to this report. Dagmar said that the key message is that the number of COVID cases in Merton is coming down. For the last week there were 160 cases per 100,000 population. There was a bulge in the 16-29 age group with cases at 334 per 100,000. We are most concerned about the over 60s but the number of cases in this age group was also coming down.

The number of cases in the East of the borough is slightly higher than in the West but the difference is not significant. A spike of cases in the West in September has been tracked down to a recording issue, with students away at university testing positive but being linked to the home residence instead of their university. This has been changed by Public Health England. We are still tracking the number of cases by ethnicity and we are not seeing the same disproportionate impact on BAME communities that we saw in the first wave in the spring.

We have not seen a return to the death rates of the spring and ICU admissions for the most severe cases are also levelling off. The NHS still has sufficient capacity to cope so it is important that patients still attend appointments and elective procedures for other health issues.

Local contact tracing is up and running to supplement the national programme. New lateral flow tests are quick and do not involve the use of a laboratory. This makes them ideal for confined settings like health care providers and universities. In future they could be also be used in schools, care homes and local areas to manage outbreaks.

The vaccination programme will be led by the NHS with support from local authorities. The government has already identified priority groups based on risk levels. We are still waiting the final sign-off on the three vaccines, which is expected this month.

If agreed in Parliament tonight, London will be going into Tier 2 from tomorrow with restrictions on meeting with other households. The Hands, Face, Space message remains relevant is still key to stopping the spread.

COVID Community Champions are volunteers who are helping to communicate key messages in their communities. Dagmar thanked those who are giving up their time. To find out more you can email public.health@merton.gov.uk. There will be special 'Celebrating Safely' workshops on 14 December to offer practical tips for reducing the risk of COVID during the holiday season.

Dagmar was asked about the plans for distributing the vaccines. The Pfizer vaccine will need to be kept at storage hubs, St Georges and Croydon hospitals in South West London, due to the storage issues involved. Initially health workers will need to travel to those sites. As the regulator further reviews transportability of the Pfizer vaccine and other vaccines become available community vaccination sites will also be used, linked to Merton's primary care networks. Preliminary plans include the Nelson and Wilson sites. Dagmar was also asked about promoting the vaccine given the history Merton has of relatively low take-up for existing vaccines. Dagmar said this was a fair point and there would be a coordinated communications campaign involving the NHS, the council and other local partners that will answer people's questions. Dagmar said the NHS is currently promoting the flu jab that is free for over 50s and available from GPs and pharmacists.

Dagmar was asked about Merton residents using the drive through testing site in Kingston, and which borough would be counted in. Dagmar explained that residents can book a space at any testing site through the portal and those who test positive will be counted in Merton regardless of where they go for a test. There are now two testing sites in Merton, one at Merton College and one in Mitcham and these can be booked though the portal. There is now sufficient testing capacity.

3 LOVE WIMBLEDON UPDATE (Agenda Item 5)

Helen Clark Bell from Love Wimbledon, a not for profit organisation funded by local businesses to improve the town centre, gave an update on plans for Christmas.

Love Wimbledon has recently published their [annual report](#).

Christmas is definitely not cancelled in Wimbledon but will have to be a bit different. A Christmas tree and decorative lights have been put up, along with a reindeer trail

sponsored by Centre Court. We will also be introducing a new Augmented Reality to work on mobile phones.

There are a number of new businesses in Wimbledon including Christmas pop-ups. There is a new food market from this weekend and the Zero Waste store has moved in from Merton Abbey Mills.

There are improvement works taking place outside New Wimbledon Theatre including new seats, trees and a larger space for theatre goes once performances return. Helen also showed plans for a place-making project for Hartfield Walk, funded by Community Infrastructure Levy that will commence in early 2021.

The [Merton Giving Christmas Appeal](#) has been launched asking for donations of 'shoe box hampers'. Centre Court Shopping have been announced today as a donation station for the shoe box appeal

Helen was asked about media reports today about the death of High street. Helen said she felt that the High street should be at the heart of the community, a space to go, mix, enjoy the area as well as use the local businesses. Love Wimbledon's role is to support and promote the High Street so the death of the high street is not on the agenda

4 WARM AND WELL PROGRAMME (Agenda Item 3)

Unfortunately due to staff sickness colleagues from Wimbledon Guild were unable to attend the meeting. They will arrange to attend a future meeting.

5 LONDON ASSEMBLY UPDATE (Agenda Item 2)

Unfortunately Leonie Cooper, Assembly Member for Merton and Wandsworth, had been delayed and was unable to join the meeting before the meeting closed.

6 DATE OF NEXT MEETING (Agenda Item 6)

Councillor Holmes thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 25 March 2021 at 7.15pm

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COVID-19 update

Wimbledon Community Forum

Dr Dagmar Zeuner
Director of Public Health

1st December 2020

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Minute Item 2



AIMS AND PURPOSE

- Brief overview of the COVID impact on Merton's communities so far
- Brief overview of outbreak control developments
- Overview of the Tier 2 guidance
- A number of opportunities for action

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Weekly key messages

Cases (19th – 25th November):

- 7 day case rate (all ages) was **160.8 cases per 100,000** (down from 185.8 last week).
- 7 day case rate (among 60+) was **113.2 cases per 100,000** (up from 102.1 last week).
- **343** new COVID cases in Merton.

