

Merton Health and Wellbeing Board – 26th January 2021

Situational Awareness Report: COVID-19 in Merton

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Dr Dagmar Zeuner, Director of Public Health

Merton Public Health Intelligence

22nd January 2021

Produced by Ben Bezuidenhout (ben.bezuidenhout@merton.gov.uk) on 22nd January 2021

Agenda Item 8

London overview

- ONS estimated cases rate in London is **3,600 per 100,000** (As of 8th Jan)
- The current estimated London R value is between **0.9 and 1.2** (As of 15th Jan)

Cases (14th Jan – 20th Jan):

- 7 day case rate (all ages) **617.4 cases per 100,000** (down from 827.2 previous week).
- 7 day case rate (among 60+) **521.5 cases per 100,000** (down from 789.1 previous week).
- There were **1,314** new COVID cases in Merton.
- New COVID variant: estimated to be responsible for 86% of cases in Merton between 7th Jan and 13th Jan 2021.

Deaths:

- There were **33** new registered Merton COVID death for the week ending 8th Jan.
- In total Merton has seen 301 deaths due to COVID.

Testing (12th Jan – 18th Jan / pillar 2 PCR tests only – this excludes Lateral Flow tests):

- 7 day testing rate **373.6 daily tests per 100,000** (down from 462.8 previous week)
- 7 day test positivity decreased to **20.6%**.

