

COVID-19 Update

Sunderland Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee
1st December 2021

Gerry Taylor, Executive Director of Public Health & Integrated Commissioning



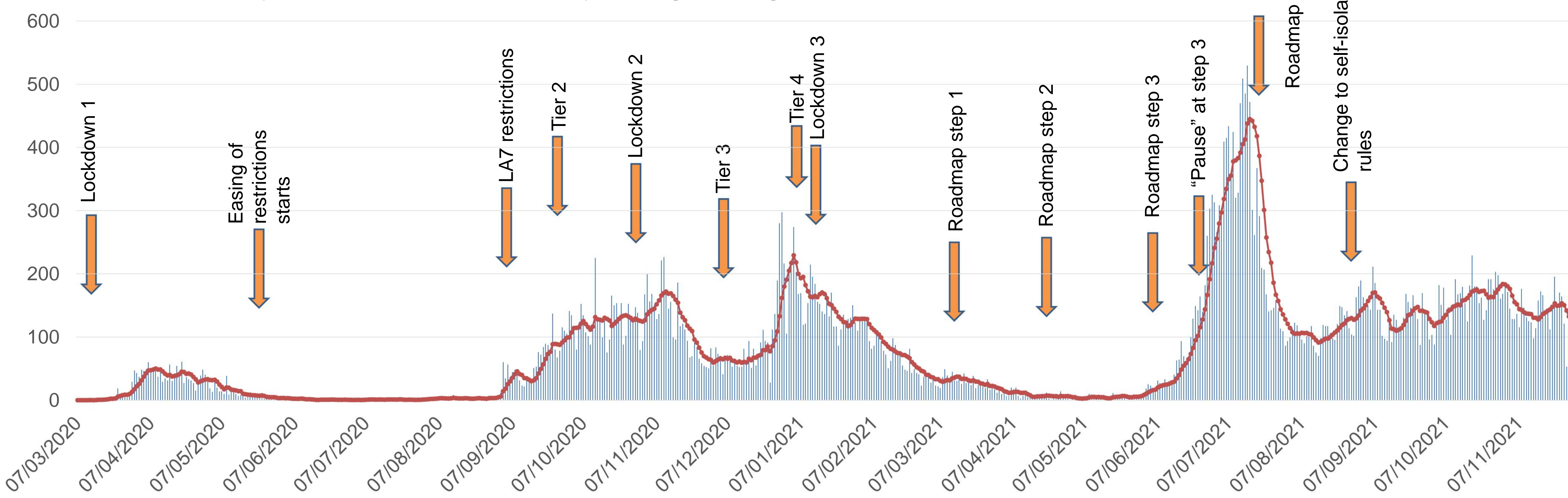
Where have we been? The timeline

- 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
- 05/01/2020 - 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
- 14/09/2021 – Autumn and Winter Plan published
- 30/11/2021 – Additional measures re-instated nationally following identification of the Omicron Variant of Concern

