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Merton Council

Healthier Communities and Older People Overview and Scrutiny Panel

9 February 2021

Supplementary agenda

4 COVID-19 Impact in Merton - Presentation to follow

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Healthier Communities and Older People Overview and Scrutiny Panel – 9th February 2021

Situational Awareness Report: COVID-19 in Merton

Dr Dagmar Zeuner, Director of Public Health

Merton Public Health Intelligence

4th February 2021

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Summary key messages

4th February 2021

London overview

- Estimated cases rate positivity in London is **2,469 per 100,000** (ONS)
- The current estimated London R value is between **0.6 and 0.9**.

Cases (28th January – 3rd February):

- 7 day case rate (all ages) **289.3 cases per 100,000** (down from 429.5 previous week).
- 7 day case rate (among 60+) **252.1 cases per 100,000** (up from 307.5 previous week).
- There were **621** new COVID cases in Merton.
- UK COVID variant: estimated to be responsible for **96%** of cases in Merton for the period 11th Jan - 24th Jan.

Deaths:

- There **43** new registered Merton COVID deaths for the week ending 22nd January. In total Merton has seen 376 deaths due to COVID.

Testing (26th January – 1st February / pillar 2 PCR tests only – this excludes Lateral Flow tests):

- 7 day testing rate **267.8 daily tests per 100,000**.
- 7 day test positivity increased to **14.5%**.

Positive cases per 100,000 across London boroughs

4th February 2021

For reporting period 21.1.2021 – 27.01.2021

Source: PHE/CTTOG slides

Colour of box illustrates weekly cases per 100,000 for that week

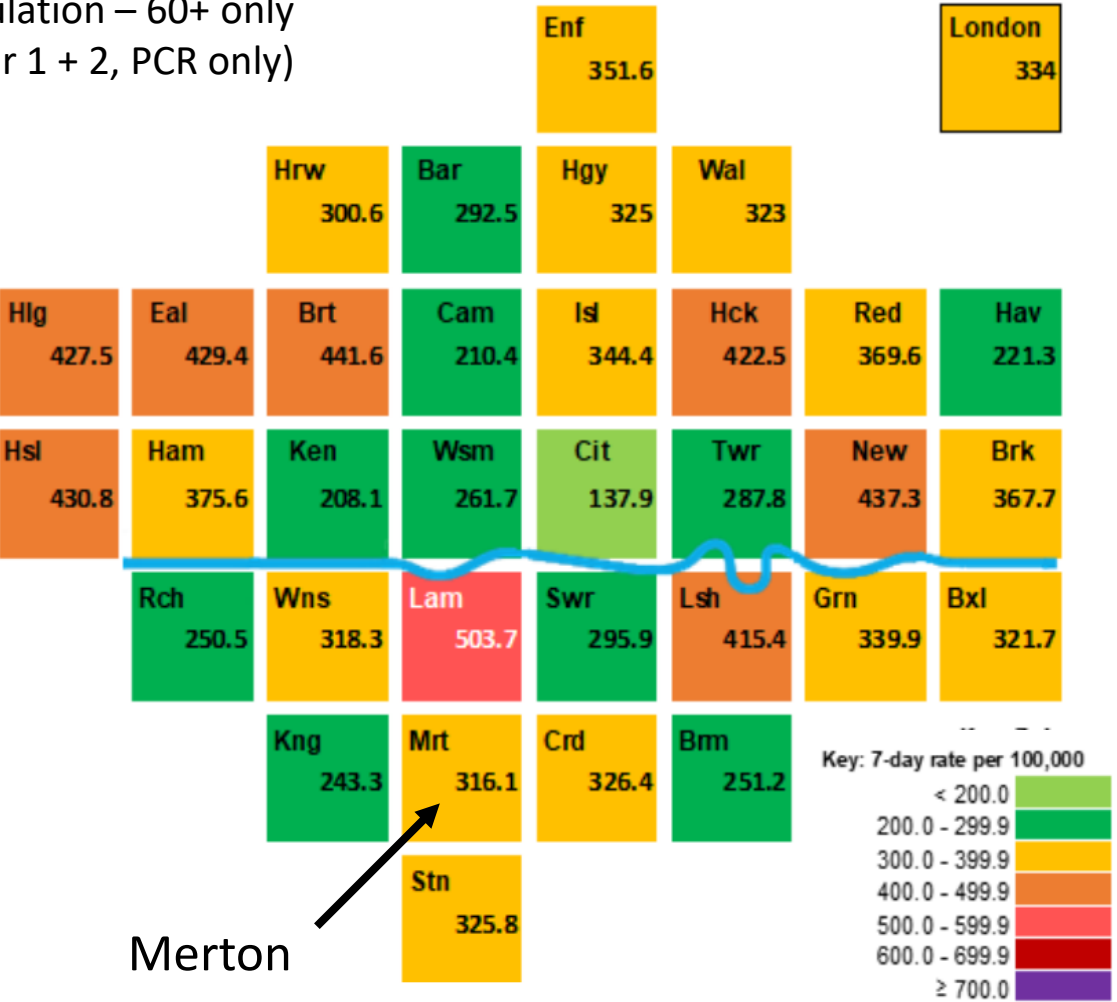
Positive tests per 100,000
population – all ages
(Pillar 1 + 2, PCR only)

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Merton

Positive tests per 100,000
population – 60+ only
(Pillar 1 + 2, PCR only)