Deaths:

- **1** new registered Merton COVID death (in hospital) for the week ending 6th November.

Testing (pillar 2 only):

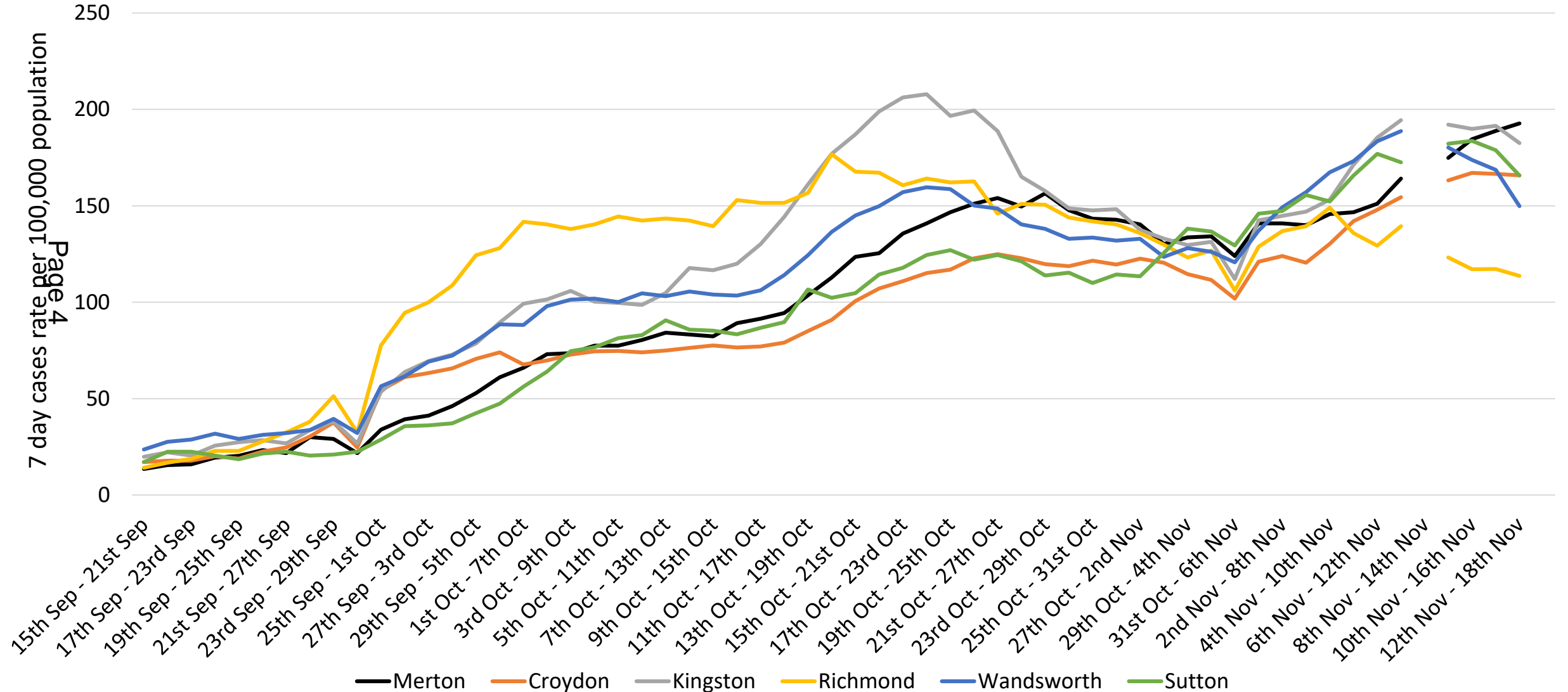
- 7 day testing rate was **218.4 daily tests per 100,000** (up from 215.6 daily tests per 100,000).
- 7 day test positivity decreased to **9.3%** (down from 11.2%).

Rolling 7-day rate of confirmed positive cases per 100,000 population in Merton compared to South West London boroughs (Pillar 1 & 2)

