

# COVID-19 Update

Sunderland Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee  
05<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Gerry Taylor, Executive Director of Public Health & Integrated Commissioning



# Where have we been? The timeline

- Covid-19 declared as pandemic in March 2020
- As cases rise in the UK and the first wave of the virus progresses, national lockdowns implemented from March 2020
- Additional North-East (LA7) restrictions requested in September 2020, followed shortly afterward by a range of tiered national restrictions. These culminate in a further national lockdown as a second wave takes place.
- The UK's Covid19 vaccination programme begins on 08/12/2020, focusing on the most vulnerable.
- In March 2021, a staged "Roadmap" out of lockdown arrangements commences and progressively reduces restrictions until reaching its final stage in July 2021.
- Principles for management of Covid-19 going forward announced.
- A third wave is experienced across July and August 2021, following which cases decline though remain at a relatively high level.
- As the year progresses, the Autumn and Winter Plan is published in September 2021, with the aim of outlining strategic approaches to managing Covid-19 (Plan A), as well as approaches that can be implemented in the event of rising pressure on the NHS (Plan B).
- Initial elements of Plan B begin to be implemented as the Omicron Variant of Concern emerges at the end of November 2021. Following this, measures have been incrementally added to reach the current position.



# Autumn and Winter Plan

*...to sustain the progress made and prepare the country for future challenges, while ensuring the National Health Service (NHS) does not come under unsustainable pressure.”*

To be achieved through the Government's **Plan A**:

- **Building our defences through pharmaceutical interventions:** vaccines, antivirals and disease modifying therapeutics
- **Identifying and isolating positive cases to limit transmission:** Test, Trace and Isolate
- **Supporting the NHS and social care** – managing pressures and recovering services
- **Advising people on how to protect themselves and others:** clear guidance and communications
- **Pursuing an international approach:** helping to vaccinate the world and managing risks at the border. From 15/12/2021, red listing no longer applied to countries previously listed following identification of Omicron VOC.

The Contingency Framework sets out the approach to managing outbreaks in educational settings. It aims to keep as many children and young people as possible in childcare, nursery, school, college or university.



# Autumn and Winter Plan

*...to sustain the progress made and prepare the country for future challenges, while ensuring the National Health Service (NHS) does not come under unsustainable pressure.”*

## **Plan B (currently being enacted to prevent the NHS being overwhelmed):**

- **From 30 November 2021**, face coverings are mandated in shops and on public transport. Secondary school pupils, staff and visitors at schools and childcare settings are strongly advised to wear face coverings in communal areas.
- Anyone entering the UK required to take a PCR test within 48 hours of their arrival and self-isolate until they get a negative result.
- **From 10 December 2021**, face coverings required by law in most indoor settings.
- **From 13 December 2021**, office workers who can work from home should do so.
- **From 14 December 2021**, people who are fully vaccinated and identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 – whether Omicron or not – should take an NHS rapid lateral flow test every day for 7 days to help slow the spread of COVID-19.
- **From 15 December 2021**, certain venues are required to check visitors over the age of 18 are fully vaccinated, have proof of a negative test in the last 48 hours or are exempted.

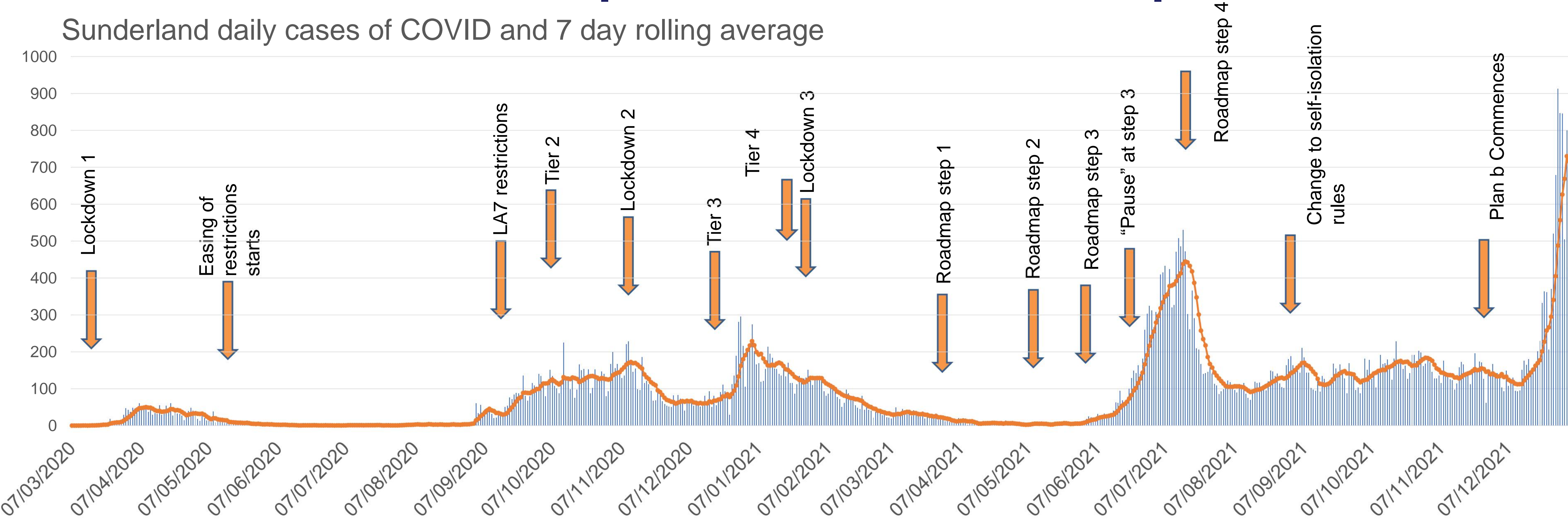
## **Additionally:**

- From 22nd December 2021, all positive cases, in England, can leave self-isolation if they:
  - Take two LFD tests on subsequent days, at least a full 24 hours apart, with the first test on at least the sixth full day of their self-isolation (not counting the ‘onset day’).
  - Obtain negative results on both these days and do not have a high temperature.

