

Local Outbreak Engagement Board

13th April 2021

Walsall Covid-19 Dashboard

1. Purpose

The 'Walsall Covid-19 dashboard' provides a weekly update of data in relation to potential symptoms, confirmed cases, hospital admissions and deaths. Where applicable, it compares Walsall with Local Authorities across the region for benchmark purposes.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That member's note the latest data presented in the dashboard and the highlights listed below.
- 2.2 That members use, promote and direct other users to the dashboard accordingly.

3. Report detail

Latest summary highlights:

- *Both nationally and locally in Walsall, the numbers and rates of Covid-19 positive cases is decreasing.*
- *The latest 7-day average of positive cases is 204 (as of 26th March 2021), with a rate of 71.5 per 100,000 of the population.*
- *The positivity rate in Walsall has also continued to decrease and is now at 3.4% (which is similar to the Birmingham and Black Country rate of 3.3%, but higher than national at 2.6%.*
- *The number and rate of hospital admissions continues to decrease.*
- *Deaths within 28 days of a positive Covid-19 test have now exceeded 831 in Walsall.*

Background:

- The ‘Walsall Covid-19 dashboard’ is a two sided dashboard refreshed weekly (usually on a Tuesday) to provide timely data and can be sourced on the Walsall Council website [HERE](#) and clicking on the dashboard link.
- Its purpose is to offer a brief overview for the Walsall borough and includes:

Potential symptoms and confirmed cases:

- Trends of daily positive cases & confirmed case numbers
- Figures on potential symptoms
- Hospital admissions
- Rates per 100,000 population for Walsall and neighbouring Local Authorities

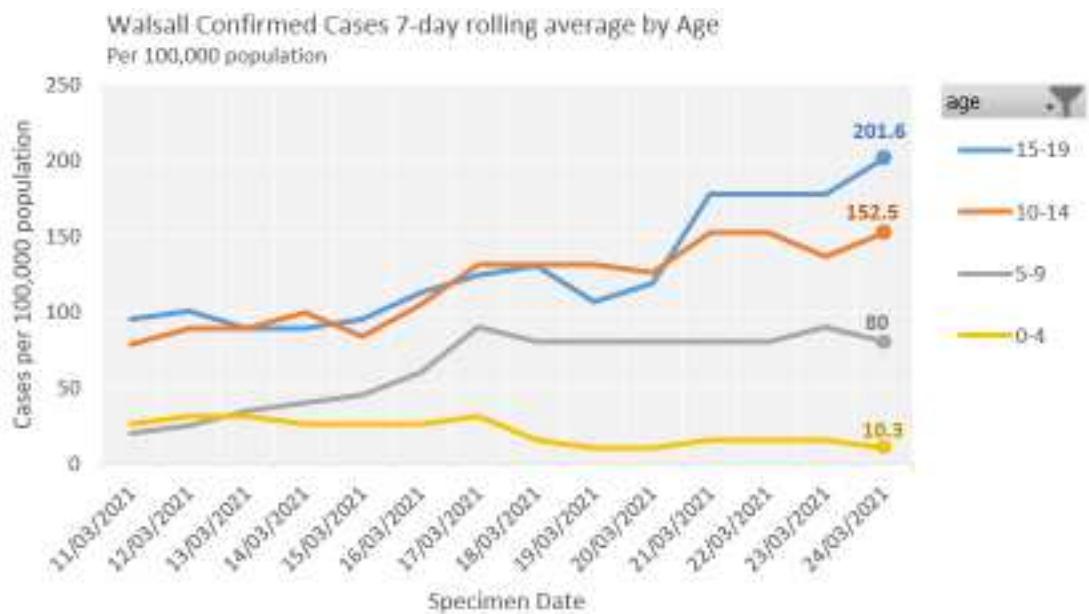
Mortality: distribution and incidence:

- A chart illustrating excess deaths compared to the average for the last five years
 - Charts presenting registered deaths over time and where they are occurring – ‘care home’ or ‘hospital’
 - Peak mortality heat chart comparing Walsall with the rest of the region.
- There are also contact details highlighted for the Health Protection Team who, along with other Public Health staff and some provider staff, cover the on call phone line / email from 8am until 8pm, 7 days per week.
Walsall.healthprotection@nhs.net 01922 658065
 - Comments and feedback are welcome from users of the dashboard, to ensure the intended audience get the most from it.

Covid-19 Infections in School-aged children

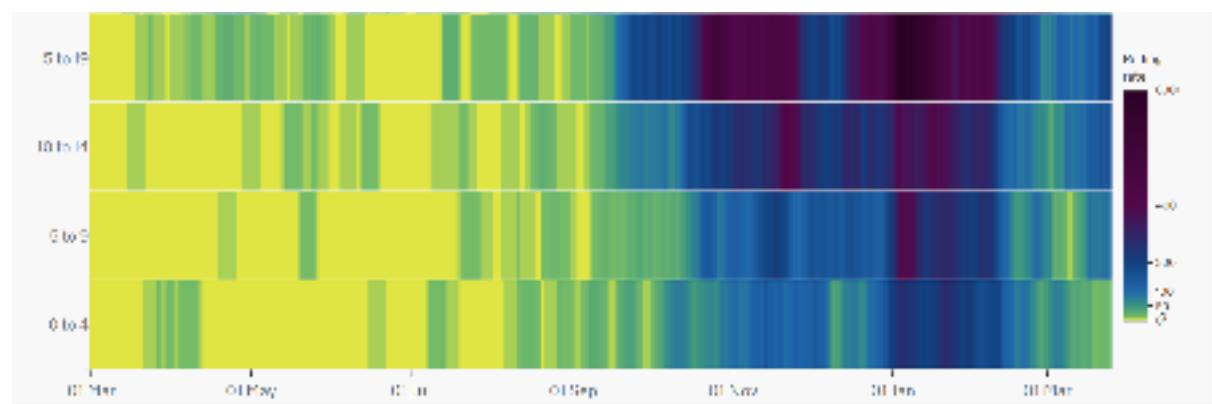
In recent weeks the numbers and rate of school aged children testing positive, has increased, particularly in older secondary-school aged children.

Figure 1. The rate of School-aged Children testing positive for Covid-19 in Walsall.



It is however important to note that this increase in infection rates in school children, which is possible through increased and regular rapid testing in schools, does not necessarily indicate that there will be more cases, serious illness, hospitalisation and death across all age groups, in large part due to the Covid-19 vaccination programme.

Figure 2. Heatmap of Covid-19 Infection Rates in School-aged children in Walsall.



The heatmap above illustrates the rate of Covid-19 infections in school-aged children in Walsall throughout the course of the pandemic. Notwithstanding the increased rate in recent weeks as described above, the rate in these age groups is currently not as high as it was during the second wave peak in early 2021.

4. Conclusion

Continue to utilise the ‘Walsall Covid-19 dashboard’ on a regular basis to help gauge the latest situation, and feedback suggestions for possible future improvements.

Background papers

The following data sources have been used to collate the dashboard.

[PHE Coronavirus Tracker](#)

[NHS Digital](#)

[ONS Weekly Registered Deaths](#)

Authors

Stephen Gunther – Director of Public Health

 07818 538715

 Stephen.gunther@walsall.gov.uk

Dr. Claire J. Heath – Senior Public Health Intelligence Officer

 01922 655983

 Claire.heath@walsall.gov.uk