30th November 2020

Source: PHE/PHEC Daily Report

Reporting frequency: Daily



Due to reporting issues no data was available for 8th-14th November

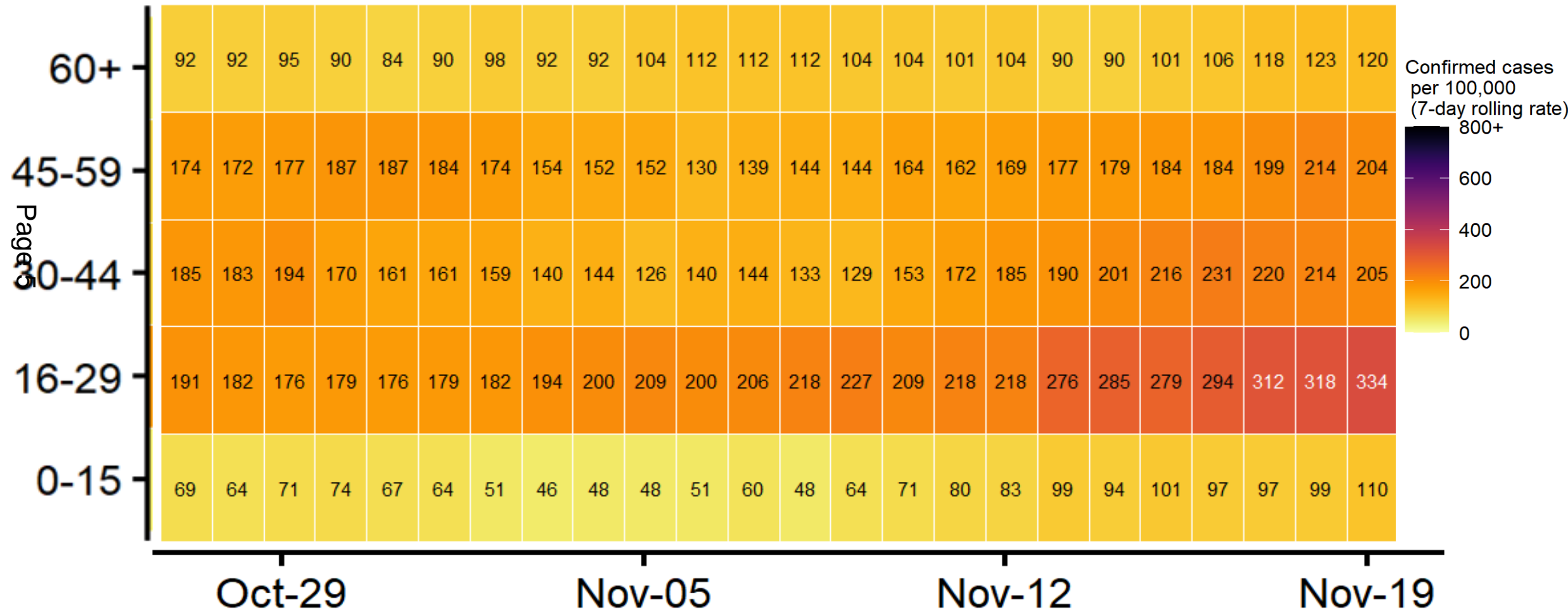
COVID-19 cases rates in Merton by age group heat map over time

