

# Healthier Communities and Older People Overview and Scrutiny Panel – 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021

## Situational Awareness Report: COVID-19 in Merton

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11<sup>th</sup> January 2021

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# Overview

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## London overview

- Estimated cases rate positivity in London is **2,540 per 100,000** (ONS)
- The current estimated London R value is between **1.1 and 1.4**

## Cases (31<sup>st</sup> December – 6<sup>th</sup> January):

- 7 day case rate (all ages) **1,020.5 cases per 100,000** (up from 860.6 previous week).
- 7 day case rate (among 60+) **816.7 cases per 100,000** (up from 483.3 previous week).
- There were **2,177** new COVID cases in Merton.
- New COVID variant: estimated to be responsible for 63% of cases in London between 29<sup>th</sup> November and 22<sup>nd</sup> December.

## Deaths:

- There **13** new registered Merton COVID death (in hospital) for the week ending 25<sup>th</sup> December. In total Merton has seen 250 deaths due to COVID.

## Testing (29<sup>th</sup> December – 4<sup>th</sup> January / pillar 2 PCR tests only – this excludes Lateral Flow tests):

- 7 day testing rate **587.4 daily tests per 100,000**.
- 7 day test positivity increased to **22.2%**.

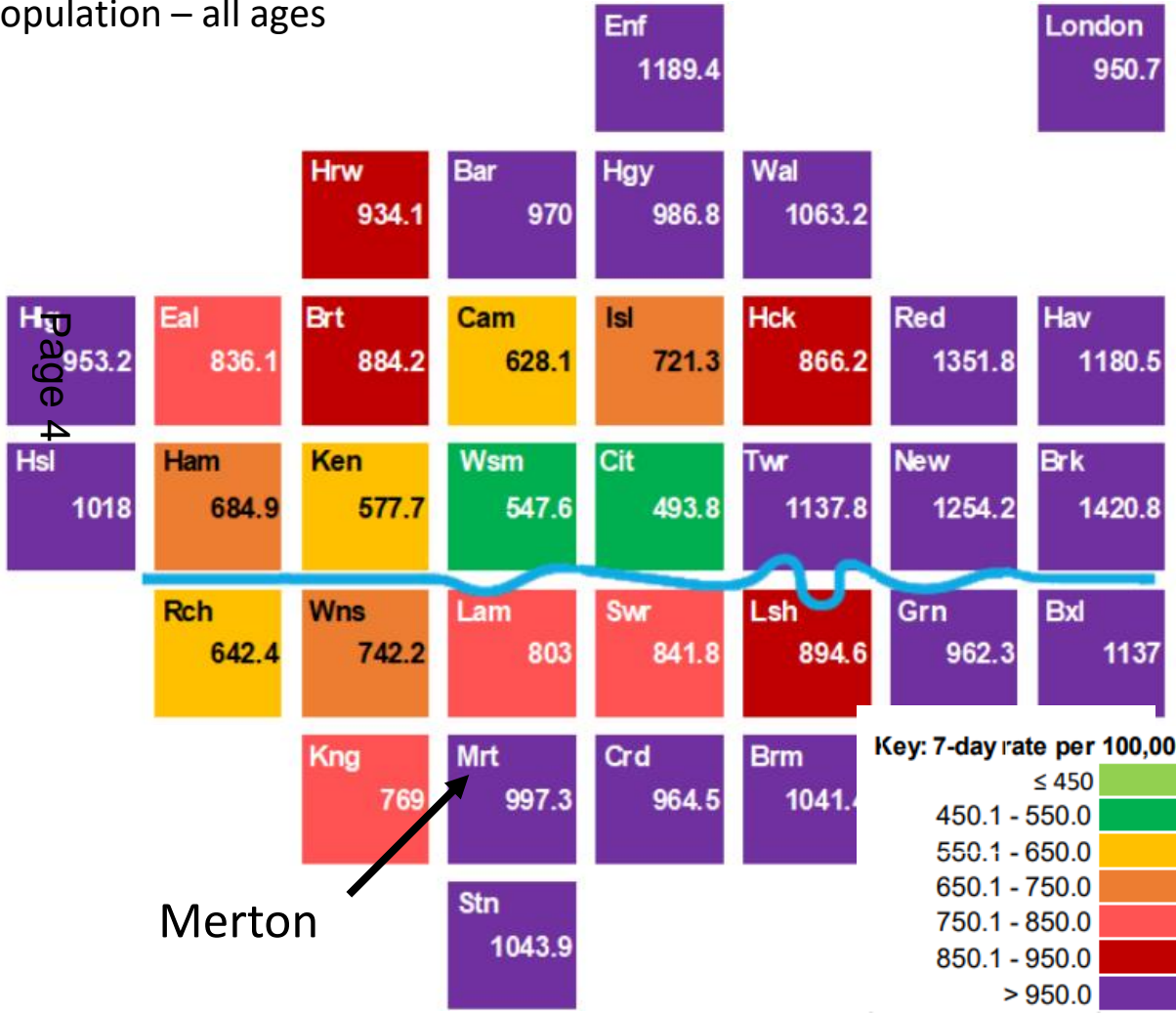
# Positive cases per 100,000 across London boroughs