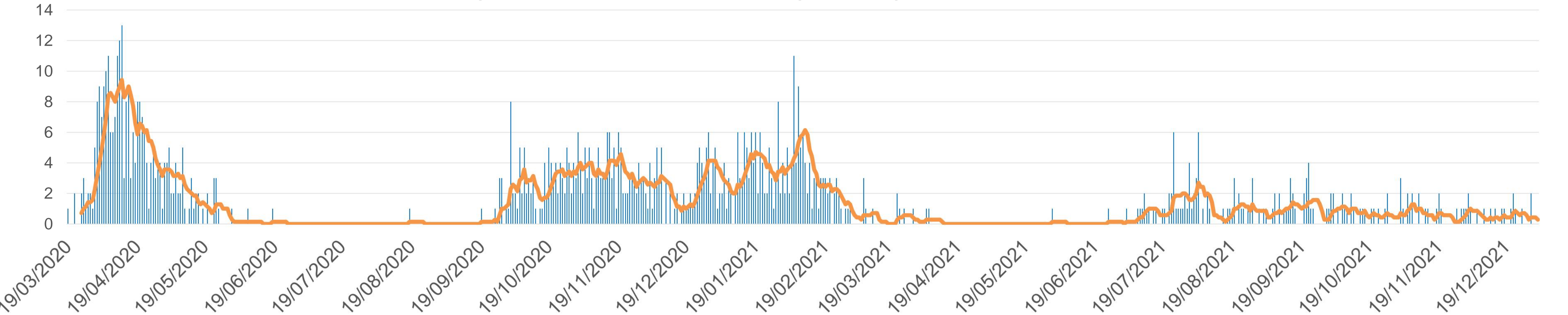


# Sunderland's experience of the pandemic

Sunderland daily cases of COVID and 7 day rolling average

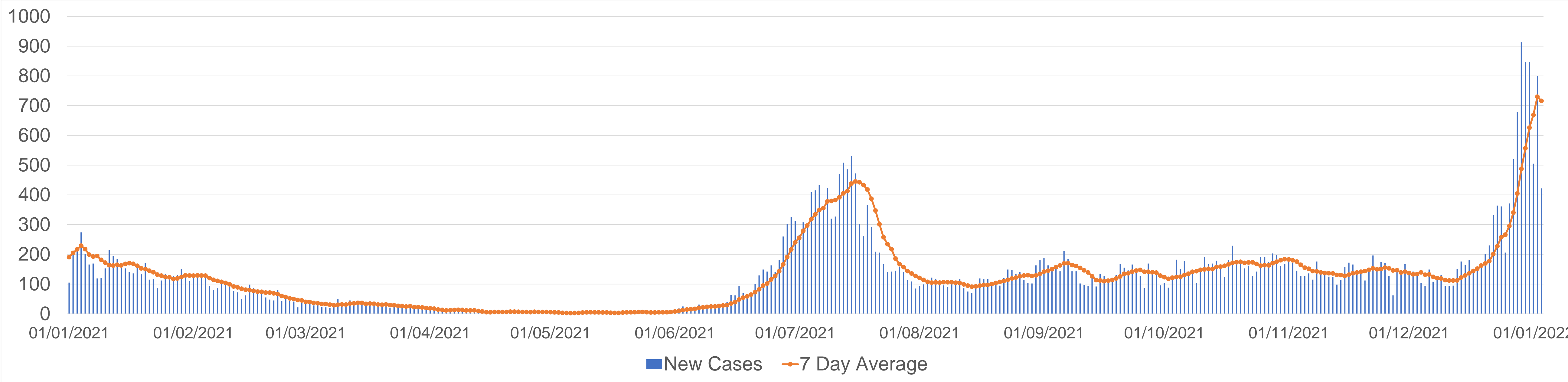




Sunderland daily deaths involving COVID and 7 day rolling average







# Current situation – key facts and figures



	Last 14 days	Cumulative Total	Most Recent 7 Day Average	7 Day Rate of Positive Cases / 100,000	Rank of 7 Day Rate in NE	Notes
New Cases	6,545 (19/12 - 01/01)	61,104 (rising by 1,206)	730.0 (27/12-02/01) 	1685.1 (26/12-01/01) 	7th	Cumulative total at 04/01/2021

	Total Occurrences in the Last 14 Days	Average Occurrences Per Day	Cumulative Total
Covid-19 Related Deaths	7 (16/12-29/12) 	<1 (16/11-29/12) 	1064 (registered by 04/01)

# Public Health Advice remains ...

## Safer Behaviours and Actions



Let fresh air in if you meet indoors. Meeting outdoors is safer



Wear a face covering in crowded and enclosed settings where you come into contact with people you do not normally meet



