

## Walsall Covid-19 Infection and Vaccination Rates Update

Ward(s):

Portfolios: Cllr Craddock

### 1. Aim

To give an update on current Covid-19 infection rates in Walsall, vaccination uptake, including the booster and future Covid-19 management.

### 2. Recommendations

That colleagues continue to play their part in the Local Authority and Partner management response to Covid-19 in Walsall and support messages for residents to living safely with Covid.

### 3. Report detail

Following Government guideline changes, this report offers an overview of how Walsall plans to live safely with Covid-19 including:

- Barometer (5 key performance indicator overview)
- Vaccinations

A revised and refreshed **barometer** offers an overview based on **nine** key performance indicators and their RAG ratings (the defined parameters agreed locally).

At present, KPIs are rated as **RED** however, the previously reported high number of positive cases are reducing, along with recent trends, positivity (the proportion of those tested who are positive) and the situation awareness (community transmission of positive cases across the borough).

The impact of covid-19 related **hospital admissions** remains high, however those in critical care remains low.

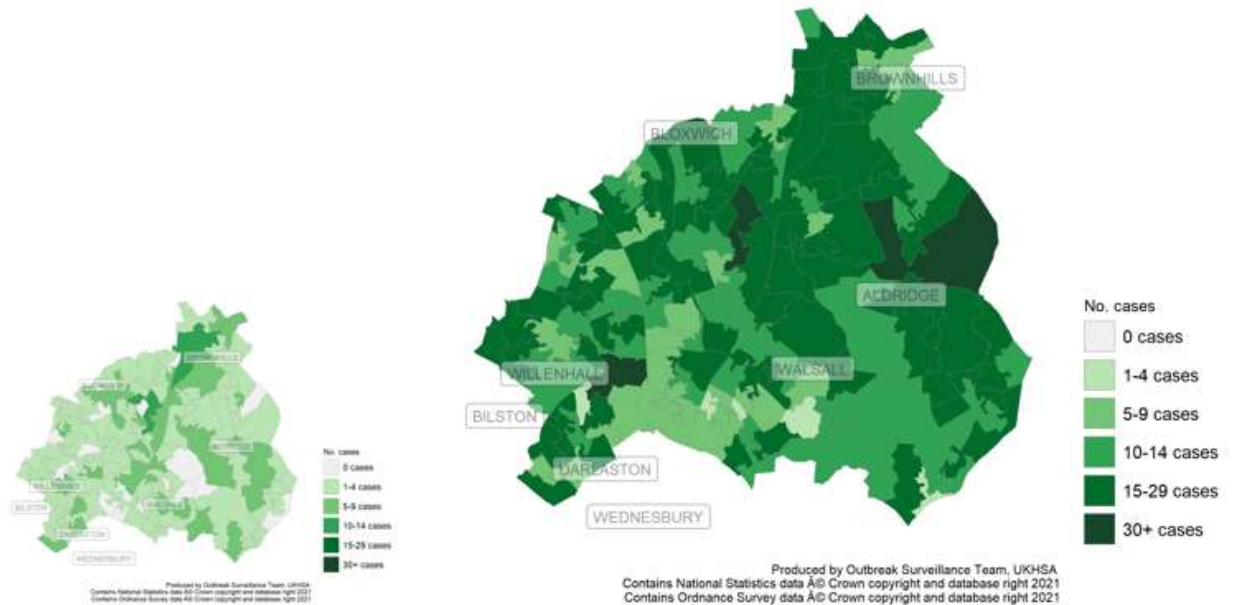
The **variant dominance** included in the barometer is under surveillance, at present highlighting 67% as being genotyped as the omicron variant in the most recent week.

Also in the last week, there have been two reported **outbreaks** within a care home setting, which the Health Protection team and other colleagues are supporting.