Merton

Individuals tested per 100,000 and test positivity across London boroughs

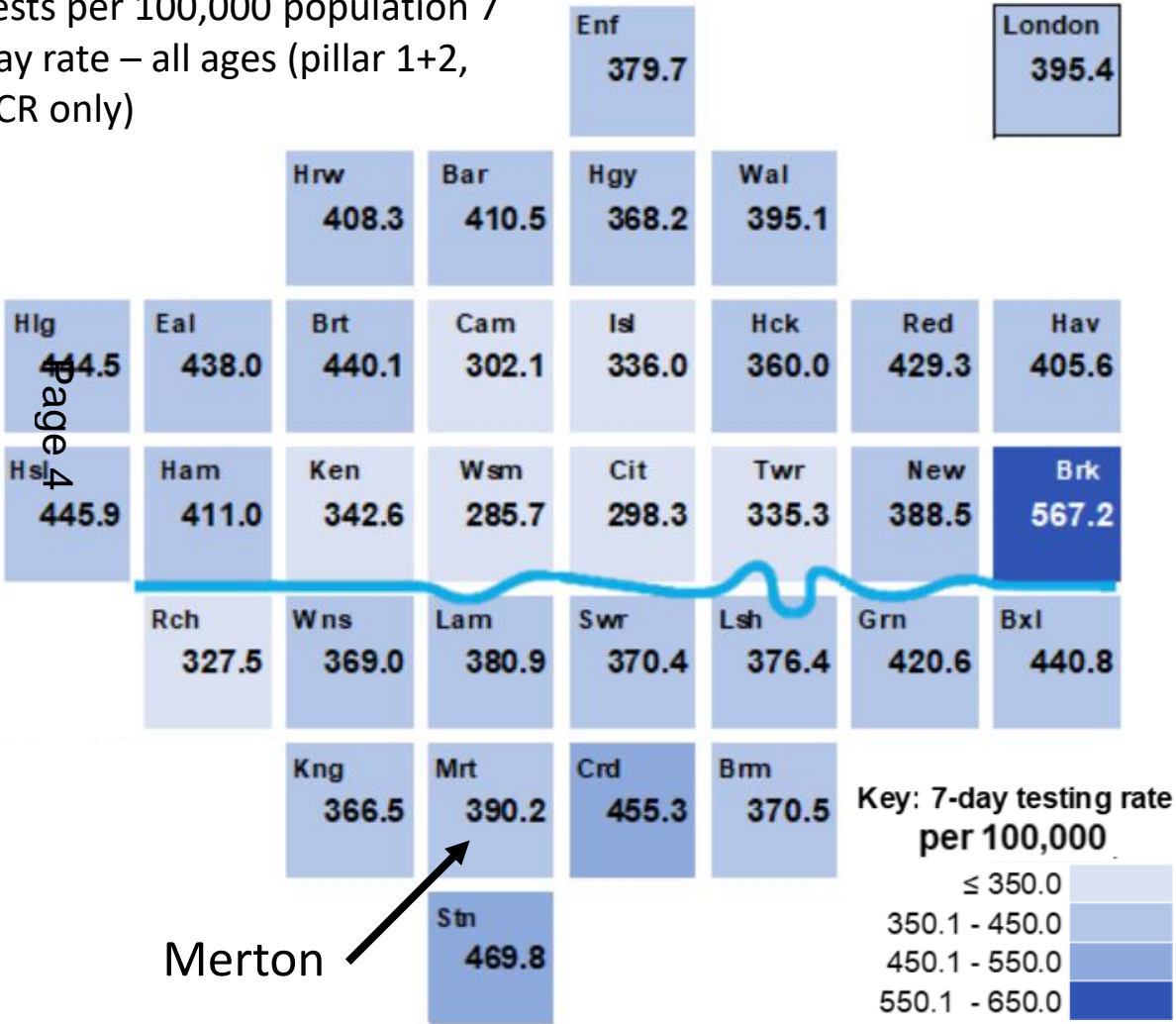
4th February 2021

For reporting period 21.1.2021 – 27.01.2021

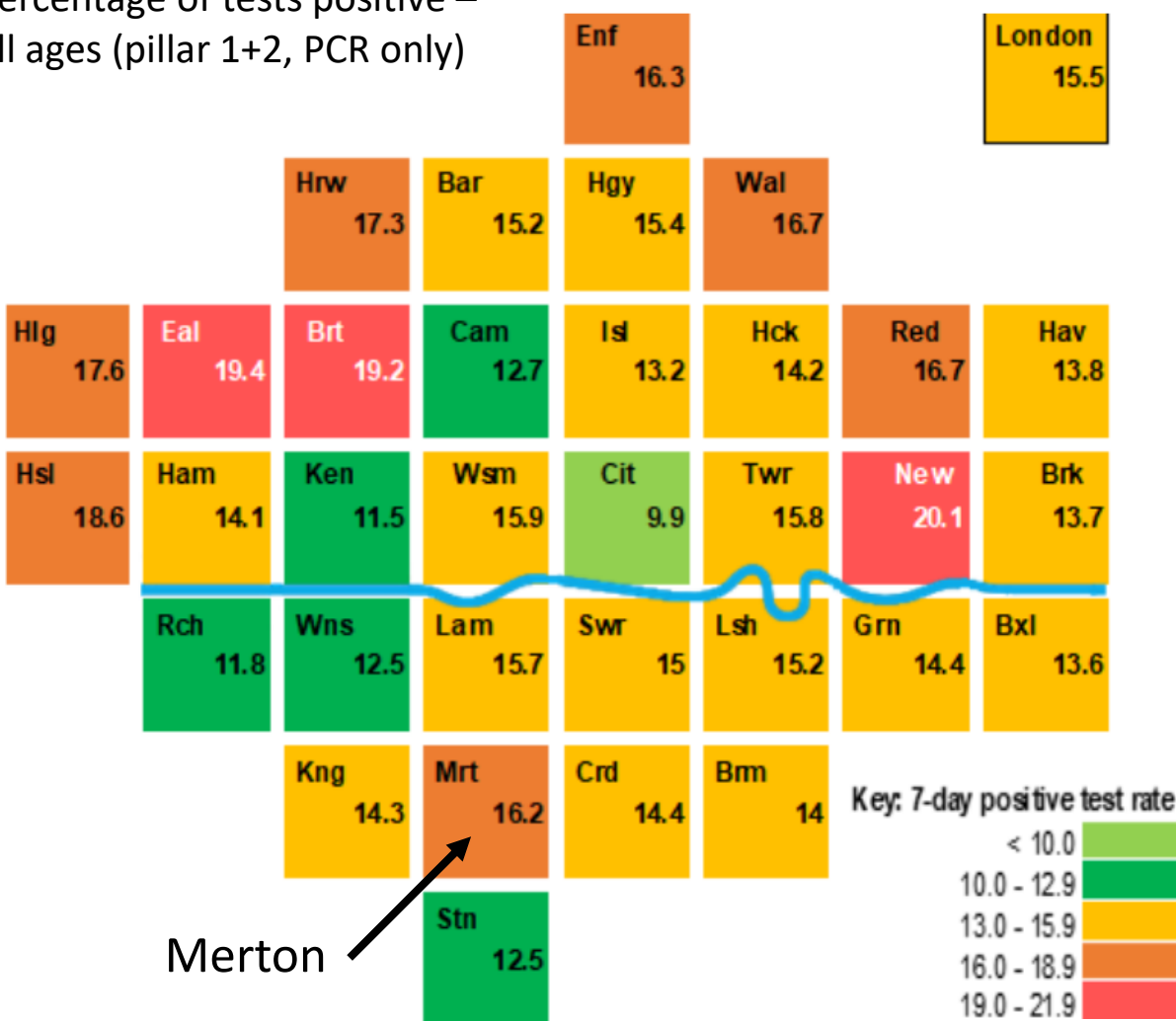
Source: PHE/CTTOG slides

Colour of box illustrates weekly cases per 100,000 for that week

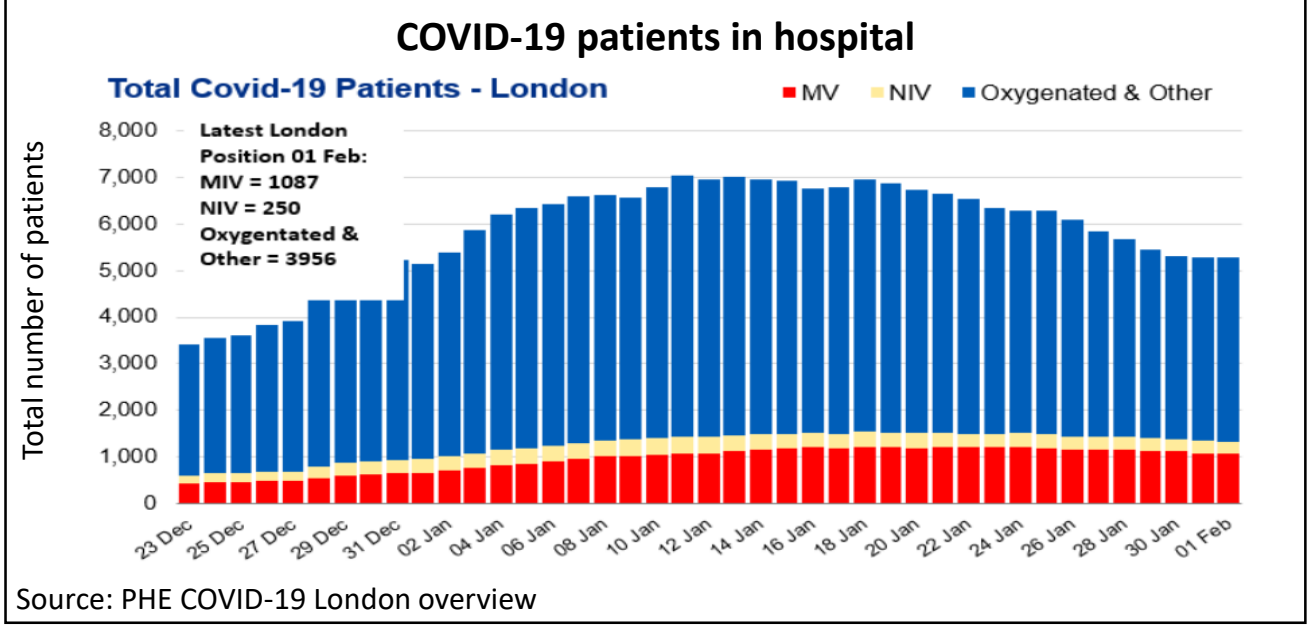
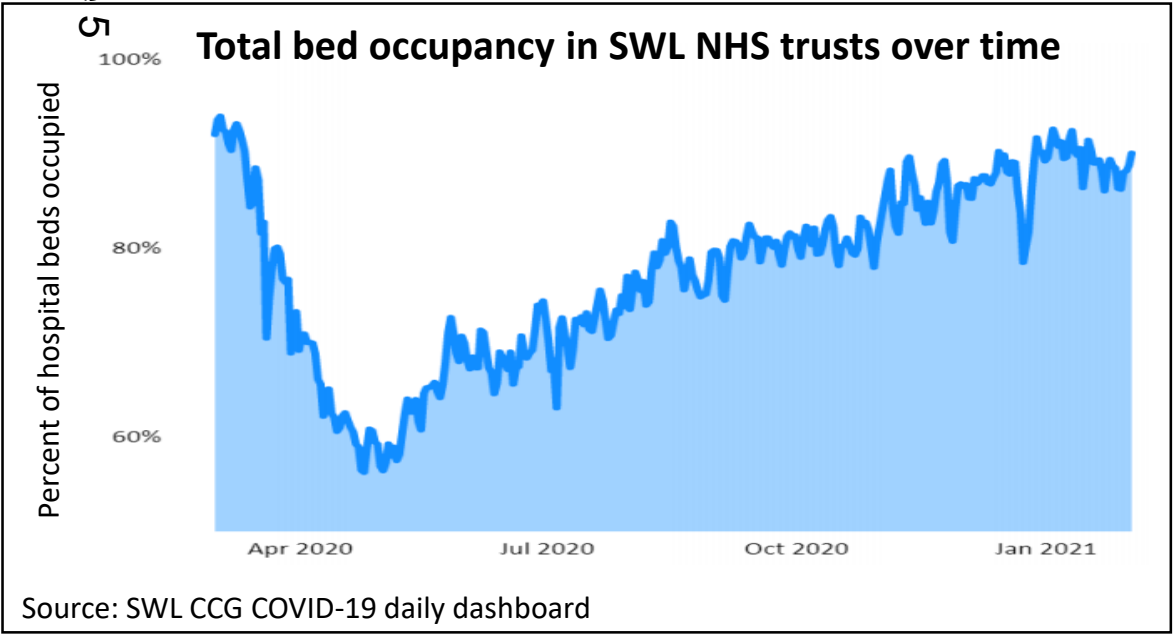
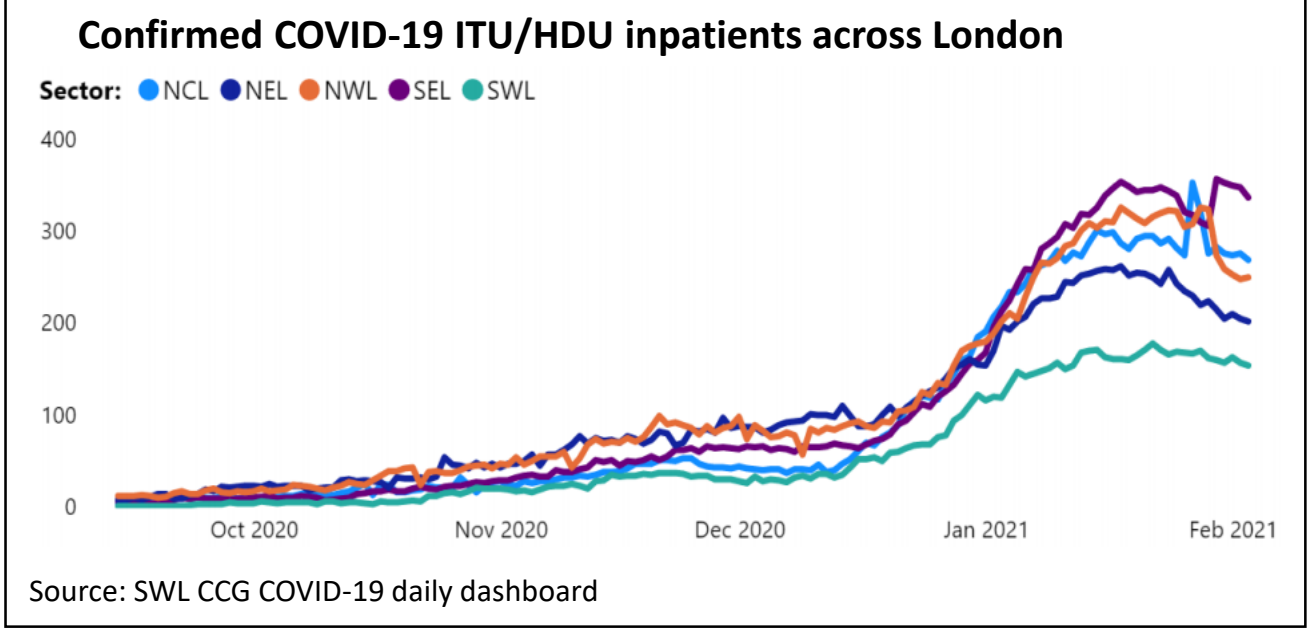
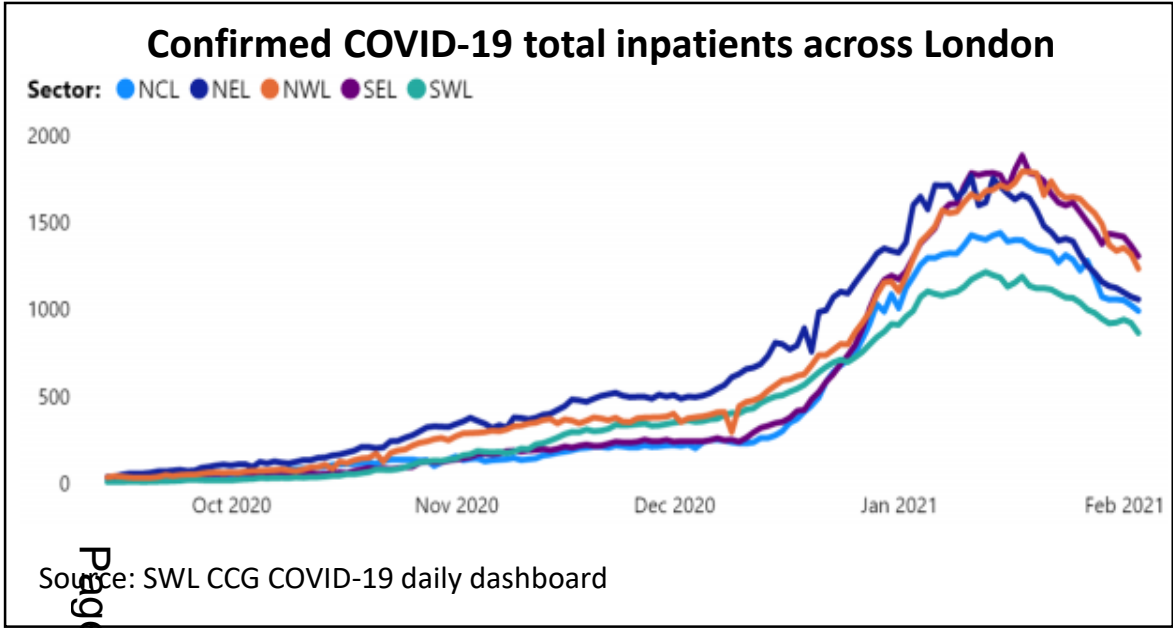
Tests per 100,000 population 7 day rate – all ages (pillar 1+2, PCR only)



