

Children and Young Person's Scrutiny Panel – 13th January 2021

Situational Awareness Report: COVID-19 in Merton

Dr Dagmar Zeuner, Director of Public Health

Merton Public Health Intelligence

13th January 2021

Produced by Ben Bezuidenhout (ben.Bezuidenhout@merton.gov.uk)

Quality Assured by Gary Forbes (gary.forbes@merton.gov.uk)



Summary key messages

13th January 2021

London overview

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

Merton Cases (3rd Jan – 9th Jan):

- 7 day case rate **942.4 cases per 100,000**.
- **2,004** new COVID cases in Merton, of which **224** cases were in those aged 18 or younger.
- New COVID variant estimated responsible for 63% of cases in London 29th Nov – 22nd Dec.

Merton Deaths:

- **18** new registered Merton COVID deaths for the week ending 1st January.
- Merton has seen COVID-related 268 deaths since the start of the pandemic.

Merton Testing (3rd Jan – 9th Jan / pillar 2 PCR tests only –excluding Lateral Flow tests):

- 7 day testing rate **508.7 daily tests per 100,000**.
- 7 day test positivity increased to **22.0%**.

Positive cases per 100,000 across London boroughs

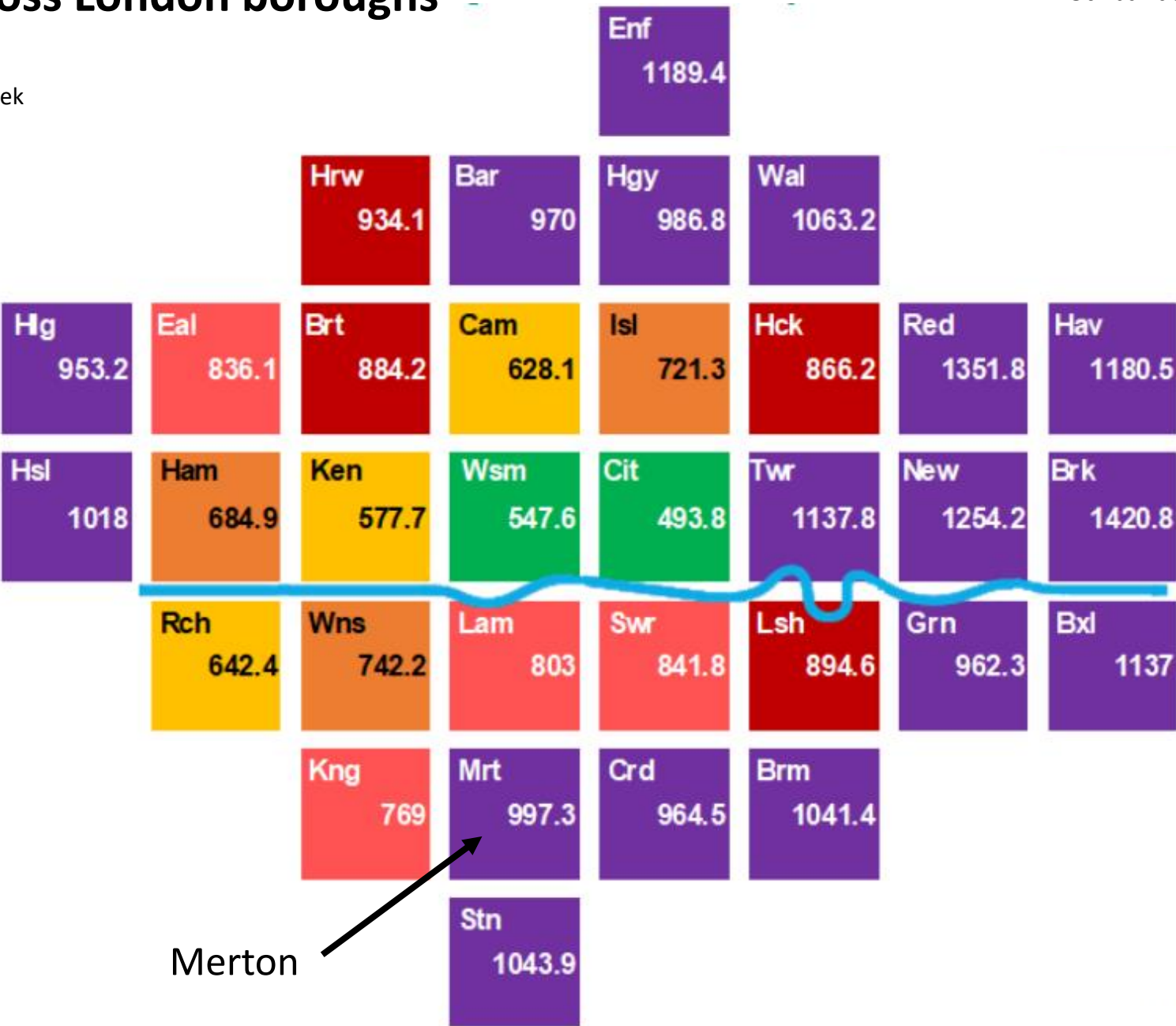
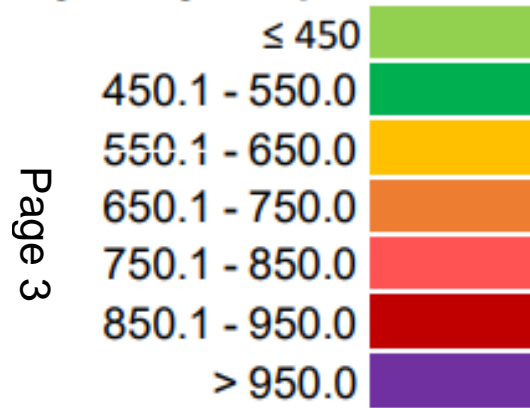
13th January 2021