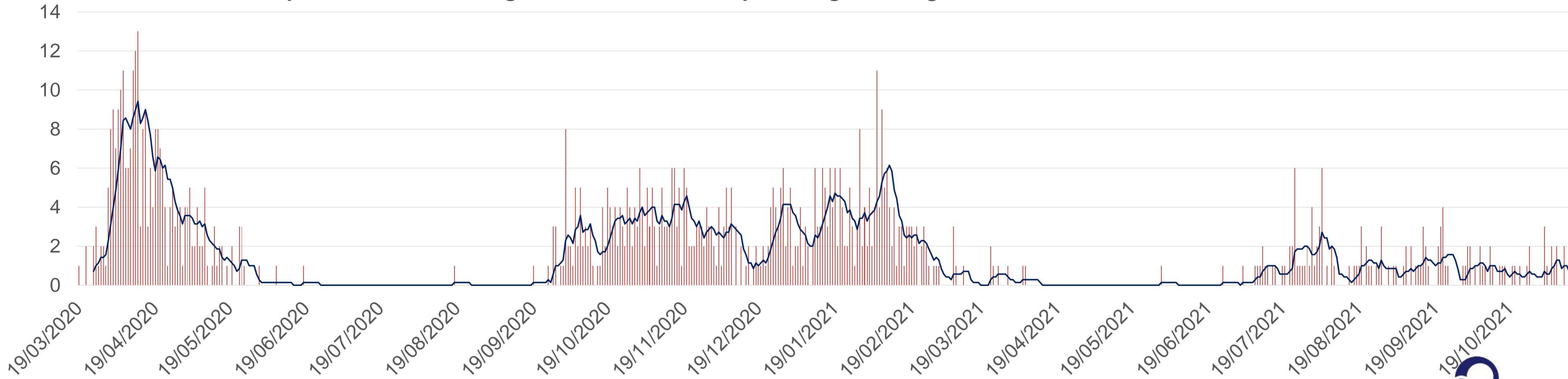


Sunderland's experience of the pandemic

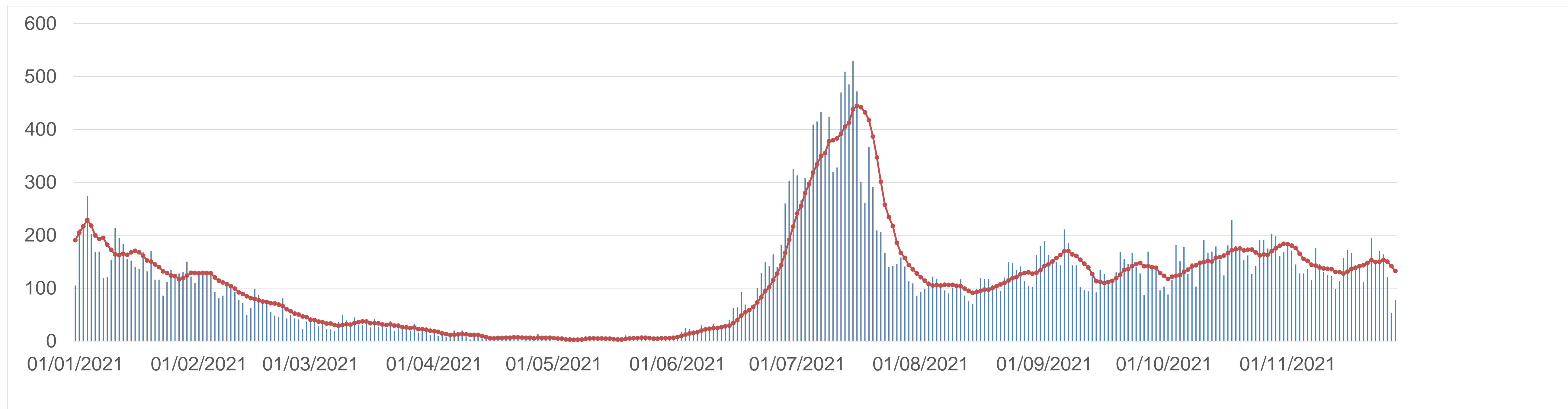
Sunderland - daily COVID cases and 7 day rolling average






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	1,867 (15/11 - 28/11)	50,723 (rising by 146)	141.9 (21/11-27/11) 	364.2 (21/11-27/11) 	6th	Cumulative total at 30/11/2021

	Total Occurrences in the Last 14 Days	Average Occurrences Per Day	Cumulative Total
Covid-19 Related Deaths	6 (14/11-27/11) 	<1 (14/11-27/11)	1048 (registered by 30/11)

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. **As of 30 November 2021 Southern African countries are added to the travel red list following the discovery of the 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.

Plan B:

- To be enacted in response to the need for further measures to prevent the NHS being overwhelmed. Available measures are communication campaigns highlighting increased risk, potential mandatory vaccine only certification for certain settings and legally mandating face coverings in certain settings.
- **As of 30 November 2021, face coverings are mandated in shops and on public transport. Additionally, secondary school pupils, staff and visitors at schools and childcare settings are strongly advised to wear face coverings in communal areas.**
- **All contacts of Omicron cases will need to self isolate for 10 days regardless of their vaccine status. People will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace and told to self isolate.**
- **Anyone who enters the UK will be required to take a PCR test within 48 hours of their arrival and self isolate until they get a negative result.**