Percentage of tests positive – all ages (pillar 1+2, PCR only)



COVID-19 and NHS-related indicators for London (all figures are numbers unless stated)



Local analysis: COVID-19 testing in Merton

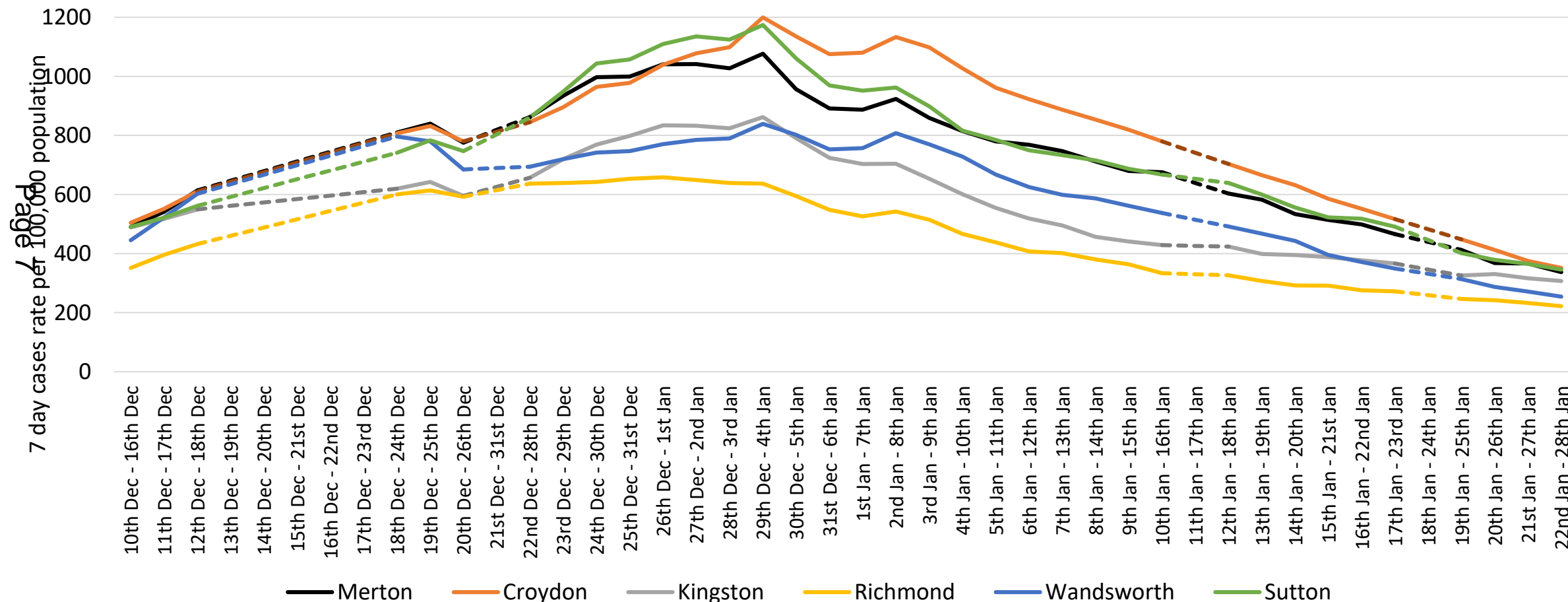
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Rolling 7-day rate of confirmed positive cases per 100,000 population in Merton compared to other South West London boroughs (Pillar 1 & 2, PCR + LFDs)

Source: PHE/PHEC Daily Report

Reporting frequency: Daily

Key message: Merton has the third highest rate of cases among SWL boroughs



Please note there were reporting gaps in December and January.

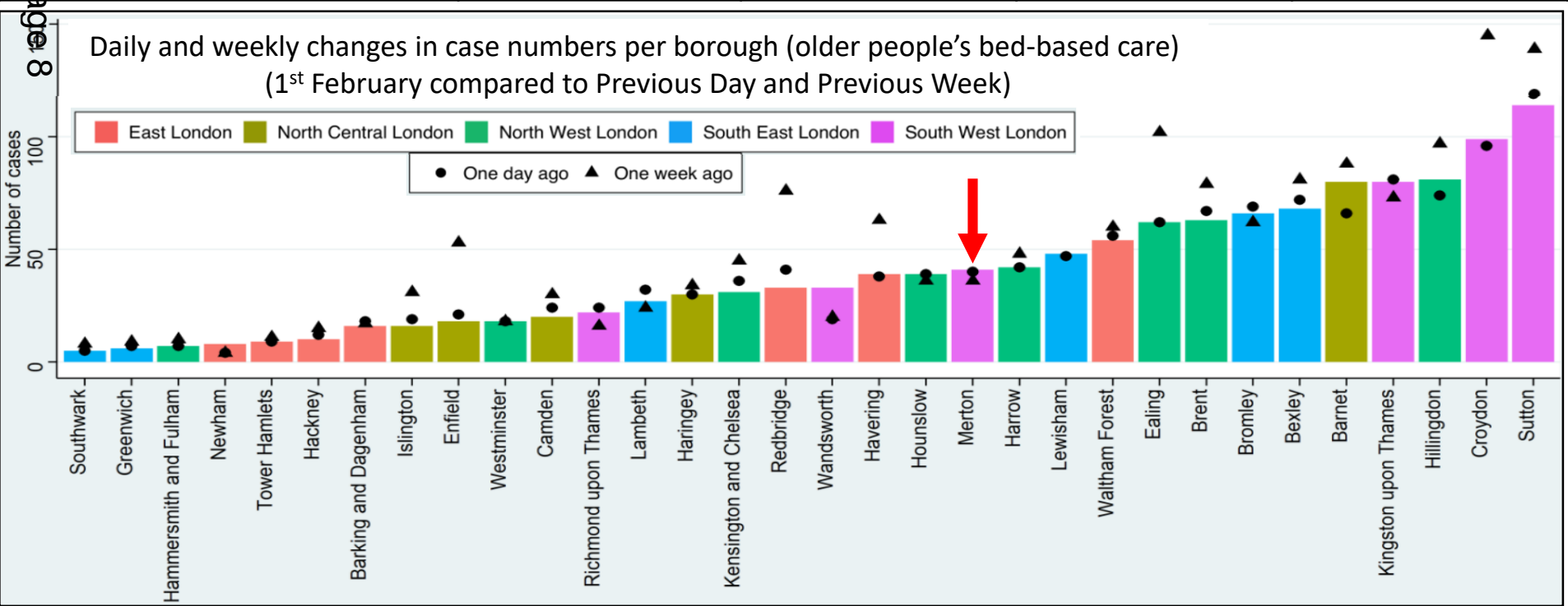
Dotted lines refers to periods when data was not available.