Positive cases per 100,000 across London boroughs

22nd January 2021

For reporting period 7.1.2021 – 13.01.2021

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

Positive cases per 100,000 population – all ages



Positive cases per 100,000 population – 60+ only



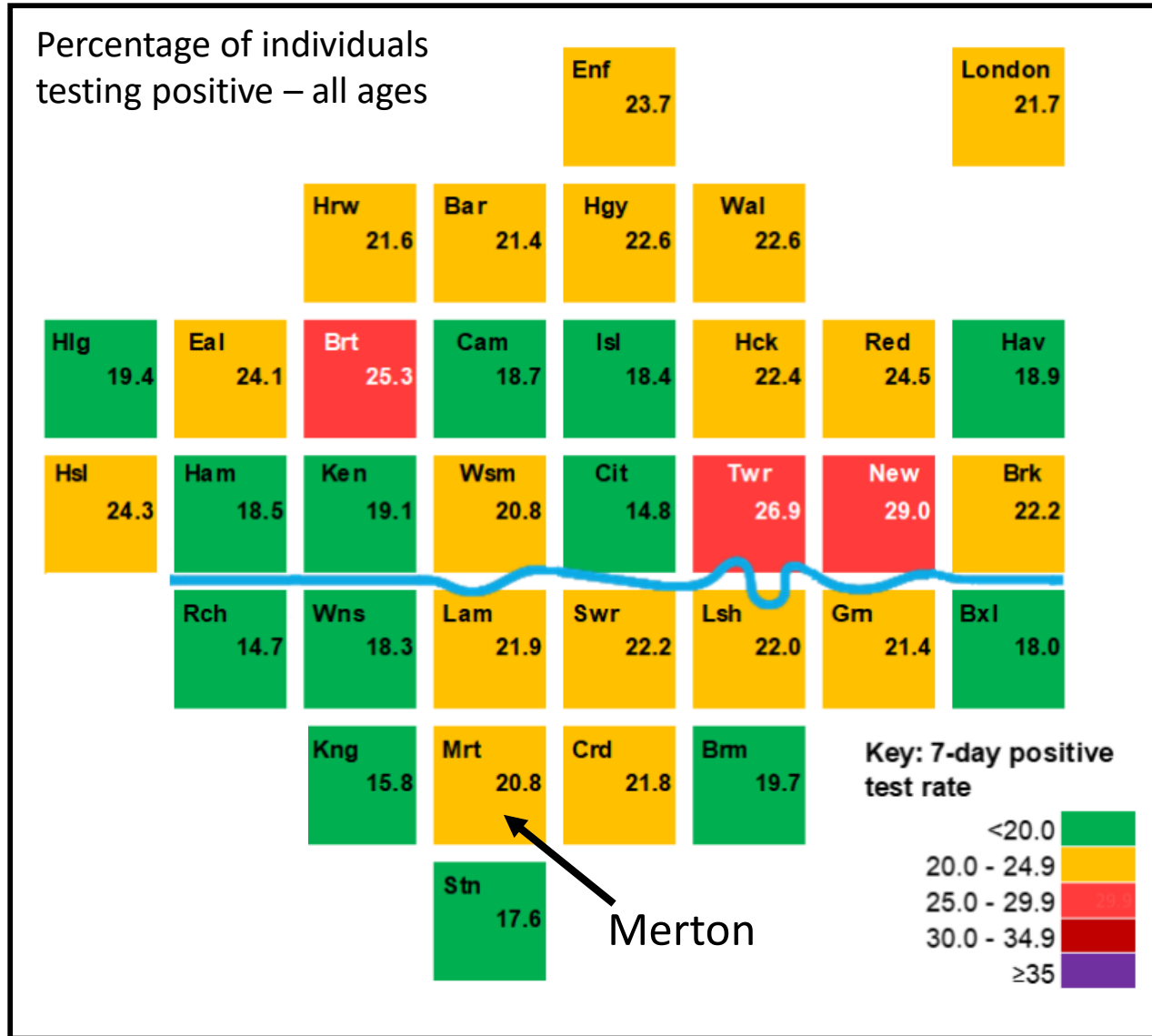
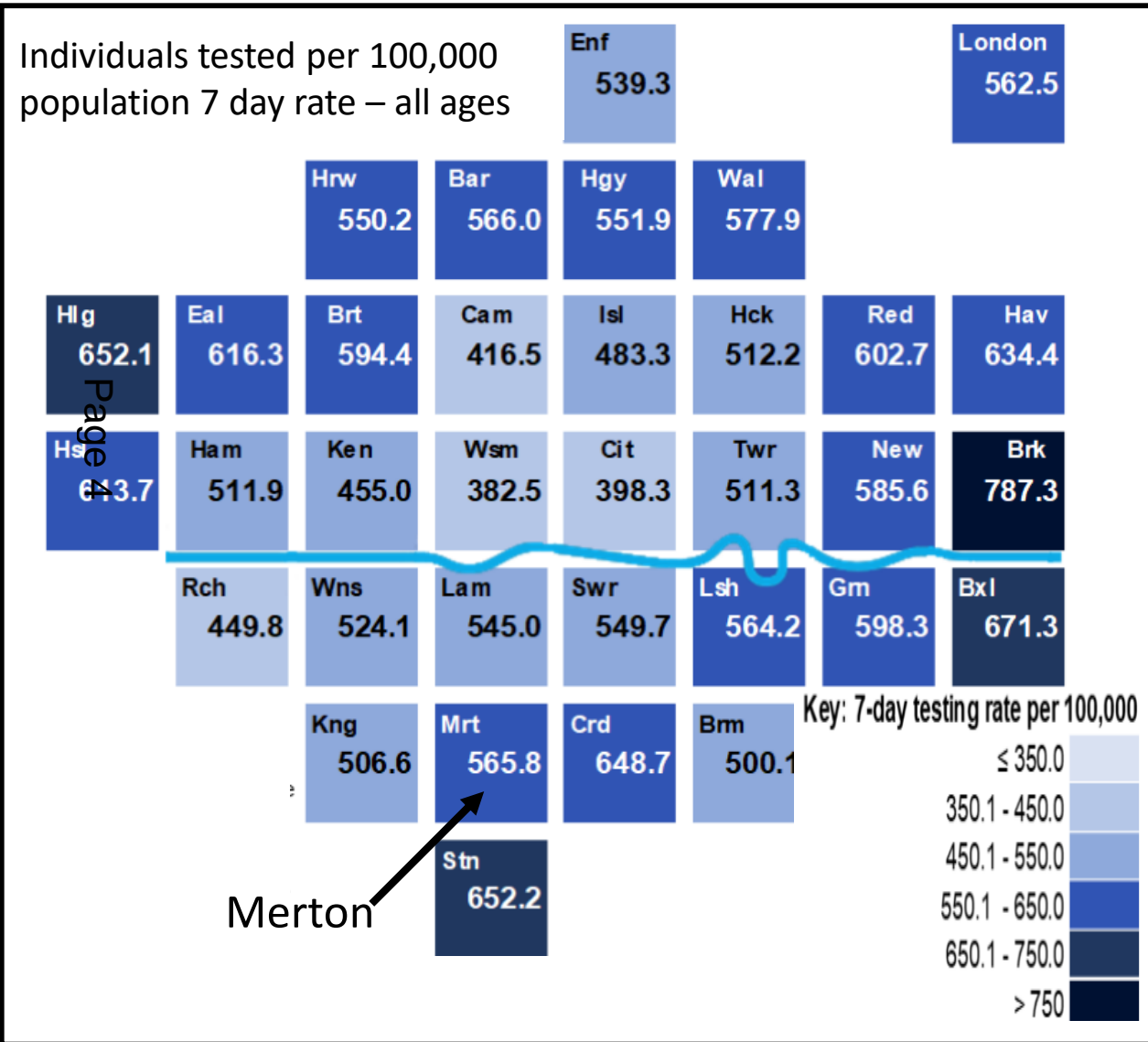
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Individuals tested per 100,000 and test positivity across London boroughs