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

Key: 7-day rate per 100,000

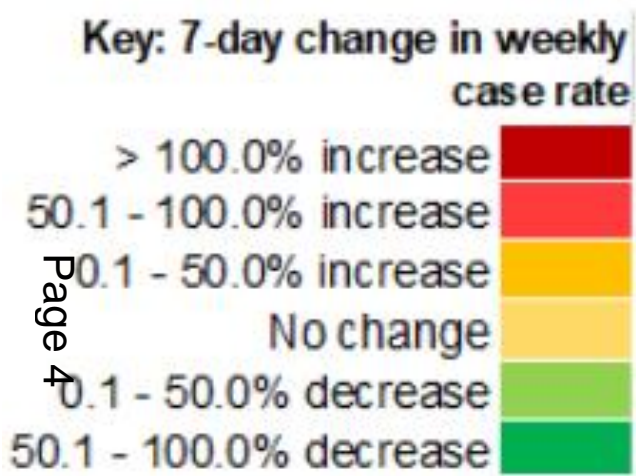


Positive cases per 100,000 across London boroughs – change since previous week 13th January 2021

For reporting period 24.12.2020 – 30.12.2020

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

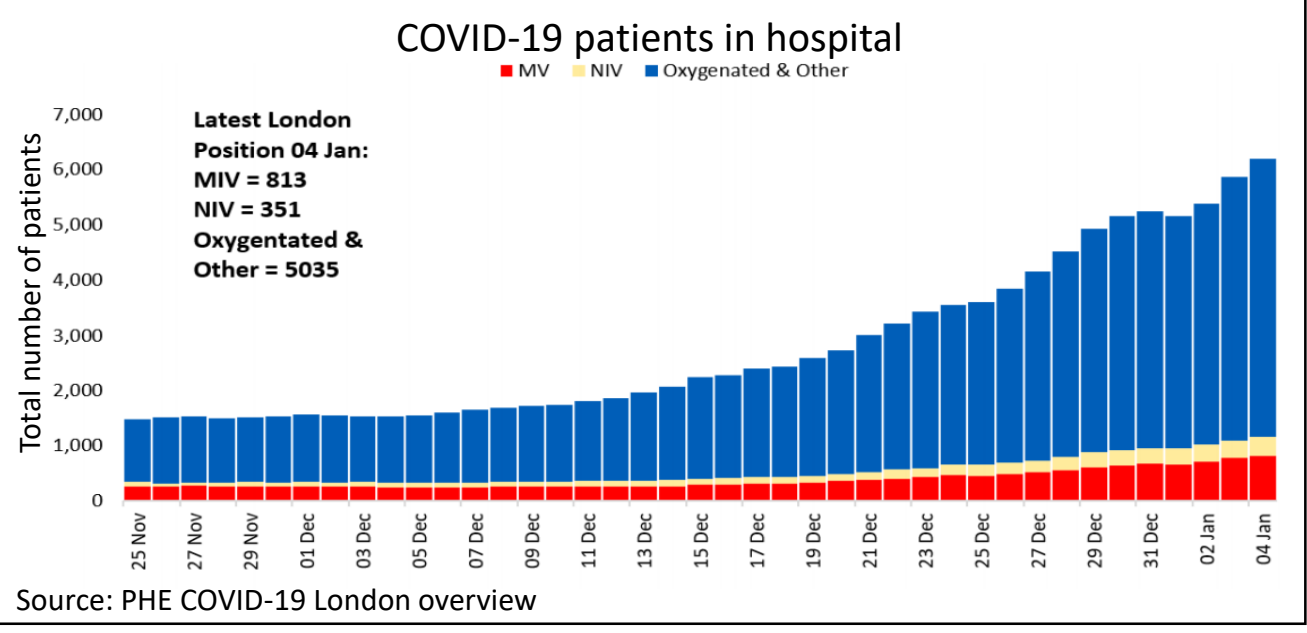
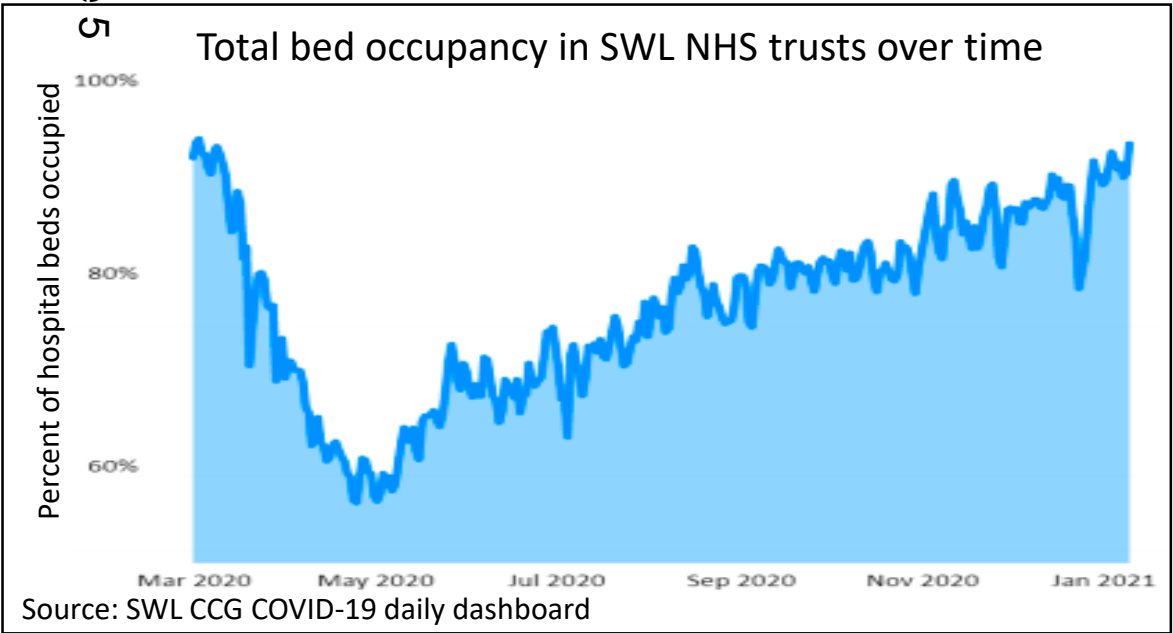
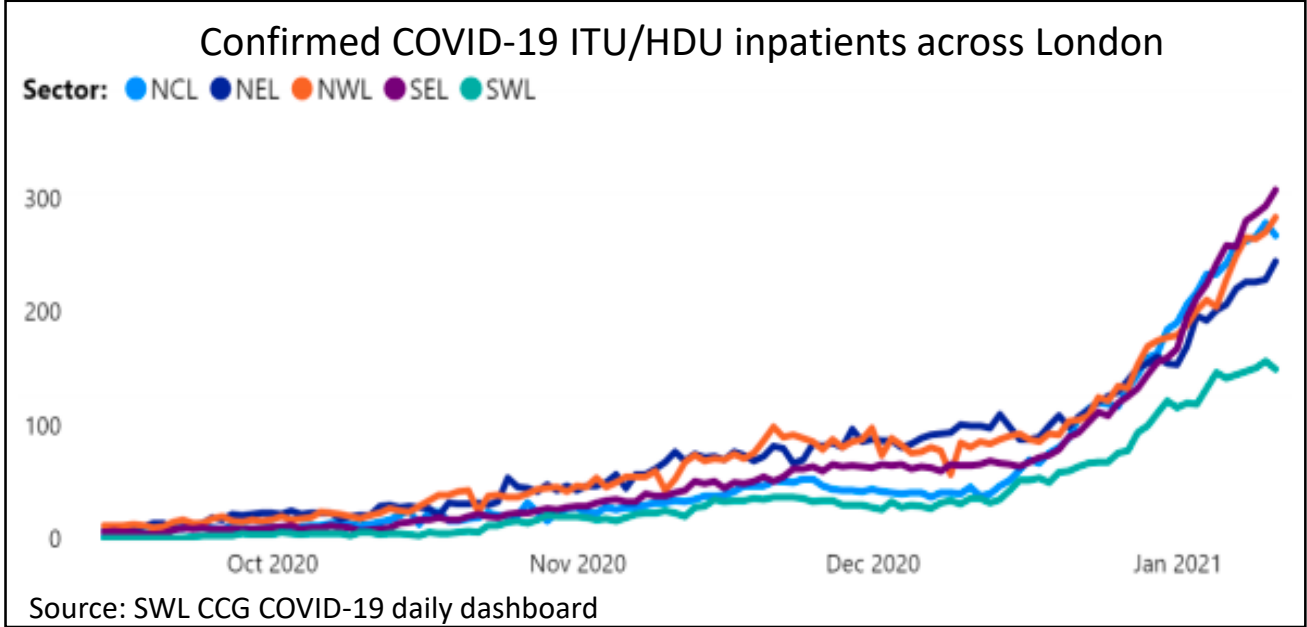
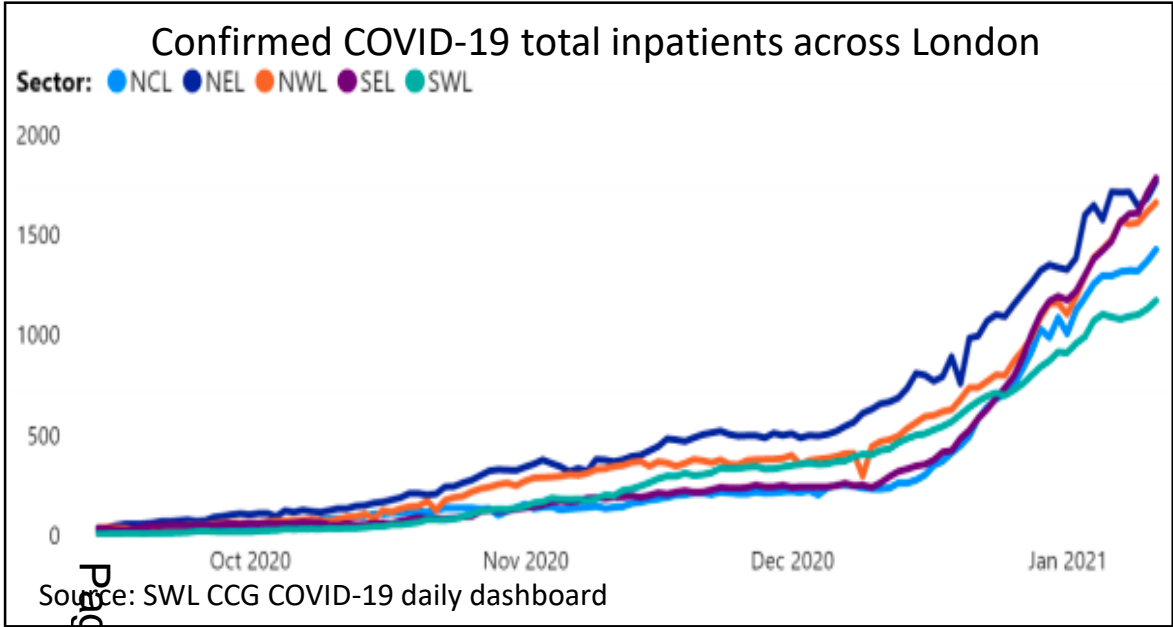
Change in positive cases per 100,000 population