Reported COVID-19 outbreaks in Merton

* Supported living, sheltered living, extra care, and domiciliary care

4th February 2021

Source: Local Data and LCRC	New confirmed outbreaks locally		New confirmed outbreaks via LCRC	
	Current (28 th Jan – 3 rd Feb)	Previous (21 st – 27 th Jan)	Current (28 th Jan – 3 rd Feb)	Previous (21 st – 27 th Jan)
London Coronavirus Response Cell				
Schools and nurseries	3	6	-	-
Care homes	0	1	1	1
Care settings *	1	1	0	0
Workplace (LBM and non-LBM)	2	3	0	0
Homeless accommodation	1	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0



A note on the data

- Outbreaks reported **locally**:
 - 7 new outbreaks this week
 - An outbreak is two or more confirmed cases *or* one case in care home or care setting
- Outbreaks reported via **LCRC**:
 - We include LCRC data for comparison with other boroughs
 - Includes *all reported situations* e.g. exposures, suspected cases, outbreaks
 - Care homes includes all other care settings
 - Only large school outbreaks reported

Source: MIR
Market Intelligence Report
LSE/CPEC

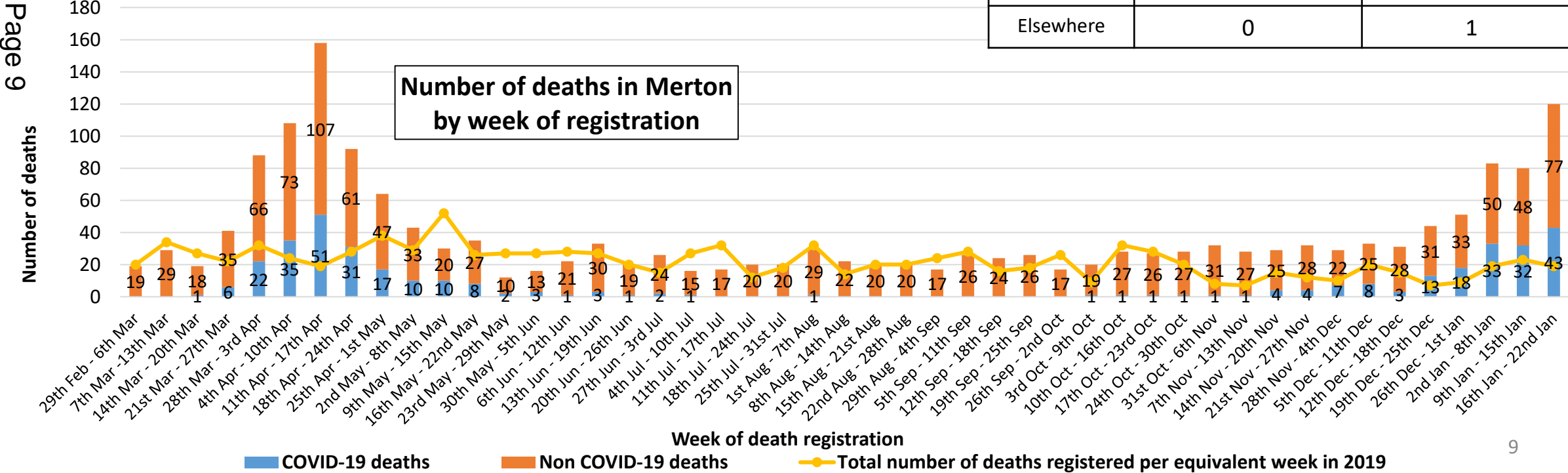
COVID-19 deaths registered among Merton residents

4th February 2021

Key messages

- 43 registered deaths in Merton week ending 22nd January due to COVID-19 – 33 in hospital, 1 in a care home, 7 at home, and 2 at a hospice.
- Merton has seen 376 cumulative registered COVID-19 deaths as of 22nd January 2020.
- 44 of these 376 deaths (12%) have been in care homes. 288 (77%) have been in hospitals. Please note that hospital deaths may include care home residents.

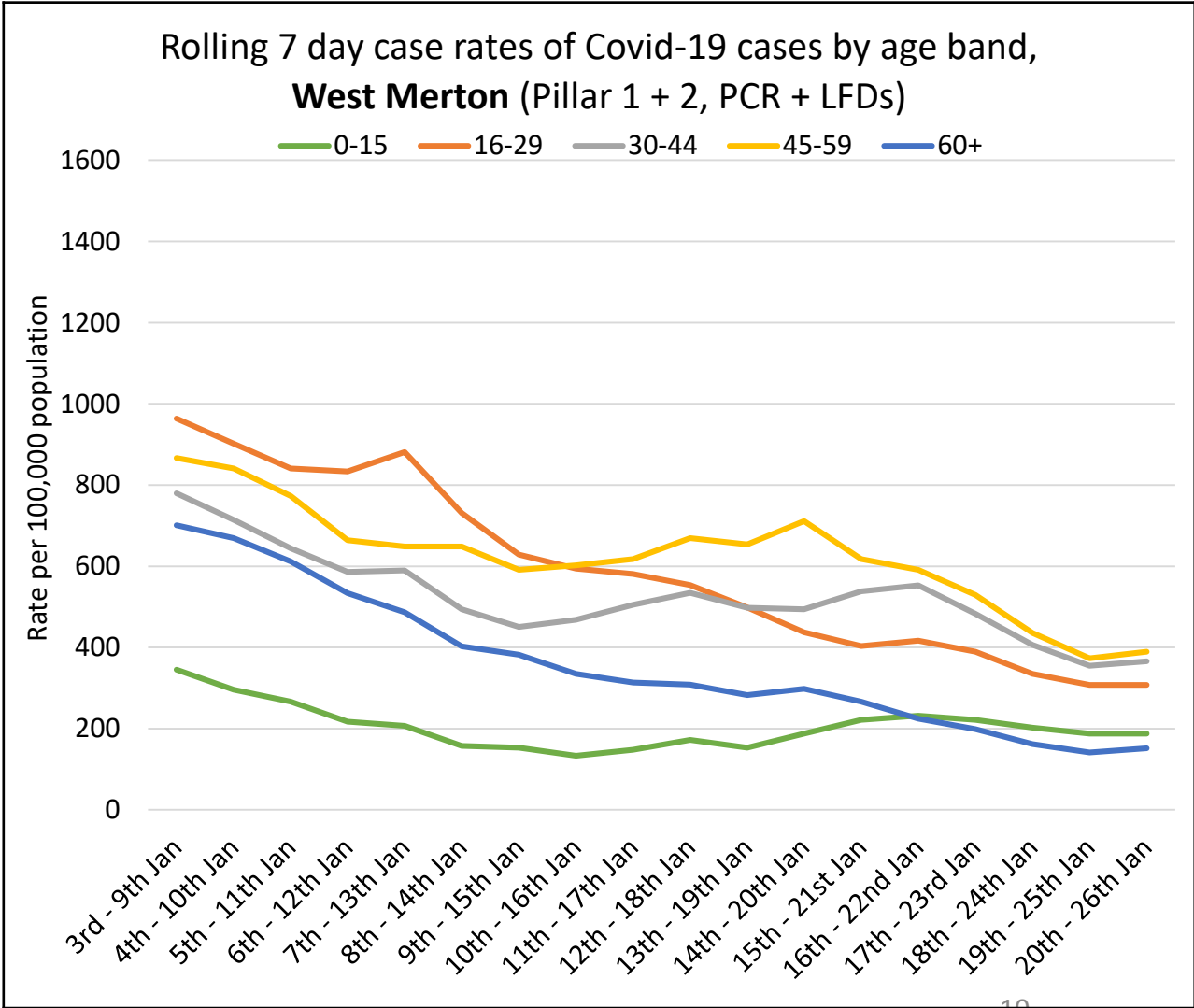
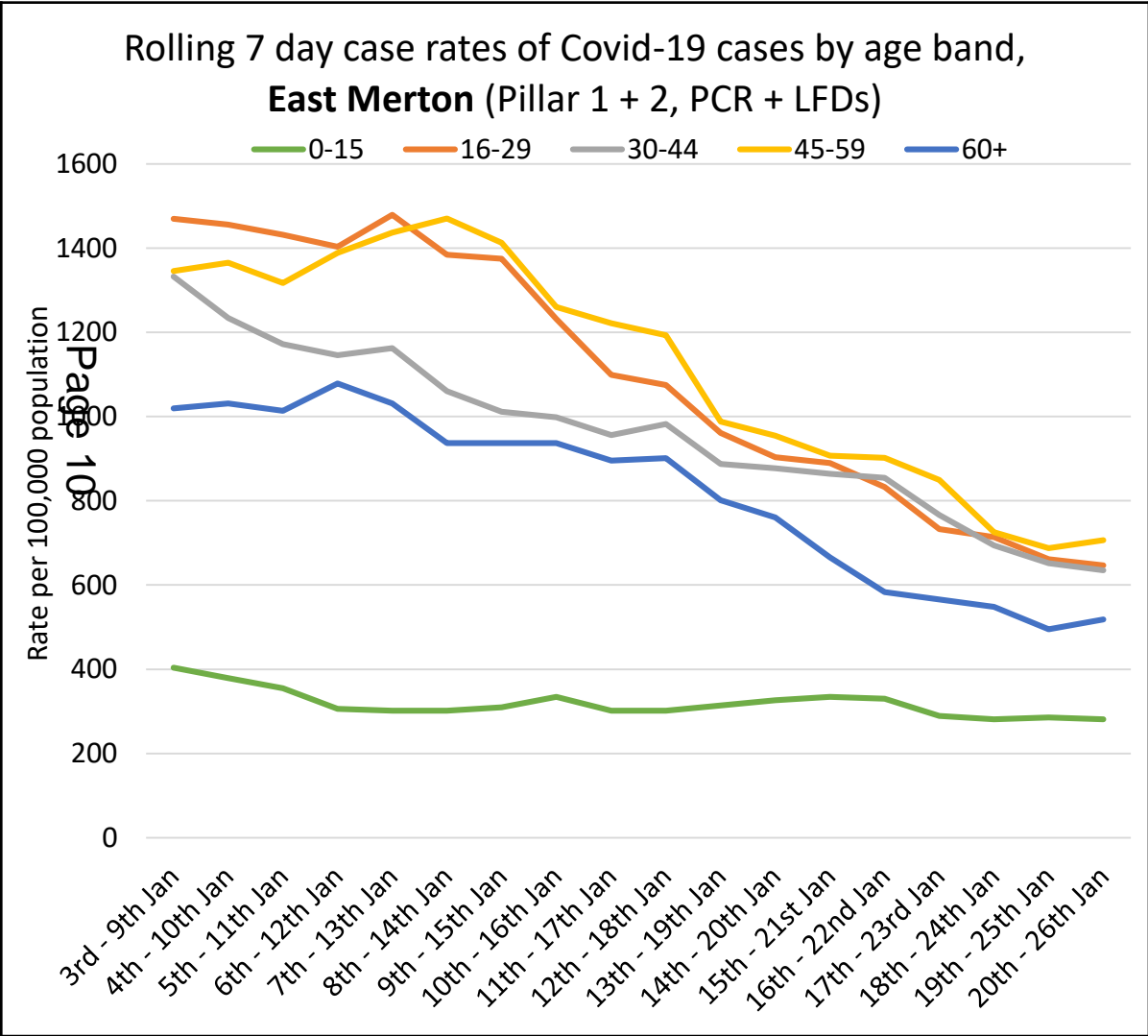
Cumulative number of COVID related deaths registered in Merton (04.01.2020 – 22.01.2021)		376
Place of death	Number COVID deaths over last week (16.01.21 - 22.01.21)	Number COVID deaths cumulative (04.01.20 – 22.01.21)
Hospital	33	288
Care home	1	44
Home	7	35
Hospice	2	8
Elsewhere	0	1