30th November 2020

7-day rolling total case rates per 100,000

Source: PHE/PHEC Daily Report

Reporting frequency: Daily



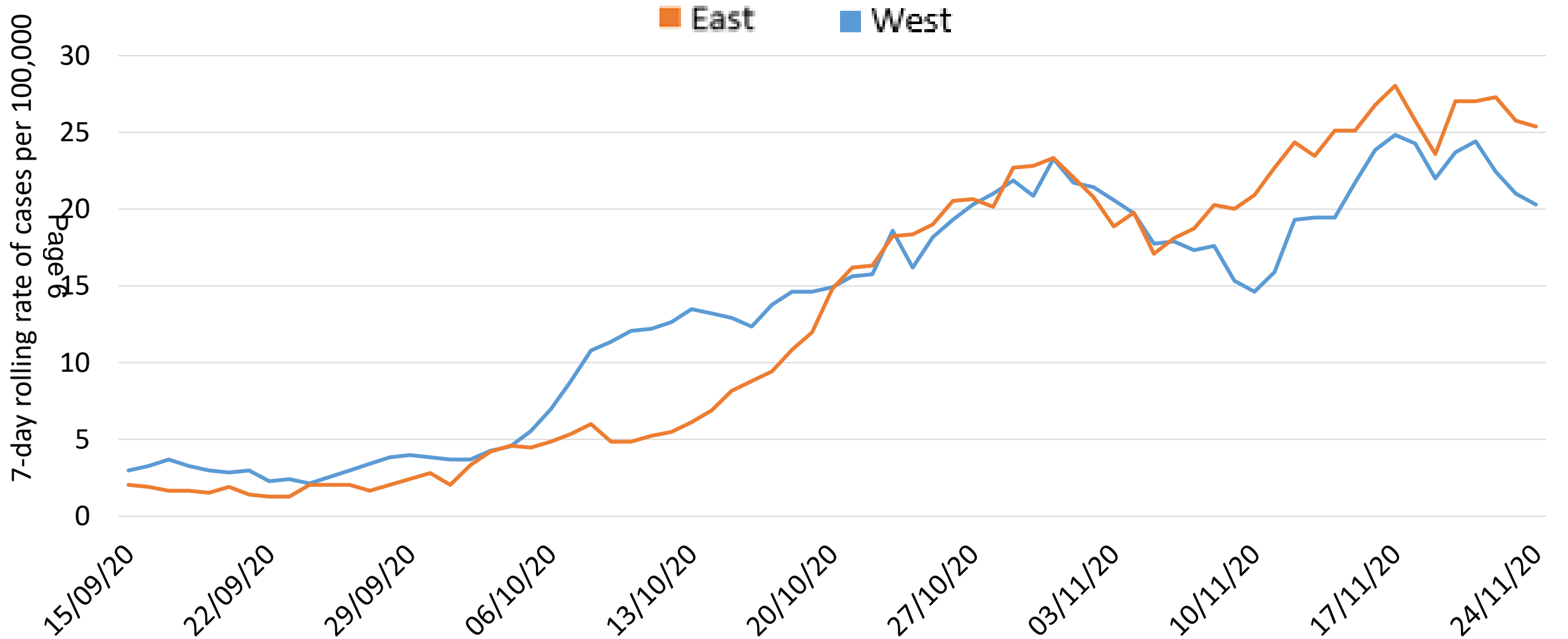
Source: PHE/Merton LA report

COVID-19 case rates in East and West Merton

30th November 2020

Source: LSAT daily line list
Reporting frequency: Daily

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

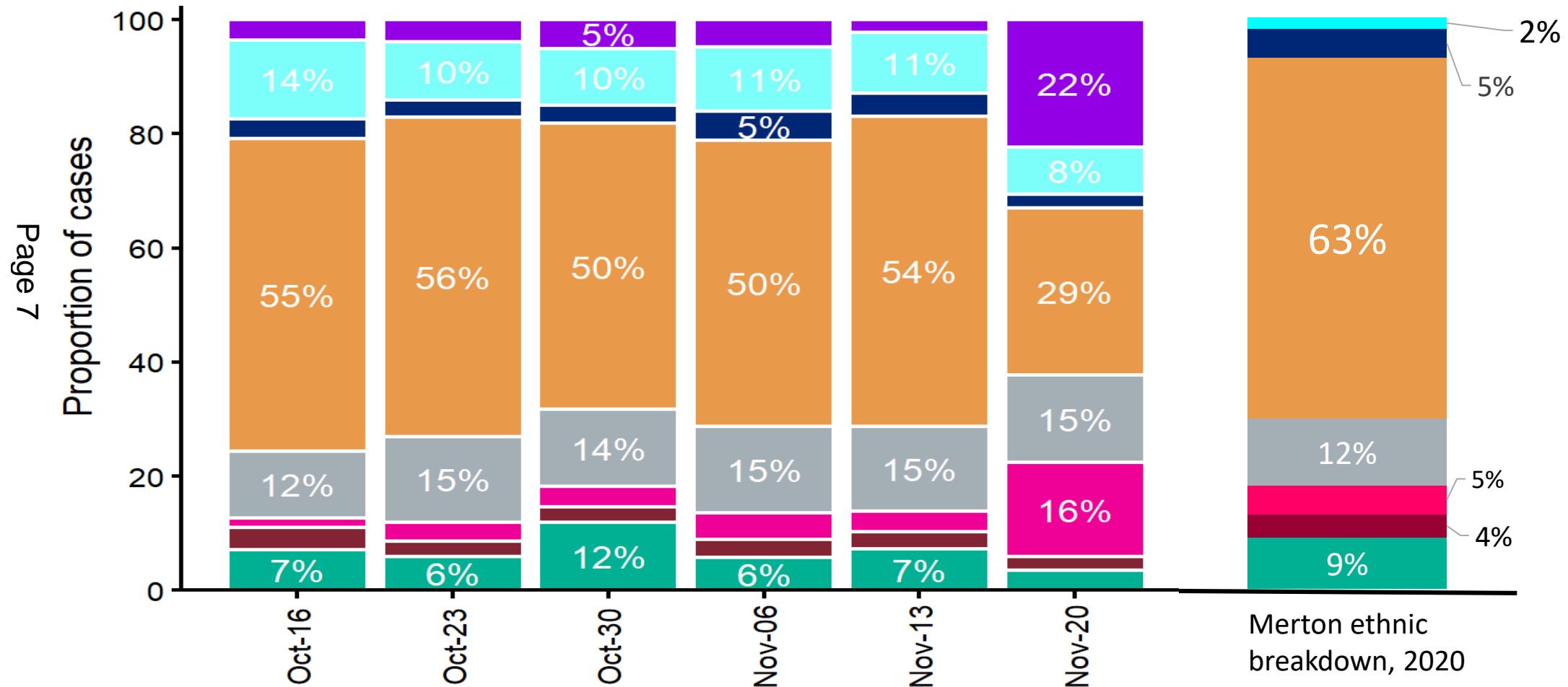


COVID-19 positive cases in Merton by ethnicity

30th November 2020

Weekly distribution of cases by ethnic group in Merton.
Data over 6 weeks and compared to ethnic breakdown Merton.

