

COVID-19 Update

Sunderland Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee
8th September 2021

Gerry Taylor, Executive Director of Public Health & Integrated Commissioning

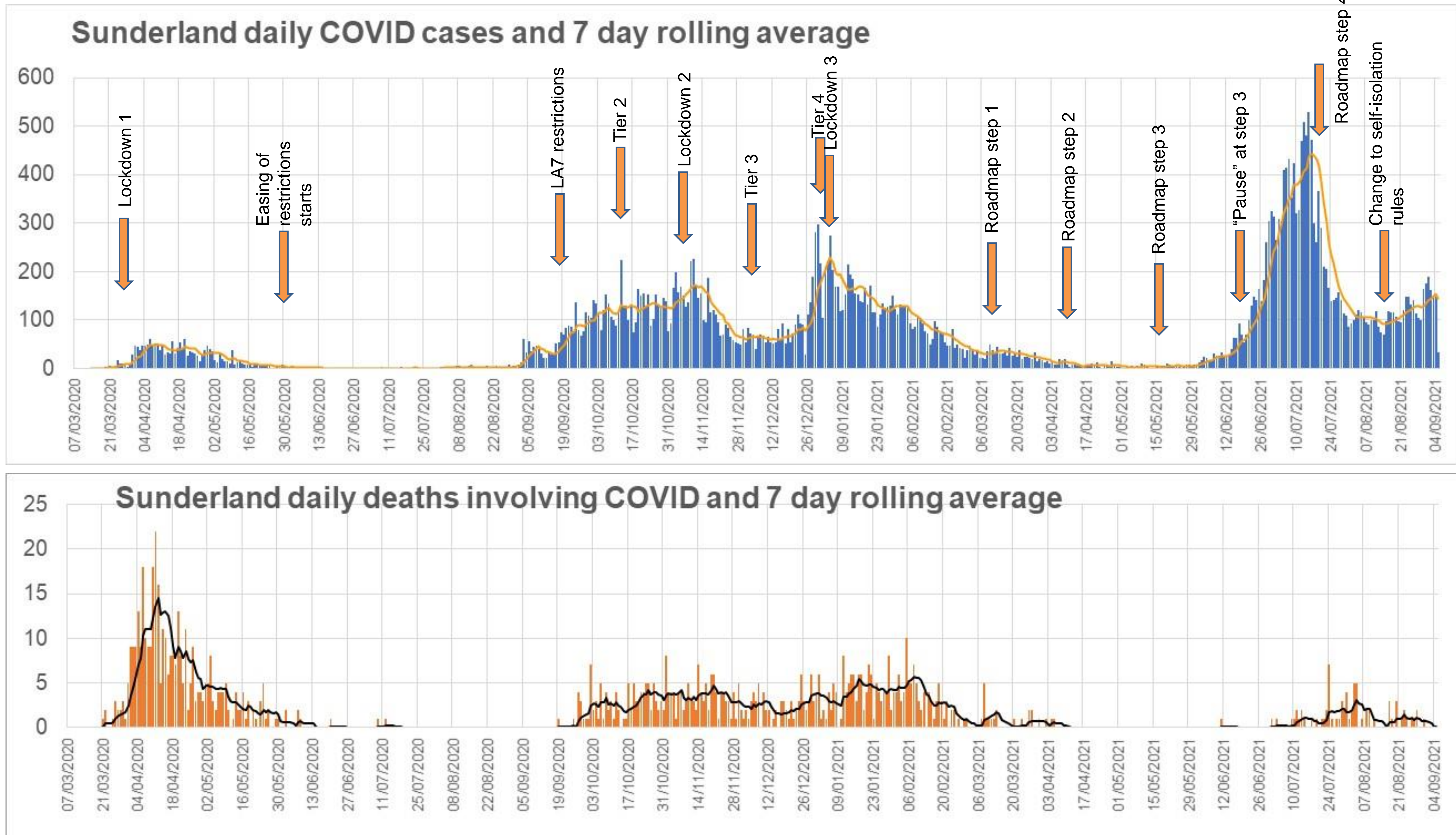


Where have we been? The timeline

31/12/2019 - cluster of pneumonia cases detected in Wuhan City, China
 12/01/2020 - novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) identified
 11/03/2020 - declared as pandemic
 23/03/2020 - UK first national lockdown commenced
 18/09/2020 - the requested North East (LA7) restrictions come into force
 14/10/2020 - local restrictions replaced by tiered restrictions (tier 2)
 05/11/2020 - England's second national lockdown commenced
 02/12/2020 - new strengthened tiered restrictions (tier 3)
 08/12/2020 - vaccination programme starts
 31/12/2020 - placed into tier 4 restrictions following review by Government
 05/01/2021 - UK's third national lockdown commenced
 08/03/2021 - Step 1 of the "roadmap" commenced
 12/04/2021 - Step 2 of the "roadmap" commenced
 17/05/2021 - Step 3 of the "roadmap" commenced
 14/06/2021 - progress on the roadmap "paused" at Step 3, notionally until 19/07/2021
 05/07/2021 - Prime Minister announced 5 principles for managing Covid-19
 19/07/2021 - Step 4 of the "roadmap" commenced
 26/07/2021 – became an enhanced response area for a period of 5 weeks
 16/08/2021 – changes to requirements to self-isolate were introduced for **contacts** of cases
 31/08/2021 – removed from the list of enhanced response areas



