

COVID-19 Update

Sunderland Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee
3rd November 2021

Gerry Taylor, Executive Director of Public Health & Integrated Commissioning

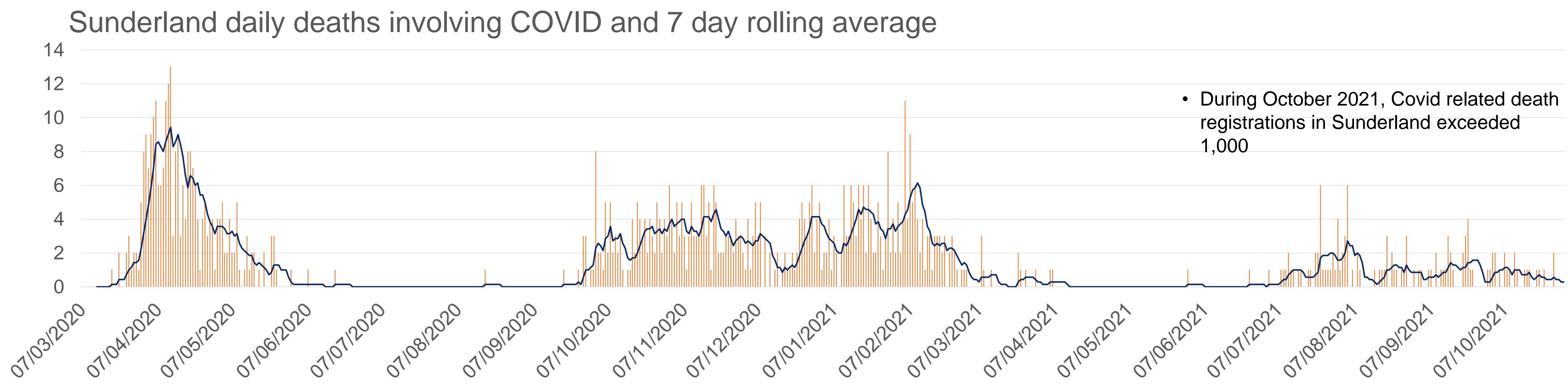
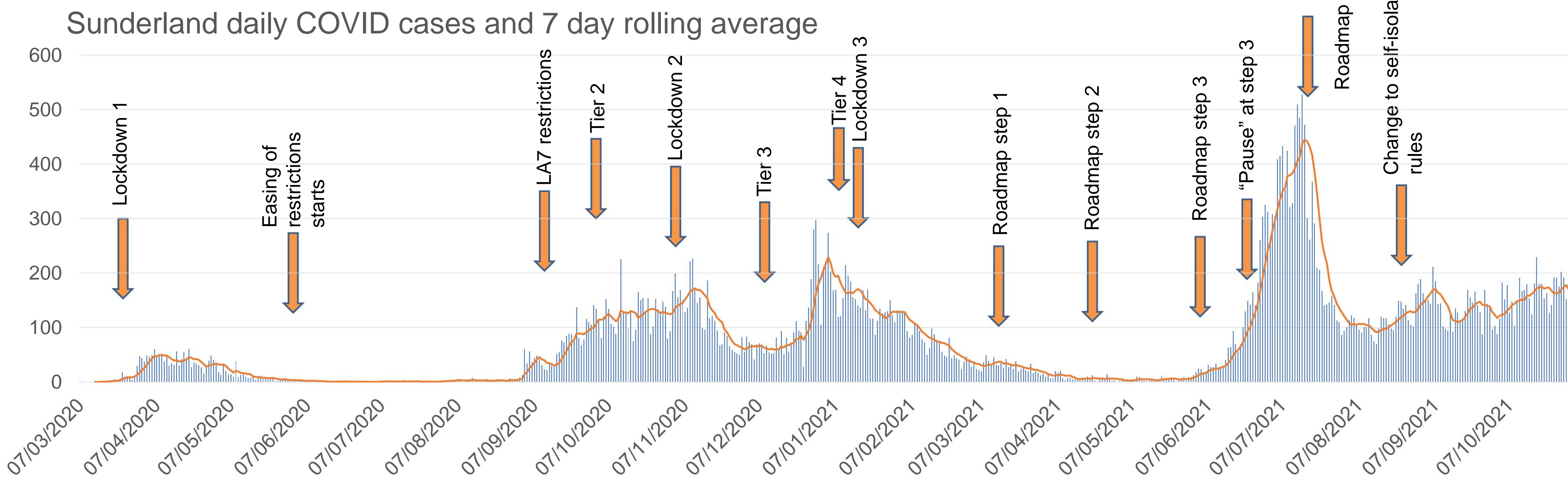