11th January 2021

For reporting period 24.12.2020 – 30.12.2020

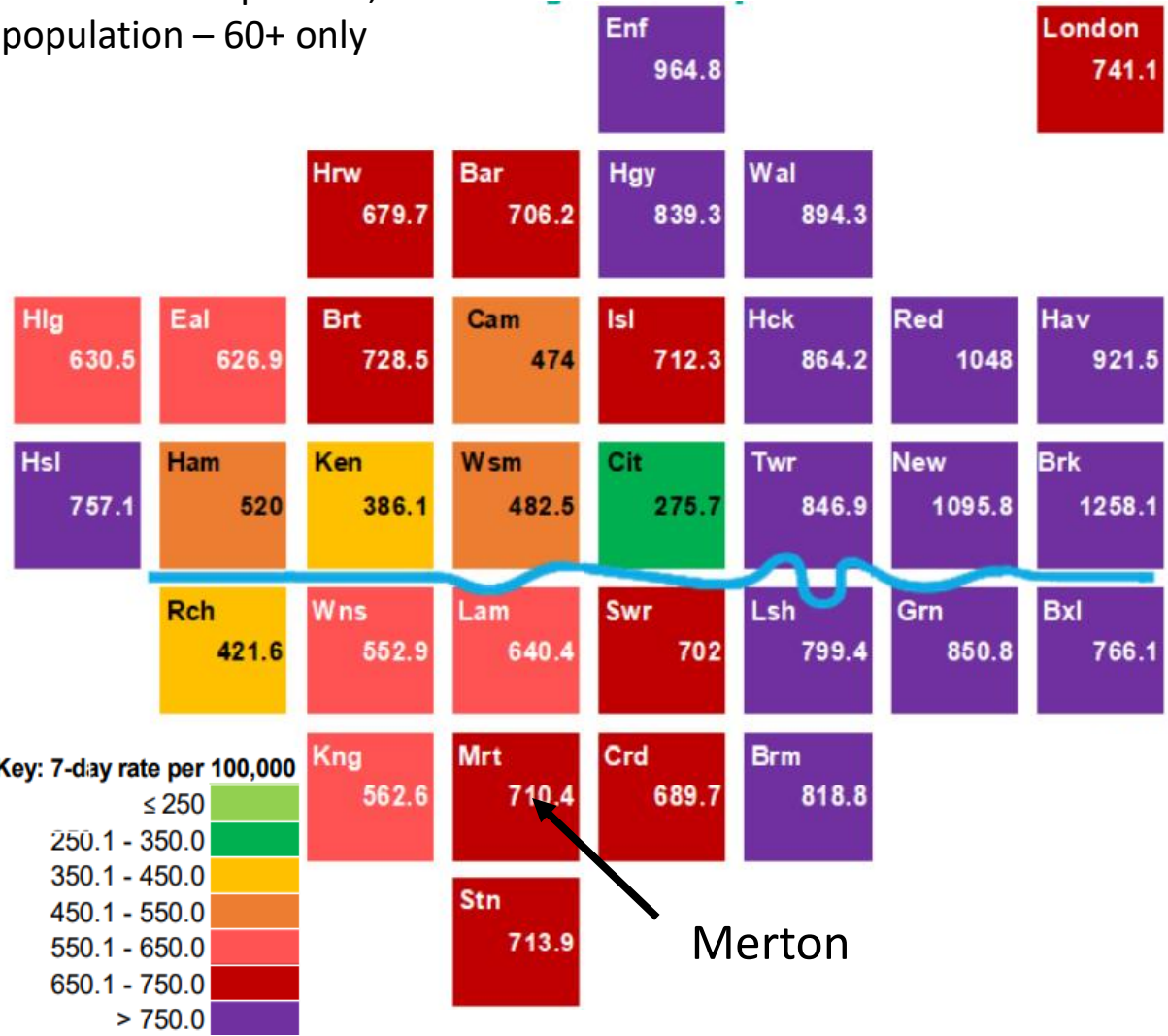
Colour of box illustrates weekly cases per 100,000 for that week

