

COVID-19 Update

Sunderland Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee
02nd February 2022

Gerry Taylor, Executive Director of Public Health & Integrated Commissioning



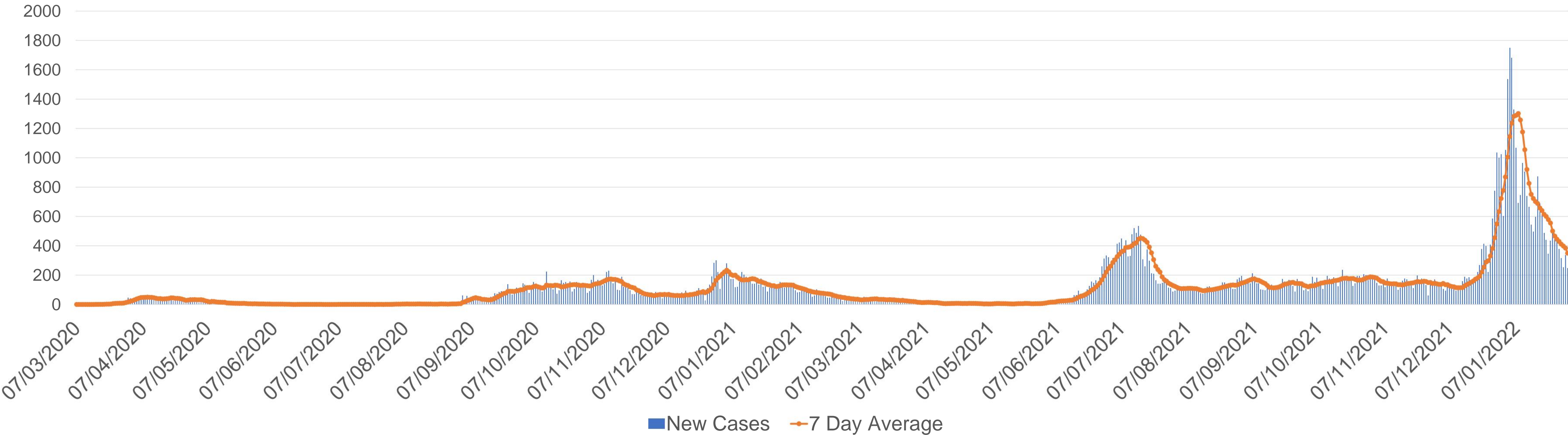
Current Position

- The most recent wave of Covid-19 infections is reducing in Sunderland. This is consistent with the wider North East and North West. However, other areas of the country, including the South East and South West, have seen increases since around mid-January 2022.
- Now working on Living Safely with Covid plan.
- Currently, the Autumn and Winter Plan (published in September 2021) outlines the strategic approaches to managing Covid-19 (Plan A).
- It also includes further approaches to be implemented in the event of rising pressure on the NHS (Plan B). These were progressively implemented during December 2021, though are now all removed.
- Additionally, arrangements relating to self-isolation have been significantly revised across December 2021 and January 2022 - finally to reduce the isolation period to 5 full days where 2 negative LFD tests are received.
- The last significant changes, effective from 27th January 2022 were:
 - Use of face coverings moved to advisory in all settings
 - NHS Covid passes no longer required at events by law.
- Regulations currently remain in place until March 2022 in relation to the following:
 - Requirement for positive cases and unvaccinated contacts to self-isolate
 - Local authorities enabled to respond to serious and imminent public health threats emerging from Covid-19.
 - Testing and quarantine requirements on international arrivals to England.