Get tested, and self isolate if required



Try to stay at home if you are feeling unwell



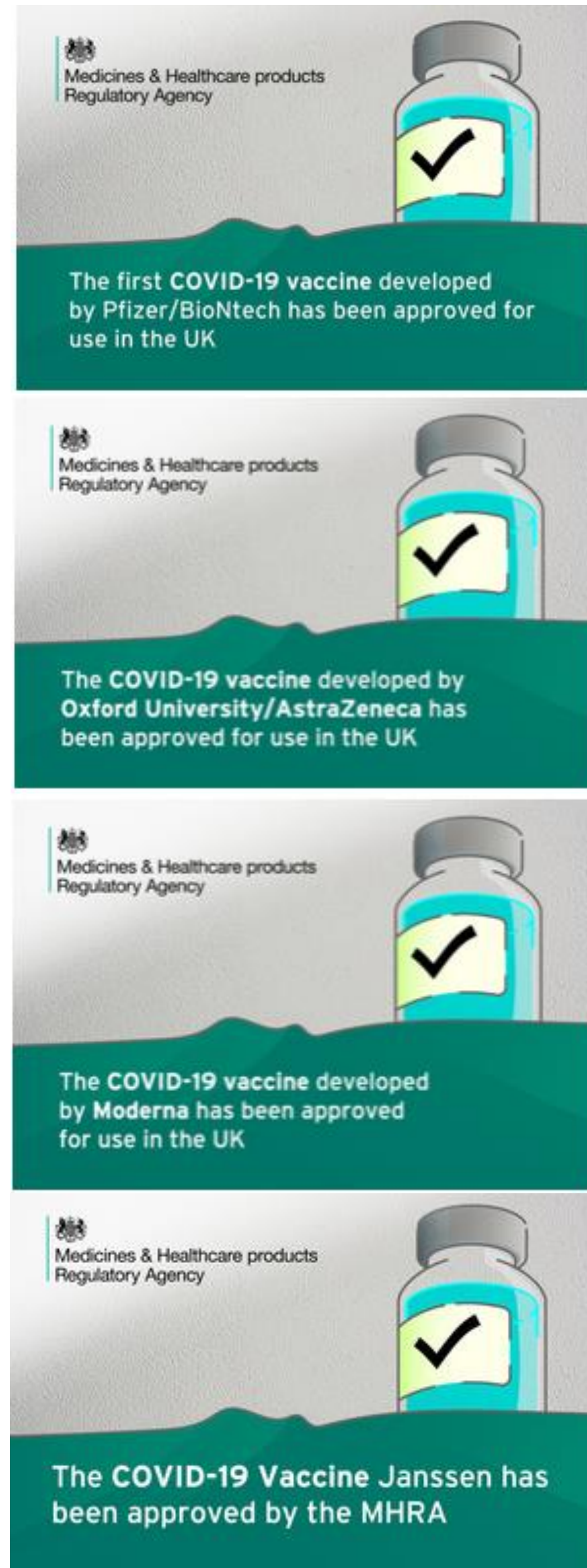
Wash your hands



Download and use the NHS COVID-19 app



# Vaccine programme



*Every person who gets the vaccine will help reduce the impact of the virus on themselves and society.*

Aspirations set out in the roadmap to offer all adults 2 doses by mid-September

Announcement by the JCVI on 01/09/2021 advising that a third primary dose be given to anyone aged 12 and over who is severely immunosuppressed ( $\approx$  6 weeks after second dose).

Announcement by the JCVI on 14/09/2021 advising a third “booster” dose to be given to phase 1 cohorts ( $\approx$  6 months after second dose). Commenced 16/09/2021.

Announcements by the JCVI on 19/07/2021 and 04/08/2021 added vaccination for some children and young people as follows:

- Those aged 12-15 who are clinically vulnerable to COVID-19 or who live with someone who is at increased risk of serious illness from the virus – to be offered two doses
- Healthy 16-17 year olds – to be offered one dose at this stage
- Those within 3 months of their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday - to be offered two doses

(Note: 16-17 year olds at risk were already in cohorts 4 and 6)

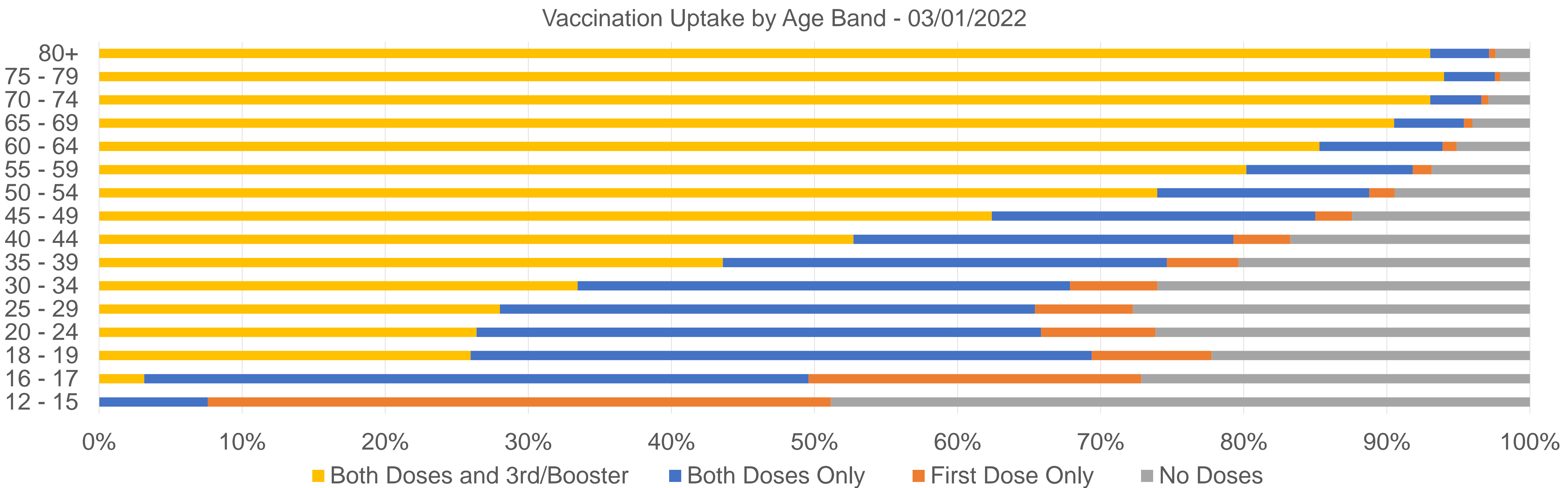
Announcement by the four Chief Medical Officers on 13/09/2021 recommending vaccination of healthy 12-15 year olds based on consideration of wider impacts, including interruption to education. Commenced 20/09/2021.

## As of December 2021:

- **Booster programme extended to those aged 18-39, 3 months after second dose.**
- **Gap prior to booster dose for those already vaccinated reduced to 3 months**
- **Those aged 12-15 to receive second dose after 3 months**
- **Those aged 16-17 to receive second dose after 3 months, or 8 weeks if in an at-risk group**
- **Severely immunosuppressed to receive 3 primary doses and a booster**