Source: PHE Merton LA Report



*Please note recent week (ending 20th November) figures are preliminary.
Majority of case data still to be reported

Source: 2016 GLA housing-led population projections

Enquiries Ben.bezuidenhout@merton.gov.uk

Number of deaths registered among Merton residents

30th November 2020

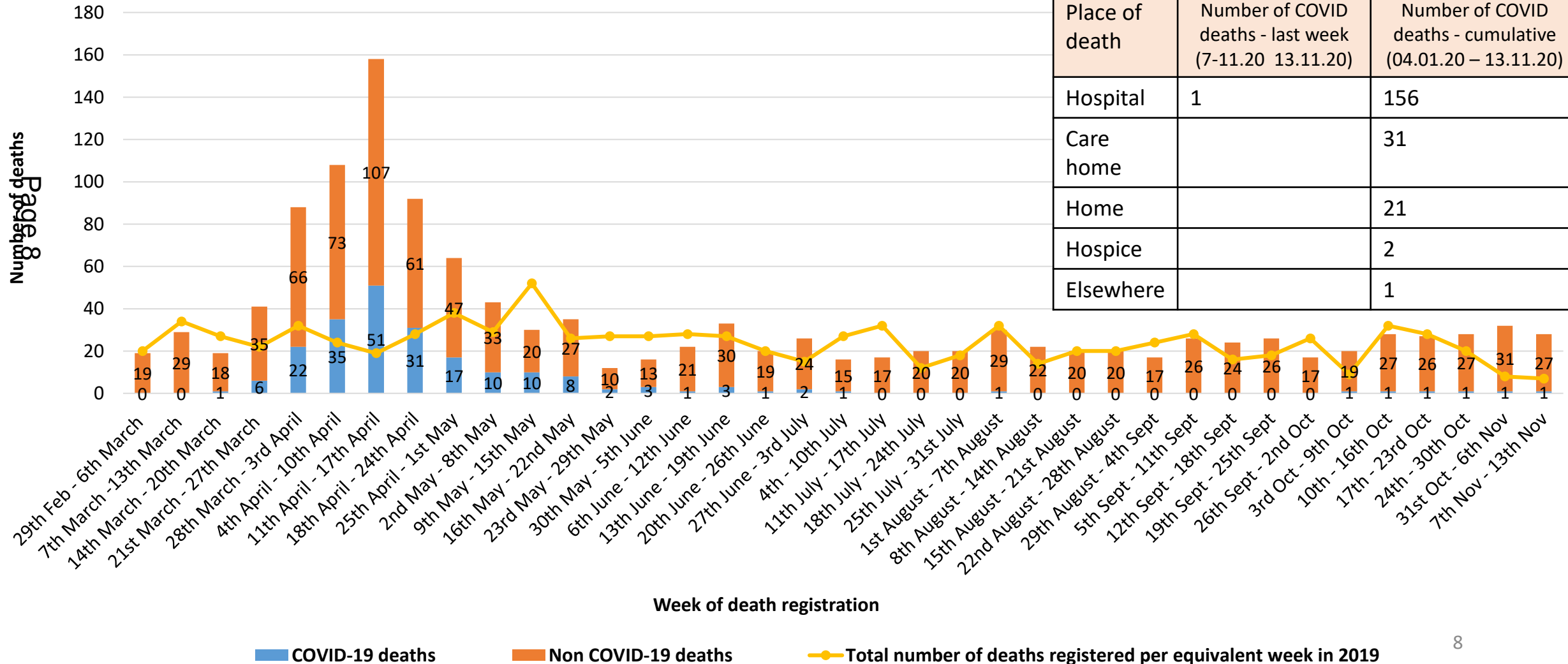
Source: ONS

Reporting frequency: Weekly (most recent 7.11.2020 – 13.11.2020)

Cumulative number of COVID related deaths registered in Merton
(04.01.2020 – 13.11.2020)