Sunderland's experience of the pandemic



Current situation – key facts and figures

Covid-19 Latest Sunderland Data

Up to 03 September 2021



Total tests undertaken throughout pandemic

1,149,851



Total tests with +ve result throughout pandemic

48,133



Test positivity throughout pandemic

4.2%



Total individuals tested in the last 7 days

22,481



Total tests with +ve result in the last 7 days

1,346



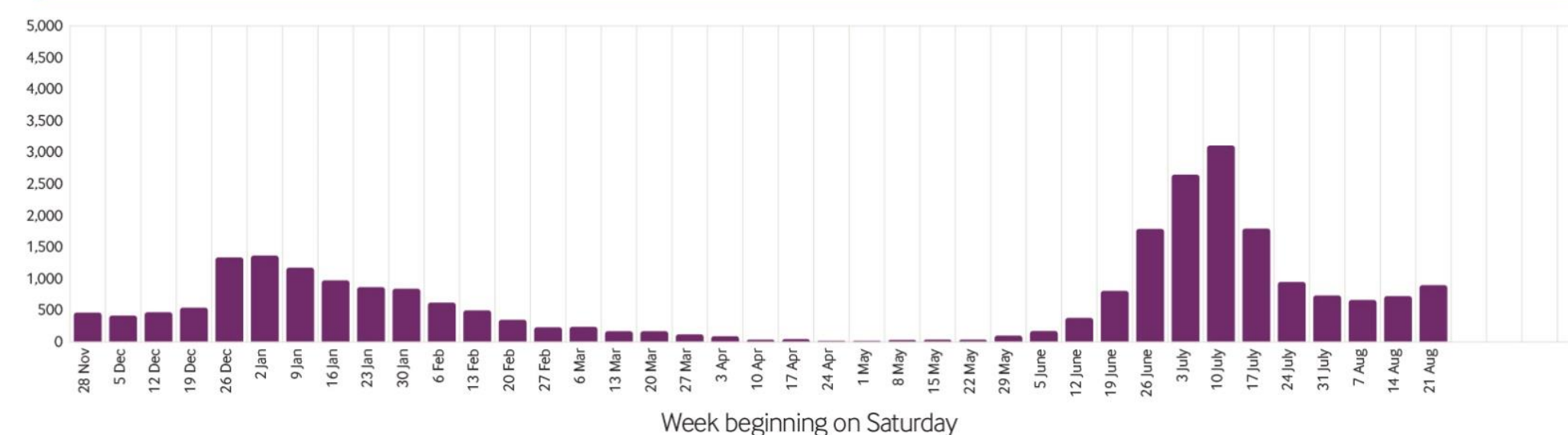
Test positivity in the last 7 days

6.0% 

People can have more than one test, but are only counted as a case once

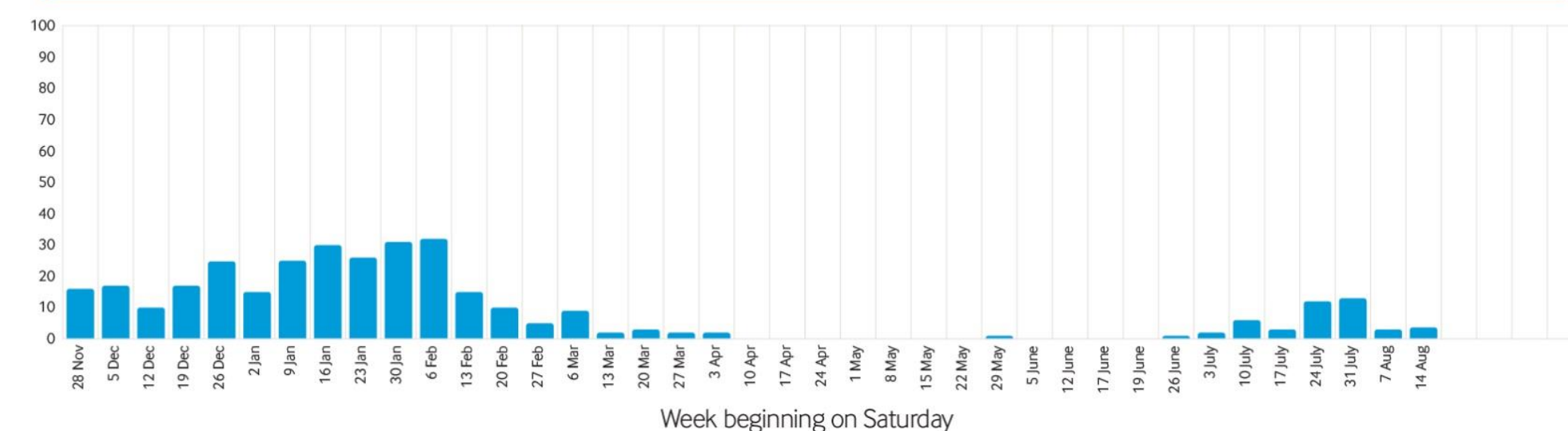
Number of new Covid-19 cases per week

(based on specimen date)