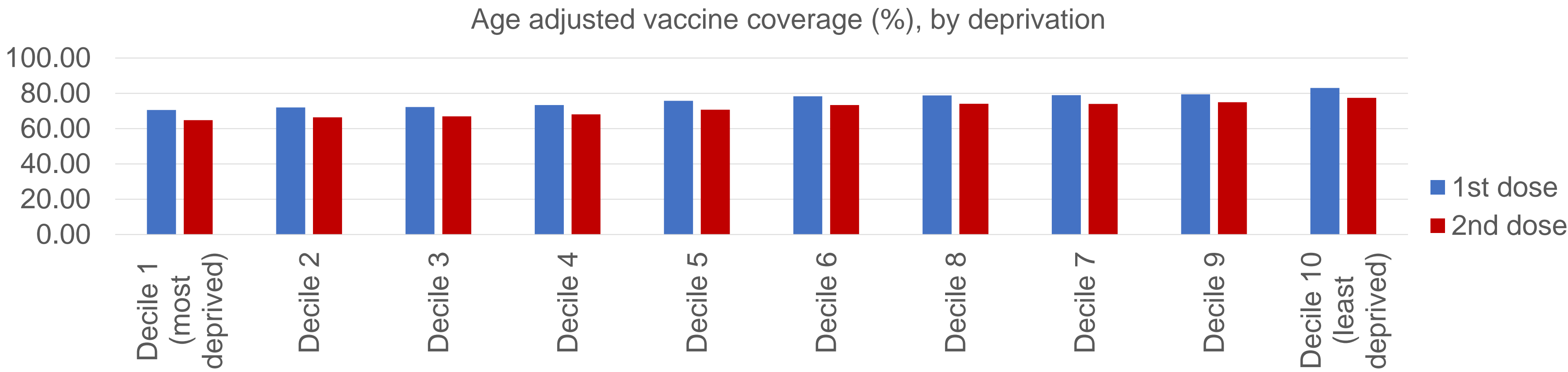
# Vaccine programme progress



- A total of 40,040 eligible people remain unvaccinated. Predominantly within those < 50.

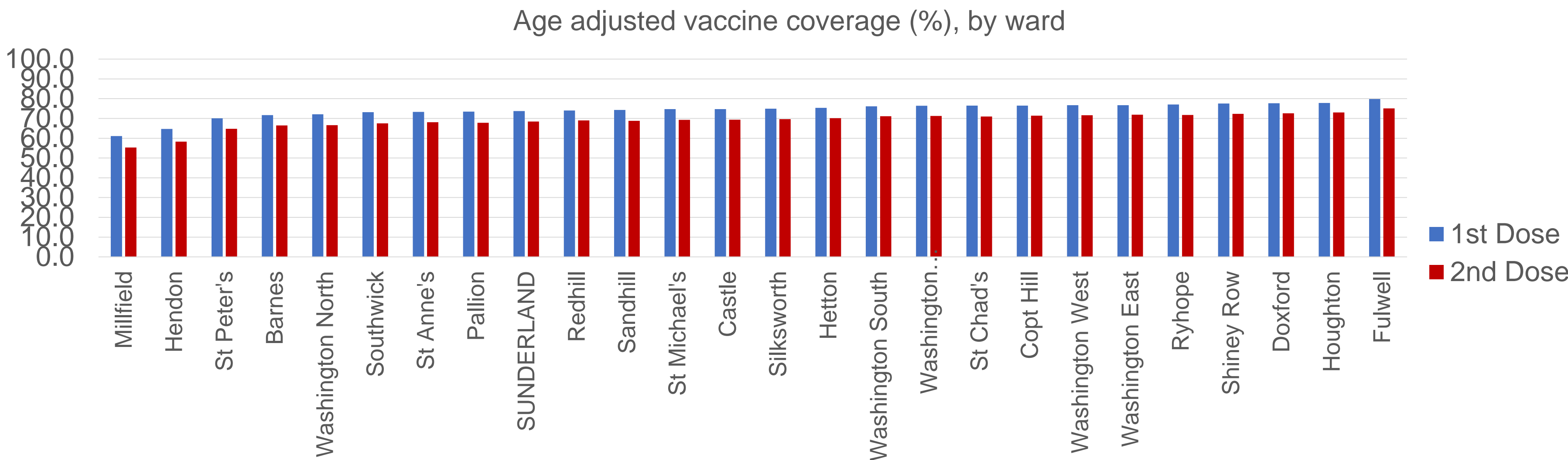
Age Band	Number Unvaccinated
80+	340
75 - 79	219
70 - 74	452
65 - 69	658
60 - 64	993
55 - 59	1438
50 - 54	1972
45 - 49	2208
40 - 44	2978
35 - 39	4011
30 - 34	5528
25 - 29	5489
20 - 24	4372
18 - 19	1303
16 - 17	1670
12 - 15	6409

# Vaccine programme - equity



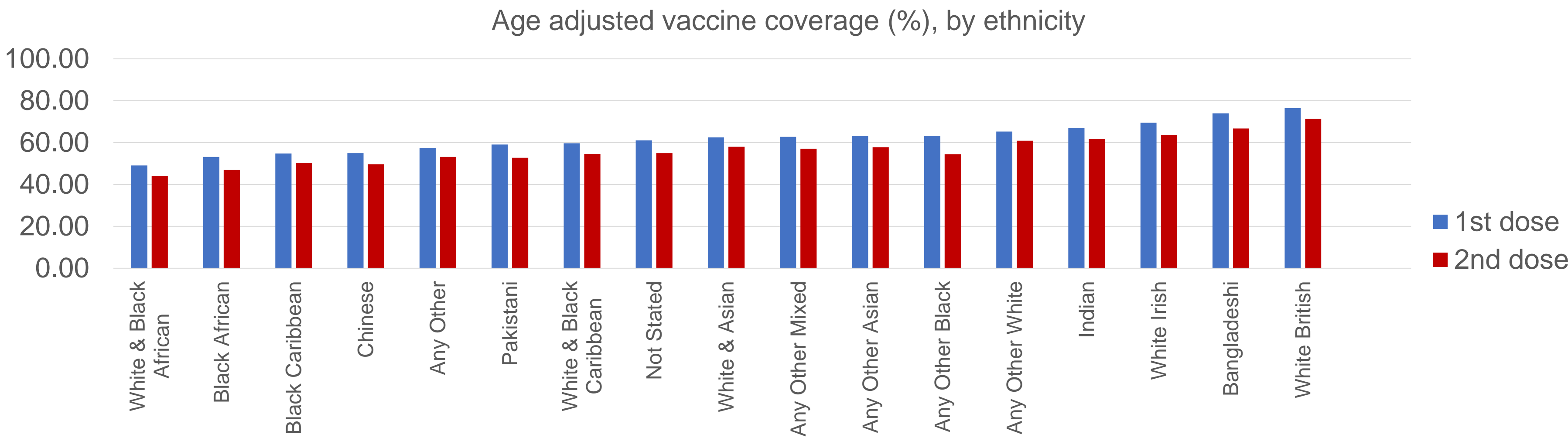
## Vaccine coverage by deprivation

Coverage is lower in more deprived areas; **targeting areas/groups with lower coverage as part of local activity. New site opened in City Centre at High Street West.**