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

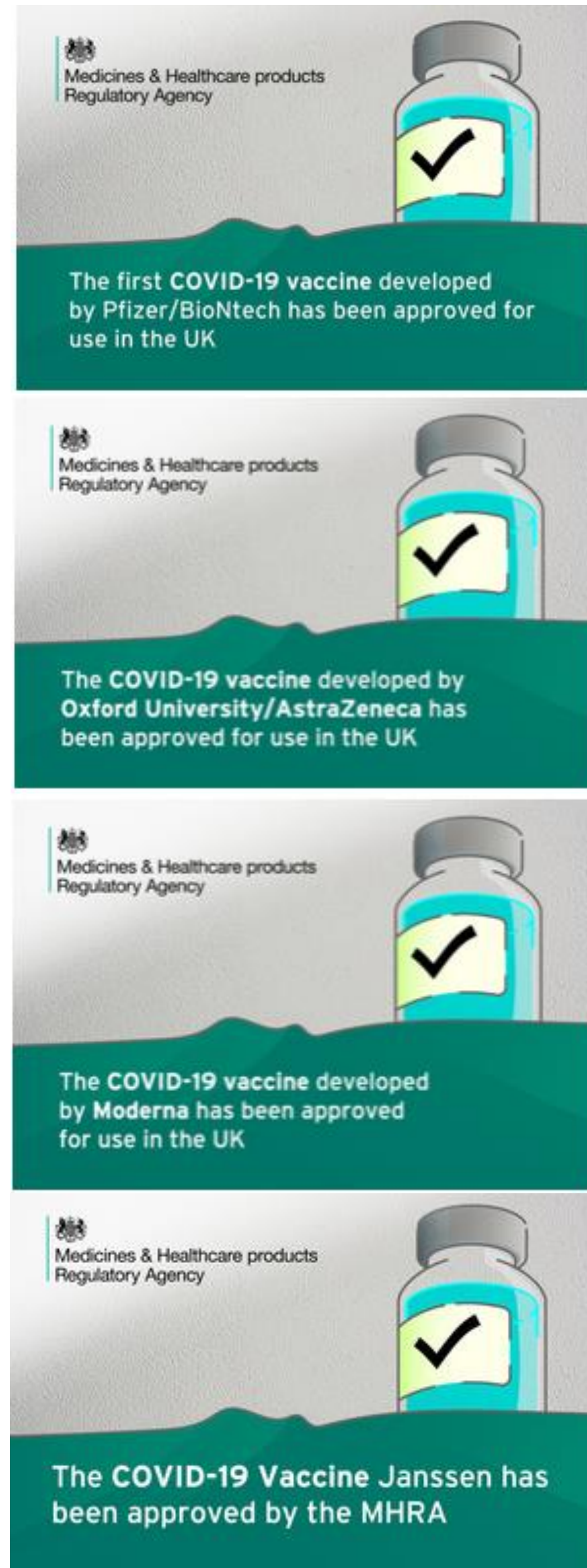


Wash your hands



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 18th birthday - to be offered two doses

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

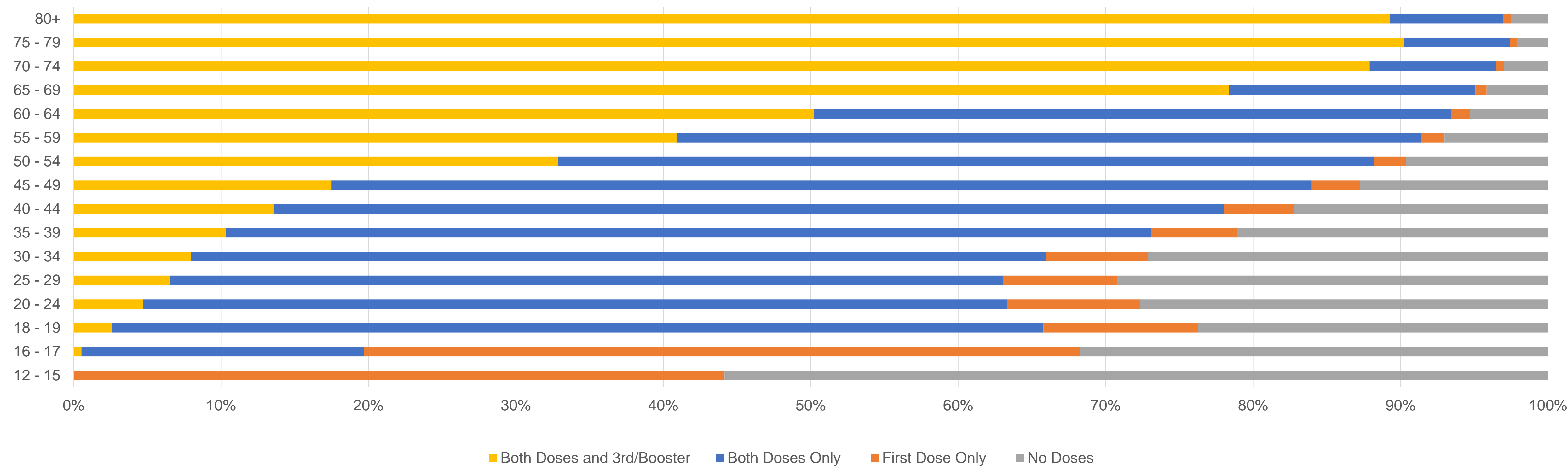
Announcement by the four Chief Medical Officers on 13/09/2021 recommending vaccination of healthy 12-15 year olds based on consideration of wider impacts, including interruption to education. Commenced 20/09/2021.

