

COVID-19 update

Raynes Park Community Forum

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Barry Causer
Head of Strategic Commissioning (Public Health)

3rd December 2020

Minute Item 4



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
- Set out some opportunities for action

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):

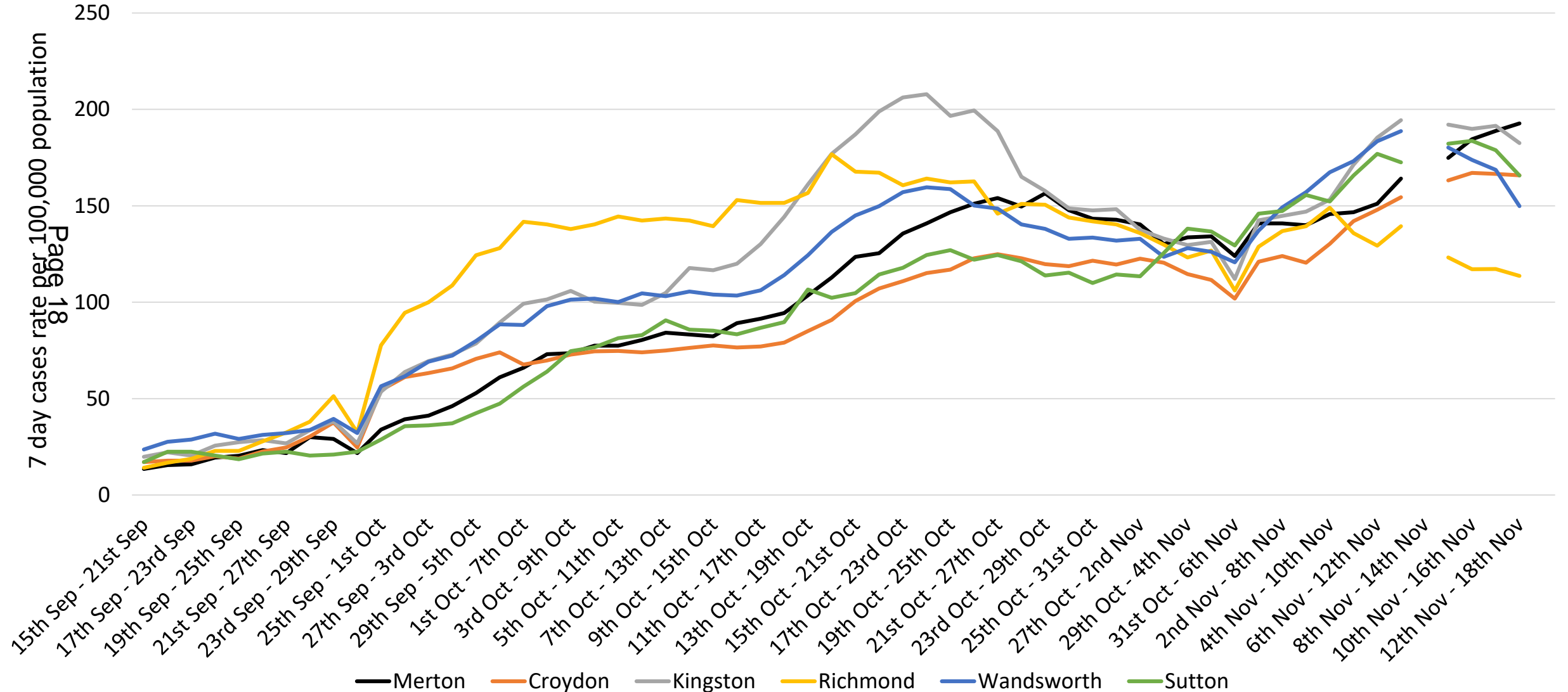
- 7 day testing rate was **218.4 daily tests per 100,000** (up from 215.6 daily tests per 100,000).
- 7 day test positivity decreased to **9.3%** (down from 11.2%).