211

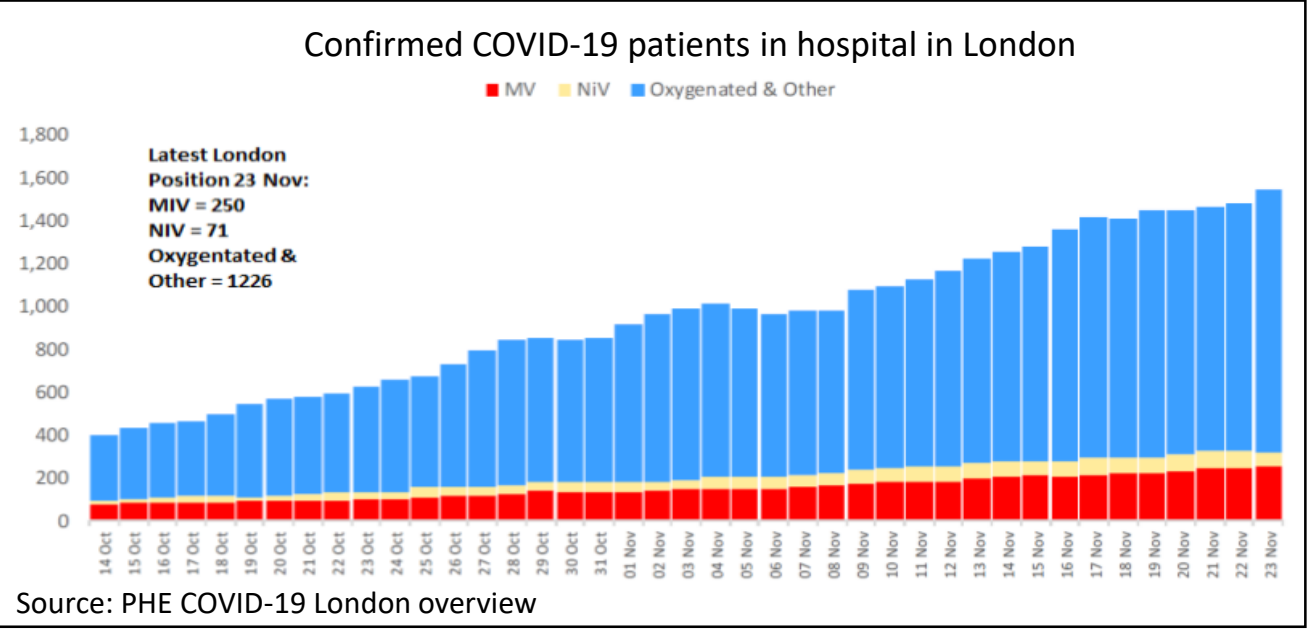
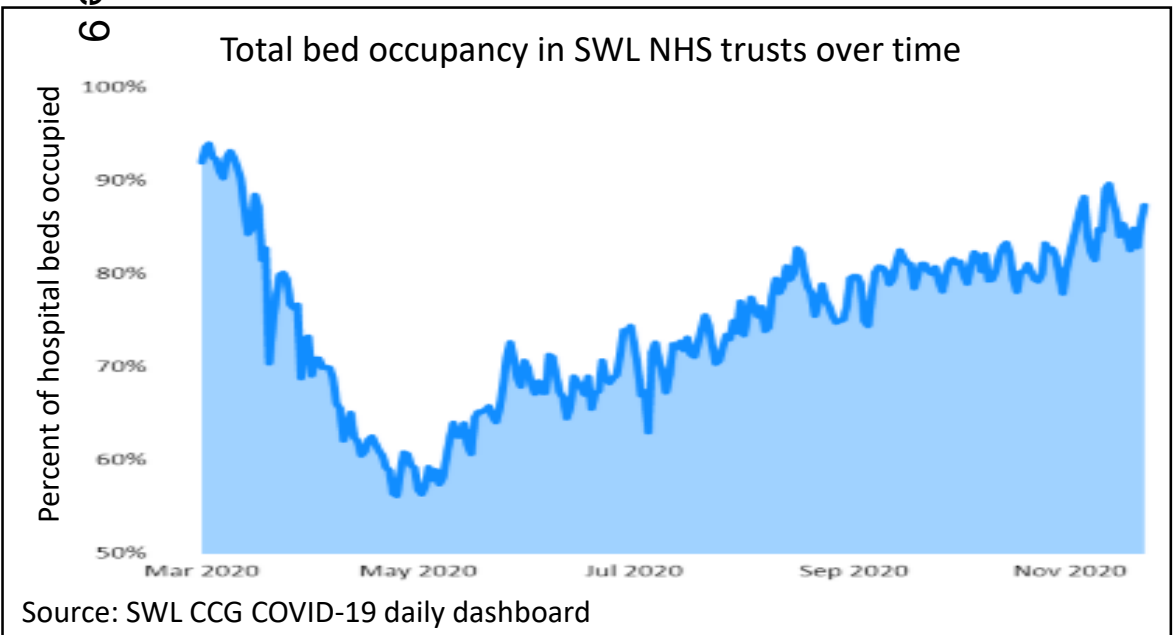
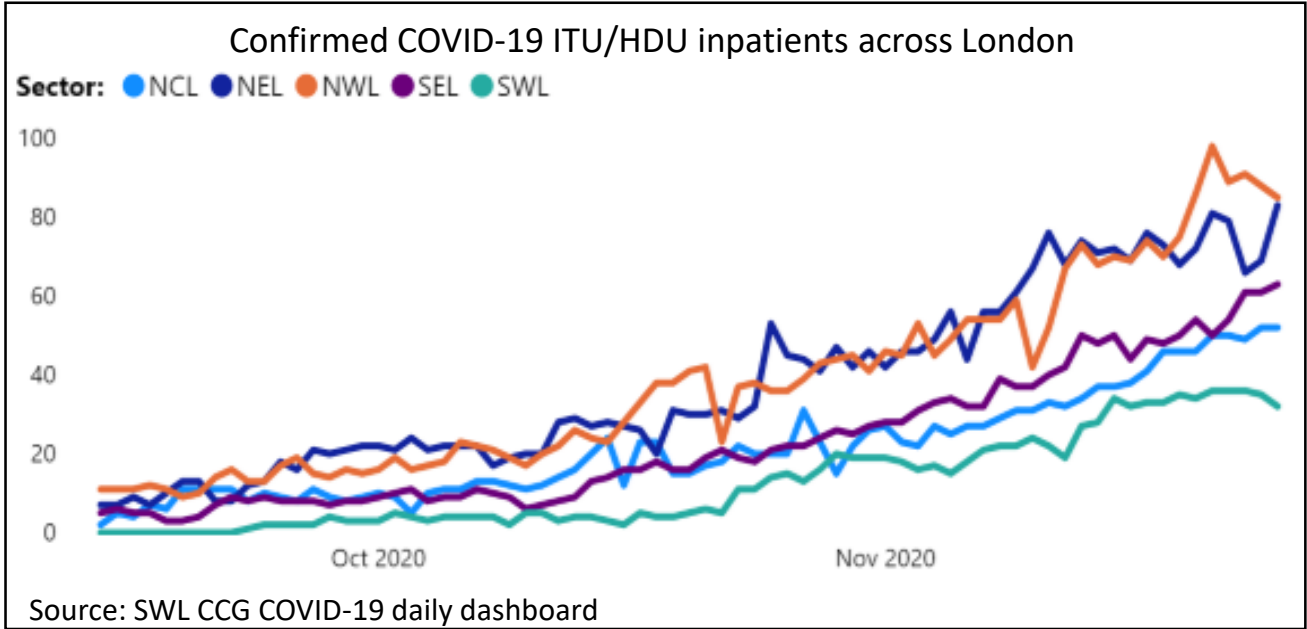