Positive cases per 100,000 population – all ages



Merton

Positive cases per 100,000 population – 60+ only



Merton

# Positive cases per 100,000 across London boroughs – change since last week

11th January 2021

For reporting period 24.12.2020 – 30.12.2020

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

Change in positive cases per 100,000 population – all ages



Change in positive cases per 100,000 population – 60+ only

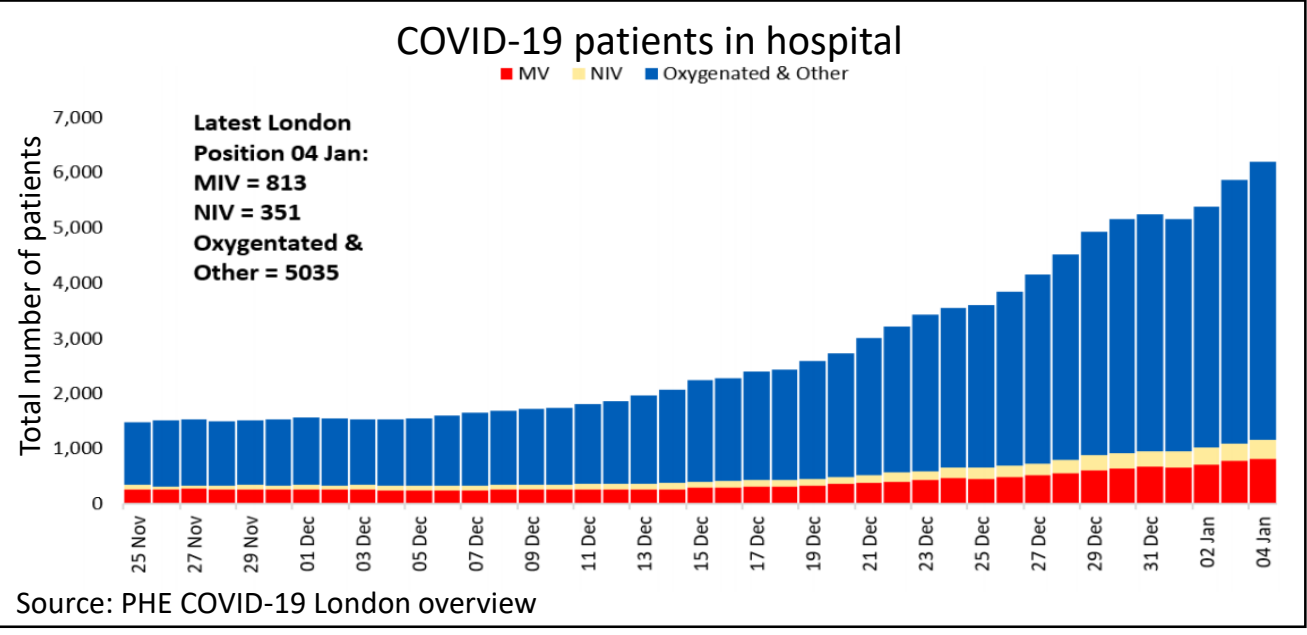
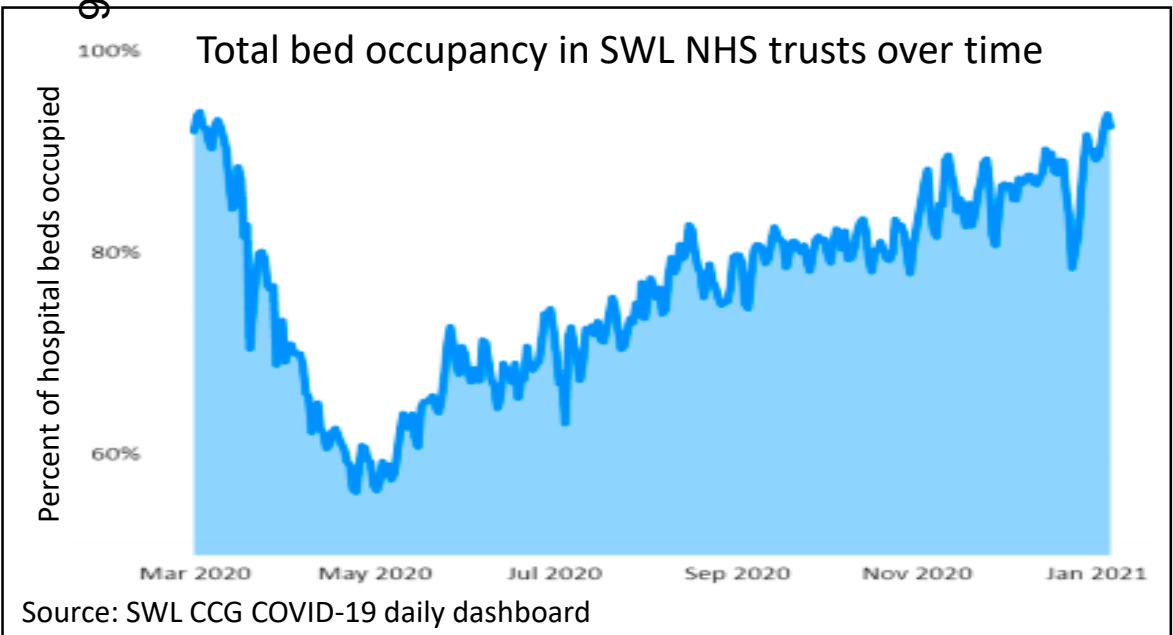
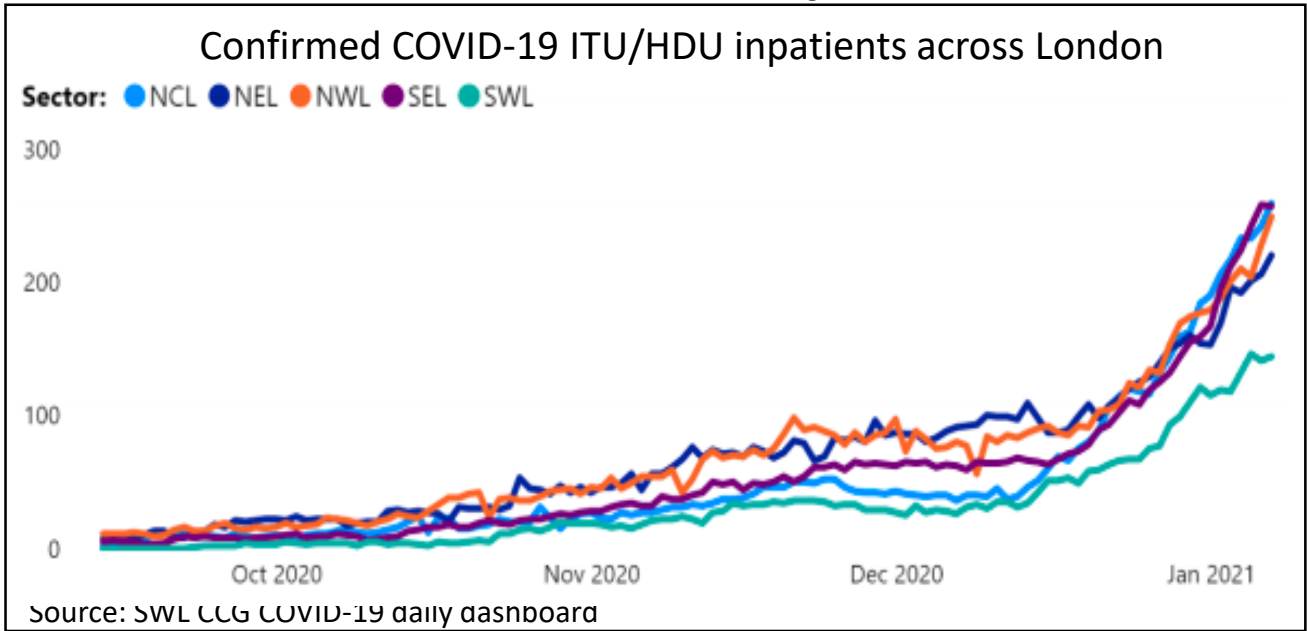
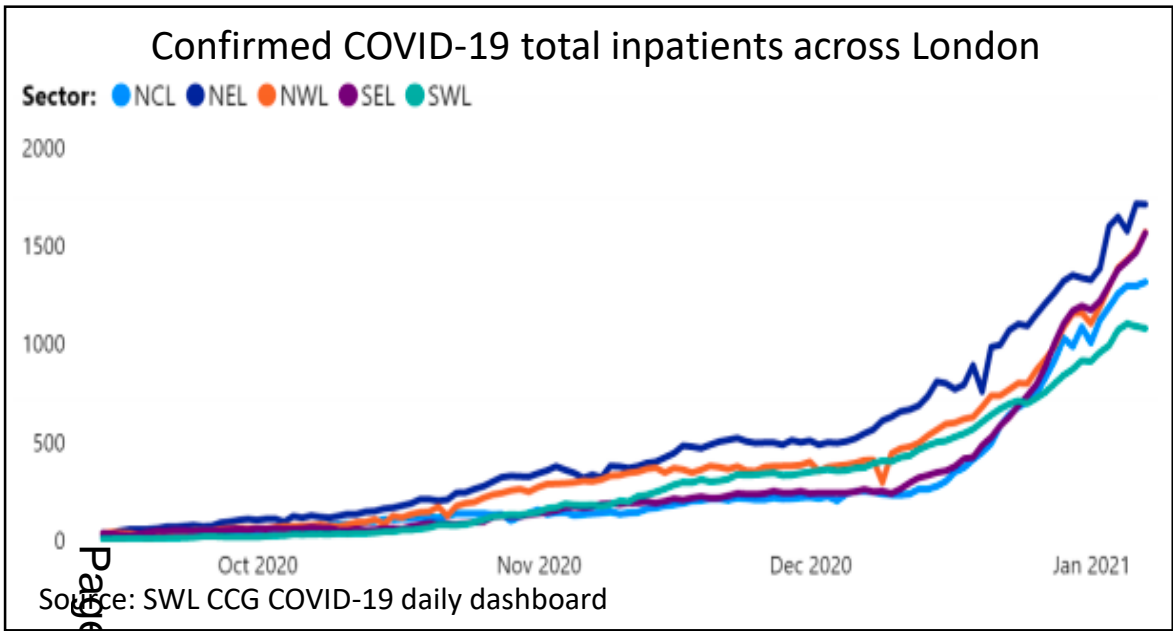