KPI	Latest Data	Comments	Source																																																												
1 Weekly incidence (number of new cases)	<b>1,175 Cases</b> (31st Mar to 6th Apr)	<b>34% decrease in a week</b>	UKHSA situation awareness explorer (last refreshed 13 Apr)																																																												
2 Weekly trends (rate per 100,000)	<p>Rate per 100,000</p> <p>Specimen week ending date</p>	<p>The rate is currently at 409.8 per 100,000 population.</p> <p>Walsall ranked 246/309 English LTLAs</p> <p>Each bar represents a rate for positive cases over 7 days. RAG dependent on latest rate.</p>	UKHSA situation awareness explorer (last refreshed 13 Apr)																																																												
3 Weekly Positivity (% testing +ve PCR only)	<b>15.0%</b> (Pillar 1 & 2 combined) as of 6th Apr	<b>Benchmark:</b> Birmingham & Black Country: 12.8% England: 12.5%	UKHSA situation awareness explorer (last refreshed 13 Apr)																																																												
4 Covid vaccine uptake (%)	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Age group</th> <th>1st dose%</th> <th>2nd dose%</th> <th>Booster%</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>5-11</td><td>3%</td><td>1%</td><td>0%</td></tr> <tr><td>12-15</td><td>49%</td><td>24%</td><td>16%</td></tr> <tr><td>16-17</td><td>62%</td><td>45%</td><td>27%</td></tr> <tr><td>18-29</td><td>69%</td><td>62%</td><td>48%</td></tr> <tr><td>30-39</td><td>74%</td><td>69%</td><td>57%</td></tr> <tr><td>40-49</td><td>82%</td><td>79%</td><td>70%</td></tr> <tr><td>50-54</td><td>89%</td><td>87%</td><td>82%</td></tr> <tr><td>55-59</td><td>90%</td><td>89%</td><td>86%</td></tr> <tr><td>60-64</td><td>92%</td><td>91%</td><td>91%</td></tr> <tr><td>65-69</td><td>93%</td><td>92%</td><td>93%</td></tr> <tr><td>70-74</td><td>95%</td><td>95%</td><td>97%</td></tr> <tr><td>75-79</td><td>97%</td><td>96%</td><td>97%</td></tr> <tr><td>80+</td><td>96%</td><td>96%</td><td>96%</td></tr> <tr><td><b>Overall</b></td><td><b>72.12%</b></td><td><b>67.59%</b></td><td><b>75.17%</b></td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Age group	1st dose%	2nd dose%	Booster%	5-11	3%	1%	0%	12-15	49%	24%	16%	16-17	62%	45%	27%	18-29	69%	62%	48%	30-39	74%	69%	57%	40-49	82%	79%	70%	50-54	89%	87%	82%	55-59	90%	89%	86%	60-64	92%	91%	91%	65-69	93%	92%	93%	70-74	95%	95%	97%	75-79	97%	96%	97%	80+	96%	96%	96%	<b>Overall</b>	<b>72.12%</b>	<b>67.59%</b>	<b>75.17%</b>	<p>Black Country &amp; West B'ham CCG</p> <p>First dose: 68.03%</p> <p>Second dose: 63.50%</p> <p>Booster (3rd dose): 74.55%</p> <p>Note: Booster percentage denominator is the population <u>currently eligible</u> for the booster.</p>	IMS Reporting (last refreshed 13 Apr)
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5 Situation Awareness	<b>RED</b>	<b>High community transmission and a range of exposures/outbreaks</b>	Daily UKHSA line list mapping / UKHSA outbreaks & issues / UKHSA LA Report (last refreshed on 13 Apr)																																																												
6 Walsall Hospital NHS Trust Inpatients	<p>Total number of confirmed COVID-19 inpatients</p>	96 confirmed COVID-19 inpatients	Daily Trust Sitrep (last refreshed on 13 Apr)																																																												
7 HDU/ITU Occupancy	<p>Patients in critical care with/ausp COVID19</p>	2 HDU/ITU beds being occupied due to COVID-19.	Daily Trust Sitrep (last refreshed on 13 Apr)																																																												
8 Variant Dominance	<p>Variant Dominance</p>	67.47% of cases genotyped were identified as Omicron variant in the last week	UKHSA situation awareness explorer (last refreshed 13 Apr)																																																												
9 Outbreaks per setting	<p>Number of Outbreaks Per Setting</p>	2 New Confirmed Outbreak currently in Walsall	COVID-19: Winter Ongoing Situations (last refreshed 13 Apr)																																																												