COVID-19 cases rates in Merton by age group 7-day rolling total case rates per 100,000 and breakdown of cases by geography

4th February 2021

Source: PHE/PHEC Daily Report



Source: PHE/Covid-19 Epidemiology in London

Enquiries ben.bezuidenhout@merton.gov.uk

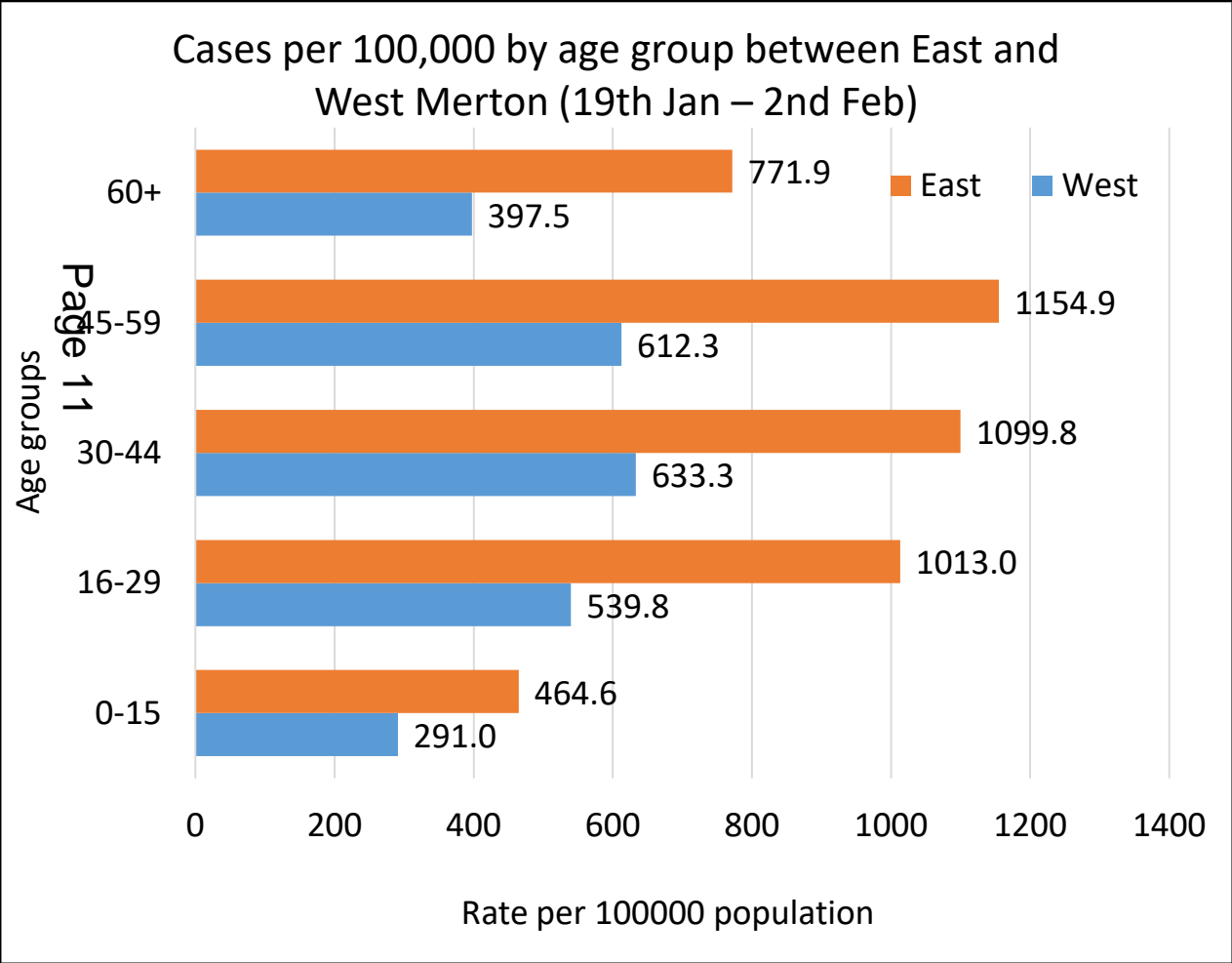
Rate of COVID-19 cases in East and West Merton by LSOA and by age group

4th February 2021

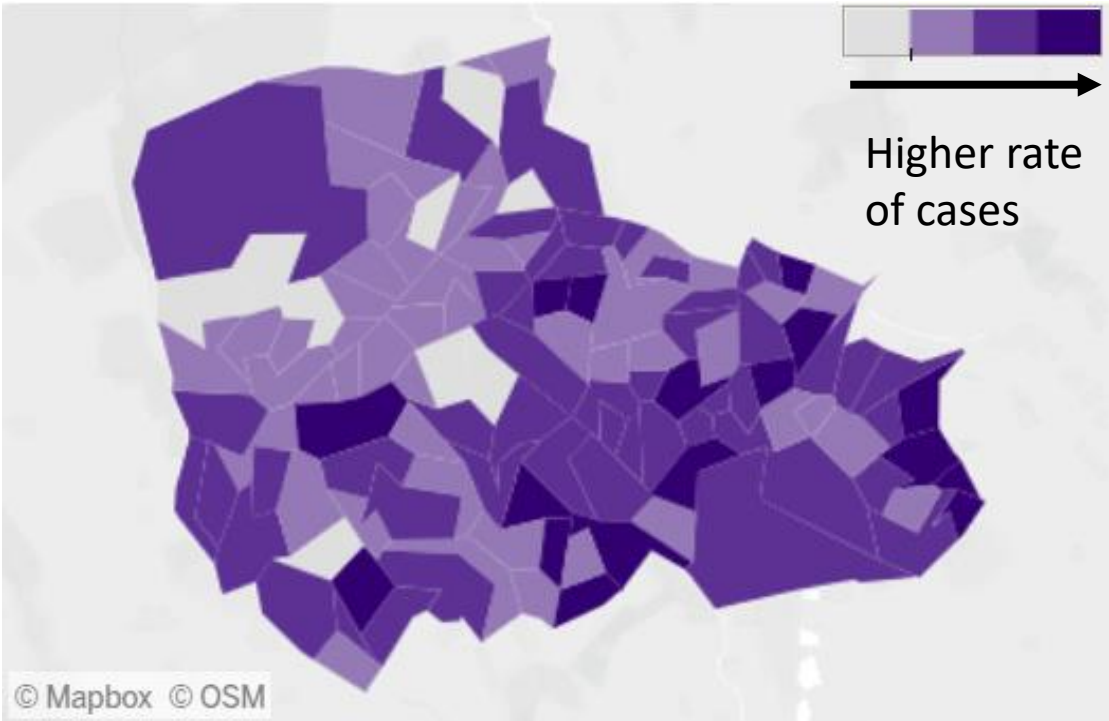
Source: LCRC/LSAT Daily

Key Messages:

- East Merton has higher rate of cases across all age groups than West Merton.
- The difference in the rate of cases between East and West is highest in the 45-59 age group and lowest in the 0-15 age group.