Key: 7-day change in weekly case rate

- > 100.0% increase
- 50.1 - 100.0% increase
- 0.1 - 50.0% increase
- No change
- 0.1 - 50.0% decrease
- 50.1 - 100.0% decrease

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

11<sup>th</sup> January 2021



# Local analysis: COVID-19 testing in Merton

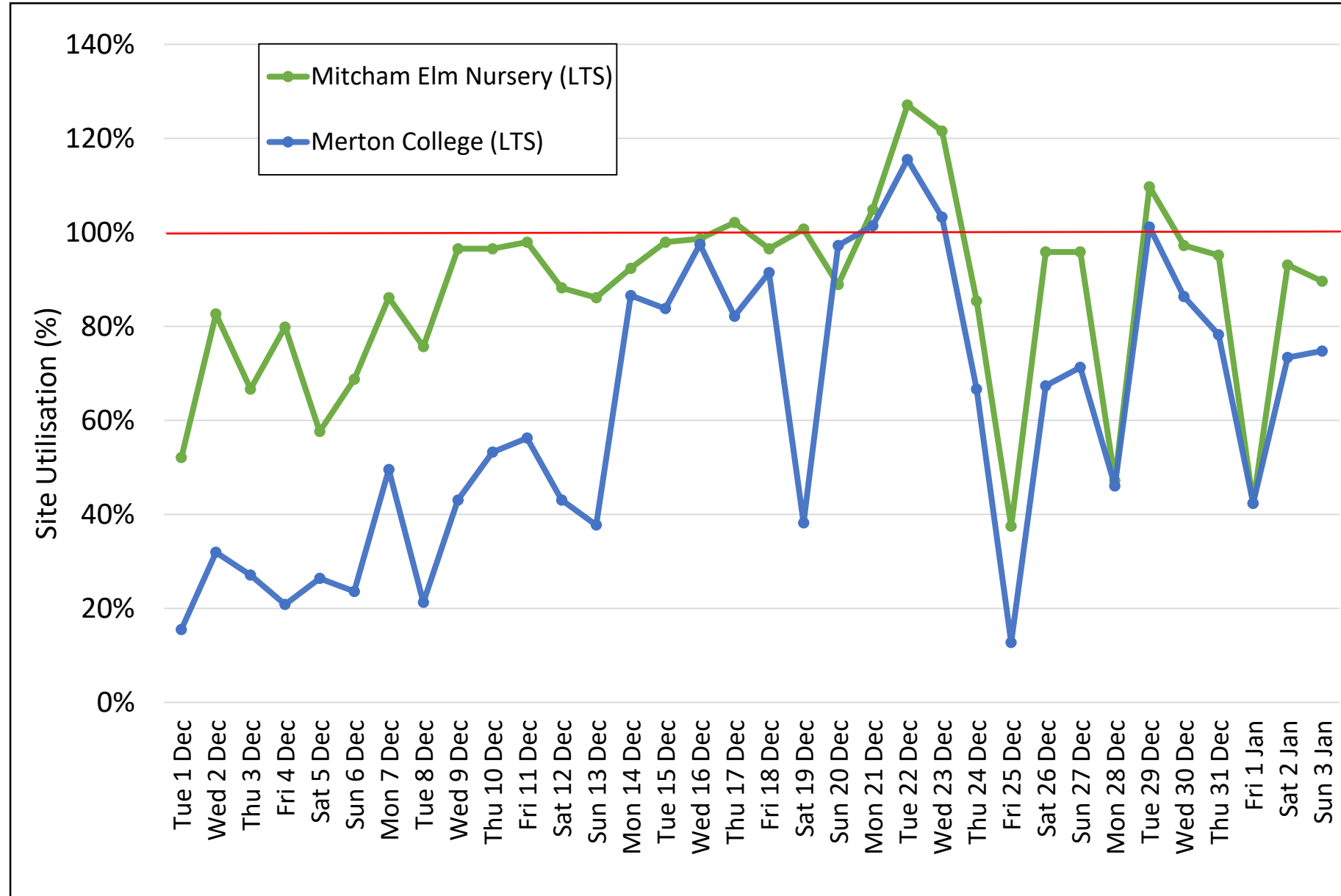
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# Testing sites in Merton – COVID-19 test centre utilisation (1<sup>st</sup> Dec 2020 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan 2021)