## Vaccine coverage by ward

The 5 wards with the lowest coverage when adjusted for age has been targeted through regional and local communications; **we continue to have pop up clinics in Millfield and Hendon wards and surge support for vaccine promotion. Utilising a MECC approach including offering transport to those that need it.**



## Vaccine coverage by ethnicity

Generally we can see lower coverage when adjusted for age in some South Asian, Chinese, Black and Black Mixed groups; **continue to work with the University and relevant partners.**

## Vaccine coverage by age

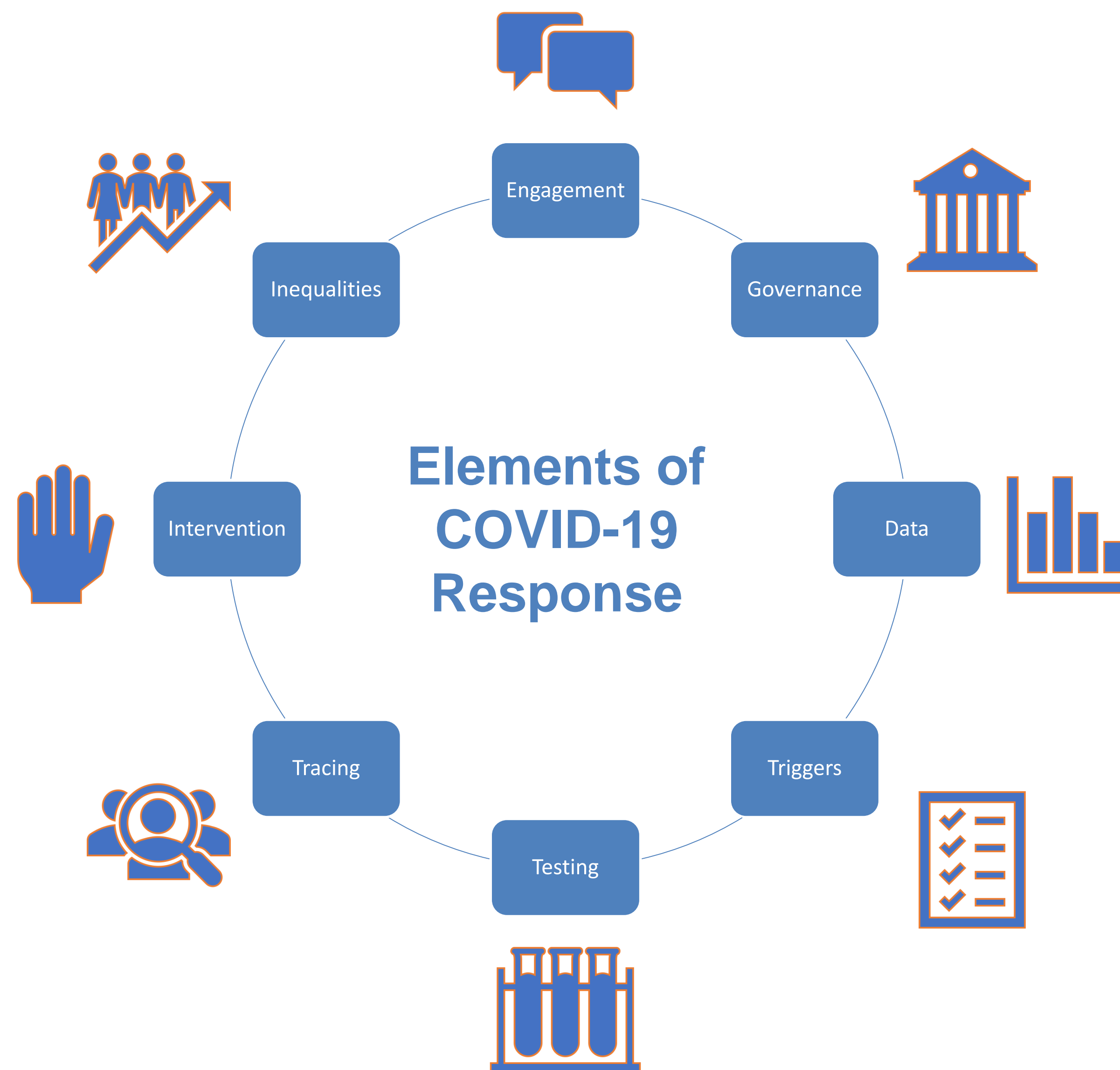
Generally we have seen lower coverage in younger age groups **Have had routine walk-in opportunities alongside booked appointments in response to preference of younger groups. Supporting uptake amongst 12-15 cohort by sharing national campaigns.**

The Winter Vaccination Board puts in place plans to address inequalities as they emerge, including: **Including booster vaccinations and social media messages for those who are pregnant.**

Data as at 31/12/2021 – presents age adjusted coverage (%) for the population of all ages, sorted by 1st dose coverage



# Local Outbreak Management Plan



## Already in place

- Governance structures (Health Protection Board and Local Outbreak Control Board) linked to Gold, Silver and Bronze and Recovery groups
- Regular access to detailed surveillance data
- Autumn and Winter Plan
- Basic testing strategy
- Current NHS Test and Trace arrangements
- A toolkit of possible interventions – less is enforceable
- COVID-19 inequalities strategy
- Supporting communications and engagement activity
- Regional media campaigns for local people based on the detailed insights work continue

## Continue to work on

- Planning prevention support, response and recovery in line with the current guidance
- Developing a local testing strategy that can respond to large outbreaks and variants of concern
- Locally enhanced contact tracing – “Local-4” approach maintained
- Helping people to plan and prepare for self isolation
- Delivering the vaccination programme, including a plan for vaccine equity
- Insights work underway to develop the next phase of regional communications.