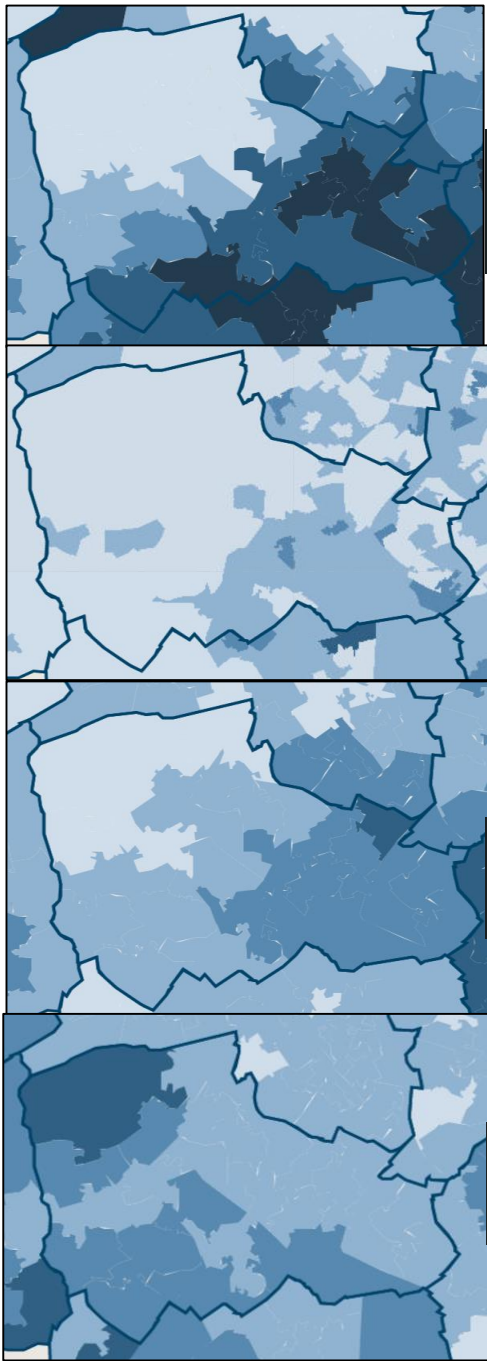
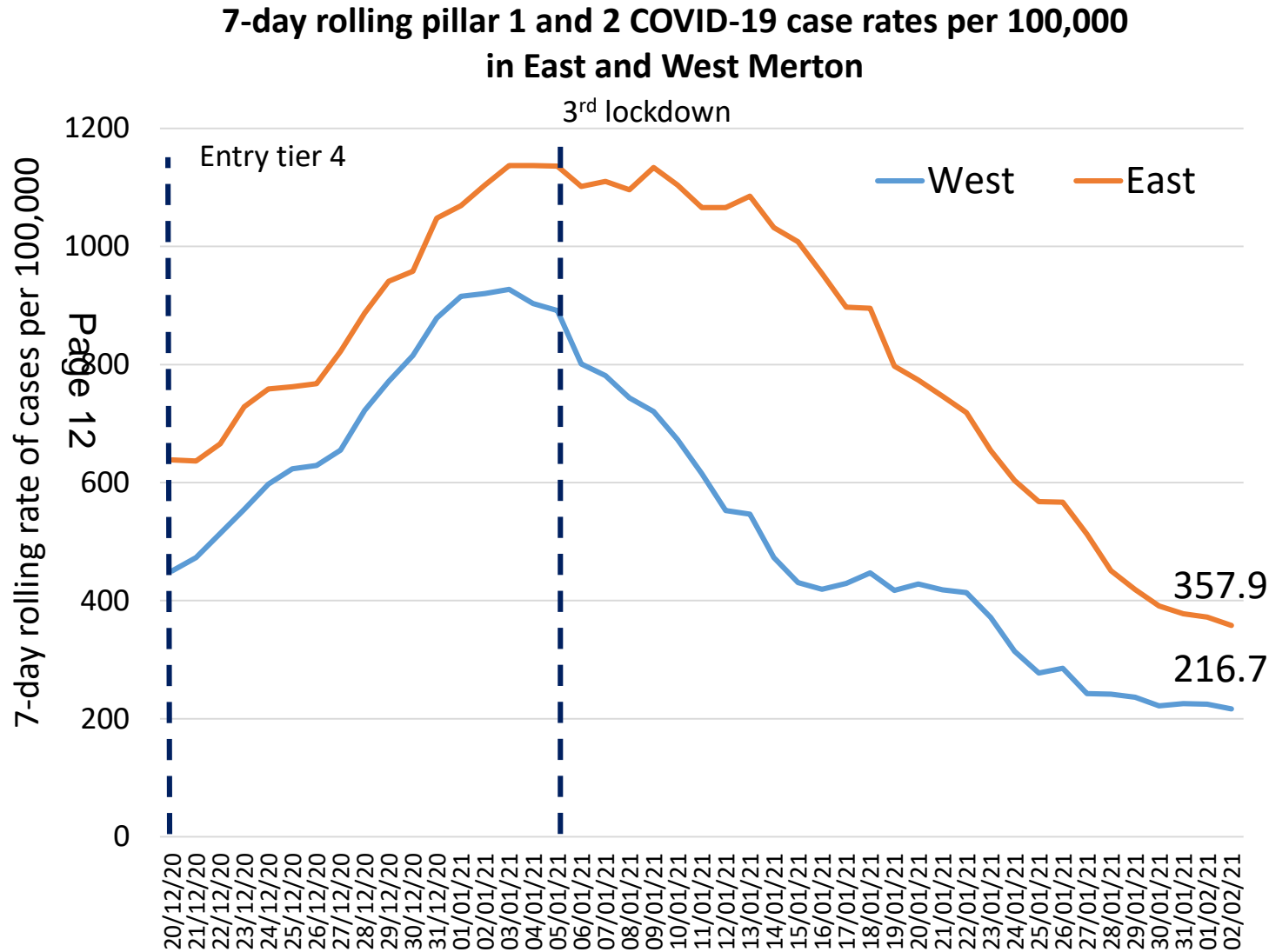
7-day rate of Pillar 2 PCR positive tests in Merton by LSOA (per 100k population) (26th Jan – 1st Feb)



Source: NHS digital containment dashboard

COVID-19 cases in East and West Merton

Source: LSAT daily line list
Reporting frequency: Daily



Percent in occupations at high risk of COVID-19

Legend:

9.2-21.1%	21.2-25.1%	25.2-27.6%	27.7-30%	30.1-46.9%
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Source: 2011 census

Indices of multiple deprivation (IMD)

Areas Most Deprived:

5%	5-10%	10-20%	20-50%	50%_Least
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Source: MHCLG 2019

Percent black, Asian, and minority ethnic (BAME)

Legend:

<20%	20-40%	40-60%	60-80%	>80%
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Source: 2011 census

Percent aged over 70

Legend:

<5%	5-10%	10-15%	15-20%	>20%
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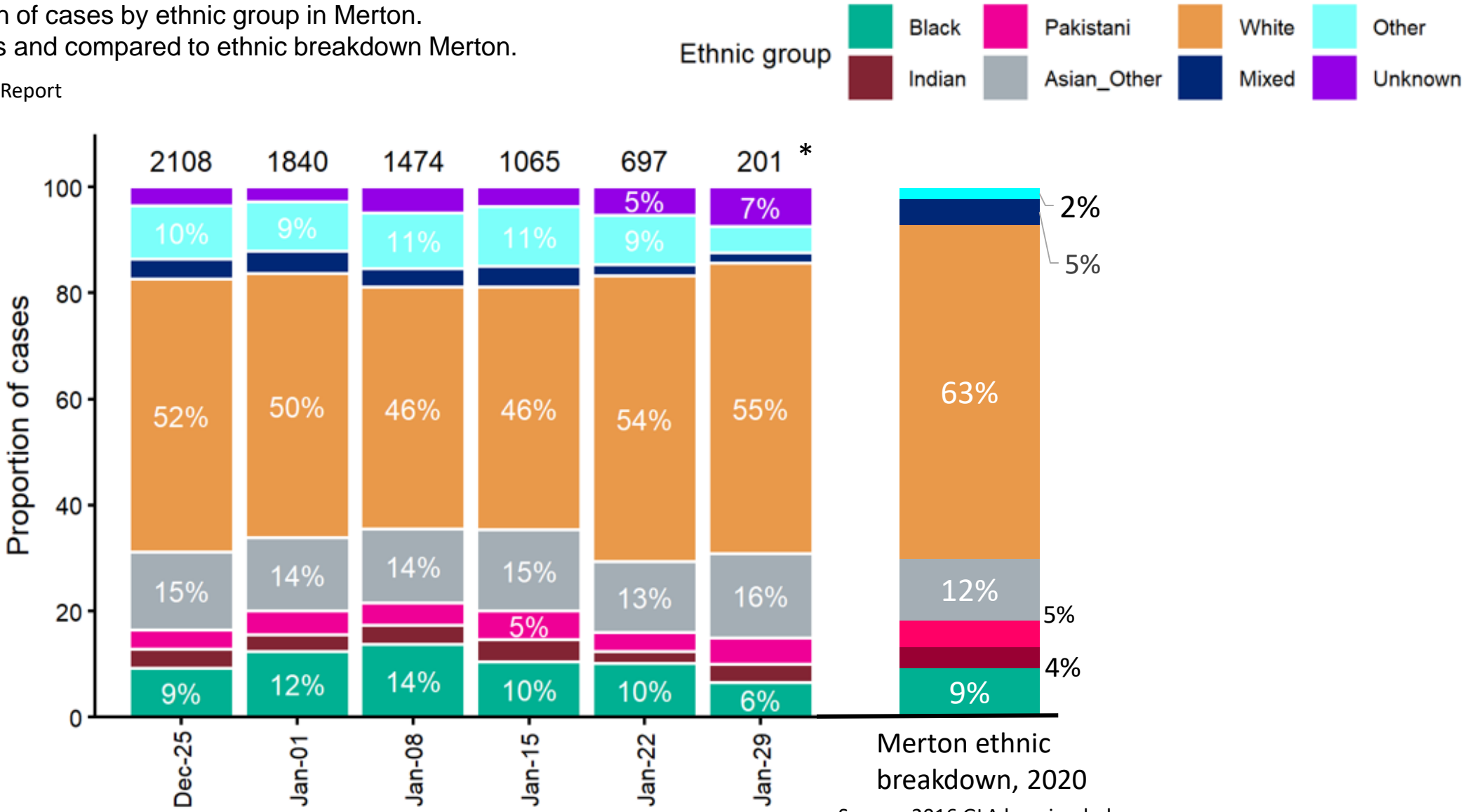
Source: ONS 2018

COVID-19 positive cases in Merton by ethnicity

4th February 2021

Weekly distribution of cases by ethnic group in Merton.
Data over 6 weeks and compared to ethnic breakdown Merton.