Merton

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

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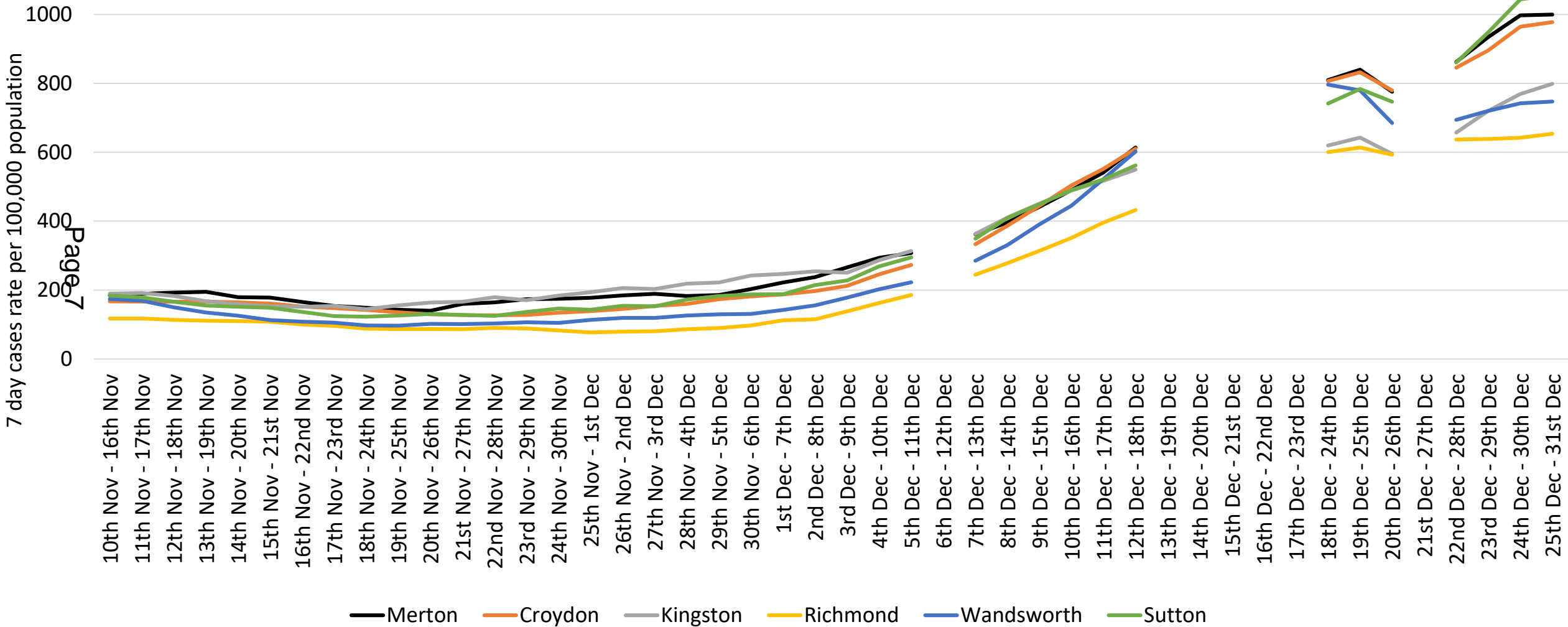
Local analysis: COVID-19 testing in Merton

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

13th January 2021

Source: PHE/PHEC Daily Report
Reporting frequency: Daily



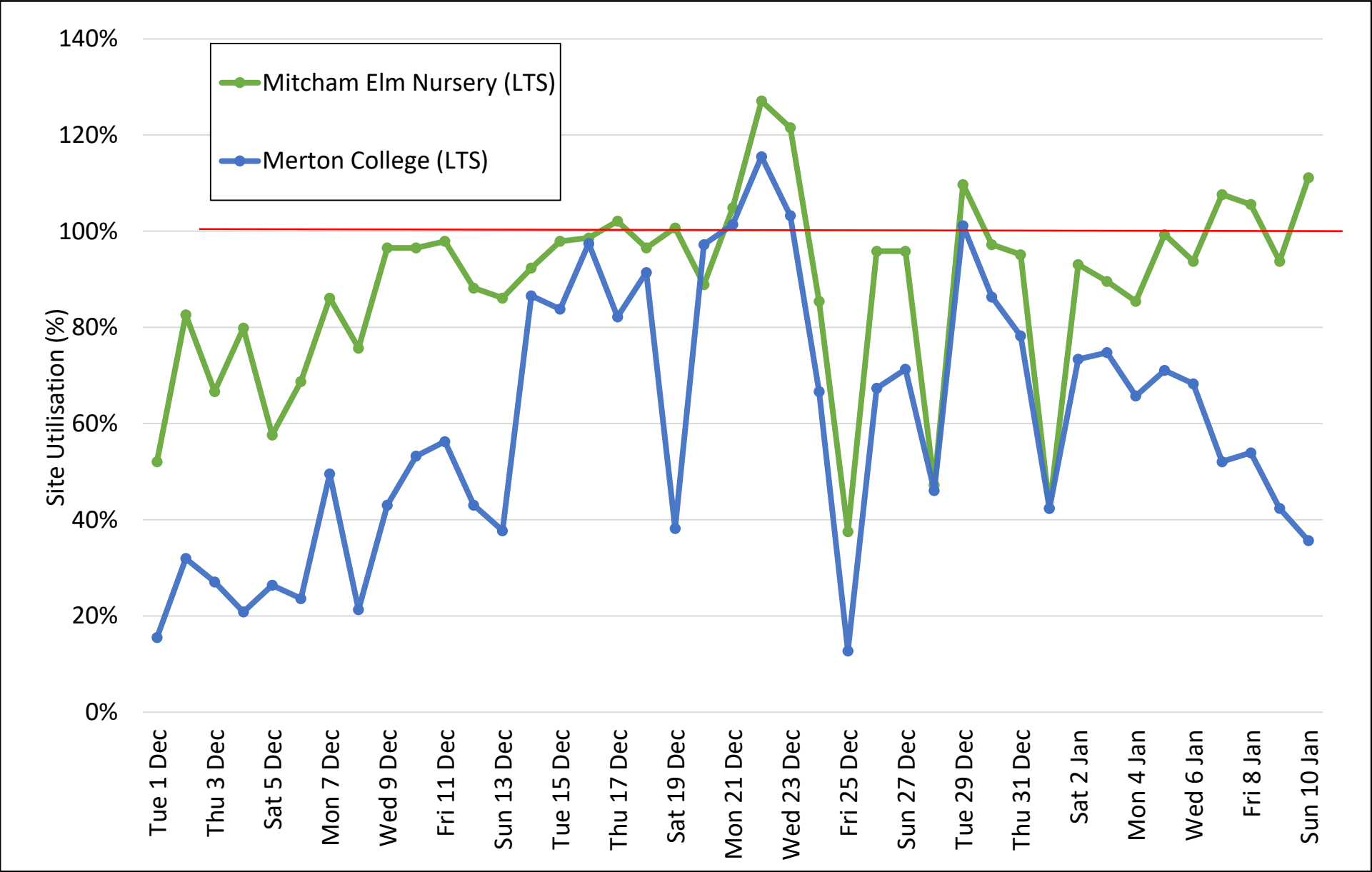
Due to reporting issues no data was available for 8th-14th November and 6th -12th December
Please note no data was released for weeks 13th – 19th December until 17th – 23rd December