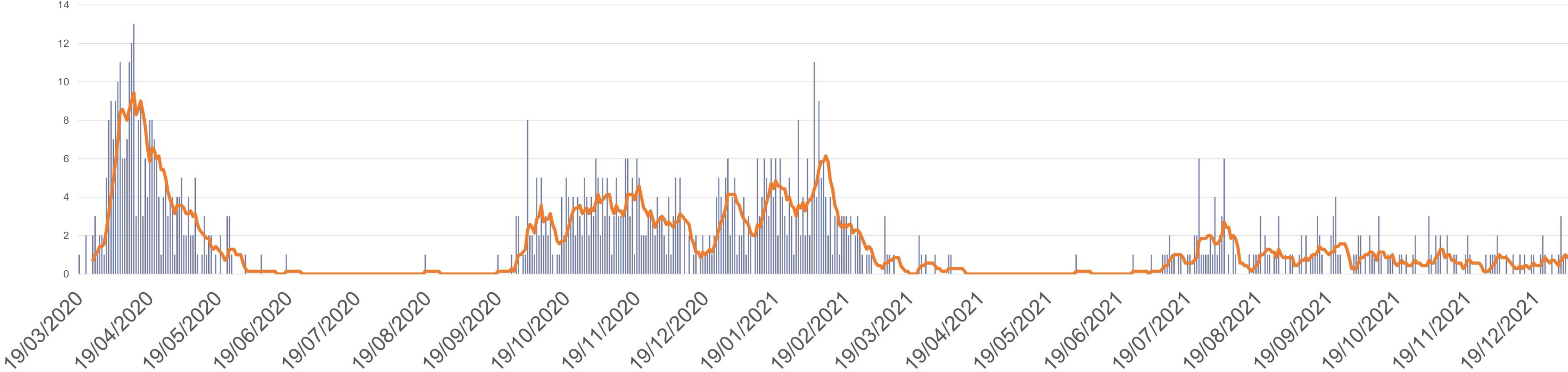


Sunderland's experience of the pandemic

Sunderland daily cases of Covid-19 and 7 day rolling average







Sunderland daily deaths involving COVID and 7 day rolling average



Current situation – key facts and figures

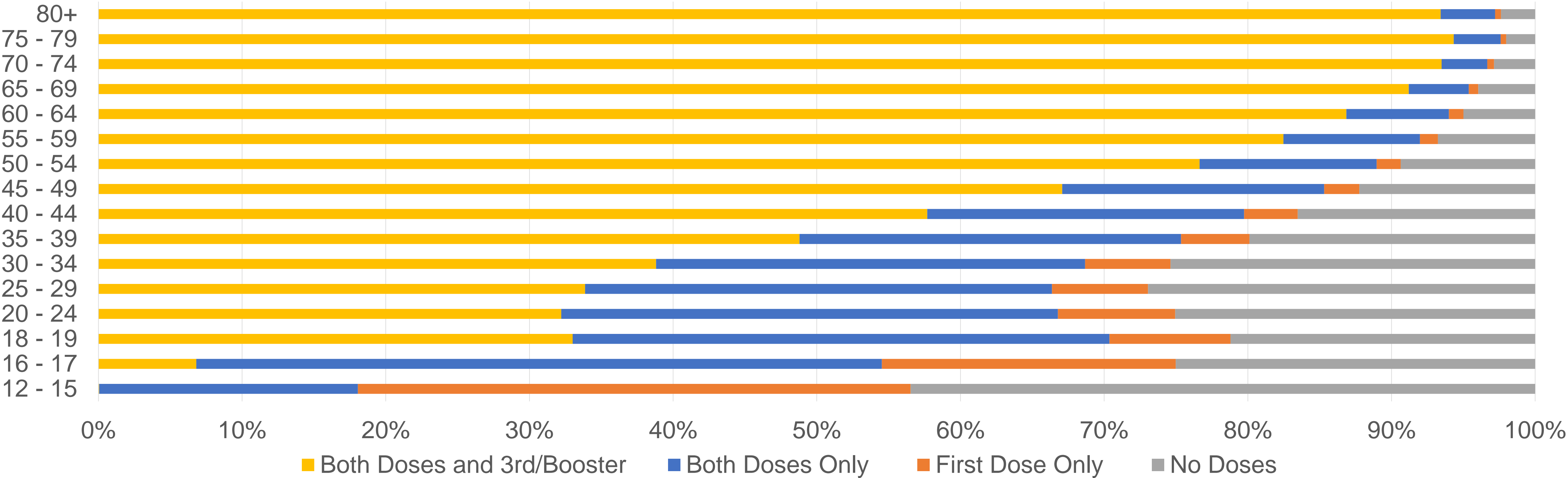
	Latest Number of Inpatients	Current in ICU	Notes
Covid-19 Related Hospital Activity	133 (-21) at 02/02	2 (-1) at 02/02	During the peak period of wave 2 (Dec 20-Jan 21), there were typically 100-150 inpatients. Current persisting capacity issues relating to all types of activity.

	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	5,819 (16/01 - 29/01)	83,616 (rising by 611)	384.6 (24/01-30/01) 	1032.2 (22/01-28/01) 	8th	Cumulative total at 01/02/2021

	Total Occurrences in the Last 14 Days	Average Occurrences Per Day	Cumulative Total
Covid-19 Related Deaths	27 (14/01-27/01) 	<2 (14/01-27/12) 	1111 (registered by 01/02)