# Testing strategy

## Our local testing arrangements which include:

- Symptomatic testing (via PCR) with Mobile Testing Units at Houghton, Silksworth and Sheepfolds
- Local pedestrian testing sites at Johnson Street and Sunderland College Washington Campus
- Daily Testing of Contacts of COVID-19 (DTCC) – fully vaccinated contacts of confirmed COVID-19 cases taking daily lateral flow device tests to slow the spread of the virus
- Routine twice weekly asymptomatic testing (lateral flow device tests) – can be accessed in a number of ways including pick-up from pharmacies, ordering for home delivery and access via educational settings (see [Regular rapid lateral flow coronavirus \(COVID-19\) tests - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus/covid-19/testing/regular-rapid-lateral-flow-tests/))
- Follow-up PCR testing after positive lateral flow device (rapid) testing
- Regular asymptomatic testing in high-risk settings where transmission is more likely (i.e. hospitals, care homes)
- Promotion of regular asymptomatic testing for all school staff, parents and children in Year 7 and above, and surge testing arrangements should there be a significant number of COVID-19 cases in a single setting.

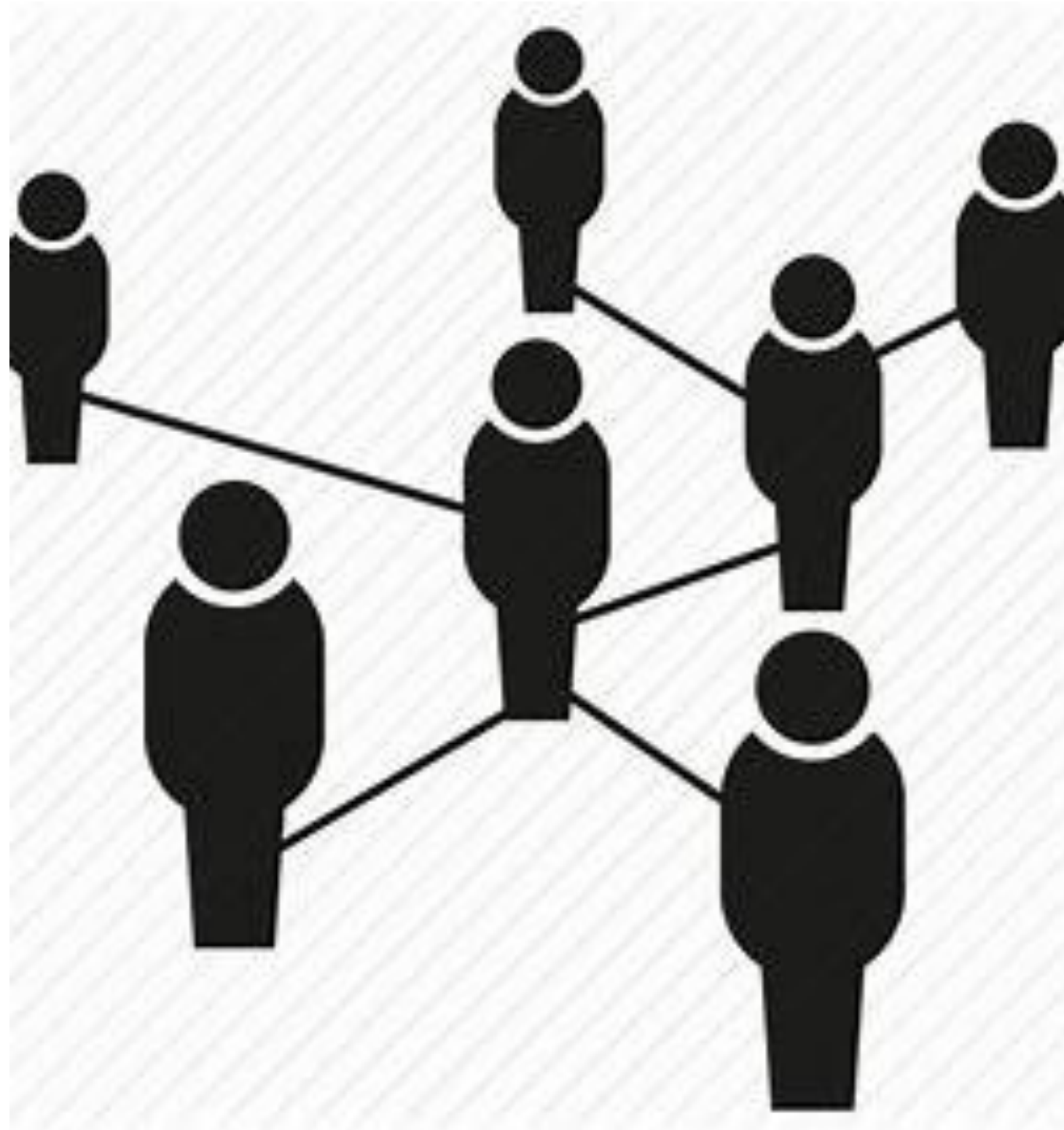
## Future arrangements are likely to include:

- Review of future symptomatic testing arrangements – we have contributed, along with all other NE local authorities to a national review of PCR testing capacity
- Targeted work to support regular asymptomatic testing for individuals living in shared accommodation or supported living accommodation





# Locally enhanced contact tracing



- Continuing to work with the existing national structure for NHS Test and Trace
  - Phone-based follow up has been up and running since early January 2021. Our Covid marshals have been supporting us with visits to households that we have been unable to contact by phone.
  - From March 2021, Sunderland began participating in the “Local-0” pilot to undertake local contact tracing at the same time as the Test and Trace digital journey (i.e., 1 hour after the test result is available).
  - This local approach reaches more people faster and allows us to target support to those who need it. It also provides us with information that helps us to identify clusters or outbreaks.
  - The “Local-0” pilot has now concluded and we await the full outcome of the national evaluation.
- As cases rose rapidly in July, it was necessary to hand back some cases to the national team to follow up. Arrangements changed as follows:
    - 06/07/2021 – national shift to Local-4
    - 22/07/2021 – national shift to Local-24
    - 12/08/2021 - agreement reached with national team that locally we would follow up cases from the 6 wards with the lowest vaccine coverage using Local-4
  - During November, the Local-4 approach was extended to all wards in Sunderland. Additionally, a national system failure caused significant pressure on local service delivery.
  - Cases have risen dramatically in December 2021 resulting in increasing workload at both national and local levels. As such, national tracing of contacts is now carried out via a digital offer. Additionally, local delivery is moved to a Local-8 model.