Covid-19 LTS Utilisation (1st December 2020 – 10th January 2021)

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Key Messages:

- Local site daily capacity is
 - Mitcham Elm 144
 - Merton College 432 (Source: RSP Merton).
- The smaller Mitcham Elm Nursery site operating at near full capacity, Merton College site within capacity. Average for Jan (1st to 10th):
 - Mitcham Elm (92%)
 - Merton College (58%)



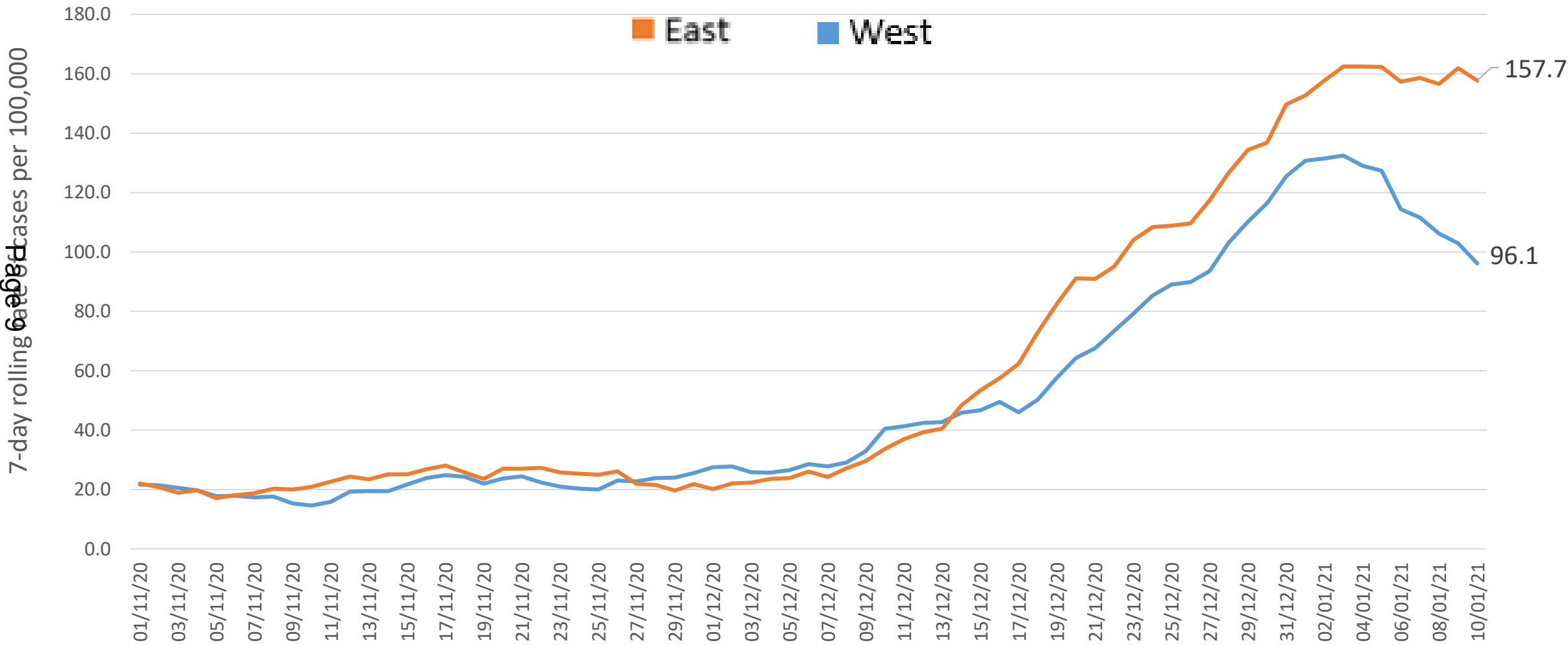
COVID-19 case rates in East and West Merton