11<sup>th</sup> January 2021

## Key Messages:

- Local site capacity as:  
Mitcham Elm: 144; Merton College: 432; (Source: RSP Merton).
- Both sites exceeded their capacity on Tue 29 Dec:
  - Mitcham Elm (110%)
  - Merton College (101%)
- Since then, both sites operating within capacity (last five-day average):
  - Mitcham Elm (83%)
  - Merton College (71%)





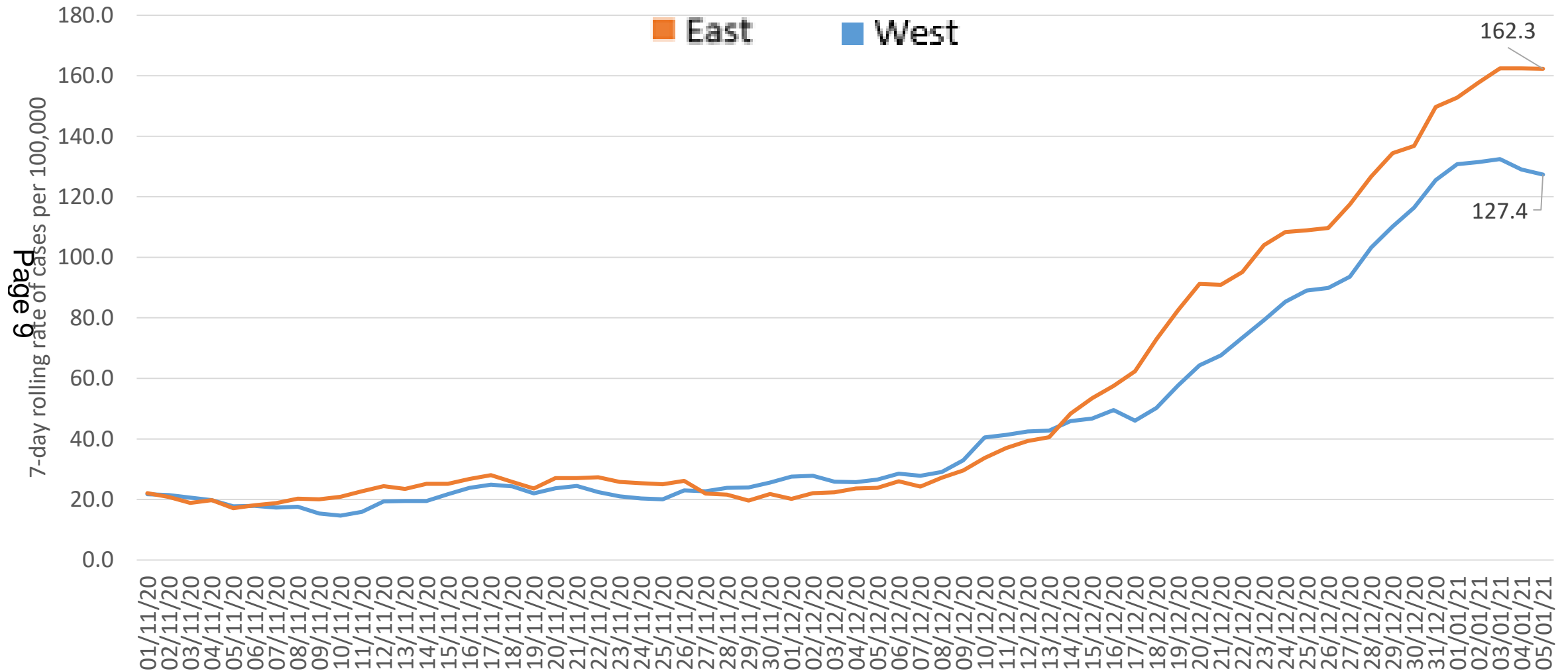
# COVID-19 case rates in East and West Merton

11<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Source: LSAT daily line list