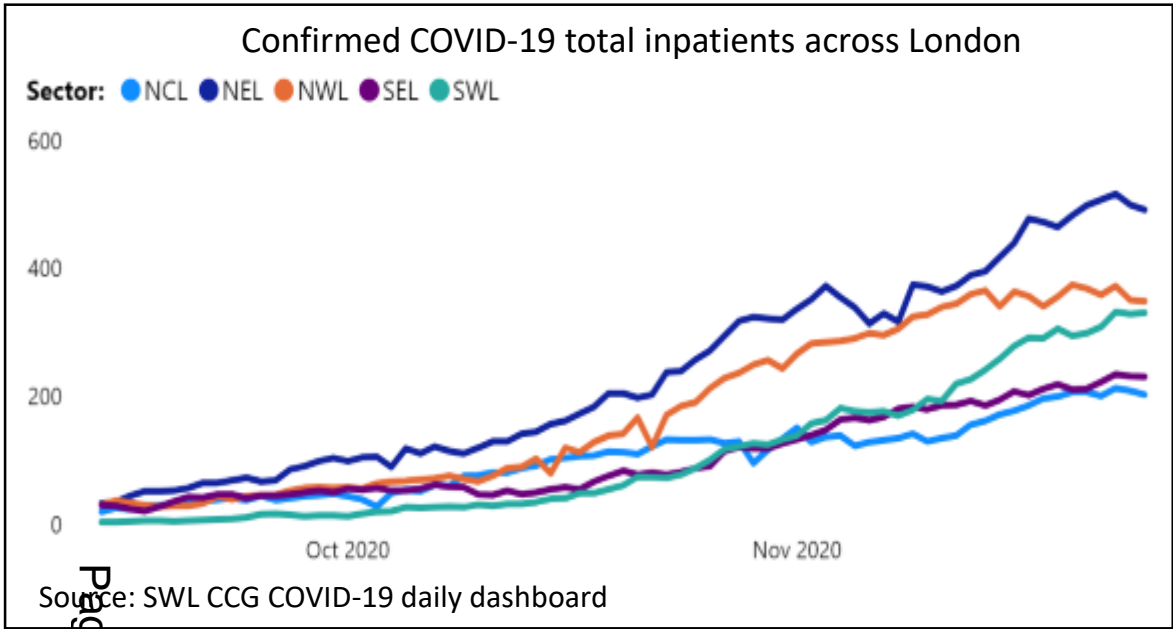
Number of deaths in Merton by week of registration