Vaccine programme progress

Vaccination Uptake by Age Band - 01/02/2022



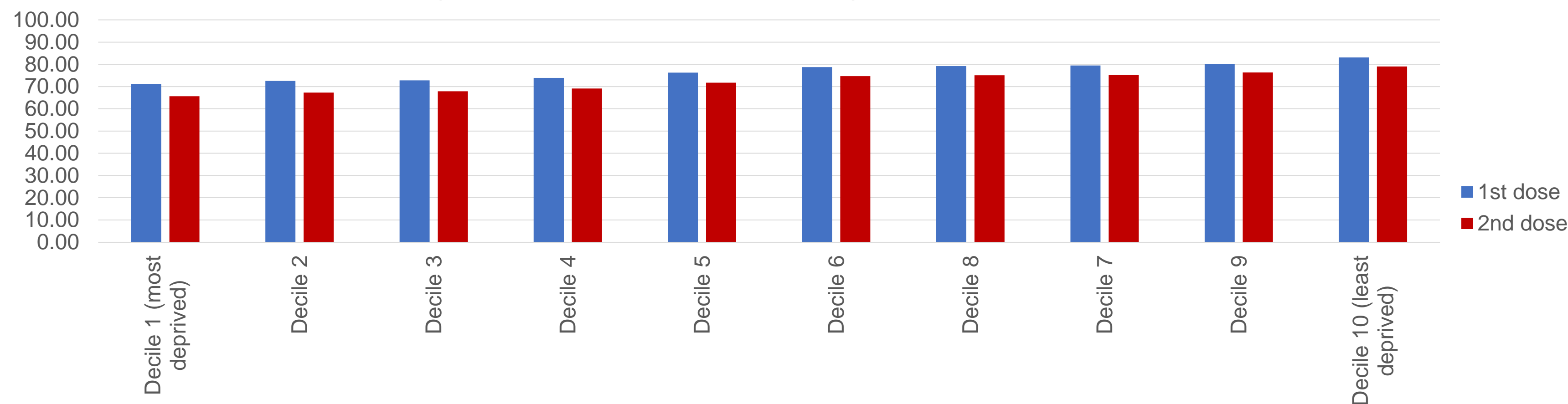
- A total of 38,434 eligible people remain unvaccinated. Predominantly within those < 50.

Age Band	Number Unvaccinated
80+	333
75 - 79	213
70 - 74	445
65 - 69	649
60 - 64	969
55 - 59	1419
50 - 54	1952
45 - 49	2173
40 - 44	2939
35 - 39	3919
30 - 34	5398
25 - 29	5341
20 - 24	4197
18 - 19	1243
16 - 17	1538
12 - 15	5706

- From w/c 31/01/2022, rollout of vaccination to 5-11 year olds at risk will begin.

Vaccine programme - equity

Age adjusted vaccine coverage (%), by deprivation



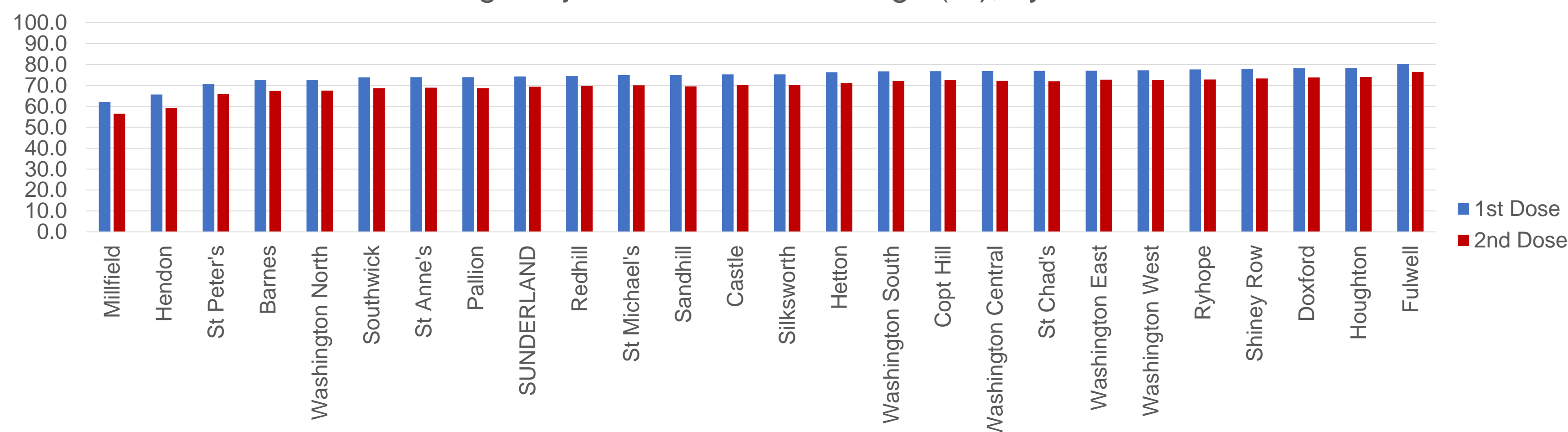
Vaccine coverage by deprivation

Coverage is lower in more deprived areas; **continuing to focus on areas/groups with lower than average coverage. City Centre site at High Street West remains open, also mobile delivery available via regional vaccine bus.**