Reporting frequency: Daily

### 7-day rolling total number of cases in East and West Merton



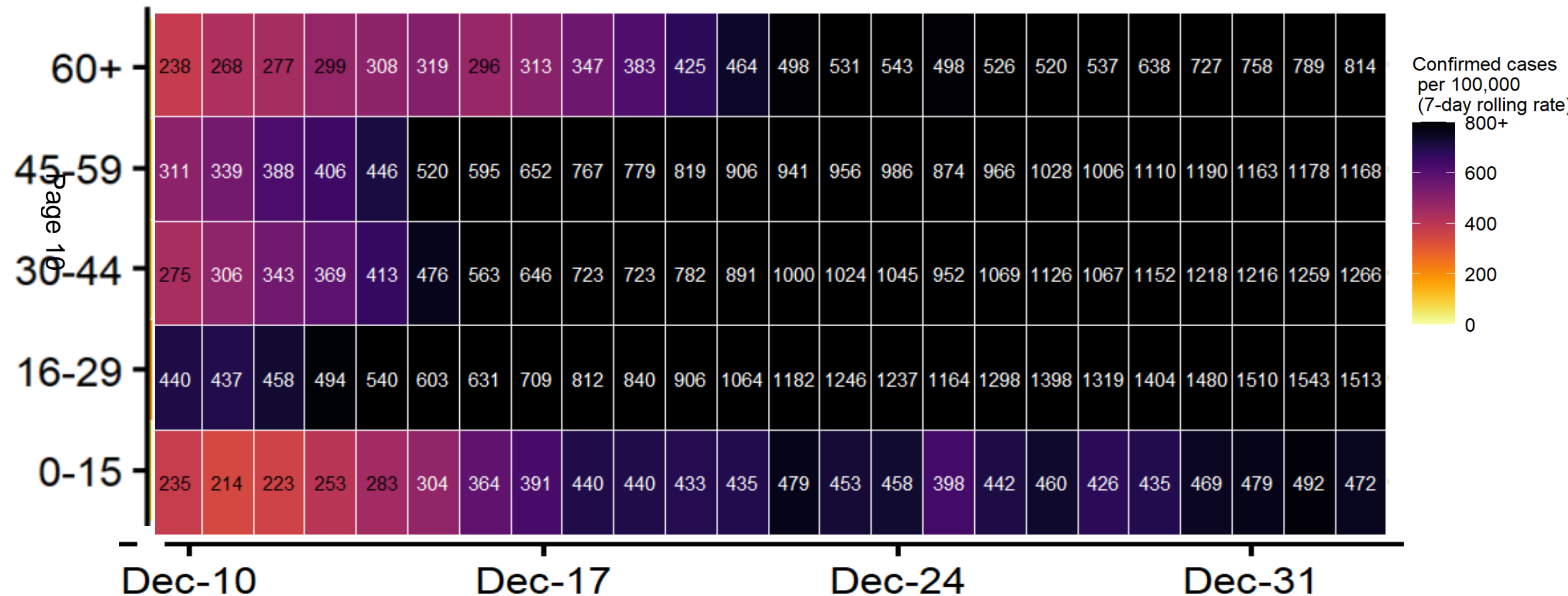
# COVID-19 cases rates in Merton by age group heat map over time

11<sup>th</sup> January 2021

## 7-day rolling total case rates per 100,000

Source: PHE/PHEC Daily Report

Reporting frequency: Daily

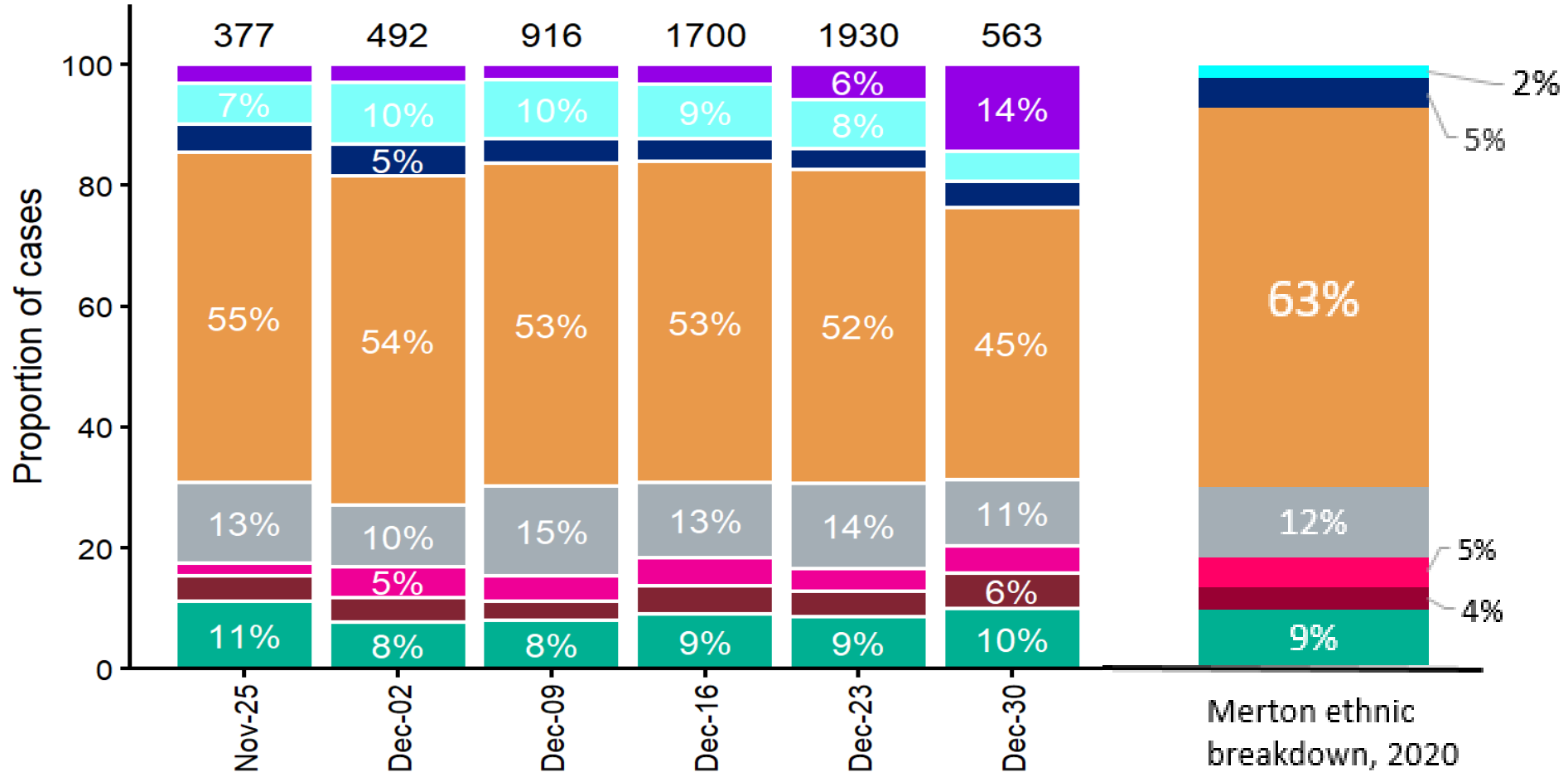


Source: PHE/Merton LA report

# COVID-19 total positive cases in Merton by ethnicity

11<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Weekly distribution of cases by ethnic group in Merton compared to 2020 overall Merton ethnic breakdown.