Where have we been? The timeline

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
 14/09/2021 – Autumn and Winter Plan published



Sunderland's experience of the pandemic



Current situation – key facts and figures

Covid-19 Latest Sunderland Data

Up to 29 October 2021



Total tests undertaken throughout pandemic

1,392,416



Total tests with +ve result throughout pandemic

58,981



Test positivity throughout pandemic

4.2%



Total individuals tested in the last 7 days

24,962



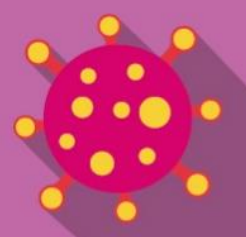
Total tests with +ve result in the last 7 days

1,546



Test positivity in the last 7 days

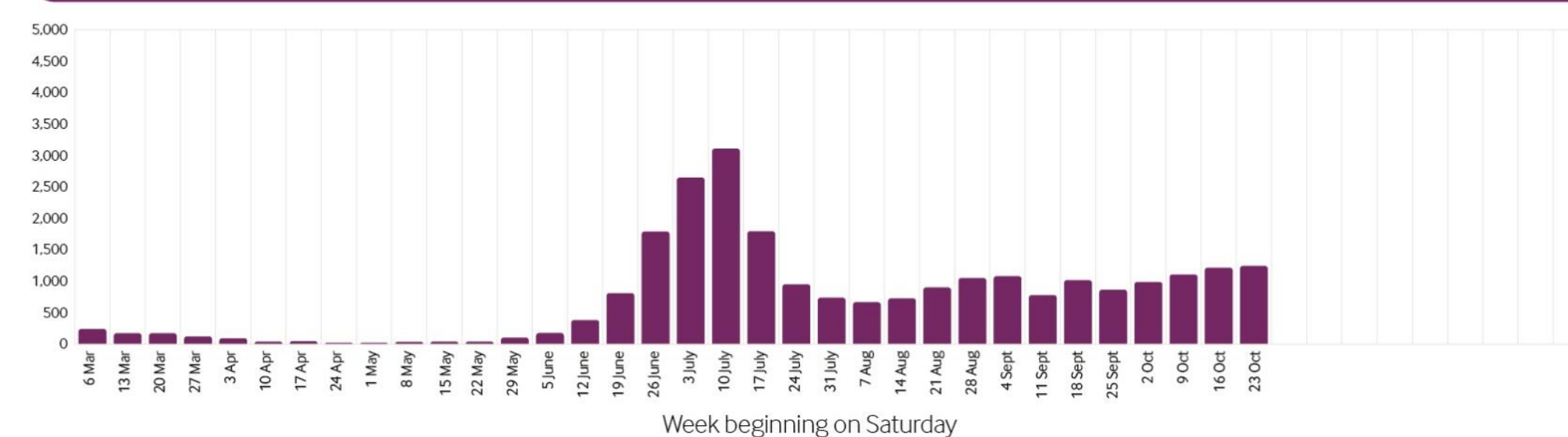
6.2% ↑



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

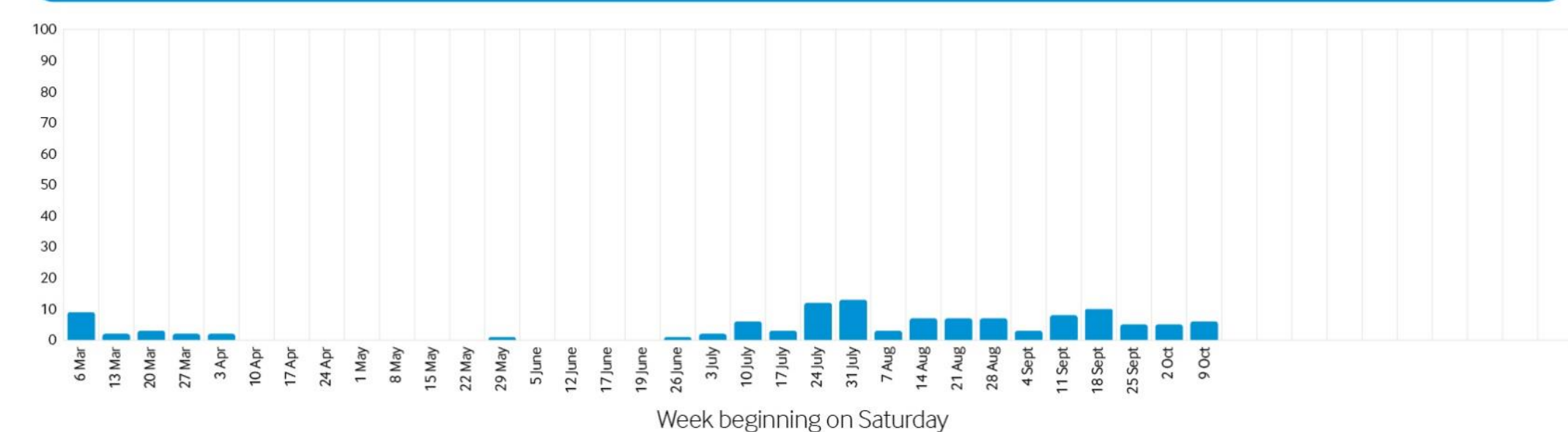
Number of new Covid-19 cases per week

(based on specimen date)



Number of deaths involving Covid-19 per week

(based on date of death)



Number of cases

Throughout the pandemic

46,362

In the last 7 days (23–29 Oct)

1,220 ↑

In the previous 7 days (16–22 Oct)

1,210 ↑

Cases per 100,000 population

Throughout the pandemic

16,686.2

In the last 7 days (23–29 Oct)

439.1 ↑

In the previous 7 days (16–22 Oct)

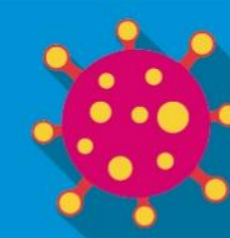
435.5 ↑

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

955



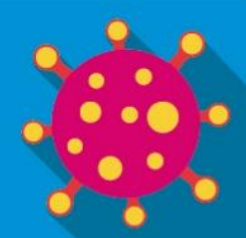
In the last 7 days (9–15 Oct)

6 ↑



In the previous 7 days (2–8 Oct)

5 ↔



Direction of travel compares the current snapshot with the previous snapshot

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

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.

Additionally:

- Significant winter pressures anticipated due to the combined impacts of COVID-19 and other seasonal respiratory diseases such as influenza
- Therefore, contingency planning has led to supporting Plan A with a further **Plan B** to be enacted in response to the need for further measures to prevent the NHS being overwhelmed
- Potential measures are communication campaigns highlighting increased risk, potential mandatory vaccine only certification for certain settings and legally mandating face coverings in certain settings.