Vaccine coverage by ward

The 5 wards with the lowest coverage when adjusted for age have been targeted through regional and local communications; **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.**

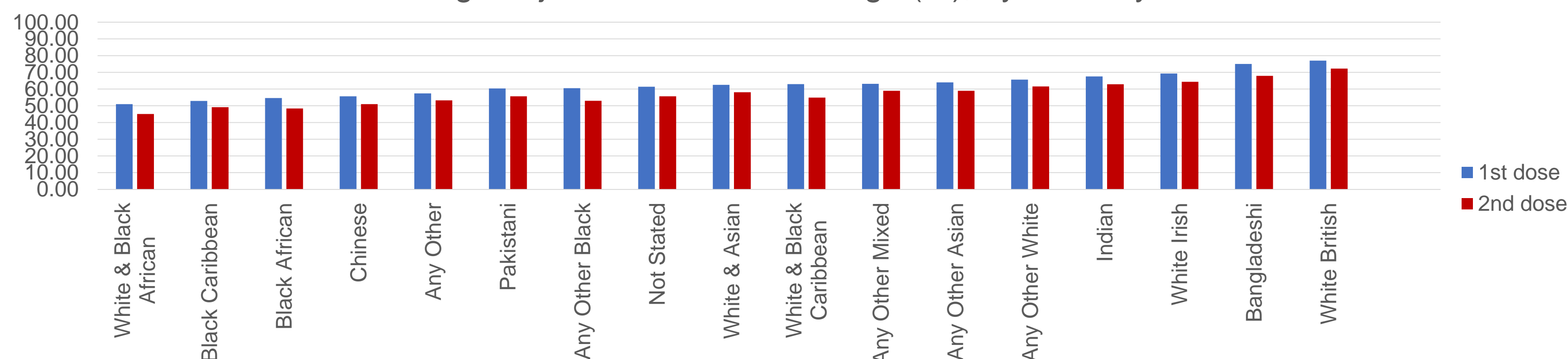
Age adjusted vaccine coverage (%), by ward



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.**

Age adjusted vaccine coverage (%), by ethnicity



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, access to pop-up clinics and regional vaccine bus.

The Winter Vaccination Board puts in place plans to address inequalities as they emerge: **Including booster vaccinations and social media messages for those who are pregnant – encouraging them to come forward for vaccination, including through the pop-up clinics and regional vaccine bus.**

Data as at **01/02/2022** – presents age adjusted coverage (%) for the population of all ages, sorted by 1st dose coverage

Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions

Local Outbreak Management:

- Governance structures remain in place (Health Protection Board and Local Outbreak Control Board) - linked to Gold, Silver and Bronze and Recovery groups.
- Regular access to detailed surveillance data.
- Current NHS Test and Trace arrangements, enhanced by Local Trace team.
- Supplementary support for self-isolation.
- COVID-19 inequalities strategy.
- Supporting local and regional media campaigns for based on the detailed insights work.

Local testing arrangements:

- Symptomatic testing (via PCR) with 3 x Mobile Testing and 2 x pedestrian testing sites.
- Fully vaccinated contacts of confirmed COVID-19 cases taking daily lateral flow device tests to slow the spread of the virus.
- Access to routine twice weekly asymptomatic lateral flow device testing (via pharmacies, home delivery and educational settings).
- Regular asymptomatic testing in high-risk settings (i.e. hospitals, care homes).
- Promotion of regular asymptomatic testing for educational settings.

Locally Enhanced Contact Tracing:

- Currently working alongside national Test and Trace to follow up cases that have not been contacted after 8 hours. Looking to revert to “Local 4” as soon as numbers will allow.
- Local Compliance Officers support this with visits to households that we have been unable to contact by phone.

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

Key Points

- Following the peak of the most recent wave in early January 2022, cases in Sunderland have been declining.
- Case rates were substantially higher than seen in previous waves, though the impact on both hospital occupancy and mortality appears to have been less severe.
- However, due to the volume of cases, significant pressures in the Health and Care system remain at present.
- Plan B measures have been progressively removed across January 2022.
- The Covid-19 vaccine programme continues to be extended to more groups within the population, most recently to 5-11 year olds who are at risk.
- Local efforts continue to focus on increasing uptake of all stages of the vaccine programme, from initial vaccination to boosters.
- Previous surges in demand for both Lateral Flow Tests and PCR testing have subsided across January 2022.
- Similarly, pressure on both local and national contact tracing systems are now reducing as case number decline.