As of 30/11/2021:

- **Booster programme extended to those aged 18-39**
- **Gap prior to booster dose for those already vaccinated reduced to 3 months**
- **Those aged 12-15 to receive second dose after 3 months**
- **Severely immunosuppressed to receive 3 primary doses and a booster**

Vaccine programme progress

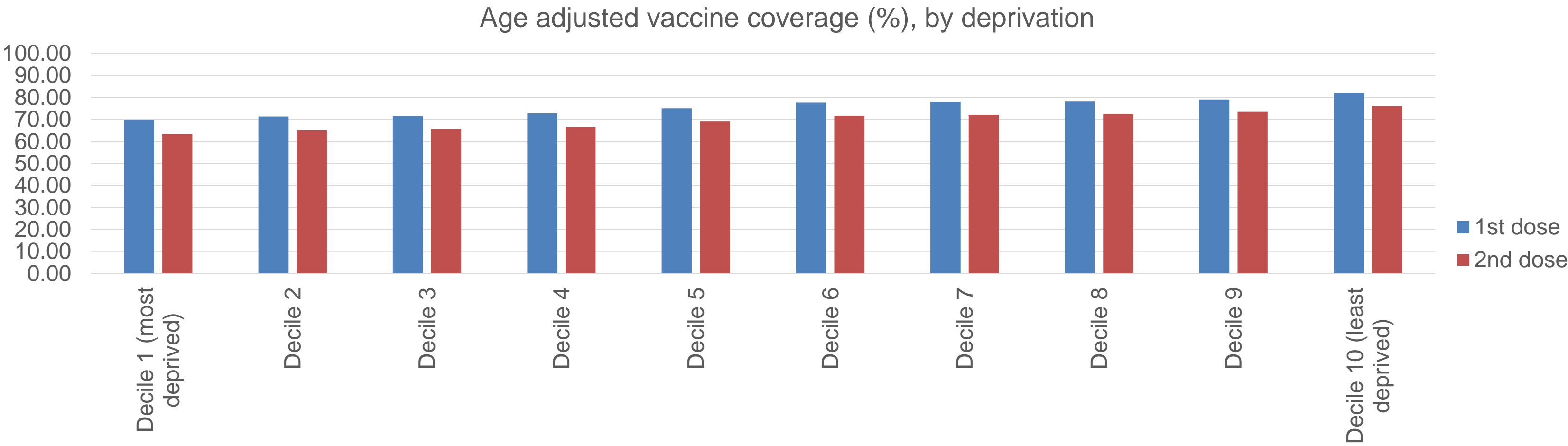
Vaccination Uptake by Age Band - 30/11/2021



- A total of 42,496 eligible people remain unvaccinated. Predominantly within those < 50.

Age Band	Number Unvaccinated
80+	356
75 - 79	225
70 - 74	465
65 - 69	684
60 - 64	1027
55 - 59	1471
50 - 54	2008
45 - 49	2266
40 - 44	3065
35 - 39	4144
30 - 34	5755
25 - 29	5771
20 - 24	4604
18 - 19	1386
16 - 17	1948
12 - 15	7321