13th January 2021

Source: LSAT daily line list

Reporting frequency: Daily

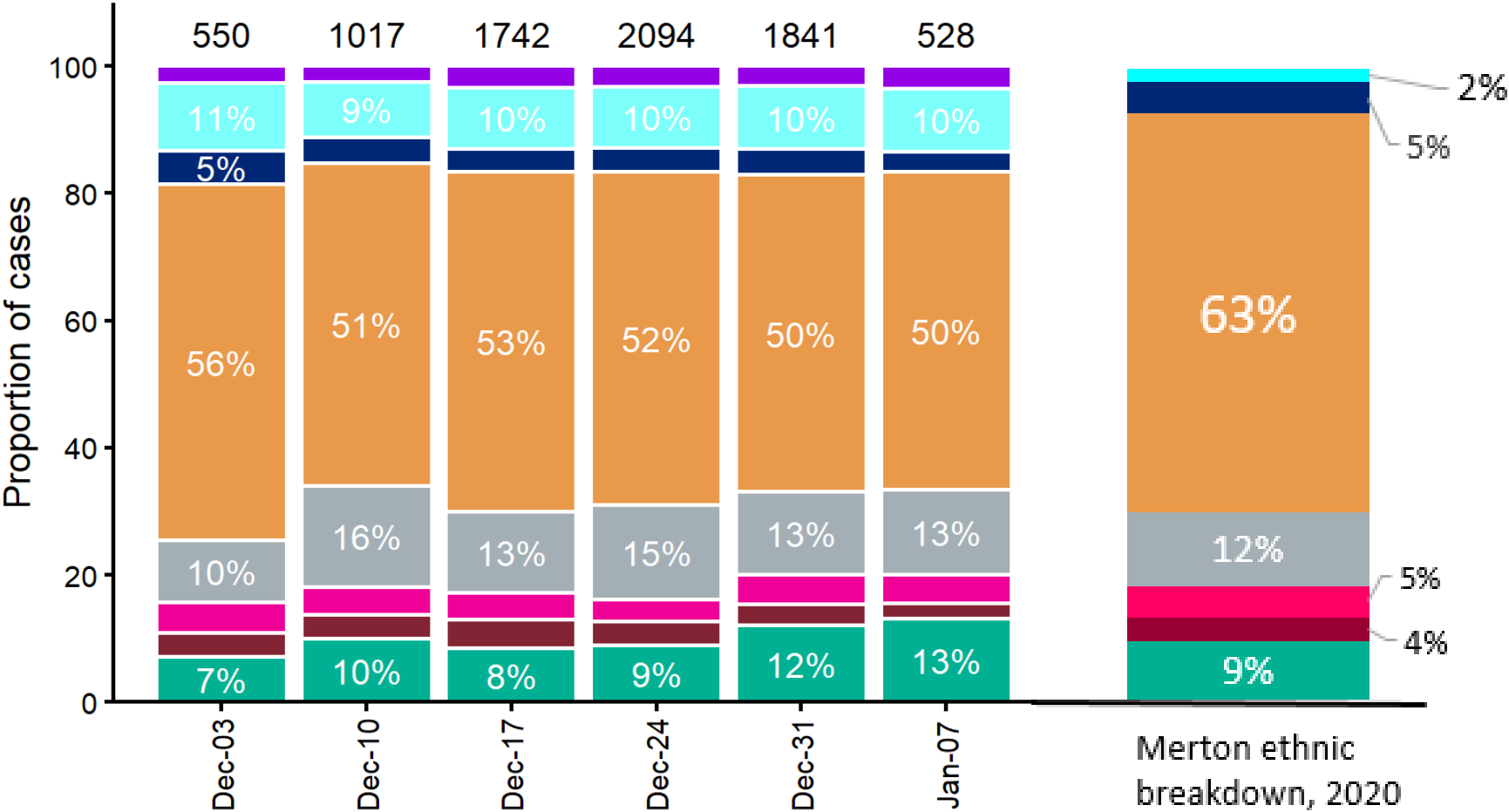
7-day rolling total number of cases in East and West Merton



COVID-19 total positive cases in Merton by ethnicity

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

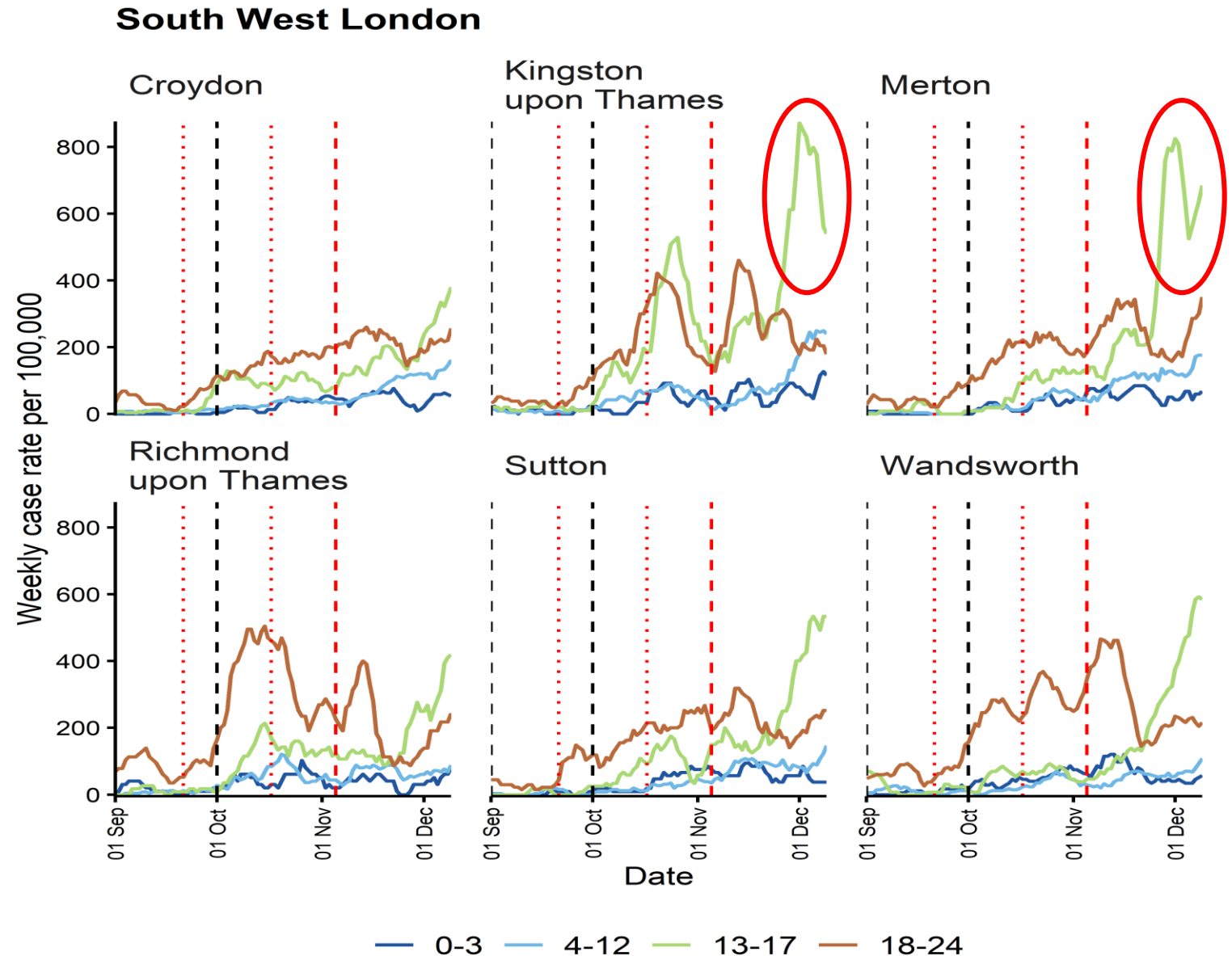


Peak in cases Nov-Dec 2020

13th January 2021

Key messages

- **Significant increase in cases among secondary school age (13-17) individuals** in early November and December, particularly in Merton and Kingston.
- In Merton the weekly cases per 100,000 among 13-17s jumped from around 200 on 15th November to over 800 by the end of November.
- A number of schools in West Merton were identified as common exposures of confirmed cases.
- A school was identified as a common exposure of 108 cases.