# Key Points

- Following the emergence of the Omicron Variant of Concern, cases in Sunderland and elsewhere in the UK have risen at the fastest rates seen to date.
- Currently, though case rates are higher than seen in previous waves, both hospital occupancy and mortality appear to be less severe. However, it should be noted that cases began rising in Sunderland and the North East later than other parts of the country (in particular London). As such, it is not yet known how capacity in the health and care system will be affected in the coming weeks.
- Plan B measures have now been developing since November 2021. Currently, there is no anticipated announcement of further measures.
- The Covid-19 vaccine programme is now extended to most groups within the population, barring children under the age of 12. Local efforts continue to focus on increasing uptake of all stages of the vaccine programme, from initial vaccination to boosters.
- Due to high numbers of cases, combined with revised approaches to use of testing, there is currently significant demand for both Lateral Flow Tests and PCR testing.
- Similarly, pressure on both local and national contact tracing systems is at its highest.



# Sunderland System Covid-19 Update

Overview and Scrutiny Committee  
5 January 2022

David Chandler  
Chief Officer/Chief Finance Officer



## Will cover:

- Performance update
- Winter scheme summary
- Latest position for the vaccination programme





# Performance Update



Sunderland

Clinical Commissioning Group

**Referral to Treatment (RTT)** - performance continues to be in a **strong** position

- Highest performance in NENC ICS.
- Over 52 week waiters = Nov'21 – 255 v 460 this time last year (no change this month)
- Over 18 week waiters = Oct'21 – 4,667 v 2,884 this time last year (no change this month)
- Additional activity commissioned from Independent Sector using additional national funding available
- Seasonal urgent care pressures are impacting on planning care performance

**Diagnostic testing** - performance pressures in services like echocardiography and imaging

- Additional workforce in place for echocardiography with additional capacity commissioned by providers using national funding. Additional workforce also secured recurrently. Expecting significant reduction in the backlog in quarter four for echocardiography.

**Accident and Emergency (A&E)** four hour wait performance continues to **deteriorate** due to **significant** pressures throughout the system:

- Partnership approach to managing flow and pressures in the system
- Additional resources deployed to key parts of urgent care system, increased surge arrangements coordinated by ATB including Senior Leadership surge arrangements on a daily basis with a focus on discharge
- Winter plans agreed which includes additional funding to support increase resources across the system
- Workforce Issues – risk of Omicron and impact of isolation





# Performance Update



Sunderland

Clinical Commissioning Group

## Cancer performance remains **challenging** but is **improving**:

- Cancer referral performance volatile continues to improve with 2WW performance the highest in the ICS. Referrals continue to be higher than pre-pandemic levels.
- Action plans in place – Northern Cancer Alliance working with providers and local areas around campaigns to increase referrals into cancer services. National and local campaigns scheduled in over the coming months to encourage people to come forward if they have concerns
- Additional funding provided to deliver cancer improvement plans across the ICS focusing on case finding and rapid diagnostics. New developments around targeted lung health checks due to start.

## **Mental health services – continued high demand** compared to last year for children's mental health services and **demand for Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) also now higher**

- Referrals continue to be higher than pre-pandemic levels with referrals sustained at around 50% higher than pre-pandemic levels. Growing number of 18+ week waiters (lower than pre-pandemic)
- Additional funding agreed and deployed to help provide additional resources into children's mental health services whilst transformation of pathways takes place
- Work commissioned to improve the monitoring of outcomes for children for health and SEND. JSNA development on-going.





# **All Together Better Update**

**Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**5 January 2022**

**Philip Foster**

**Managing Director**

# Surge Update

- The NHS frontline is always under considerable pressure over winter. In past years, demand for services has tended to increase significantly as we enter the colder months, but this year we saw the pressure start to build as early as June.
- Amid record levels of presentation from patients, and in the face of significant overall demand for services in primary care and in hospitals, we continue as a system to work closely together to manage the surge in demand



# Surge Update

Over the last few weeks our focus has been :-

- **Hospital Discharge** - Ensuring patients who don't need hospital care are supported to return to living in the community
- When patients aren't able to leave hospital quickly and safely when they are well enough, it prevents new patients from being given a bed straight away, meaning very sick people having to be cared for in emergency departments or in the back of ambulances.

# Surge Update

Over the last few weeks our focus has been :-

- Ambulance Handovers
- Developing Virtual Wards
- Supporting Emergency & Urgent Care services
- Supporting Primary care services
- Supporting the demand of Mental Health Services



# Feedback From ATB patient survey

Earlier this year Healthwatch Sunderland undertook research on behalf of ATB to gather feedback from local people who had accessed out-of-hospital health and care services throughout the pandemic.

Almost 600 people shared their experiences by responding to a survey or taking part in interviews. The questions covered a number of areas including:

- Community health and care services, including GPs, pharmacies and community nursing teams
- Experiences of taking and being prescribed medication
- Experiences of using the City's Recovery at Home service
- Being discharged from hospital and the support received from the Integrated Discharge Team

# Feedback From ATB patient survey

Earlier this year Healthwatch Sunderland undertook research on behalf of ATB to gather feedback from local people who had accessed out-of-hospital health and care services throughout the pandemic.

Almost 600 people shared their experiences by responding to a survey or taking part in interviews. The questions covered a number of areas including:

- Community health and care services, including GPs, pharmacies and community nursing teams
- Experiences of taking and being prescribed medication
- Experiences of using the City's Recovery at Home service
- Being discharged from hospital and the support received from the Integrated Discharge Team
- Excluded Mental health because of the large scale engagement that had been done for the Mental Health Strategy



# Feedback From ATB patient survey

## Key highlights

- Experience with GP practices was predominately positive. Of those who responded to the survey, 72% rated their face-to-face GP appointment as very good or good and 67% of respondents rated virtual appointments as very good or good.
- There were high levels of satisfaction from patients who had an appointment with a nurse practitioner or practice nurse with 78% of respondents rating their appointment as very good or good.
- 80% of respondents rated their experience of using local pharmacies as very good or good.
- There were high levels of satisfaction with Recovery at Home service. A number of people said that this service helped them avoid having to go to the local Emergency Department or a hospital admission

# Feedback From ATB patient survey

## Areas for improvement

- Involving patients, carers and their families more in decisions around discharge.
- Improving access to primary care appointments,

Listening to the views of our patients and their families and carers is vitally important and I'd like to thank everyone who took the time to provide their feedback

The feedback will be used in all of our Reform and Transformation work being undertaken by ATB.