Vaccine programme - equity

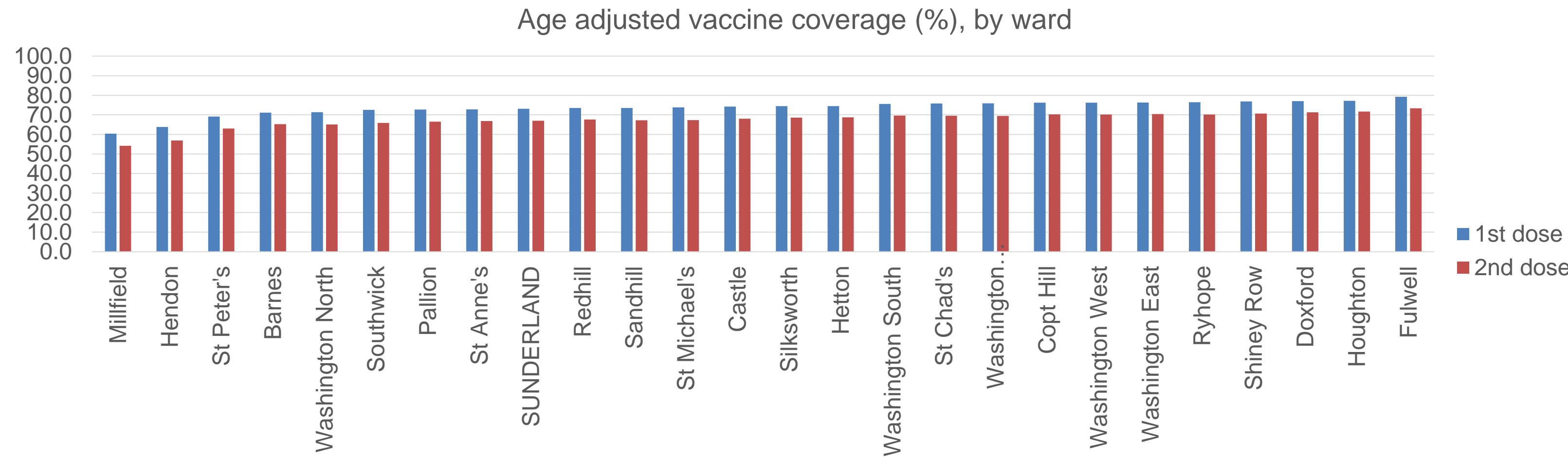


Vaccine coverage by deprivation

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

Vaccine coverage by ward

The 5 wards with the lowest coverage when adjusted for age has been targeted through regional and local communications; **we have had pop up clinics in Millfield and Hendon wards; and surge support for vaccine promotion.**