Number of deaths involving Covid-19 per week

(based on date of death)



Number of cases

Throughout the pandemic

38,067

In the last 7 days (28 Aug–03 Sep)

1,040 

In the previous 7 days (21 Aug–27 Aug)

898 

Cases per 100,000 population

Throughout the pandemic

13,707.7

In the last 7 days (28 Aug–03 Sep)

374.5 

In the previous 7 days (21 Aug–27 Aug)

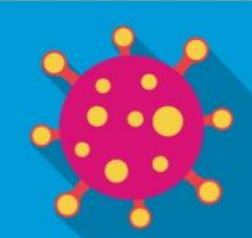
323.4 

People can have more than one test, but are only counted as a case once

Number of deaths involving Covid-19 (we are now reporting deaths in line with the ONS definitions)

Throughout the pandemic

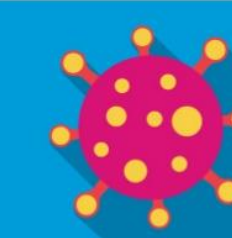
901



In the last 7 days (14 Aug–20 Aug)

5 

In the previous 7 days (06 Aug–13 Aug)

3 

Direction of travel compares the current snapshot with the previous snapshot

Roadmap out of lockdown

STEP 1 8 March	29 March	STEP 2 No earlier than 12 April	STEP 3 No earlier than 17 May	STEP 4 No earlier than 21 June
At least 5 weeks after Step 1		At least 5 weeks after Step 2		At least 5 weeks after Step 3
All subject to review				
EDUCATION		EDUCATION		EDUCATION
8 MARCH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools and colleges open for all students Practical Higher Education courses 		EDUCATION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As previous step 		EDUCATION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As previous step
SOCIAL CONTACT		SOCIAL CONTACT		SOCIAL CONTACT
8 MARCH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exercise and recreation outdoors with household or one other person Household only indoors 		SOCIAL CONTACT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rule of 6 or two households outdoors Household only indoors 		SOCIAL CONTACT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No legal limit
BUSINESS & ACTIVITIES		BUSINESS & ACTIVITIES		BUSINESS & ACTIVITIES
8 MARCH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wraparound care, including sport, for all children 		BUSINESS & ACTIVITIES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All retail Personal care Libraries & community centres Most outdoor attractions Indoor leisure inc. gyms (individual use only) Self-contained accommodation All children's activities Outdoor hospitality Indoor parent & child groups (max 15 people, excluding under 5s) 		BUSINESS & ACTIVITIES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remaining businesses, including nightclubs
TRAVEL		TRAVEL		TRAVEL
8 MARCH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stay at home No holidays 		TRAVEL <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Domestic overnight stays (household only) No international holidays 		TRAVEL <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Domestic overnight stays International travel
EVENTS		EVENTS		EVENTS
EVENTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funerals (30) Weddings and wakes (6) 		EVENTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funerals (30) Weddings, wakes, receptions (15) Event pilots 		EVENTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No legal limit on life events Larger events
		EDUCATION		
		EDUCATION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As previous step 		
		SOCIAL CONTACT		
		SOCIAL CONTACT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximum 30 people outdoors Rule of 6 or two households indoors (subject to review) 		
		BUSINESS & ACTIVITIES		
		BUSINESS & ACTIVITIES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indoor hospitality Indoor entertainment and attractions Organised indoor sport (adult) Remaining accommodation Remaining outdoor entertainment (including performances) 		
		TRAVEL		
		TRAVEL <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Domestic overnight stays International travel (subject to review) 		
		EVENTS		
		EVENTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most significant life events (30) Indoor events: 1,000 or 50% (plus pilots) Outdoor seated events: 10,000 or 25% (plus pilots) Outdoor other events: 4,000 or 50% (plus pilots) 		

From 16th August, further relaxation of requirements to self-isolate were introduced for **contacts** of cases who are aged under 18 years and six months or adults who are fully vaccinated, participants in a formal vaccine trial or who cannot have the vaccine for medical reasons.