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

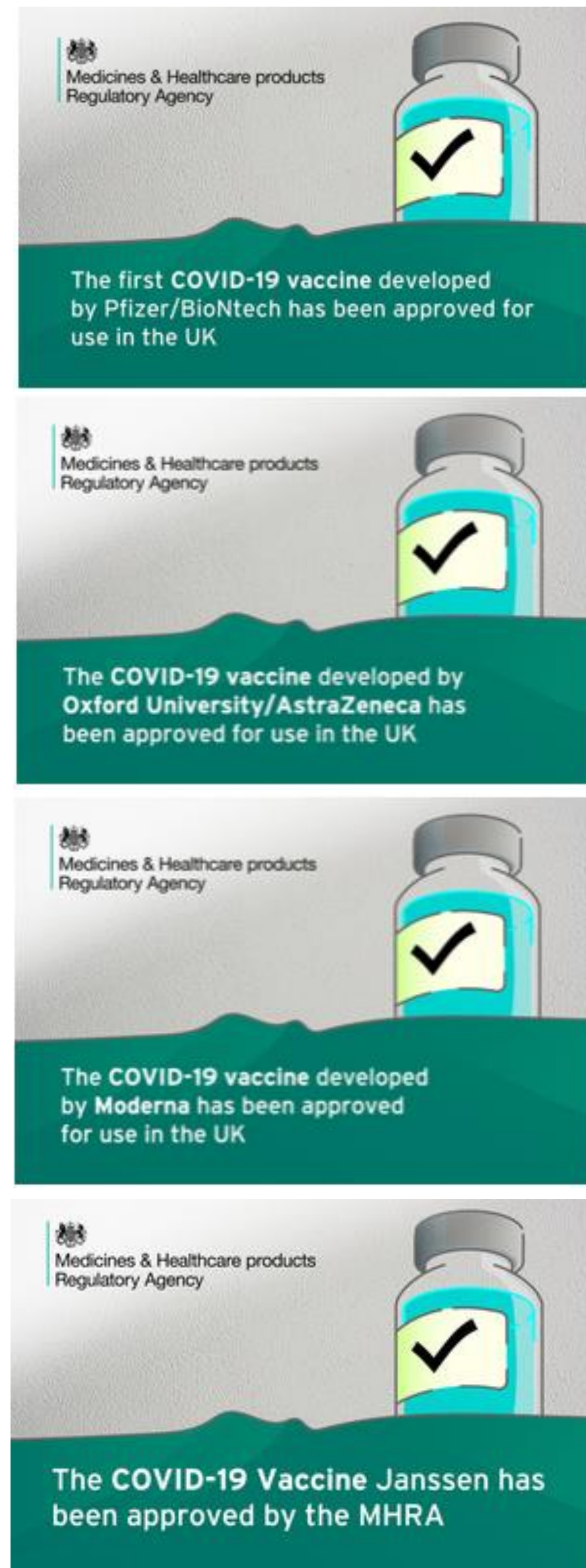


Wash your hands



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 (~ 6 weeks after second dose).

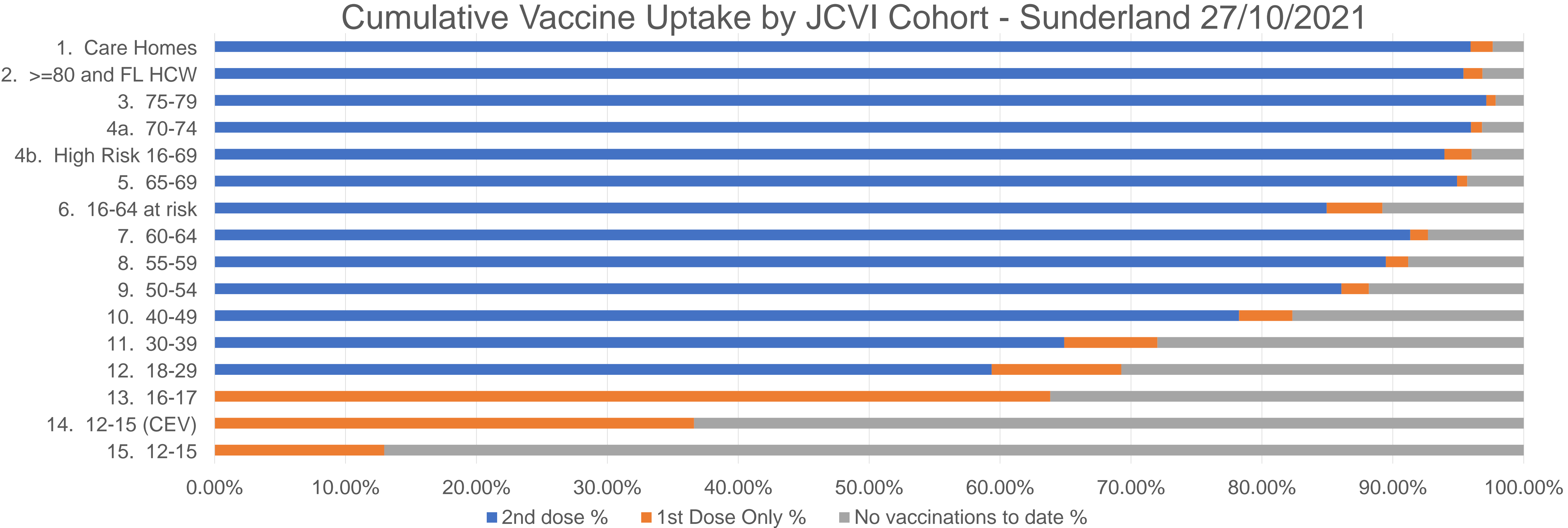
Announcement by the JCVI on 14/09/2021 advising a third “booster” dose to be given to phase 1 cohorts (~ 6 months after second dose). **Commenced 16/09/2021.**