Source: Case data from SGSS, PHE

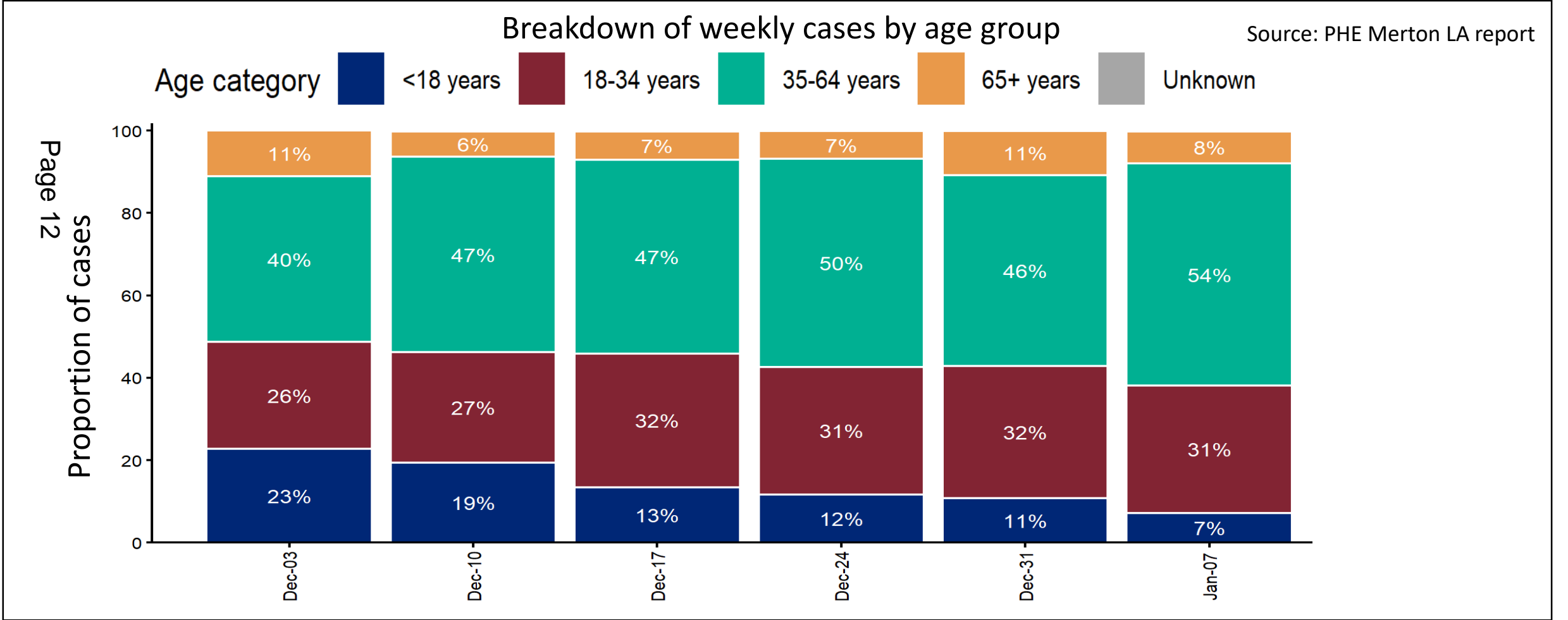
Enquiries ben.bezuidenhout@merton.gov.uk

COVID-19 cases in Merton broken down by age category

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Key messages

- Cases among <18s as percent of total cases in Merton decreased throughout December.
- Cases among 18-34s and 35-64s as percent of total cases increased.



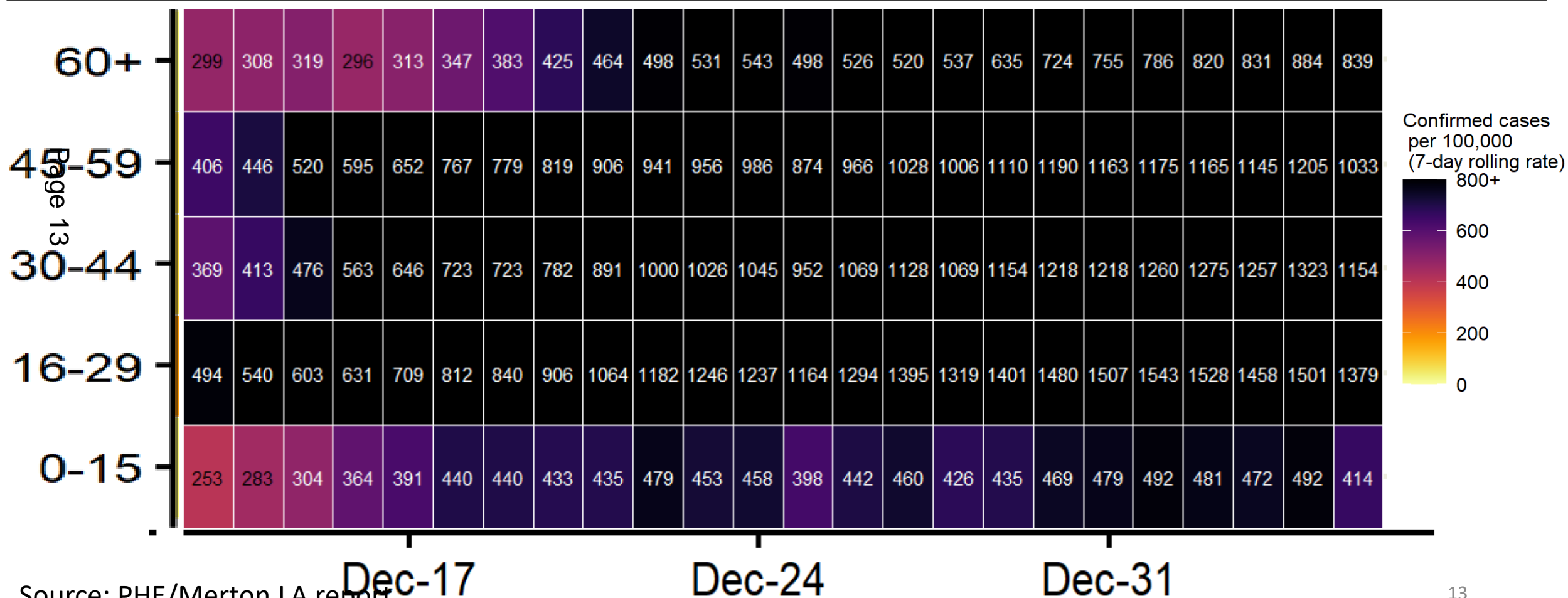
COVID-19 cases rates in Merton by age group heat map over time