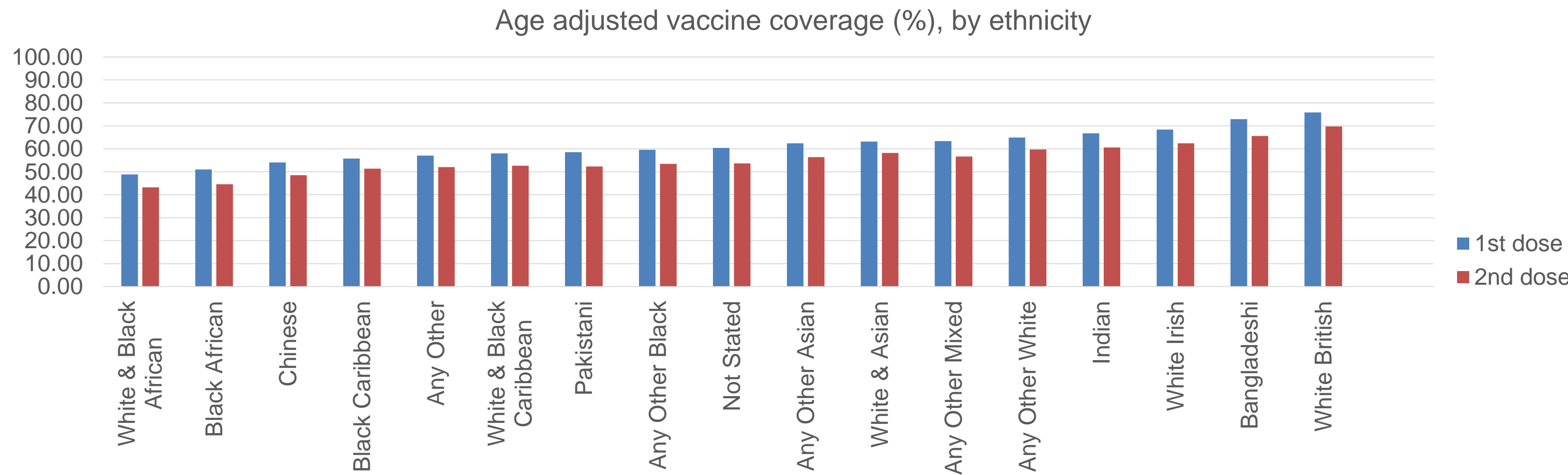


Vaccine coverage by ethnicity

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.**

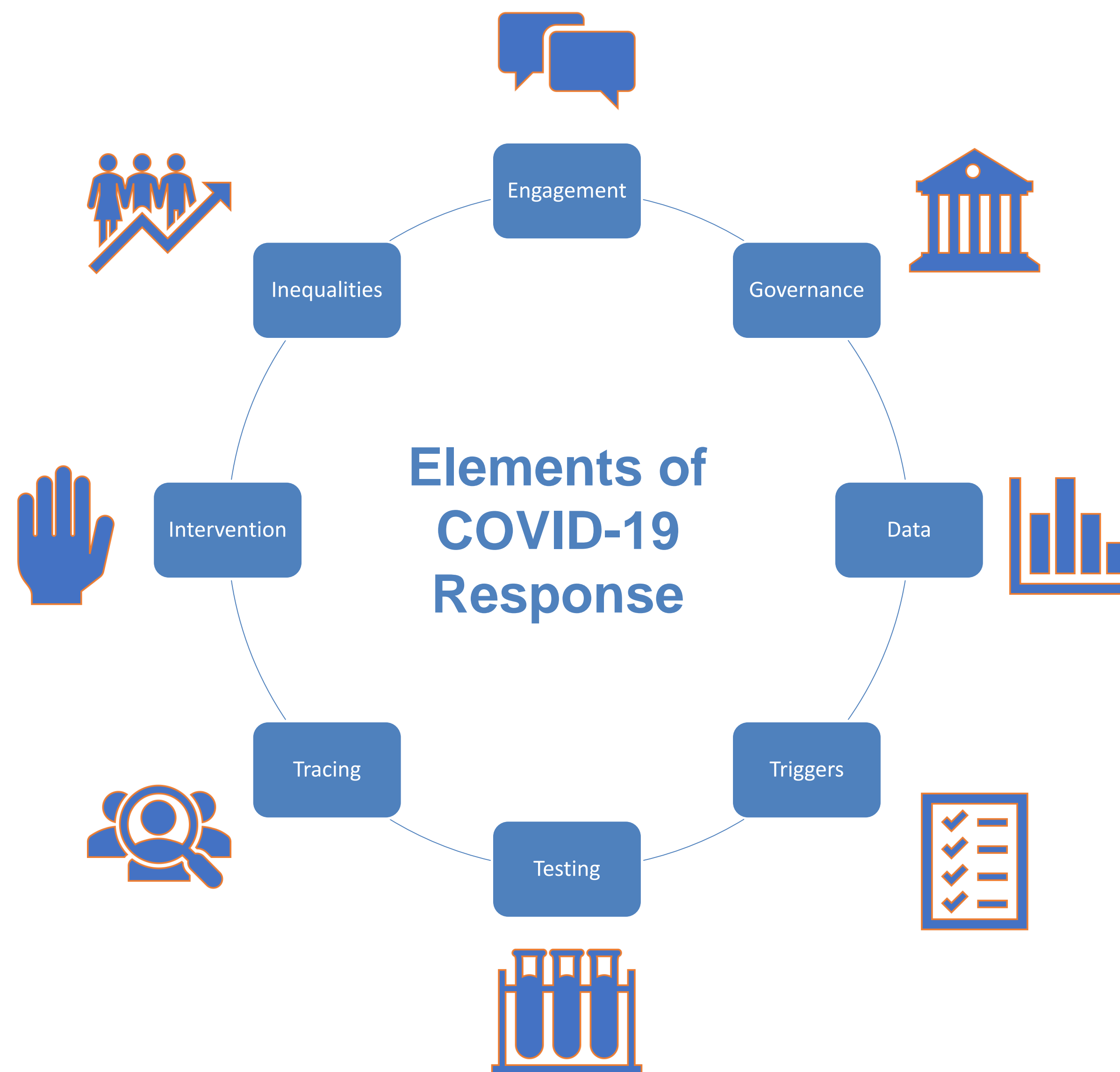


The Winter Vaccination Board puts in place plans to address inequalities as they emerge, including:

Including booster vaccinations and social media messages for those who are pregnant.