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.**

Vaccine programme progress 27/10/2021

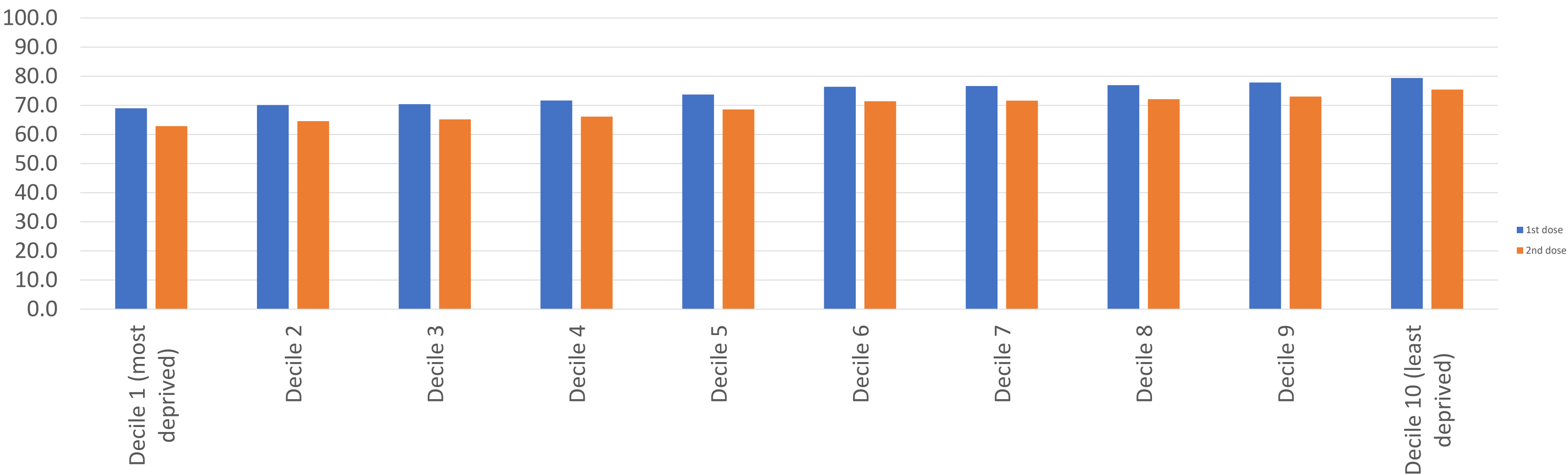


- A total of 44,750 eligible people remain unvaccinated. Predominantly within those < 50.

JCVI Cohort	Not Vaccinated
1. Care Homes	39
2. >=80 and FL HCW	664
3. 75-79	210
4a. 70-74	423
4b. High Risk 16-69	346
5. 65-69	603
6. 16-64 at risk	4651
7. 60-64	680
8. 55-59	1007
9. 50-54	1478
10. 40-49	4182
11. 30-39	8237
12. 18-29	10357
13. 16-17	1775
14. 12-15 (CEV)	533
15. 12-15	9565