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

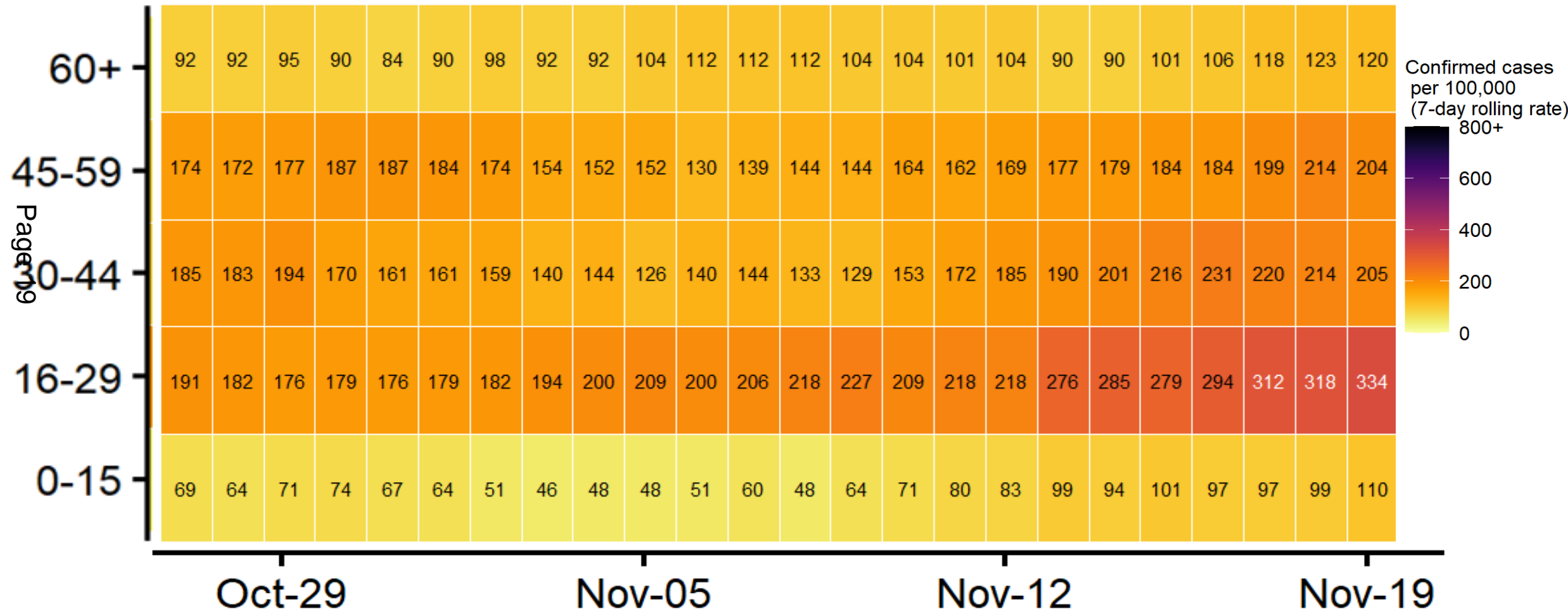
COVID-19 cases rates in Merton by age group heat map over time