Living with COVID

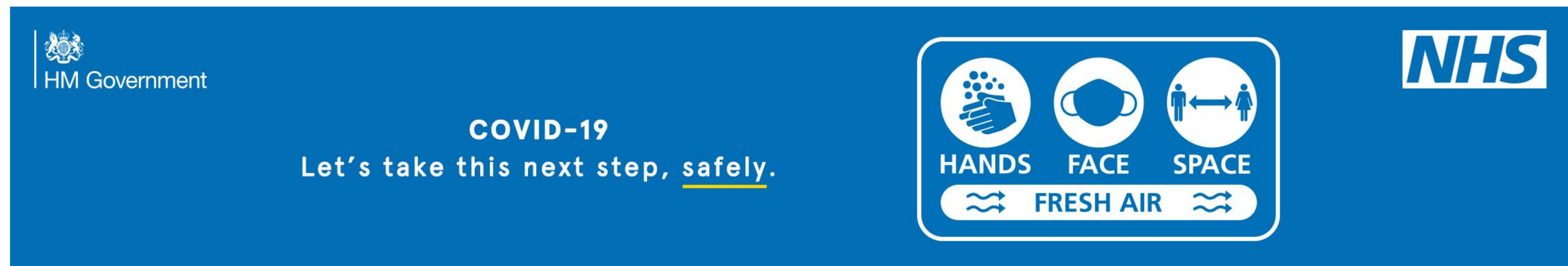
A new phase in the Government's response to the pandemic, moving away from stringent restrictions on everyone's day-to-day lives, towards advising people on how to protect themselves and others, alongside targeted interventions to reduce risk.

At a press conference on 05/07/2021, the Prime Minister set out [5 principles for managing Covid-19 at step 4](#):

- **Continued vaccination** – improving coverage (“evergreen” offer) and introducing booster jabs
- **Shift to personal responsibility and decisions** – moving away from legal restrictions. This means:
 - The removal of all limits for social contact and for life events
 - The lifting of social distancing requirements, except at ports of entry (though the DPH can impose social distancing as part of outbreak management)
 - Lifting of the legal requirement to wear a face covering
 - Employers supporting the safe return to the workplace (**the Working Safely guidance has been updated**)
 - All businesses, settings and venues can open
 - Display of QR codes will be voluntary not mandatory
 - Removal of the visitor limit for Care Homes (Infection prevention and control measures will remain)
 - No requirement for Covid-status certification as a condition of entry for any setting
 - Removal of restrictions on in-person teaching in universities and an end to class bubbles in early years settings, schools and colleges
- **Retaining a proportionate approach to Test, Trace and Isolate**
 - From 16th August, fully vaccinated contacts will no longer need to isolate (provided it is at least 2 weeks since their second dose) but will be advised to take a PCR test
 - Also from 16th August, contacts aged under 18 will no longer need to isolate and will be given advice about whether they need to take a PCR test
 - Anyone who tests positive will need to self-isolate, whatever their vaccination status
- **Managing global and cross border risks** – through international travel controls and a new global pathogen surveillance system
- **Contingency plans** – additional measures during periods of increased risk (likely to be guidance rather than legislation)

Personal responsibility

Lifting restrictions does not mean that the risks from COVID-19 have disappeared ... people need to manage the risks to themselves and others as the country learns to live with the virus.



The following behaviours are **beneficial** and should be **encouraged**:

- Meet in well-ventilated areas, where possible
- Wear a face covering where you come into contact with people you don't normally meet in enclosed and crowded spaces
- Wash your hands with soap and water or using hand sanitiser regularly throughout the day
- Cover your nose and mouth when you cough and sneeze
- Stay at home if you are unwell
- Self-isolate and get tested if you have symptoms – anyone who tests positive will still be legally required to self-isolate, whatever their vaccination status
- Consider yours and other's individual risks, such as clinical vulnerabilities and vaccination status

Vaccine programme

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



Vaccination programme timetable

Aspirations set out in the roadmap to offer at least one dose of vaccine to:

- ✓ Everyone in JCVI cohorts 1-4 by 15th February
- ✓ Everyone in JCVI cohorts 5-9 by 15th April
- ✓ Everyone else aged 18 and over by w/c 19th July
- With second doses to be given at around 8 weeks
- **All adults should have been offered 2 doses by mid-September.**

Changes to the programme

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 18th birthday - to be offered two doses**

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

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.

The JCVI has not approved vaccination of healthy 12-15 year olds at this point, and has advised the government to seek further input from the four Chief Medical Officers who will consider a wider range of impacts, including interruption to education.