7-day rolling total case rates per 100,000

Source: PHE/Regional Epi Slides London

Key messages

- Rate of cases among 0-15s doubled between 13th December and 4th January - increasing from 253 to 492 cases per 100,000 population.
- Rate of cases among 16-29s increased from 494 to 1501 cases per 100,000 population.

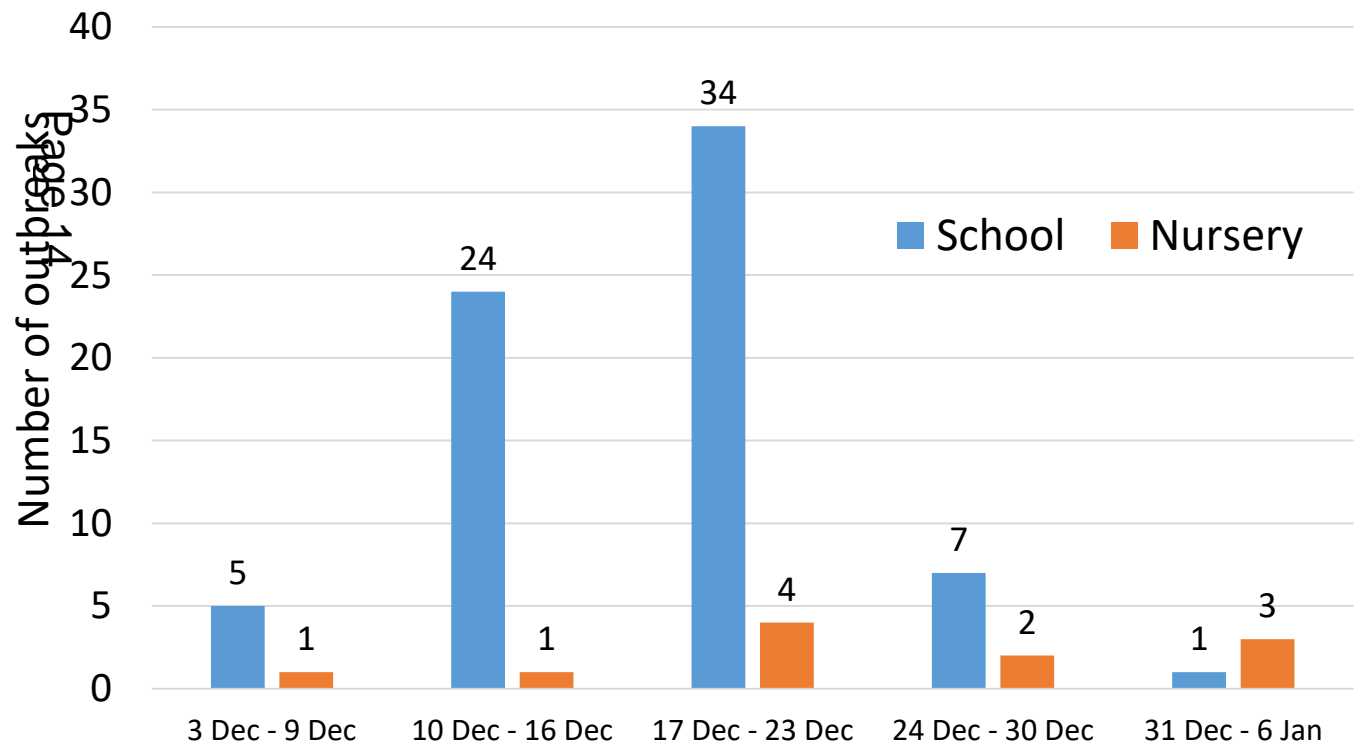


Source: PHE/Merton LA report

Key messages

- Increase in number of outbreaks in Merton throughout December.
- Number of outbreaks in recent weeks fallen (Christmas holidays).
- Number of nursery outbreaks remains low.

Weekly outbreaks in Merton schools and nurseries*



Source: Schools and EY settings log, Merton council

*Outbreak defined as setting with two or more confirmed cases.

Merton COVID-19 Schools Update

Cases

- Schools available until Christmas Eve to engage with tracing contacts of cases, and some continued beyond this time, reporting positive cases throughout Christmas holidays.
 - 11 of reported outbreaks during this period (possible underestimate if parents did not report cases over the bank holidays)

Testing

- Before lockdown, secondary schools prepared for asymptomatic testing of all pupils using Lateral Flow Devices (LFDs).
- This has been scaled down, and schools are now beginning to test staff weekly and contacts of positive cases.
- Once pupils are back in school, they will also likely be tested weekly (to be confirmed).
- The government announced roll out of LFD testing in primary schools (weekly testing of staff, and serial testing of contacts of positive cases) to happen in the next few weeks.
- In the interim, primary school staff are invited to use the new testing sites set up in pharmacies for key workers.