Mapped positive case data continues to be monitored regularly, with the latest LSOA level map demonstrating the impact across the borough (see below). All LSOAs across the borough are affected, with pockets of higher cases (30+) within parts of Aldridge, Blakenall and Bentley.

*COVID-19 cases (Pillars 1 and 2 combined) in most recent 7-day period (28 March to 10 April by Walsall LSOA compared to previously (21 February to 27 February 2022)*



Source – PHE LA report

As part of the response / management of Covid-19, the Public Health on call cell continues to be operational since the summer 2020, and has supported / advised / guided over 10,500 contacts, with the majority being from care home settings.

Contact details for this service – [walsall.healthprotection@nhs.net](mailto:walsall.healthprotection@nhs.net) (01922) 658065

## Vaccination

Overall vaccination uptake/coverage is now being monitored at System and Place levels against the NHSE targets. According to the latest published NHS England figures, weekly uptake percentages at system level are as follows:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/covid-19-vaccinations/>

### First dose % (using ONS denominators)

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Age group	BCWB	England
80+	96.7	97.9
75-79	100	100
70-74	96.1	93.6
65-69	98.6	98.7
60-64	100	100
55-59	95.1	98.7
50-54	94.6	95.1
45-49	87.1	89.5
40-44	92.9	95.9
35-39	84.2	90.6
30-34	78.0	89.0
25-29	69.7	82.4
18-24	71.0	81.4
16-17	61.5	73.1
12-15	46.2	58.7

### Second dose % (using ONS denominators)

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Age group	BCWB	England
80+	96.0	97.2
75-79	99.7	100
70-74	95.1	92.8
65-69	97.1	97.6
60-64	99.5	100
55-59	93.1	97.0
50-54	92.0	93.0
45-49	83.8	87.0
40-44	88.1	92.2
35-39	78.7	86.0
30-34	71.2	83.3
25-29	62.4	75.9
18-24	61.5	72.6
16-17	38.2	52.5
12-15	21.7	32.9

**% of cohort (not just those eligible) who have had a booster or 3rd dose (using ONS denominators)**

<b>Age group</b>	<b>BCWB</b>	<b>England</b>
<b>80+</b>	90.7	93.9
<b>75-79</b>	95.3	100
<b>70-74</b>	89.6	89.5
<b>65-69</b>	88.7	92.3
<b>60-64</b>	87.0	92.5
<b>55-59</b>	77.7	86.6
<b>50-54</b>	72.8	80.2
<b>45-49</b>	59.6	70.5
<b>40-44</b>	56.9	70.1
<b>35-39</b>	45.7	60.2
<b>30-34</b>	36.6	53.9
<b>25-29</b>	29.1	45.6
<b>18-24</b>	25.7	39.9
<b>16-17</b>	5.8	10.8

The BCWB ICS has delivered 2,515,155 vaccines since December 2020 (<https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/covid-19-vaccinations/>), an enormous achievement which has meant that those most vulnerable were protected early from the serious effects of COVID-19. The BCWB CCG is working with Local Authority Public Health colleagues in each of the five places to ensure that we are reaching into communities, using local champions to support people with the right information upon which to make decisions around the vaccine and we have a large number of vaccination sites to ensure good access to the service. All this great work will continue.

Our teams are contacting everyone eligible to urge anyone aged 18 or over who has not yet had their vaccine to walk in or book at a local site. In addition, following

It can be seen from the latest data that has been added for the 12-15 and 16-17 year old cohorts that there is a gap emerging in the Black Country between local take up and the averages for England.