Vaccine programme progress 30/08/2021



Cohort 1 Care Home Residents	1st dose	97%	2nd dose	95%
Cohort 2 Aged 80+ and Healthcare workers	1st dose	97%	2nd dose	95%
Cohort 3 Aged 75-79	1st dose	98%	2nd dose	97%
Cohort 4 Aged 70-74 and CEV	1st dose	96%	2nd dose	95%
Cohort 5 Aged 65-69	1st dose	95%	2nd dose	95%
Cohort 6 Aged 16-64 at risk	1st dose	89%	2nd dose	83%
Cohort 7 Aged 60-64	1st dose	92%	2nd dose	91%
Cohort 8 Aged 55-59	1st dose	91%	2nd dose	89%
Cohort 9 Aged 50-54	1st dose	88%	2nd dose	85%
Cohort 10 Aged 40-49	1st dose	82%	2nd dose	76%
Cohort 11 Aged 30-39	1st dose	70%	2nd dose	58%
Cohort 12 Aged 18-29	1st dose	66%	2nd dose	43%
Cohort 13 Aged 16-17	1st dose	50%	2nd dose	4%

Vaccine programme - equity

Vaccine coverage by deprivation

Coverage is lower in more deprived areas; **targeting areas/groups with lower coverage as part of regional campaign.**