7-day rolling total case rates per 100,000

30th November 2020

Source: PHE/PHEC Daily Report

Reporting frequency: Daily



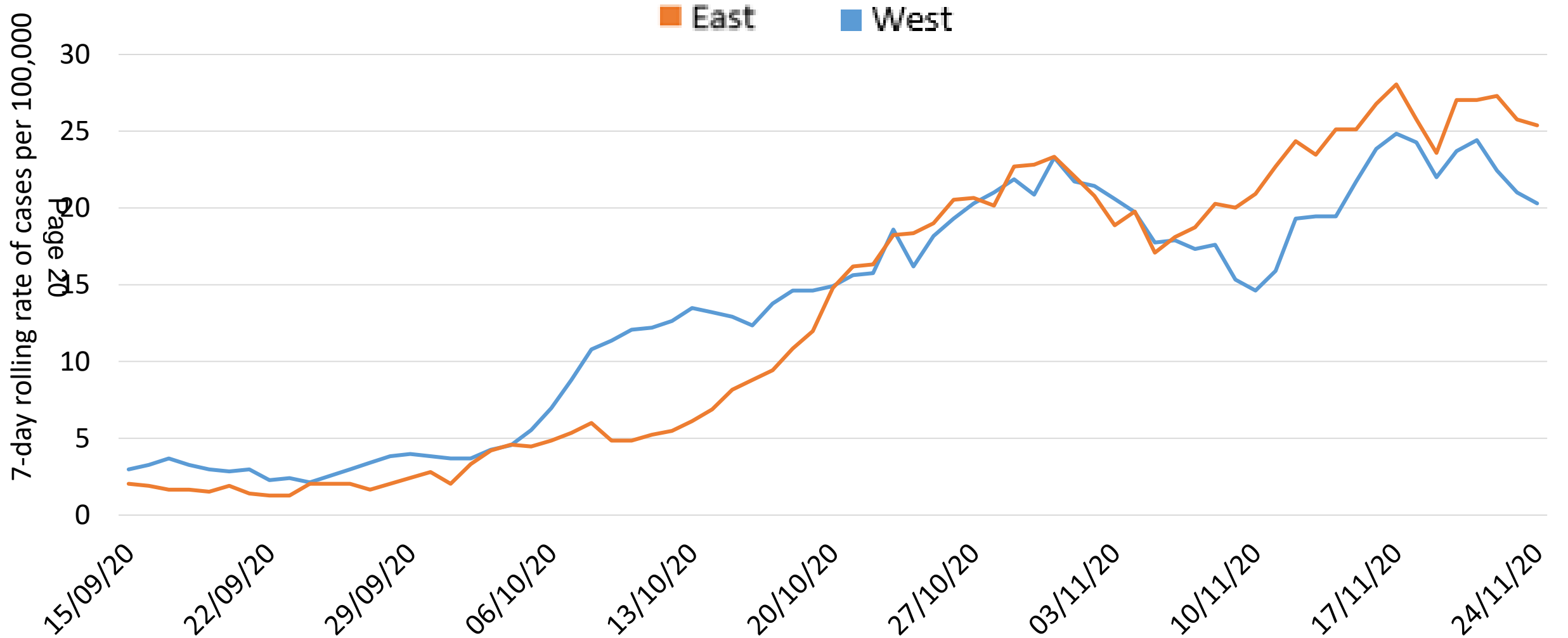
Source: PHE/Merton LA report

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