Place of death	Number of COVID deaths - last week (7-11.20 13.11.20)	Number of COVID deaths - cumulative (04.01.20 – 13.11.20)
Hospital	1	156
Care home		31
Home		21
Hospice		2
Elsewhere		1

COVID-19 and NHS-related indicators

30th November 2020



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Local contact tracing

- Launched on 18th Nov, in first 3 days – 24 successfully contacted.
- All contacted signposted to local support services

Testing

- Symptomatic:
 - Pillar 1 testing – responsibility of NHS
 - Pillar 2 testing – responsibility of DHSC, local testing sites in collaboration with LA
- Asymptomatic:
 - PCR (polymerise chain reaction) testing for care homes, being rolled out to homecare
 - LFT (lateral flow test) – responsibility devolved to health care providers, universities, future plans for care homes, schools, and LAs
 - Positive results require confirmation with PCR
 - Currently nose/throat but saliva version expected soon

COVID-19 vaccination

- Led by NHS, supported by LA and partners
- Mass testing sites (approx. 1/LA), PCN (Primary Care Network) testing sites for primary care delivery (PCNs can share sites, but expected to be not more than 2-3 per shared site and some have their own site)
- Priority groups – identified by JCVI (national Joint Committee on vaccination and immunisation) based on risk; feasibility also needs to be considered for delivery, ie Pfizer vaccine requires storage -80C. Front line health and care workers are high priority; and then age is used as other main determinant.

TIER 2

HIGH ALERT

FROM 2 DEC

MEETING FRIENDS AND FAMILY No mixing of households indoors, apart from support bubbles. Maximum of six outdoors.	BARS, PUBS AND RESTAURANTS Pubs and bars must close, unless operating as restaurants. Hospitality venues can only serve alcohol with substantial meals. Venues must stop taking orders at 10pm and must close by 11pm.	RETAIL Open.	WORK AND BUSINESS Everyone who can work from home should do so.
EDUCATION Early years settings, schools, colleges and universities open. Childcare, other supervised activities for children, and childcare bubbles permitted.	INDOOR LEISURE Open.	ACCOMMODATION Open.	PERSONAL CARE Open.
OVERNIGHT STAYS Permitted with household or support bubble.	WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS 15 guests for weddings, civil partnerships, wedding receptions and wakes; 30 for funerals.	ENTERTAINMENT Open.	PLACES OF WORSHIP Open, but cannot interact with anyone outside household or support bubble.
TRAVELLING Reduce the number of journeys you make and walk or cycle if possible. Avoid busy times and routes on public transport. Avoid car sharing with those outside of your household or support bubble. Avoid entering a Tier 3 area, other than where necessary such as for work or education. Further exemptions apply.	EXERCISE Classes and organised adult sport can take place outdoors, but cannot take place indoors if there is any interaction between people from different households. Organised activities for elite athletes, under-18s and disabled people can continue.	RESIDENTIAL CARE COVID-secure arrangements such as substantial screens, visiting pods, and window visits. Outdoor/airtight visits only (rollout of rapid testing will enable indoor visits including contact).	LARGE EVENTS Sport, live performances and business meetings limited to 50% capacity or 2000 people outdoors (whichever is lower) and 50% capacity or 1000 people indoors (whichever is lower)

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TIER 2 RESTRICTIONS

As of 00.01 Wednesday 2nd December the local restriction tier system applies to England

What does this mean?

London and Merton has been placed in **Tier 2: High Alert**. This is for areas with a higher or rapidly rising level of infections, where some additional restrictions need to be in place.

- ✓ you must not socialise with anyone you do not live with or who is not in your support bubble in any indoor setting, whether at home or in a public place
- ✓ you must not socialise in a group of more than 6 people outside, including in a garden or a public space – this is called the ‘rule of 6’
- ✓ pubs and bars must close, unless operating as restaurants. Hospitality venues can only serve alcohol with substantial meals
- ✓ places of worship remain open but you must not socialise with people from outside of your household or support bubble while you are indoors there
- ✓ organised outdoor sport, and physical activity and exercise classes can continue
- ✓ you can continue to travel to venues or amenities which are open, but should aim to reduce the number of journeys you make where possible

WHAT HAS NOT CHANGED?

Hands, Face, Space.

- ✓ Washing your hands with soap and water, or using hand sanitiser, regularly throughout the day will reduce the risk of catching or passing it on.
 - ✓ You must [wear a face covering](#) in most indoor public settings, unless you have an exemption
 - ✓ Social Distancing: Stay 2 meters apart from those who you do not live with or who are not in your support bubble.
- ✓ Where you cannot stay 2 metres apart you should stay more than 1 metre apart, and take additional steps to stay safe. For example:
- Wear a face covering: on public transport and in many indoor spaces, you must wear a face covering by law, unless you are exempt
 - move outdoors, where it is safer and there is more space
 - if indoors, make sure rooms are well ventilated by keeping windows and doors open

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OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTION

- Join our network of over **115** COVID-19 Community Champions; a key part of our approach to preventing and managing outbreaks in Merton.
- Drop-in sessions take place every Wednesday (12pm-1pm and 7pm-8pm) - last weeks topic was 'winter wellness' and this week we are exploring the 'tier 2 restrictions'.

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Sign up for our 'Celebrating Safely' workshops on Monday 14th December 2020 (12 noon to 1pm and 6pm to 7pm) – to hear practical tips on reducing the risk of COVID-19 during the holiday season.

- Sign up for Merton COVID-19 newsletter – www.merton.gov.uk/newsletter
- For more information contact public.health@merton.gov.uk



ANY QUESTIONS?

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