Vaccine programme - equity

Age adjusted vaccine coverage (%), by deprivation



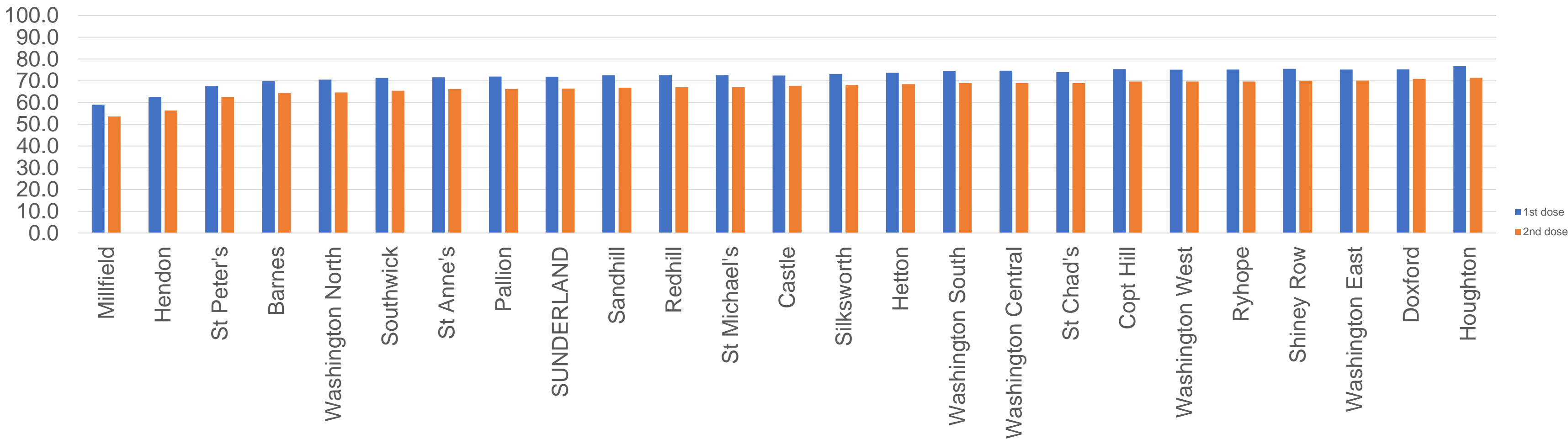
Vaccine coverage by deprivation

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.**

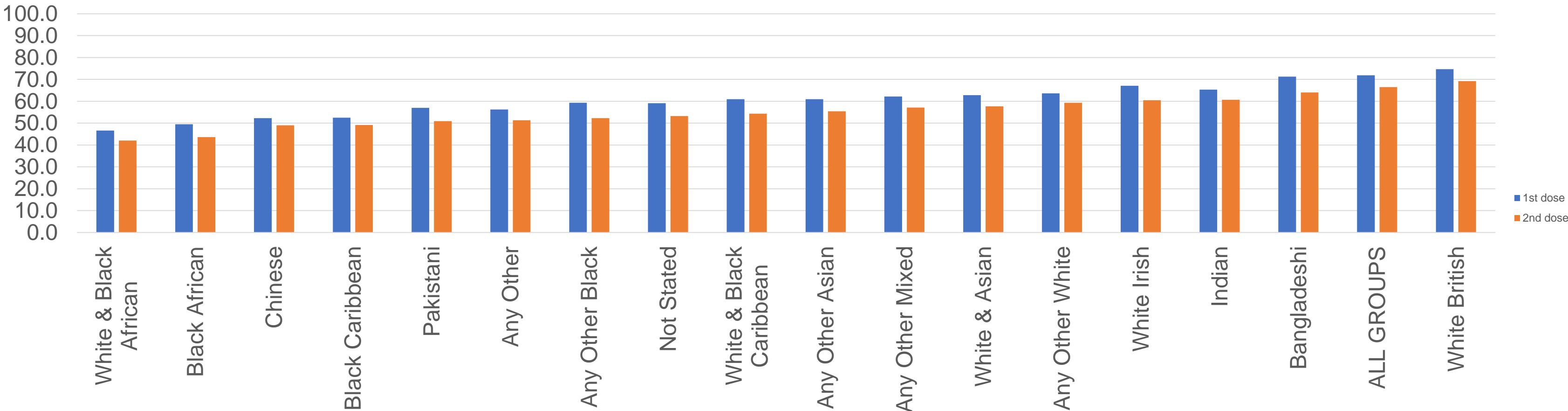
Age adjusted vaccine coverage (%), by ward