### **Monitoring current vaccination inequalities**

We are now reporting regularly overall vaccination coverage and inequalities at Borough and Ward/Middle Layer Super Output (MSOA) resident population levels. The latter is important as it will allow tracking of the impact of CCs and practice interventions in small areas. We use small area (LSOA) Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) scores summarised into quintiles and deciles to report coverage by deprivation.

Uptake in the Black/Black British ethnic group and mixed / multiple ethnicity is still low in Short Heath, Streetly and Willenhall North. Similarly, uptake in the Other/Unknown ethnic groups is low in Birchills and Pelsall.

As noted in previous reports first and second dose coverage is highest in the White and Asian major ethnic groups, and much lower in other ethnic groups.

A variety of methods are being used in a bid to improve uptake. Including grassroots outreach within local communities by the CCs, the vaccine bus service targeting local pockets of low uptake, targeted advertising via social media and radio, direct messaging via schools and other education partners, Walsall FC players filmed, vox pops produced of people getting vaccinated, videos with health professionals, toolkit for workplaces, information and reassurance in multiple community languages, and frequent press releases and local media appearance.

### **Service detail**

The model of delivery of the vaccination in primary care is changing from being centred on a single local vaccination site in each of the seven Primary Care Networks to local GP surgeries. This has meant that some additional people have come forward for their first dose on the basis that it is available from their own GP practice.

The Mass Vaccination Site (MVS) at the Saddlers centre has been re-located from the end of March to a smaller site within the Saddlers centre. Retaining a MVS alongside the delivery of the vaccination at local GP surgeries provides the capability of flexing delivery in line with government direction to continue to aim to reach those groups who are proving to be the most hesitant, whilst being able to deliver further booster jabs at scale.

## **4. Financial information**

Public Health has received funding of £9.558m in relation to the 'Contain Outbreak Management Fund', this funding is being used to support the Local Authority's direct response to COVID-19. This funding has been used to support the following to date:

- Walsall's vaccination programme including the vaccination bus initiative and operational costs for various sites across the borough
- Walsall's COVID testing programme including maintenance and operational costs for various sites across the borough
- Contract tracing, COVID administration and an extended Health Protection Team
- Support to maintain outbreaks with Adult Social Care and educational settings.

In addition to the above further funding is from DHSC to support the Lateral Flow Testing regime across the borough. This funding is based on actual costs incurred and is reimbursed through monthly submissions. Forecast funding for April 2021 to March 2022 is £1.177m.

## 5. Reducing Inequalities

The impact Covid-19 has had on Walsall residents as well as staff continues, however there will come a time where it will ease and the learning from this pandemic can be put into perspective. Some of this work, such as the recent resident survey and the enablement of remote working is already taking place.

In addition to responding to this pandemic, the organisation continues to work hard on reducing inequalities in Walsall be that through the refresh of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) to identify focussed priorities; through other corporate strategies such as the Corporate Plan and through the transformation work.

A link to our Walsall JSNA, can be accessed via the [Walsall Insight website - JSNA](#)

## 6. Decide

Response to the pandemic continues amongst Partners with a management approach as opposed to a containment approach. Those key organisations and Partners continue to meet and monitor as part of collaborative working.

Meetings across the region also assist with future decision-making.

## 7. Respond

High level COVID-19 messaging continues to be shared across a wide range of channels, including website, social media, and newsletters, as well as community networks across a range of partners and trusted voices in the Walsall community.

## 8. Review

Covid-19 is reviewed regularly through a vast number of avenues and throughout the hierarchy of the organisation.

Key general information is available on the Walsall Council website - [HERE](#) and a **Covid-19 data dashboard**, updated weekly (usually every Tuesday), is available [HERE](#).

## Background papers

Key links to Covid-19 related intelligence include:

- [Walsall Council](#)
- [gov.uk website](#)

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