Source: PHE Merton LA Report



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*Data for week ending 29th January is preliminary

Source: 2016 GLA housing-led population projections

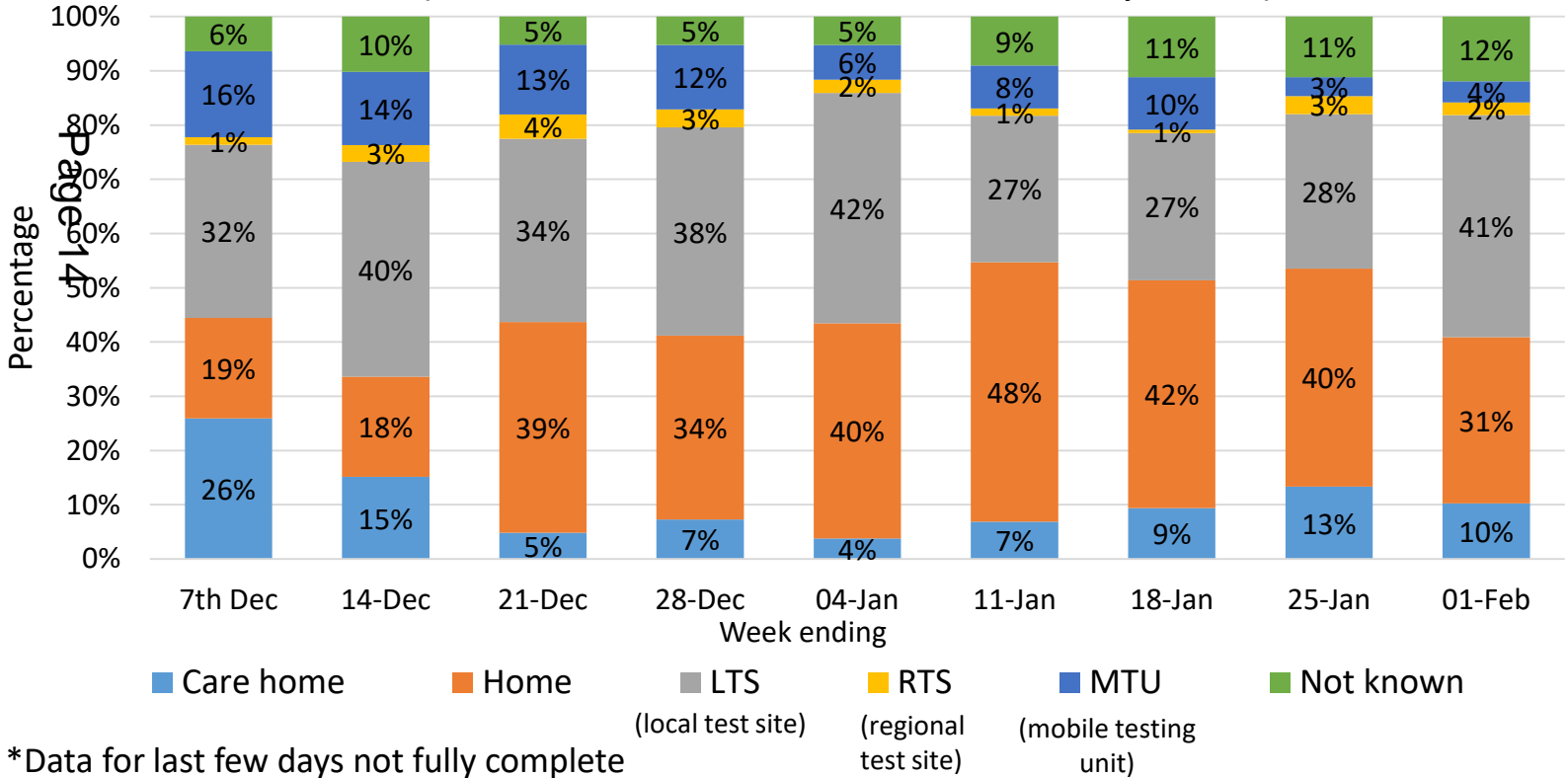
Covid-19 PCR Tests from Pillar 2 by Merton Residents overview

4th February 2021

Key Messages:

- Local testing sites (LTS) ranged from 27% to 42% of Merton resident (1st Dec 2020 – 1st Feb 2021).
- MTU's account for 3-16% of Merton resident tests and 9.5% over the 9 week time period.

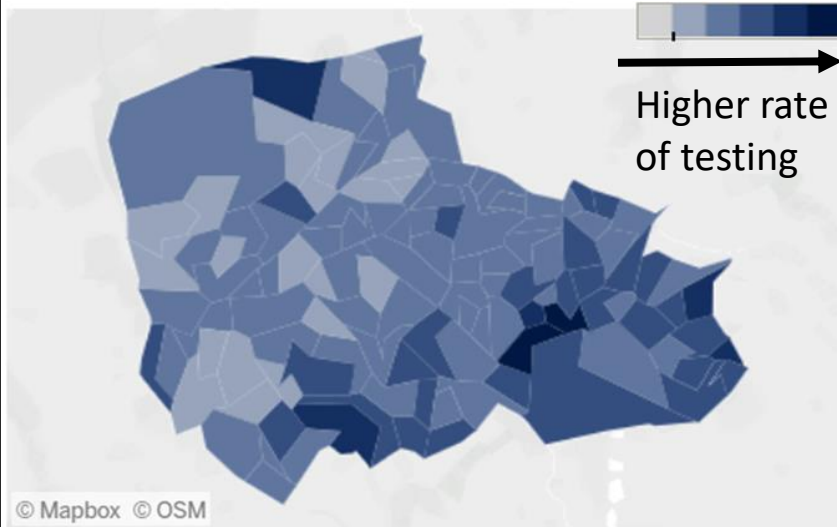
PCR tests among Merton residents by test setting
(1st December 2020 – 1st February 2021)



*Data for last few days not fully complete
Note: Only includes pillar 2 and PCR tests and is for tests and not persons, so multiple tests will likely exist

Source: PHE Power BI tool

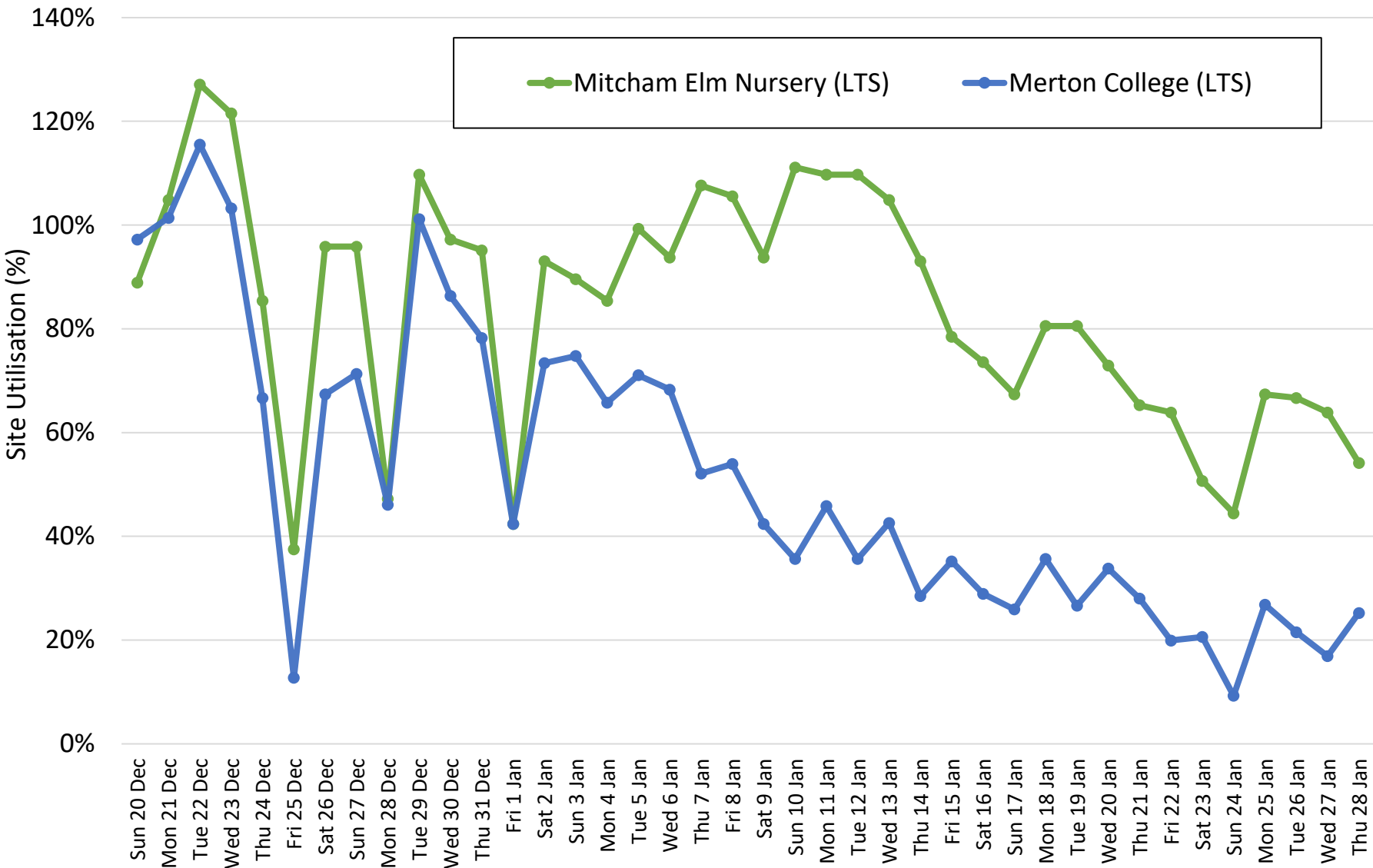
7-day rate of total Pillar 2 PCR tests in Merton by LSOA (per 100k population)
(26th Jan – 1st Feb)



Source: NHS digital containment dashboard

Key Messages:

- Local site capacity:
Mitcham Elm: 144;
Merton College: 432;
(Source: RSP Merton).
- Utility at Merton College LTS declined since early January. Merton College LTS declined from mid January. Both are well within capacity.
- Average for January:
 - Mitcham Elm (81%)
 - Merton College (39%)

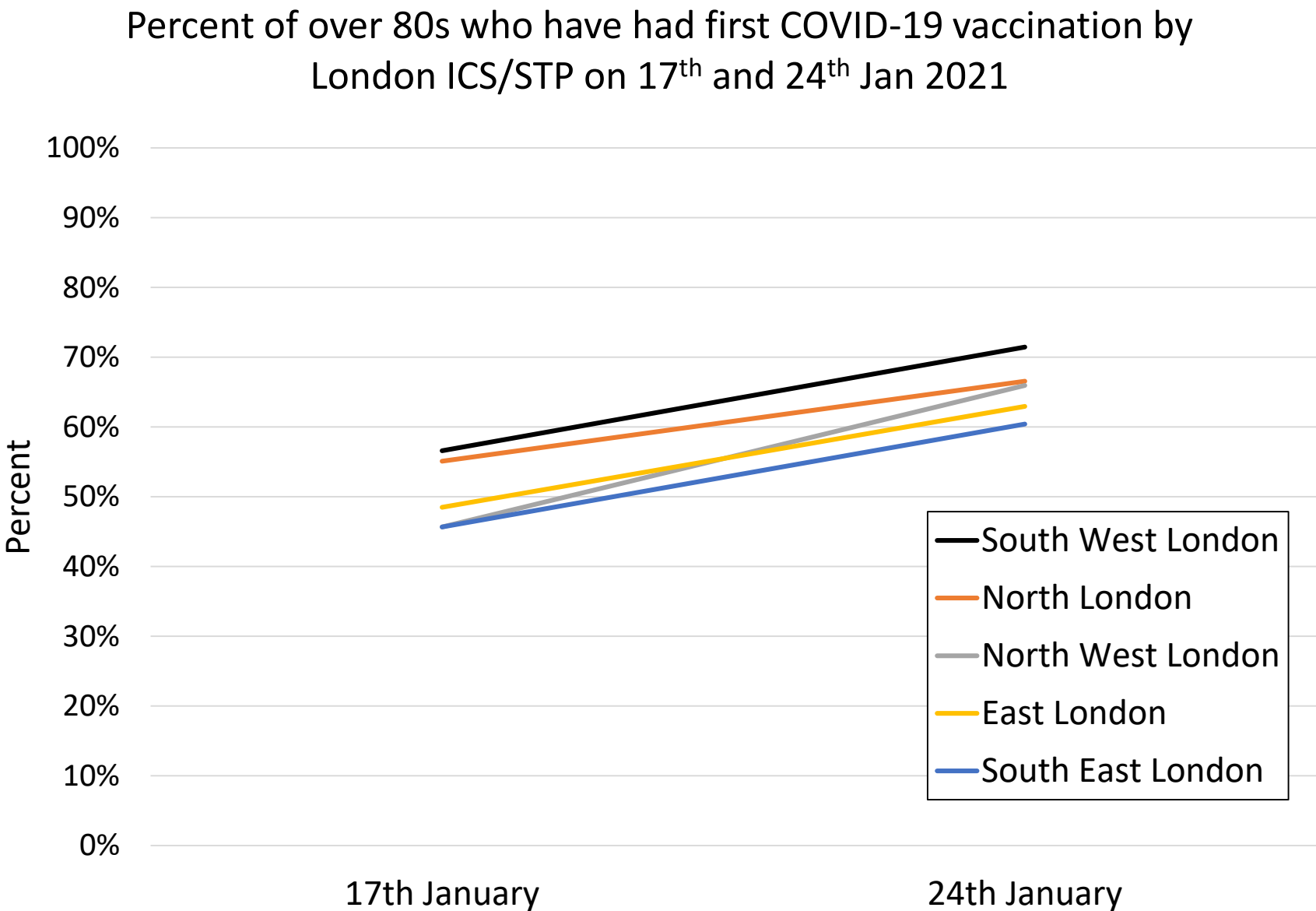


COVID-19 vaccinations in London among 80s+ by ICS/STP

4th February 2021

Key Messages:

- As of 24th January, 71% of over 80s in South West London have received their first COVID-19 vaccination dose.
- This is an increase from 57% the previous week.
- SWL has highest percent of over 80s who have had their first COVID-19 vaccination among all London ICS/STPs.
- This is the data we currently have available, Merton specific figures to be shared soon.



Overview & Scrutiny Meeting: Enhanced COVID-19 testing in Pollards Hill

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Dr Dagmar Zeuner
Director of Public Health, Merton Council

February 2021

Enhanced Testing Programme Summary

What is the “South African Variant”?

- Viruses mutate over time leading to emergence of new “variants”
- A variant of the Covid-19 virus emerged in South Africa in late 2019
- This variant doesn’t cause more serious illness but does infect more easily and vaccines may be less effective against it

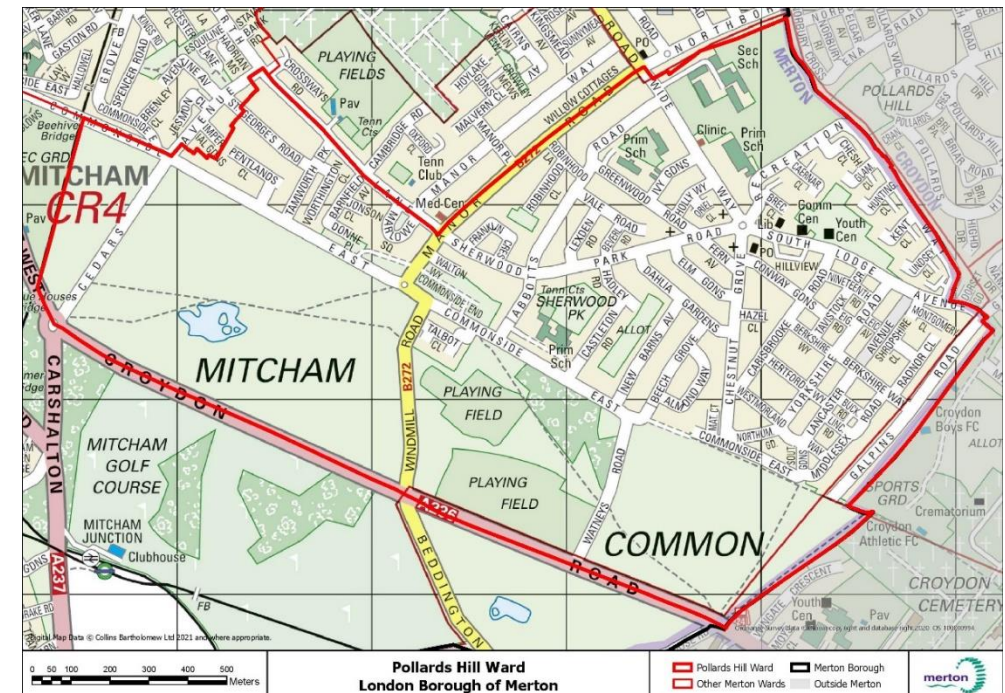
What is the enhanced testing programme?

- Routine analysis of 5% of Covid-19 positive samples found over 100 people with this variant in the UK
- A few of these individuals had no links to South Africa, suggesting transmission of this variant is occurring within communities in the UK
- One such individual was identified in the Pollards Hill area of CR4 in early January 2021
- In response to this, a **two-week enhanced Covid-19 PCR testing programme** is taking place in Pollards Hill, aiming to:
 - **Track** this variant and **understand** whether it is in the community and if so where
 - **Identify** cases and **control** the spread of this variant by asking positive cases and contacts to self-isolate

Who needs to get tested?

Anyone who:

- **Lives or works** in Pollards Hill
- Visits Pollards Hill for **essential activities** such as shopping or to visit a support bubble
- Those on the **border** and not sure or worried will also be tested



Options for testing in Pollards Hill

1. Mobile testing unit at Pollards Hill Library

Address: Pollards Hill Library Car Park, S Lodge Ave, Mitcham CR4 1LT

Opening times: 8am–3pm daily

Book a test [on our website](#) OR call 020 8274 5332



2. New Horizon Centre Testing Site

Address: New Horizon Centre, Mitcham, CR4 1LT

Opening times: 8.30am to 6pm daily

Pick-up and drop-off a home test kit – no booking required



3. Door-to-door Home Testing

- Merton Council volunteers will be visiting every residential address in Pollards Hill
- They will be wearing **hi-vis jackets** with the **Merton Council logo** and **carrying ID**
- Volunteers will hand out home testing kits and will give residents advice on how to do the test
- Completed tests should be dropped off at New Horizon Centre
- Residents who are immobile and cannot seek help to return it, can call 020 8274 5332 between 10am to 5pm to arrange collection.



Progress & Key Messages

Progress (as at 8th February)

Mobile Testing Unit:

- Started on Wednesday 3rd February
- 1,302 tests completed

Home test kits:

- Started on Thursday 4th February
- Door to door - 3,404 kits given out
- New Horizon Centre – 1,848 kits given out
- Total kits given out – 5,252
- Total kits received back – 2392 (43%)

Genomic test results expected in 10-14 days

Key messages for residents:

- If you live, work or visit Pollards Hill for essential activities, you should get a test – **if in doubt, get a test!**
- If you have a test kit already, don't forget to take the test and return it to New Horizons Centre. Residents who are immobile and cannot seek help to return it, can call 020 8274 5332 between 10am to 5pm to arrange collection.
- If you test positive, you and your close contacts, including household members must **isolate for 10 days**
- **National lockdown restrictions** continue to apply – please stay at home as much as possible
- You can still leave home for **essential purposes**, such as shopping for necessities, education and childcare for key workers and vulnerable children and medical appointments **including vaccination**
- Continue to protect yourself and others – remember “**Hands, Face, Space**”
- A range of support is available for people self-isolating in Merton – <https://www.merton.gov.uk/coronavirus/residents>