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# Local COVID-19 outbreaks in Merton

## Key messages

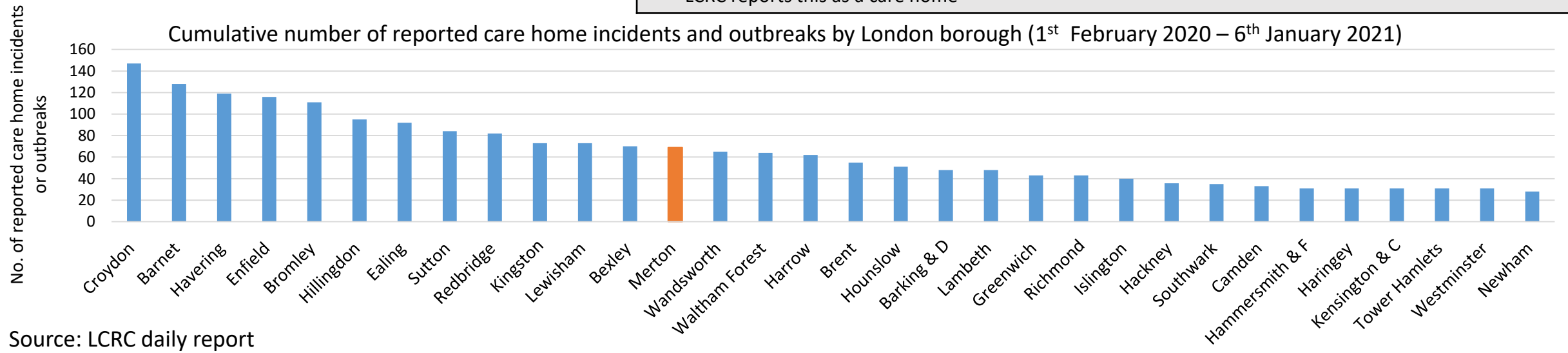
- Outbreaks reported via **LCRC**:
  - 6 new reported this week in Merton – all in care homes
- Outbreaks reported **locally**:
  - Among current care home outbreaks:
    - 72 asymptomatic** cases (32 staff, 40 residents)
    - 37 symptomatic** cases (23 staff, 14 residents)
  - Number of outbreaks in schools down due to Christmas break.
  - Please note that this only refers to new outbreaks, does not include ongoing outbreaks.

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Source: LCRC	New exposures or possible outbreaks via LCRC*		New confirmed outbreaks locally*	
	Current (31 <sup>st</sup> Dec – 6 <sup>th</sup> Jan)	Previous (24 <sup>th</sup> – 30 <sup>th</sup> Dec)	Current (31 <sup>st</sup> Dec - 6 <sup>th</sup> Jan)	Previous (24 <sup>th</sup> - 30 <sup>th</sup> Dec)
Schools and nurseries	0	1	4	9
Care homes	6	3	1	4
Care settings**	0	0	2	4
Workplace (LBM and non-LBM)	0	0	0	1
Homeless accom.	0	0	0	1
Other	0	0	0	0

\*Outbreak defined by two or more confirmed cases *or* one case in a care home or care setting.  
 \*\* Supported living, sheltered living, extra care, and domiciliary care  
 \*\*\* LCRC reports this as a care home

Cumulative number of reported care home incidents and outbreaks by London borough (1<sup>st</sup> February 2020 – 6<sup>th</sup> January 2021)