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

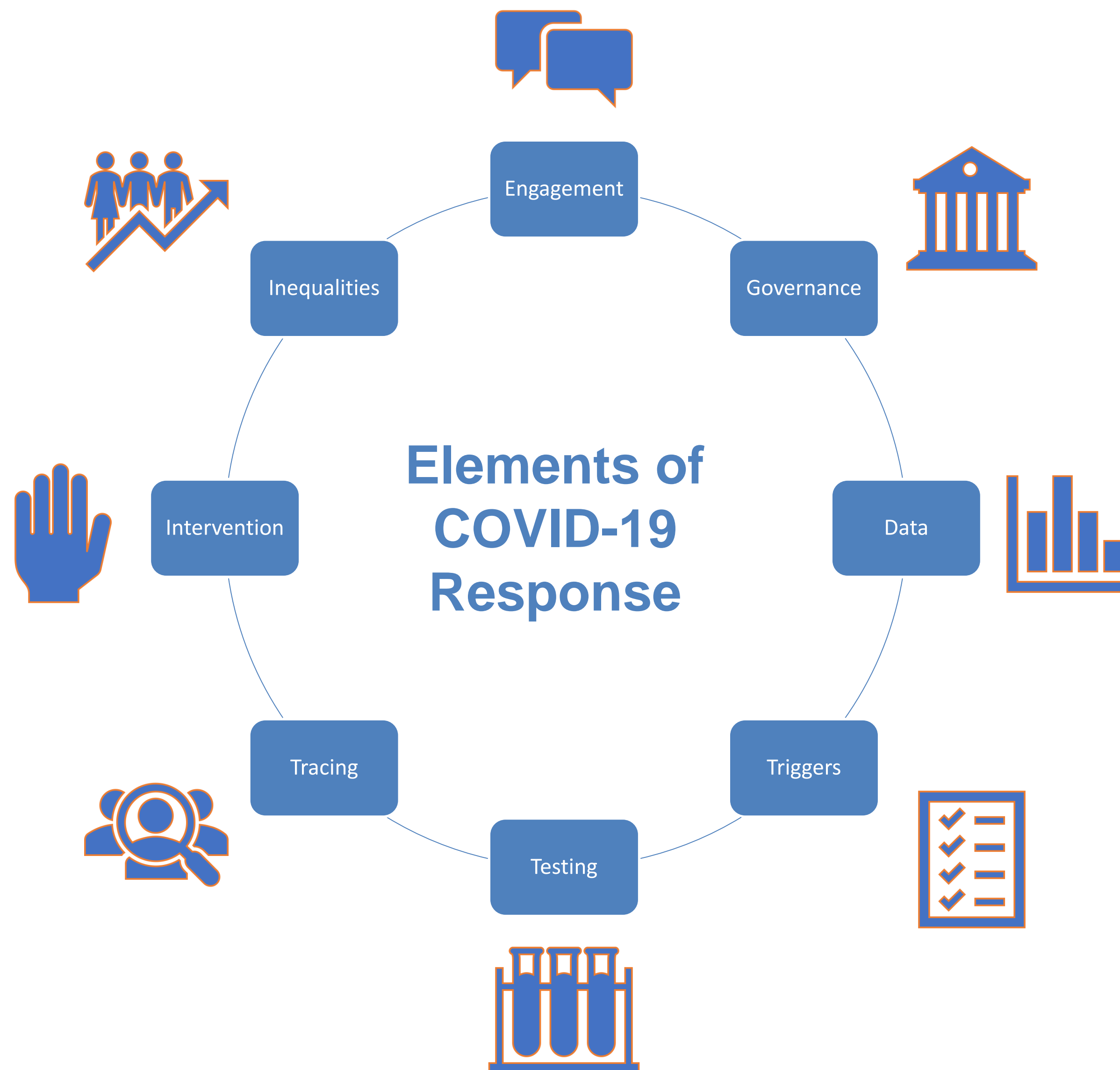
Generally we have seen lower coverage in younger age groups **Have had routine walk-in opportunities alongside booked appointments in response to preference of younger groups. Supporting uptake amongst 12-15 cohort by sharing national campaigns.**

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:

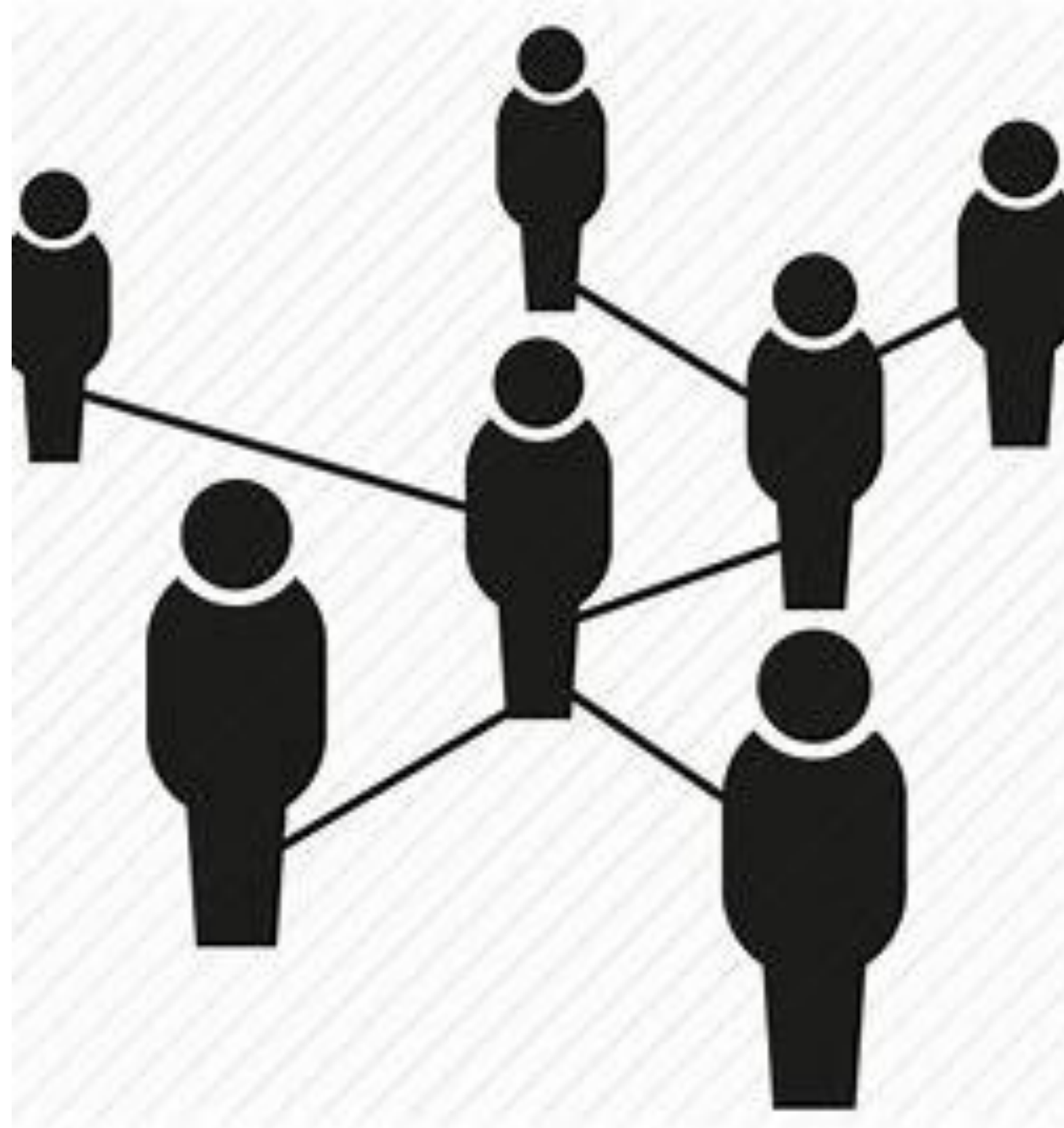
- Symptomatic testing (via PCR) with:
 - Mobile Testing Units at Houghton, Silksworth and Sheepfolds
 - Local pedestrian testing sites at Johnson Street and Sunderland College Washington Campus
- PCR testing of **contacts** of cases in line with changes to self-isolation guidance
- Asymptomatic testing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