Data as at 02/11/2021 – presents age adjusted coverage (%) for the population of all ages, 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
- 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

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

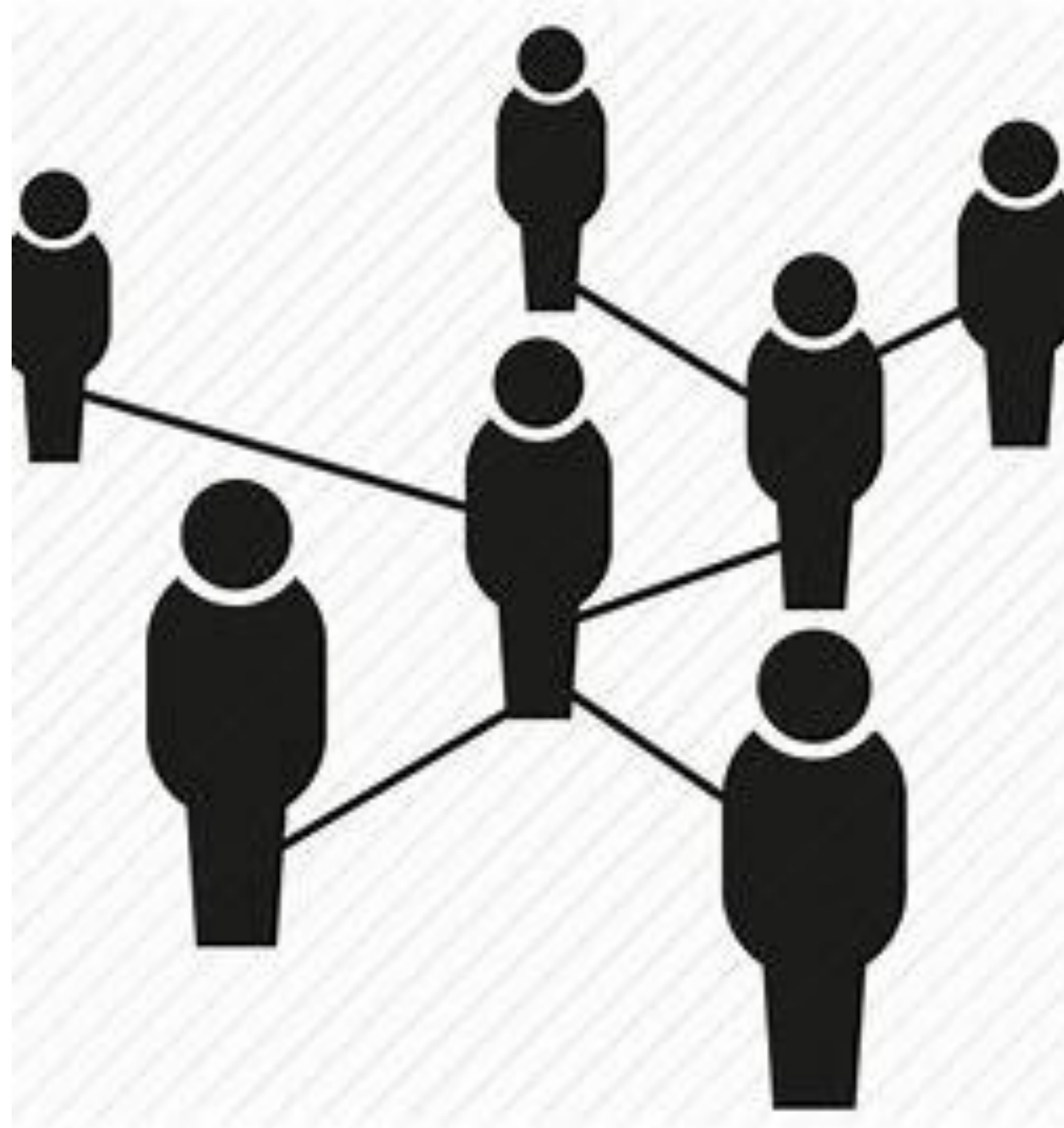
- Symptomatic testing (via PCR) with:
 - Mobile Testing Units at Houghton, Silksworth and Sheepfolds
 - Local pedestrian testing sites at Johnson Street and Sunderland College Washington Campus
- PCR testing of **contacts** of cases in line with changes to self-isolation guidance
- Asymptomatic testing (via LFT) – 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
- Surge testing arrangements
- 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

Future arrangements are likely to include:

- Continuation of symptomatic testing – currently contributing 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 07/01/2021. 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 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 so we can respond rapidly and put in place measures to prevent further spread.
- 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. 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 (currently continuing)