

Local Outbreak Engagement Board

03 December 2020

Test, Trace and Isolate Update

1. Purpose

This report is an update on the Test, Trace and Isolate initiative in Walsall.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That, subject to any comments Board Members may wish to make, the update report on the Test, trace and Isolate initiative in Walsall be noted.

3. Report detail

- 3.1 The Test, trace and Isolate work in Walsall continues to be delivered to schedule. The details are available in Appendix A.

The key developments have been summarised below.

Testing for Coronavirus

- Uptake of PCR testing continues to match regional and national levels
- Testing uptake continues to be somewhat lower in younger age groups, men and BAME groups but active communication messaging continues to promote the benefits and importance of testing.
- There continue to be three operational Local Testing Sites at Walsall Town Hall, Darlaston Community Centre and the University of Wolverhampton.
- The Mobile Testing Unit continues at Wakes Ground Car Park in Willenhall and has the most activity to date.
- Plans are being drawn up for the roll out of lateral flow testing. It is anticipated 10k tests per week will be available to begin with, increasing to 28k and a targeted approach will be adopted across the region focusing first on core workers and the vulnerable.

Contact Tracing

- Contact tracing in Walsall on the 9th of September. They have contact traced about 1400 individuals to date; at present they trace about 25 individuals a day.
- Walsall council continues to offer local contact tracing to support the national programme for those cases where the National programme has failed to make contact; they have identified and prevented several outbreaks as a result.
 - Wedding at a private residence resulting in 40 positive cases
 - Cases linked to a nursing home
 - Cases admitted to hospitals
- The team have been successful in contacting previously uncontactable people by tracking down their correct contact details.
- The capacity of the contact tracing team is being increased to meet demand and maximise the number of people who are traced.
- The contact tracing team have initiated welfare checks for COVID positive cases midway through the isolation period to support them to self-isolate.

Support for self-isolation

Background papers

None

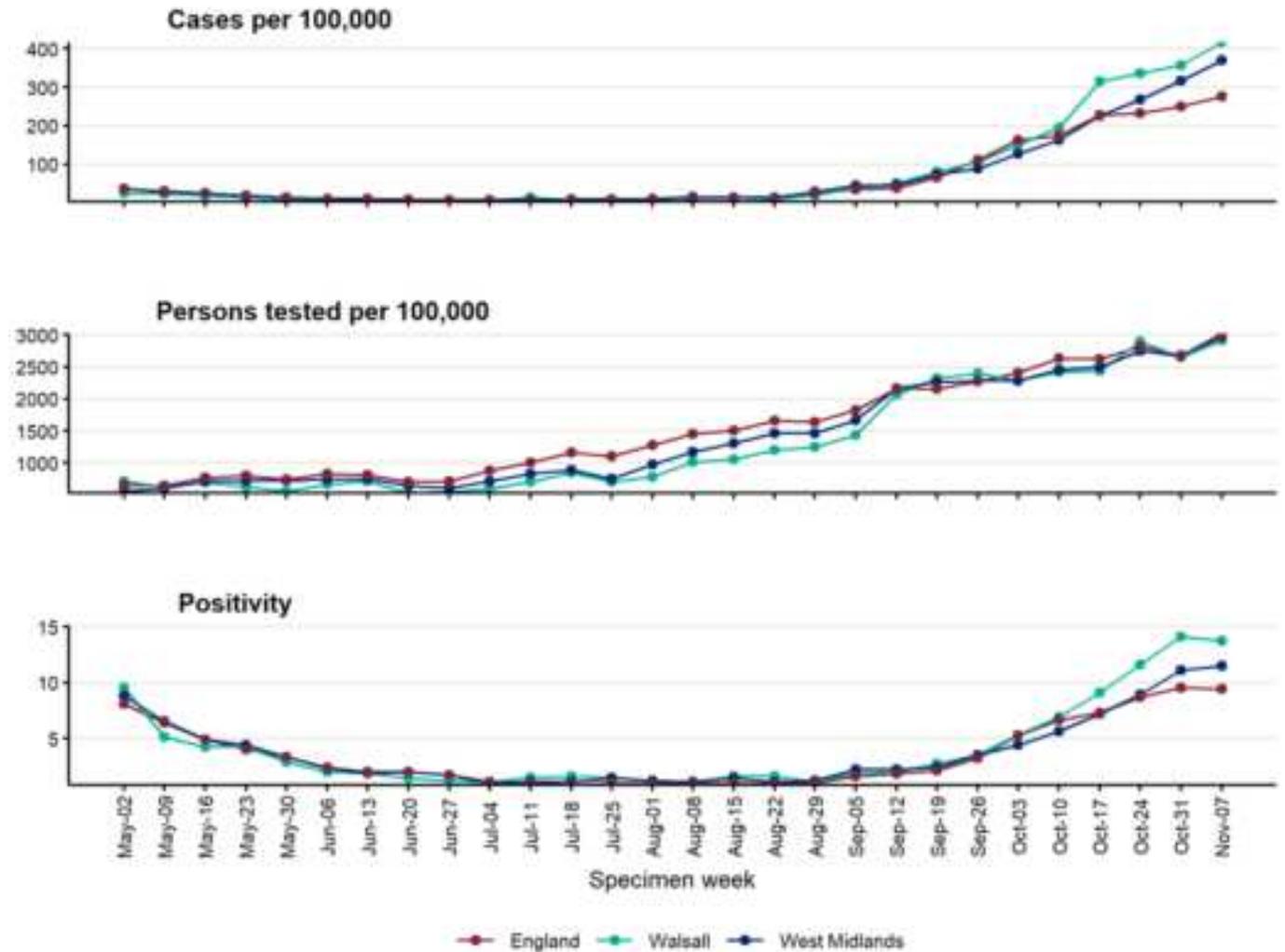
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Appendix A

Coronavirus Testing in Walsall

Persons tested and cases diagnosed per 100,000 population and positivity per week in Walsall, West Midlands and England (5th May 2020 to 13th November 2020).



PHE data shows that cases are rising at a faster pace than England & the West Midlands, whilst testing numbers per 100,000 population remain comparable. Positivity for Walsall although greater than both regionally and nationally, does appear to have plateaued.

Contact tracing data

Contacts by exposure/activity setting and current contact tracing outcome in Walsall (May 28 2020 to November 17 2020) *Data has been collected by NHS Track & Trace (NTAT)*

Unknown exposure: data on exposure/activity setting has not been provided. Uncontactable cases: insufficient contact details provided to contact the person. Failed contact tracing: contact tracing team attempted but did not succeed in contacting an individual