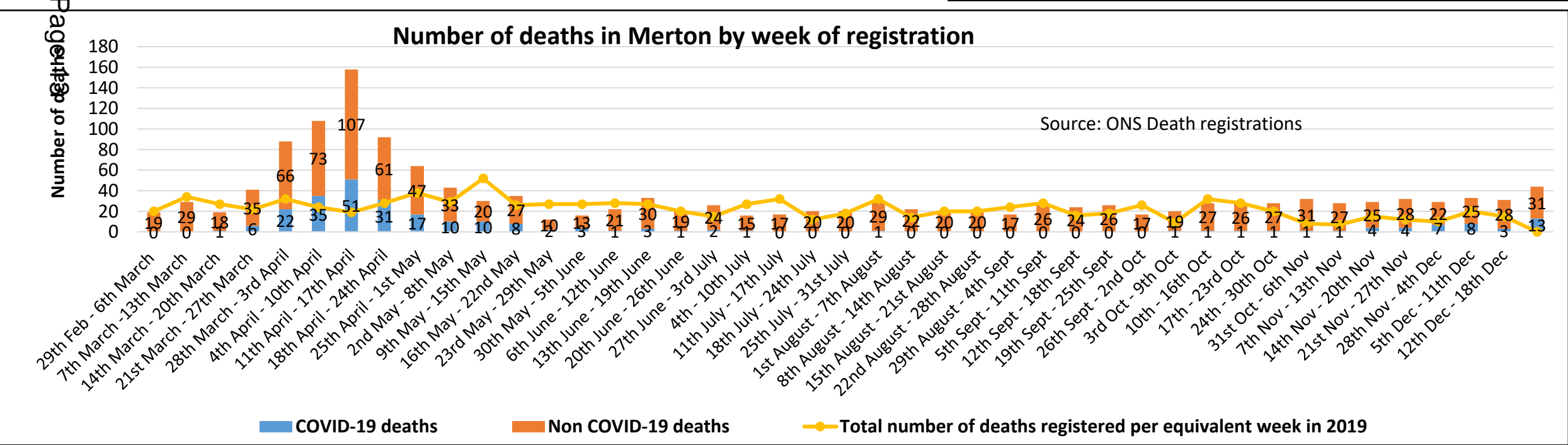
Source: LCRC daily report

# COVID-19 deaths registered among Merton residents

- ### Key messages
- 13 registered deaths in Merton week ending 25<sup>th</sup> December due to COVID-19 – all in a hospital.
  - Merton has seen 250 cumulative registered COVID-19 deaths as of 25<sup>th</sup> December 2020.
  - 36 of these 250 deaths (14%) have been in care homes. 187 (75%) have been in hospitals. Please note that hospital deaths may include care home residents.

### COVID-19 deaths in Merton – place of death

Place of death	Current week (19 <sup>th</sup> Dec – 25 <sup>th</sup> Dec)	Cumulative total
Care home	4	36
Hospital	8	187
Home	0	22
Hospice	1	4
Elsewhere	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>250</b>



# Asymptomatic Covid testing model in Merton

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# Principles and overview

## Purpose

- **Test-to-find** – identify asymptomatic positive cases and ensure self-isolation to prevent onwards transmission (30-40% of Covid asymptomatic)
- **Test-to-enable** – confirm negative individuals in order to come out of self-isolation or enable activities that are otherwise restricted; requires daily testing for 7d (serial testing); approval outstanding (apart from secondary schools)

## Tests

- **Polymerase chain reaction (PCR)** - highly accurate but requires laboratory, 24-72 hour result turn-around, currently used nationally for asymptomatic testing in certain settings e.g. care homes
- **Lateral flow test (LFT)** - lower accuracy point-of-care test, results in 20-30 minutes; used for most asymptomatic testing; home testing approved in principle by MHRA; not yet for current model

# Merton model for asymptomatic testing

## Focus

- Mainly targeted at front-line staff (regular testing 1-2x wk)
- Opportunity for resident testing (one-off)

## Service offer from LBM

- 1 Support for national testing service** – ie secondary schools, care homes
- 2 Local community pharmacists**
- 3 Devolved LFT staff testing** to LBM teams and partner organisations
- 4 Morden Assembly Hall – site-based LFT use;** dual purpose for targeted staff testing & resident testing



# Community Pharmacy LFT service

- Targeting VCS staff, volunteers and carers (formal and informal)
- Currently 10 Pharmacies participating and looking to increase coverage
- Two approaches
  - Standard (default option) - individual leaves after swabbing and receives result from NHS T&T
  - Enhanced option – individual waits for result and receives intervention on how to keep safe e.g. Hands, Face, Space and how to prevent severe COVID e.g. stop smoking.
- Potential for 'test to enable' in the future e.g. contacts of + case either isolate for 10 days or take daily LFT for 7 days
- Book via <https://www.merton.gov.uk/coronavirus/lateral-flow-test>

# Devolved LFT staff testing

- Targeting LBM front-line teams (ie ASC) and partner organisations
  - Police, Fire service
  - Primary schools – until national programme starts;
  - Early Years
  - Others
- Teams/organisations manage regular staff testing programme
- LA provides oversight, SOP, training
- DHSC provides tests & supplies

# Morden Assembly Hall

- Site based testing with LFTs
- Dual purpose
  - Targeted at LBM staff not covered otherwise (directly employed/commissioned services)
  - Resident testing (one-off; currently 6 wk programme)
- Launched 4th January; staffed by volunteers across LBM
- Key site for Merton residents to be able to access an LFT
- Building up to c 800 slots per day
- Book via <https://www.merton.gov.uk/coronavirus/lateral-flow-test>

# Current national restrictions

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# Lockdown 3 Restrictions (from 5th January 2021)

## **Stay at home – *and only leave to:***

- Shop for food and/or medicine
- Provide care or help to a vulnerable person
- Provide voluntary or charitable services not possible from home
- Exercise – with your household or bubble or just one person from another household – once a day and in your local area.
- Seek medical care or avoid risk of harm including domestic abuse.
- Meet a support or childcare bubble.
- Attend education or childcare if eligible.

## **Outdoor socialising and Exercise**

- Socialising outside is allowed only with your household or bubble. Stay 2 metres from those not in your household.
- Sporting venues are closed. Playgrounds remain open.

## **Retail hospitality and Tradespeople**

- Non-essential retail, hospitality & personal care services are closed. Tradespeople can visit people's homes.
- Takeaways and restaurants can offer click-and-collect but not sell alcohol.

# Lockdown 3 Restrictions cont.

## Public Events

- Elite sporting events continue with restrictions. Grassroots sport is on hold.
- Communal worship continues with social distancing.

## Older and vulnerable people

- Close-contact indoor visits in care homes are not allowed. Visits involving screens, pods and through windows can go ahead.
- Those clinically vulnerable should not attend work.

## Education & Childcare

- Schools, colleges and universities will be asked to close, remaining open only to vulnerable children and the children of key workers.
- Nurseries will be able to stay open.
- A-levels and GCSEs will not go ahead 'as originally envisaged'. Higher education will remain online until mid-February.
- Support and childcare bubbles will remain as they are.
- Children of divorced or separated parents can still move between both parents homes.

# London Major Incident

- Called by Mayor on 8/1/2021, on behalf of SCG
- Follows infections rates of  $>1000/100,000$  per 7d and severe/increasing NHS pressure
- Defined as beyond the scope of business as usual, likely to involve serious harm...
- Vital for Londoners to understand gravity and adhere to lockdown restrictions
- Further details to follow.

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