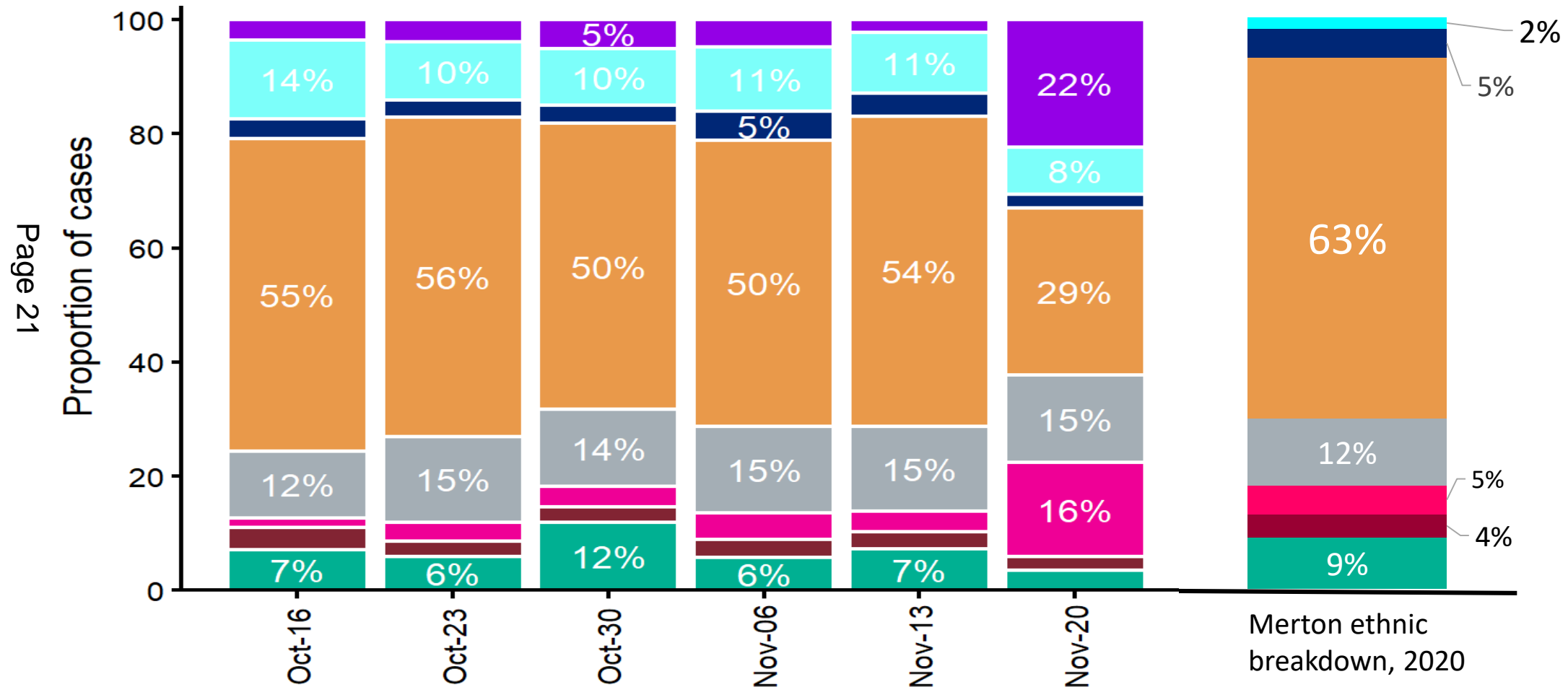


COVID-19 positive cases in Merton by ethnicity

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

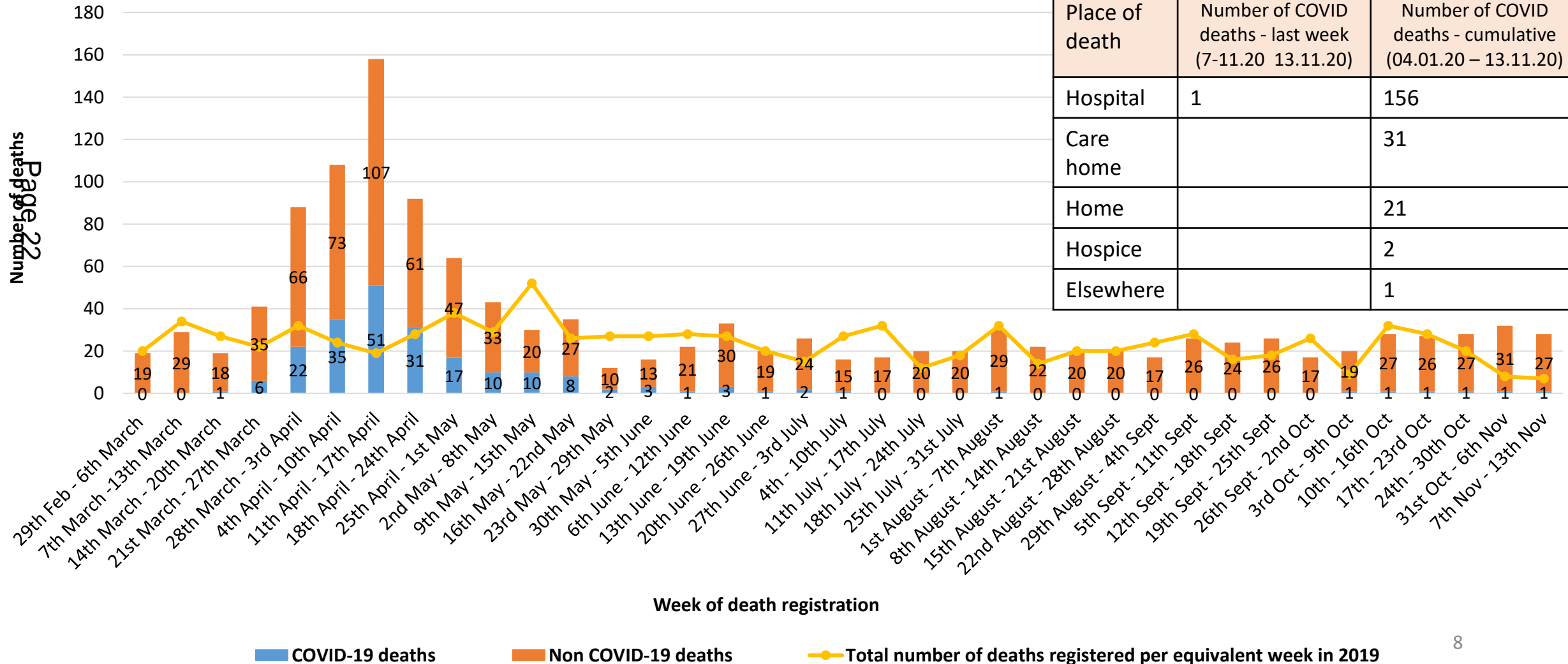
Source: ONS

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)