The report is available at:

<https://www.healthwatchsunderland.com/report/2021-12-06/patient-and-public-findings-report-2021>



# Vaccination Programme Update

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

5 January 2022



# Updated guidance

- JCVI released new guidance on 29th November
- Booster eligibility extended to all 18years + and to be offered by the end of January 2022
- Booster interval reduced from 6 months to 3 months
- Healthy 12-15 years to be offered second dose
- The Big Ask 12.12.21 – Boosters to be offered to 18years + by the end of December 2021
- 15-minute wait following Pfizer & Moderna vaccine suspended 16.12.21





# Where we were 13.12.21

- 504,795 Covid-19 vaccine doses given to Sunderland residents since December 2020 – Population 285,000
- 209,653- 1<sup>st</sup> doses- 83.3%(eligible population of 12 years+ 251,758)
- 191,539- 2<sup>nd</sup> doses- 76.1%(eligible population of 12years + 251,758)
- 103,603 booster doses- 44.5%(eligible population 18years+ & at risk 16-17years 233,119)



# Vaccination Rates – correct 13.12.21

Cohort	1 <sup>st</sup> dose % uptake	2 <sup>nd</sup> dose % uptake	Booster dose % uptake
Older people care home residents	96.9%	95.1%	84.1%
Over 80s	97.7%	97.2%	92.0%
75-79yrs	98.0%	97.6%	92.7%
70-74yrs	97.1%	96.6%	91.1%
CEV	92.8%	90.3%	68.6%
65-69 yrs	96.0%	95.4%	85.9%
<65 at risk and carers (exc 12-15 yrs at risk)	90.9%	87.4%	54.7%
60-64 yrs	93.1%	92.1%	64.3%
55-59 yrs	91.7%	90.3%	54.3%
50-54 yrs	88.5%	86.5%	45.0%
40-49 yrs	82.5%	78.8%	15.2%
30-39 yrs	73.2%	67.0%	6.6%
18-29 yrs	71.1%	62.5%	4.0%
16-17 yrs	66.2%	18.3%	N/A
12-15 yrs at risk	52.6%	7%	N/A
12-15 yrs (healthy)	43.2%	0.7%	N/A



# What did this mean for Sunderland?

- Approx. 87,000 vaccines to be offered by end of December (although 129,516 left to give booster in the eligible population not all are eligible for booster as they have not had 1<sup>st</sup> / 2<sup>nd</sup> doses)
- Expectation that Nightingale will vaccinate 30% of those, leaving Local Sites with 60,000 doses to give over 3 weeks – 20,000 jabs/week
- Increased capacity of planned clinics once staffing & vaccine supply confirmed
  - w/c 13.12.21 from 6,700 to 8,850
  - w/c 20.12.21 from 3,000 to 18,405
  - w/c 27.12.21 from 3,500 to 25,975
- Clinics every day across Sunderland offering 8 till 8 availability until the end of December apart from Christmas Day, Boxing Day & New Years Day
- Clinics a mix of bookable & walk-ins – advertised on social media & grab a jab
- Expectation 100% of those eligible will have received offer by deadline
- Requesting 50% of nursing staff and administrators to be released to the programme from practices
- CCG and Local Authority staff also redeployed to support



# Where we are 4.1.22

- 211,533 1<sup>st</sup> doses- 84% (further 1,880 doses)
- 196,323 2<sup>nd</sup> doses- 78% (further 4,784 doses)
- 145,676 Booster doses- 62.6% (further 42,073 doses)
- w/c 13.12.21 initial capacity 6,700, expanded capacity 8,830 10,130  
jabs given
- w/c 20.12.21 initial capacity 3,000, expanded capacity 18,405  
9,678 jabs given
- w/c 27.12.21 initial capacity 3,500, expanded capacity 25,975  
8,831 jabs given
- Gave 28,639 rather than planned 13,200 BUT had capacity to give  
53,210
- Nationally the same picture – plan was a million jabs a day, but this has  
not happened ?why – many reasons.....





# General update

- Care home and HB patients completed by 17<sup>th</sup> December 2021
- Healthy 12-15 year olds for those who have missed out of being vaccinated at initial visits - the School Immunisations Team will be revisiting those schools
- Secondary offer to 12-15 year olds, can book via NBS at mass vaccination sites such as Nightingale and community pharmacy
- Due to feedback that this group were struggling to get booked and with increasing covid cases decision taken w/c 19.12.21 to open to 12 years + walk-ins at all our sites
- NHSE looking to onboard more pharmacies in Sunderland to support programme
- Expectation for all healthcare staff to be fully vaccinated by 01 April 2022. Practices working with those staff not yet fully vaccinated



# Health Inequalities & Vaccination

## – Recent Actions



Sunderland  
Clinical Commissioning Group

- Lower uptake in Millfield and Hendon wards than other areas in Sunderland esp. men 40-55
- Action group formed to tackle inequalities and uptake in the areas, members include local Councillors, Public Health and Local Authority colleagues, as well as NHS management and clinical support.
- Targeted work in these areas – social media, Gentoo tannoy system, leaflet drops, knocking on doors
- Working with community pharmacy to promote walk in clinics





## - Actions

- Revisiting Swan Lodge 15.12.21 to offer 1<sup>st</sup> , 2<sup>nd</sup> and booster doses
- Gentoo sending targeted messages to tenants regarding pop-up clinics
- Continue to work with faith leaders and committed to further roving clinics supported by Public Health colleagues etc
- Roving clinic held at Bangladeshi centre 30.11.21, University 7.12.21 and Mosque 13.12.21
- Roving clinics to be picked back up in January following the big ask push over Christmas and New Year
- Plans for city centre clinics 4.1.22 & 7.1.22 10am-2pm, Soup kitchen 10.1.22 and high rise in Hendon with Gentoo 17.1.21