Vaccine coverage by ward

The 5 wards with the lowest coverage when adjusted for age will be targeted through the regional campaign; **we have had pop up clinics in Millfield and Hendon wards and continue to work with the University.**

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 to reach international students and planning a webinar with Q&A session with the Lighthouse Community.**

Vaccine coverage by age

Generally we have seen lower coverage in younger age groups

Now have routine walk-in opportunities alongside booked appointments in response to preference of younger groups.

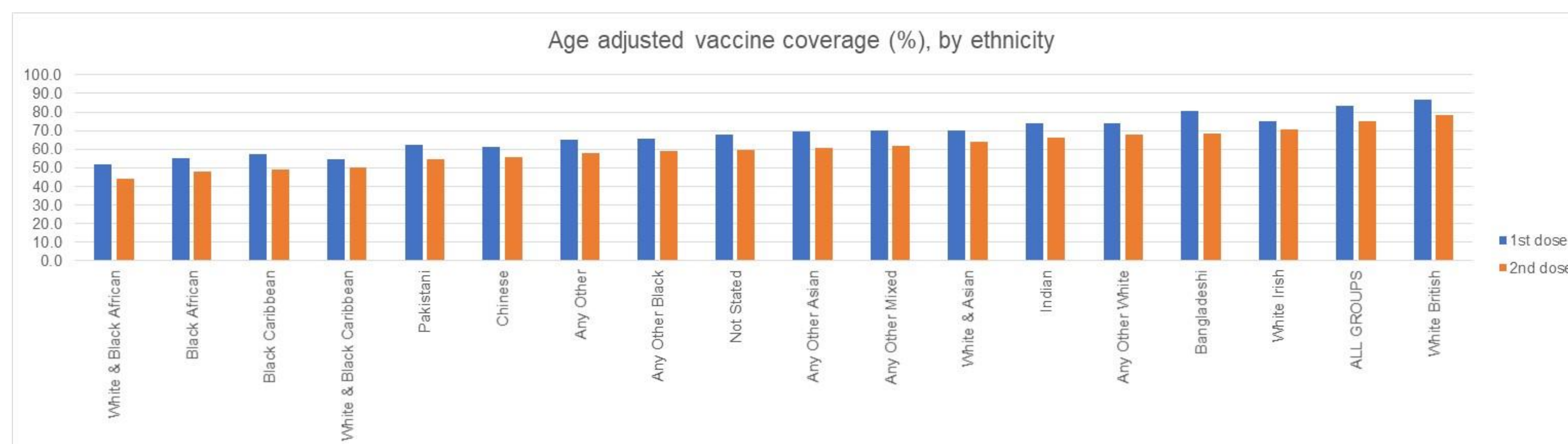
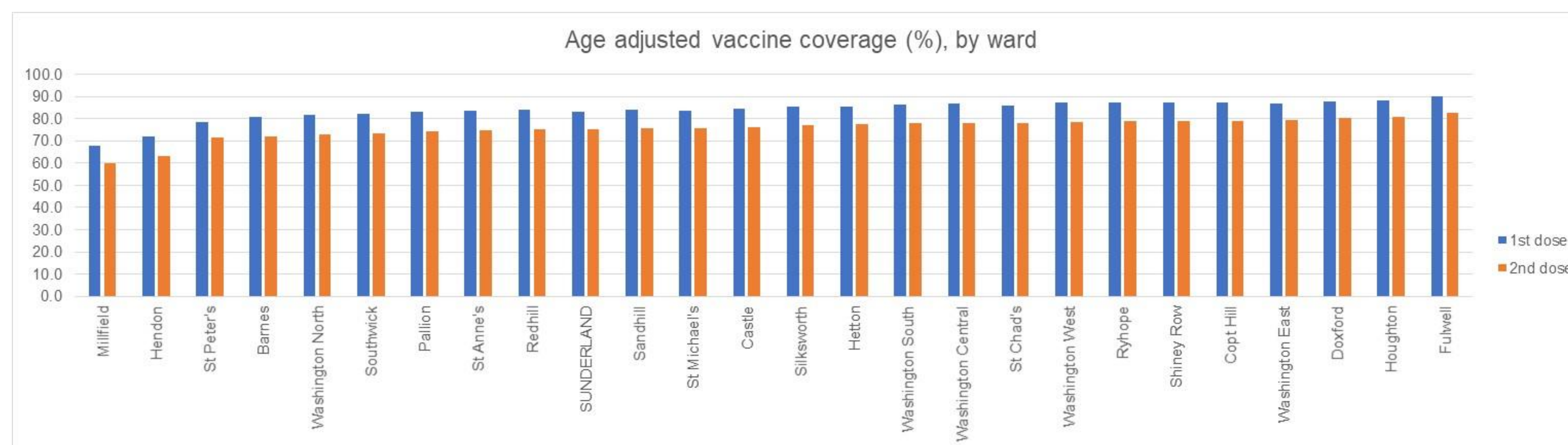
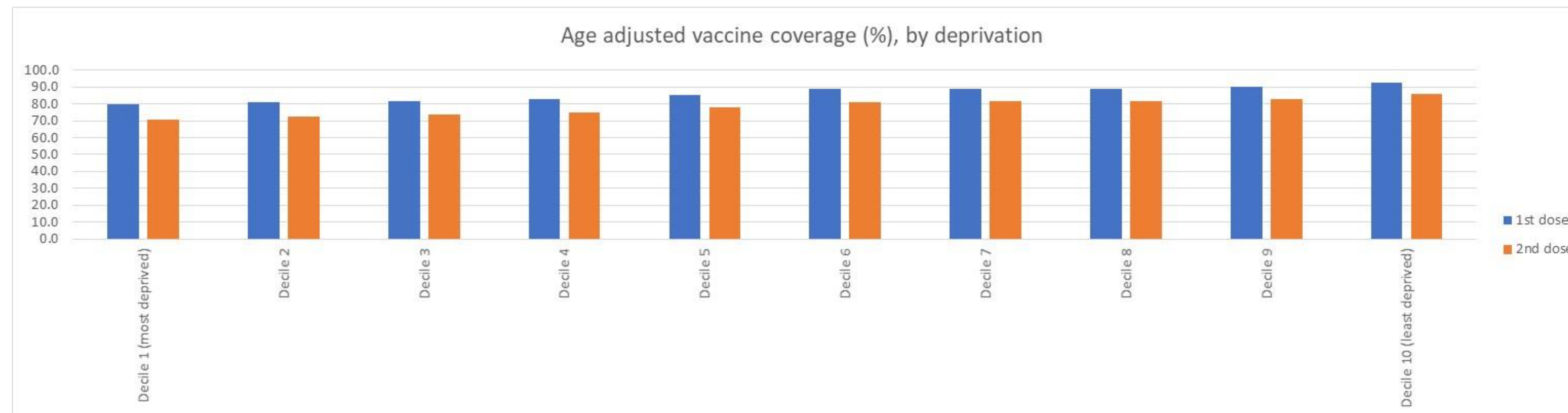
Working with the college and using pop up clinics at Bede and City campuses in September.