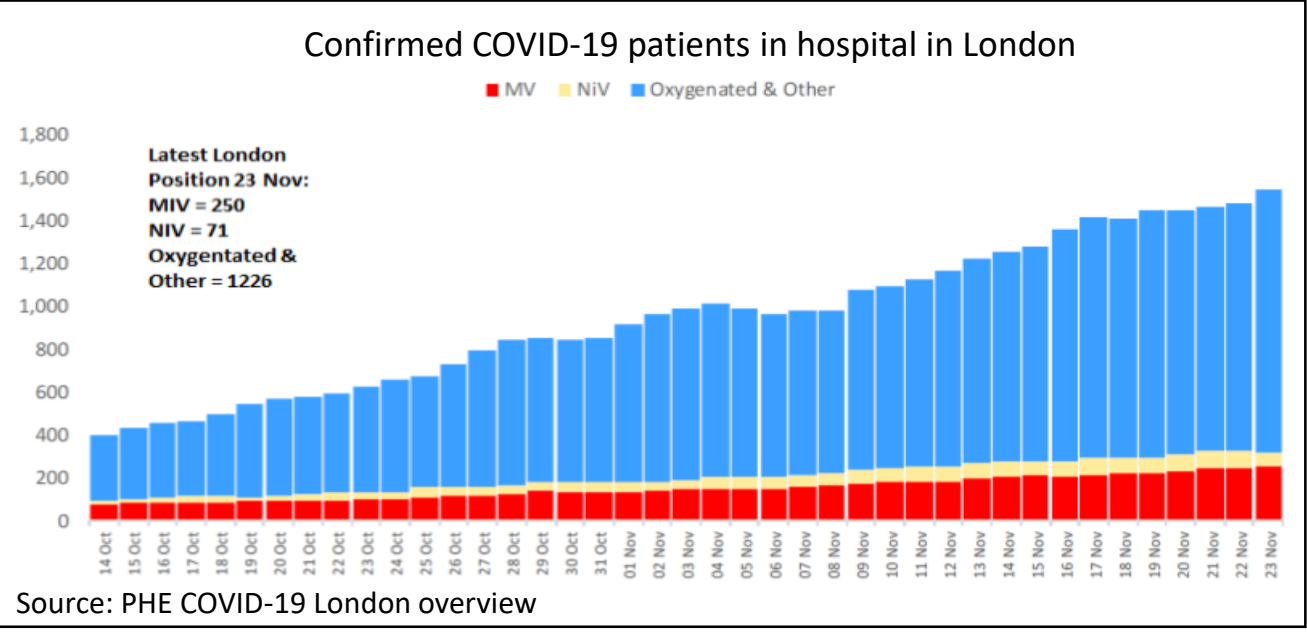
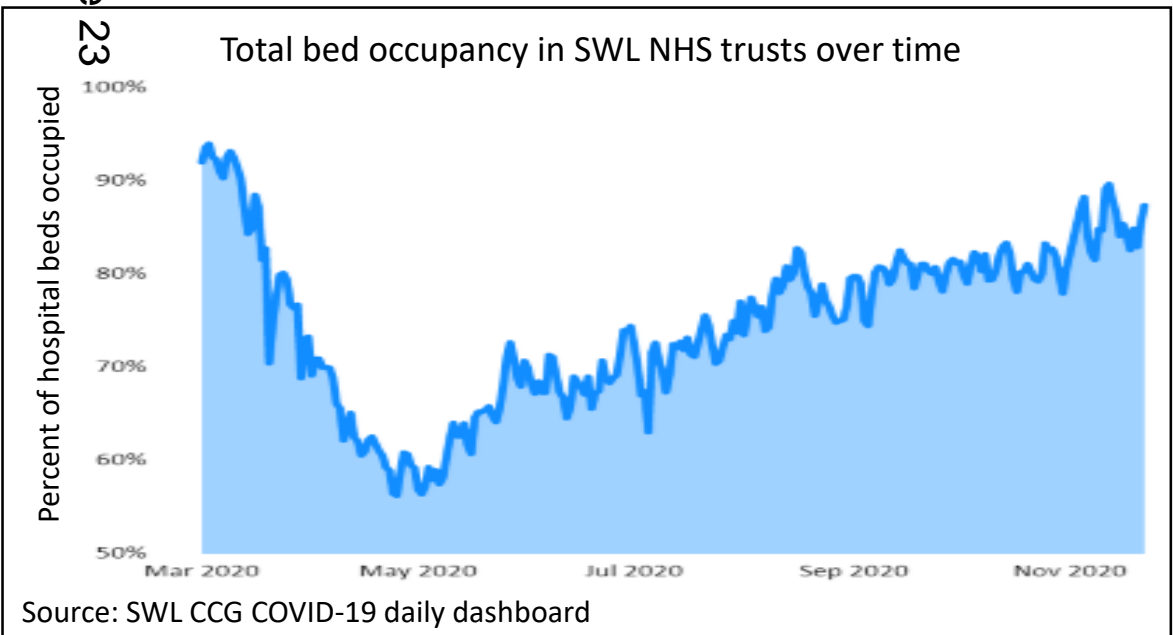
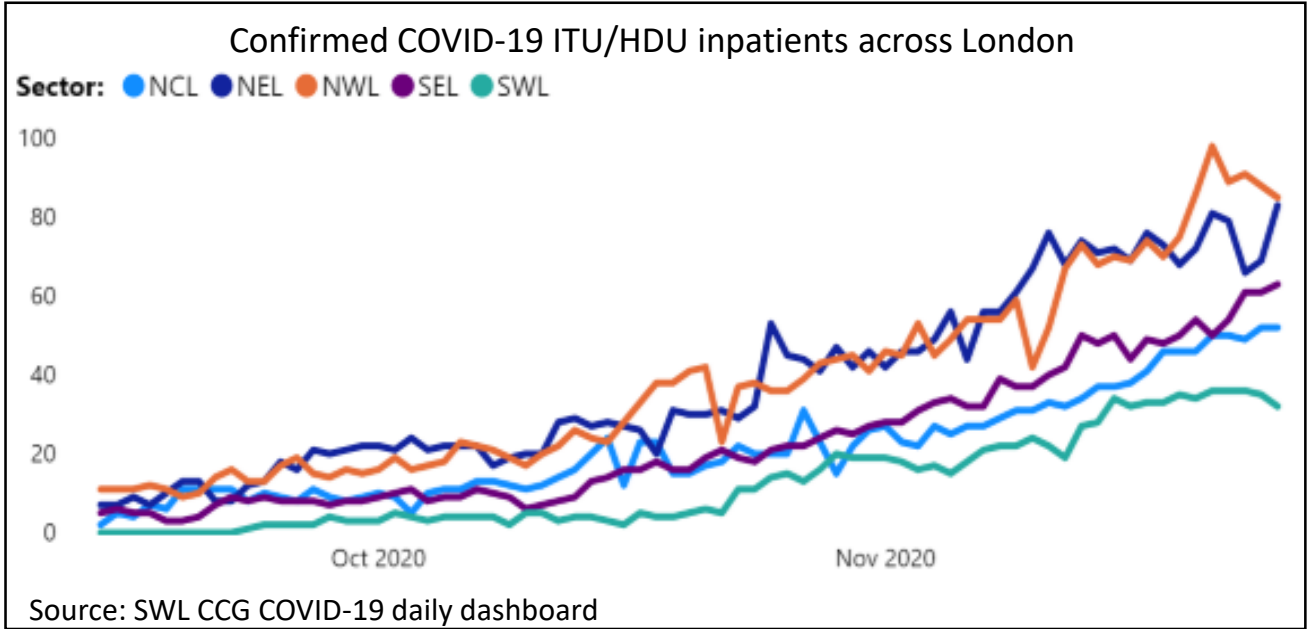
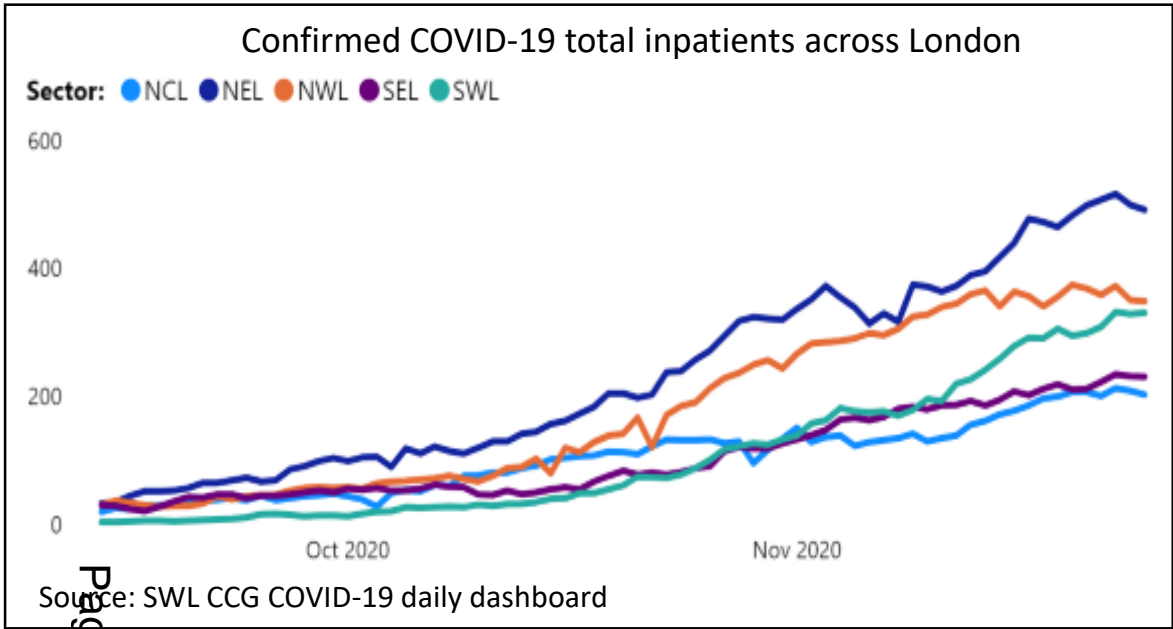
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Number of deaths in Merton by week of registration



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

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MEETING FRIENDS AND FAMILY <p>No mixing of households indoors, apart from support bubbles. Maximum of six outdoors.</p>	BARS, PUBS AND RESTAURANTS <p>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.</p>	RETAIL <p>Open.</p>	WORK AND BUSINESS <p>Everyone who can work from home should do so.</p>
EDUCATION <p>Early years settings, schools, colleges and universities open. Childcare, other supervised activities for children, and childcare bubbles permitted.</p>	INDOOR LEISURE <p>Open.</p>	ACCOMMODATION <p>Open.</p>	PERSONAL CARE <p>Open.</p>
OVERNIGHT STAYS <p>Permitted with household or support bubble.</p>	WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS <p>15 guests for weddings, civil partnerships, wedding receptions and wakes; 30 for funerals.</p>	ENTERTAINMENT <p>Open.</p>	PLACES OF WORSHIP <p>Open, but cannot interact with anyone outside household or support bubble.</p>
TRAVELLING <p>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.</p>	EXERCISE <p>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.</p>	RESIDENTIAL CARE <p>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).</p>	LARGE EVENTS <p>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)</p>

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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

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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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