The Vaccination Operational Group puts in place plans to address inequalities as they emerge, including:

Continuing "Attend, Cancel or Amend" messages through social media.

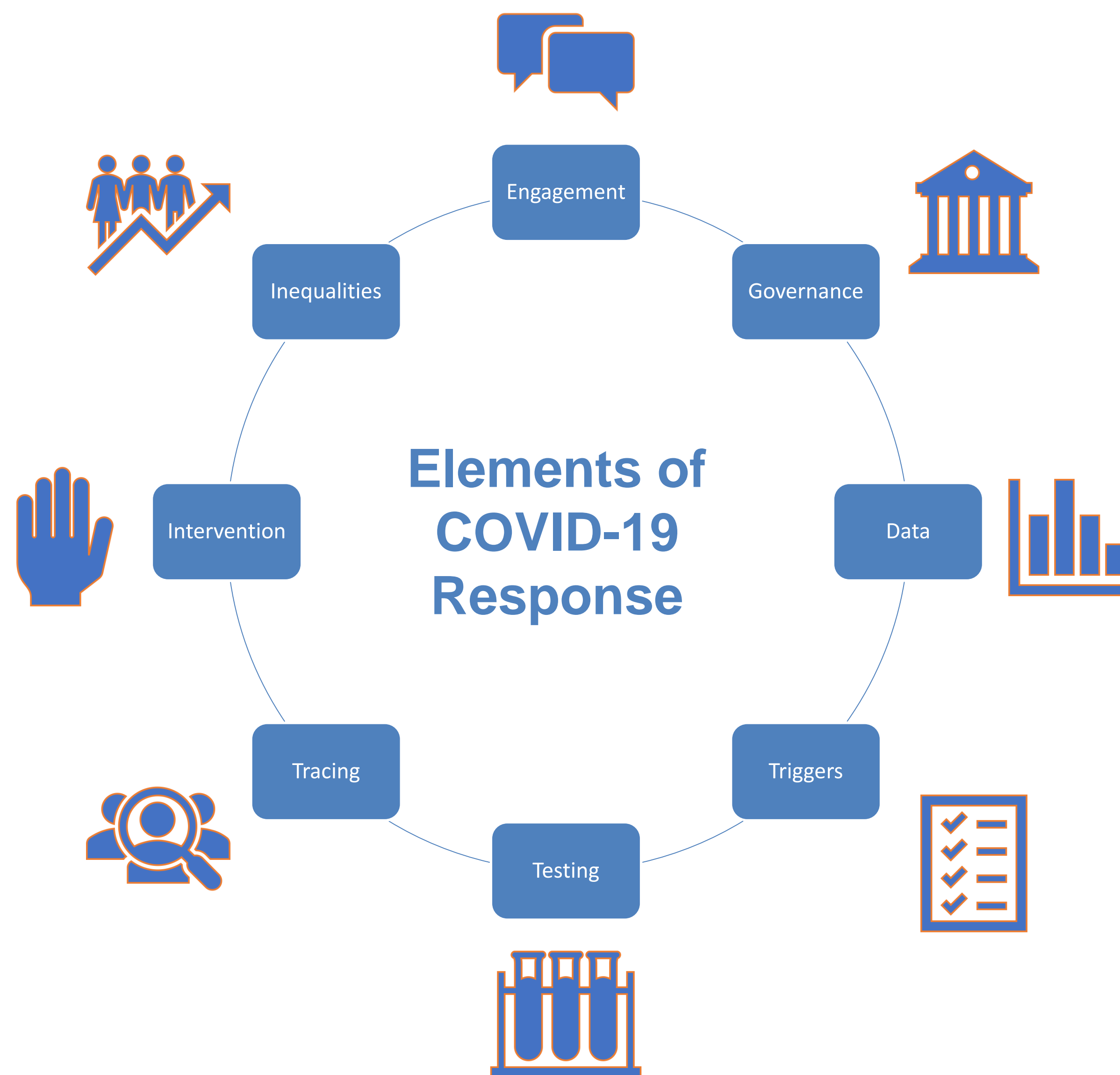
Social media messages for cohort 6 (the clinical at risk group).

Social media messages for those who are pregnant.



Data as at **05/09/2021** – presents age adjusted coverage (%) for the population aged 15 and over, sorted by 2nd 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
- Roadmap of steps out of lockdown
- Basic testing strategy
- Current NHS Test and Trace arrangements
- A toolkit of possible interventions
- COVID-19 inequalities strategy
- Supporting communications and engagement strategy
- “Thank You”, “Keep the North East Open” and “Every Question Matters” media campaigns for local people based on the detailed insights work

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 – **shift to “Local-4” approach in response to higher volumes of cases**
- Helping people to plan and prepare for self isolation
- Delivering the vaccination programme, including a plan for vaccine equity
- **The next phase of the regional media campaign “Covid Acts of Kindness” is due to launch during the w/c 13/09/2021.**
- **Refreshing and updating the LOMP during September.**

Testing strategy

We continue to develop and update our local testing arrangements which include:

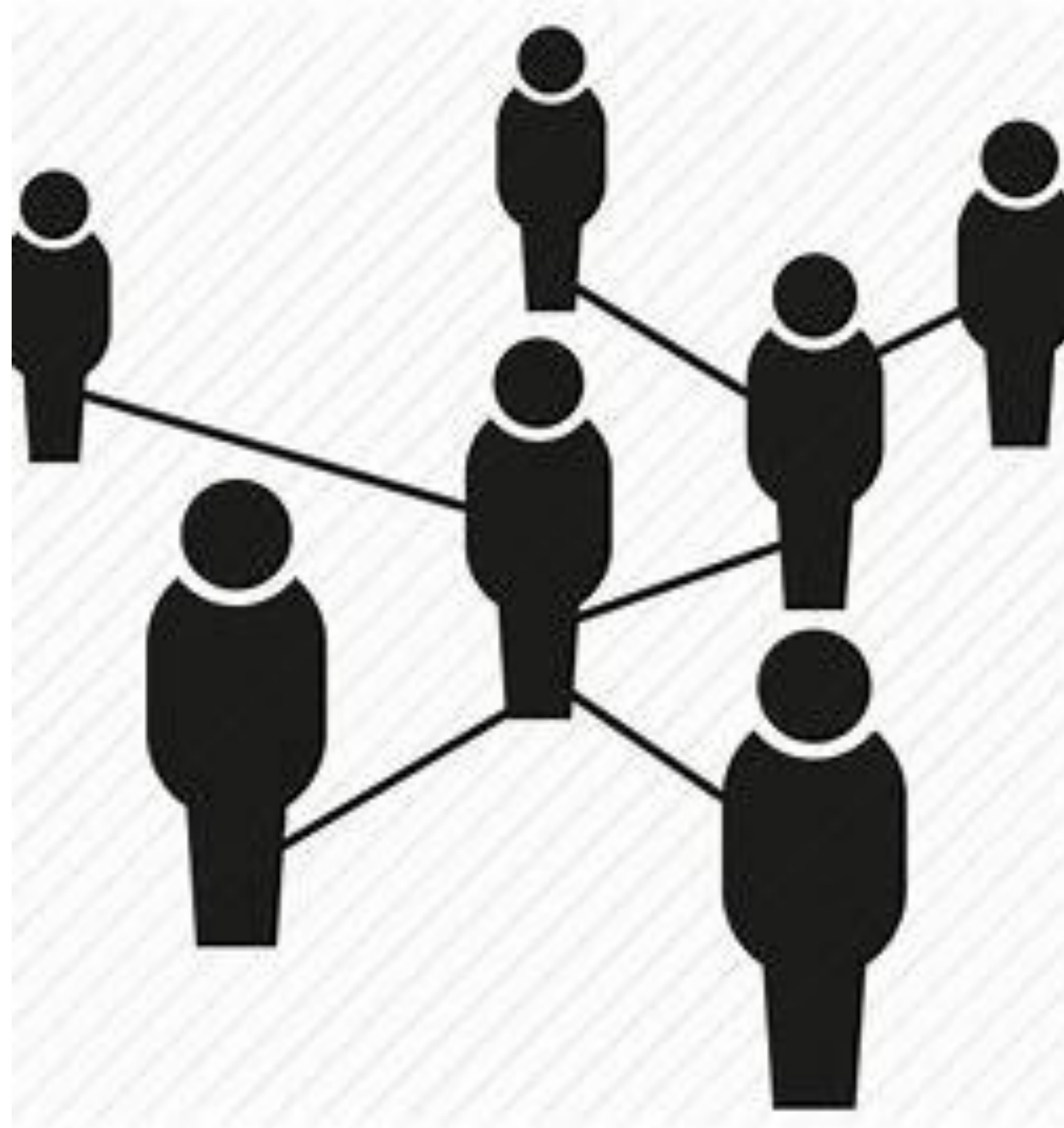
- Symptomatic testing (via PCR) with:
 - Mobile Testing Units at Houghton, Silksworth and Sheepfolds
 - Local pedestrian testing sites at Johnson Street and Sunderland College Washington Campus
- **PCR testing of **contacts** of cases in line with changes to self-isolation guidance**
- Asymptomatic testing (via LFT) – now mainly through school, pharmacy collect or direct home testing
- Follow-up PCR testing after positive lateral flow device (rapid) testing
- Surge testing arrangements

Future arrangements are likely to include:

- Continuation of symptomatic testing
- Regular asymptomatic testing to help find cases and break the chains of transmission, focused on those who are not fully vaccinated, those in education, and those in higher-risk settings such as the NHS, social care and prisons
- Regular rapid testing to help manage periods of risk (e.g., returning to the workplace, after close contact in a higher risk environment or when spending prolonged time with a more vulnerable individual)
- Targeted community testing



Locally enhanced contact tracing



- Working with the existing national structure for NHS Test and Trace
- Phone-based follow up has been up and running since 07/01/2021 and more recently our Covid marshals have been supporting us with visits to households that we have been unable to contact by phone.
- From 22/03/2021, Sunderland participated 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 so we can respond rapidly and put in place measures to prevent further spread.
- Although the “Local-0” pilot has now concluded, 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. As the system came under more pressure 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
 - 23/08/2021 – asked to take back follow up of cases for the whole of Sunderland using Local-4

Changes for educational settings

- New operational guidance for different education settings and a Contingency Framework (approach to managing local outbreaks and responding to variants of concern)
- Settings are not required to undertake contact tracing, other than in exceptional circumstances
- Some individuals who are identified as close contacts will not be required to isolate, in line with the guidance brought in on 16/08/2021
- Close contacts advised to have a PCR test and to consider modifying behaviour for 10 full days after contact
- Bubbles/consistent groups no longer recommended
- Reintroduction of two onsite tests for secondary schools and colleges and onsite/self tests for university
- Continue twice weekly testing at home until end of September
- Ongoing PH advice provided to schools
- Local authorities, DsPH and PHE health protection teams can recommend additional measures to manage outbreaks with thresholds for recommending extra measures or escalation which could include:
 - Increased use of testing
 - Reintroduction of face coverings (for a period of 2 weeks) in communal area and/or classrooms
 - Limiting of activities e.g., educational visits, open days, transition days, performances, parental attendance
 - Attendance restrictions (should be last resort)
- A regional approach for reporting and responding:
 - Advise settings to contact LA to report covid cases or raise covid queries
 - Putting in place local reporting arrangements to report cases and when thresholds are met
 - Escalate outbreaks and situations of concern to the HPT and follow 'normal' reporting to HPT for issues other than COVID
 - Build on previous years' communications for general winter readiness