22nd January 2021

For reporting period 7.1.2021 – 13.01.2021

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



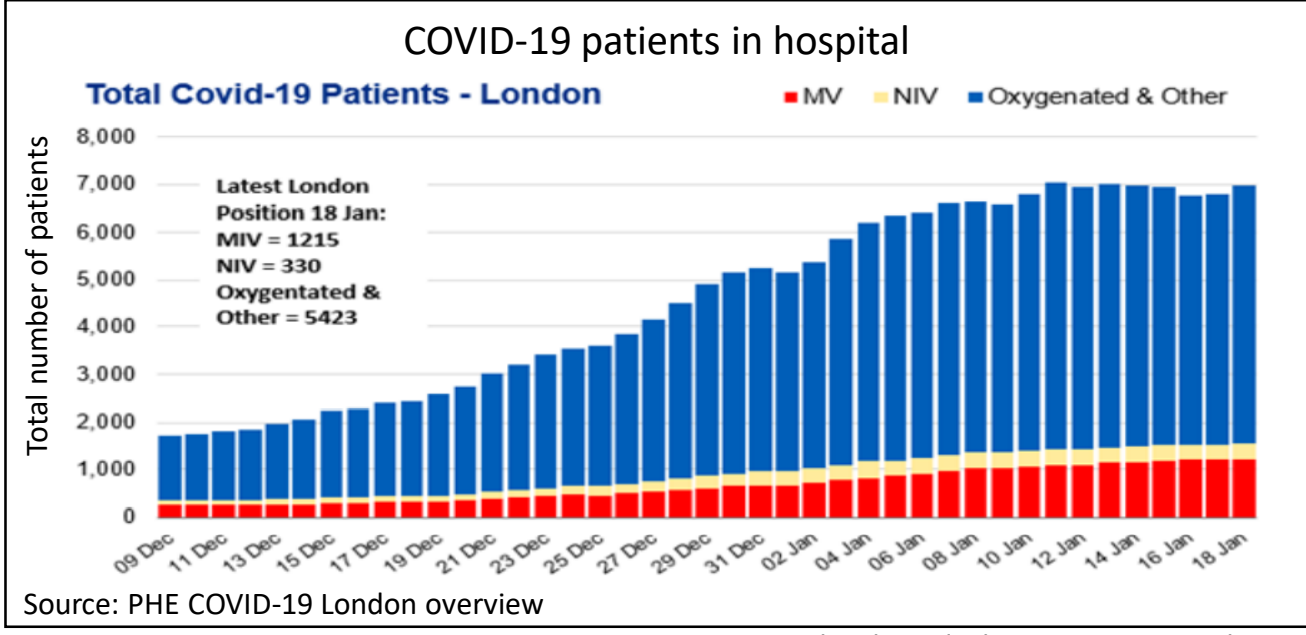
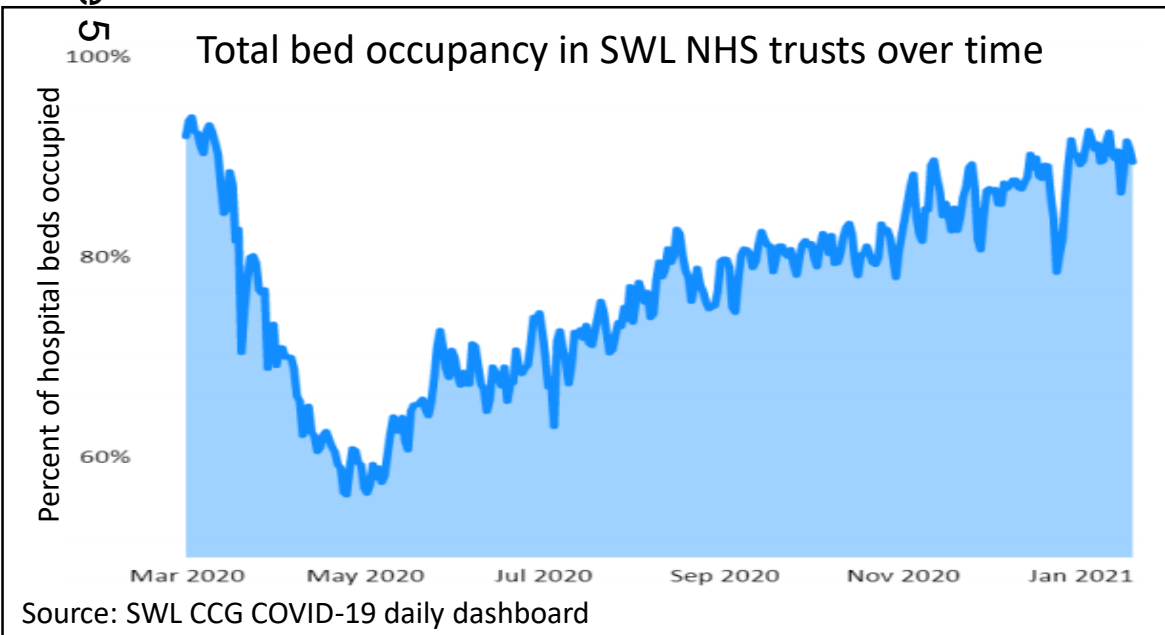
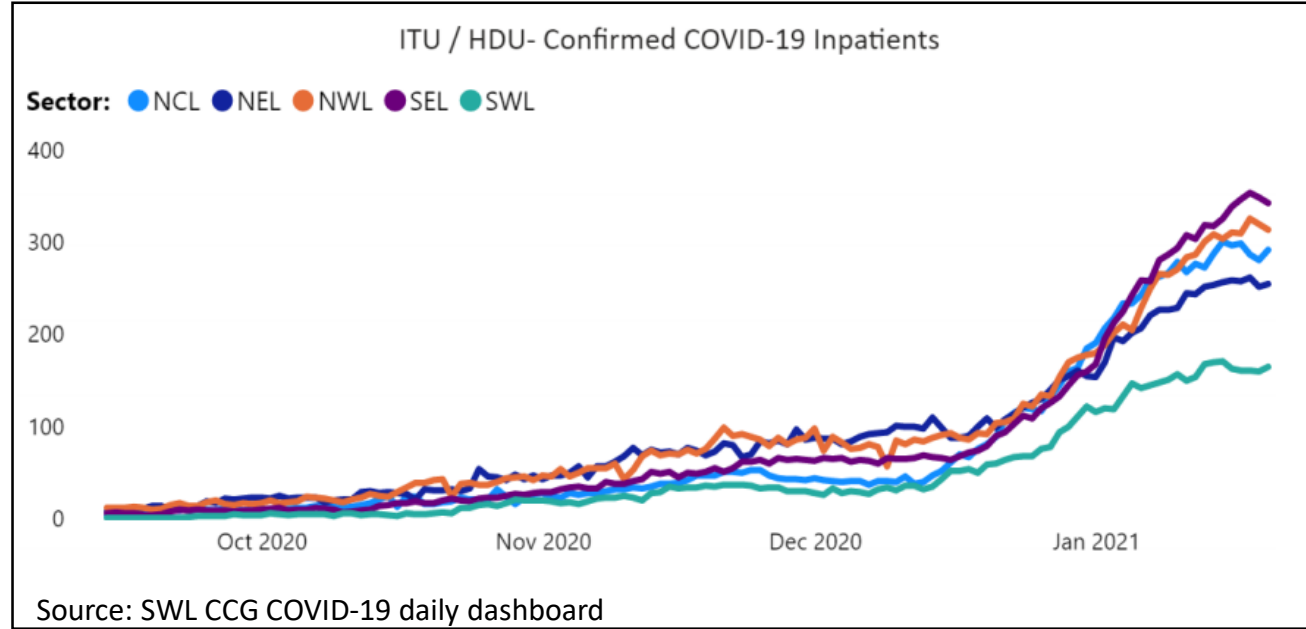
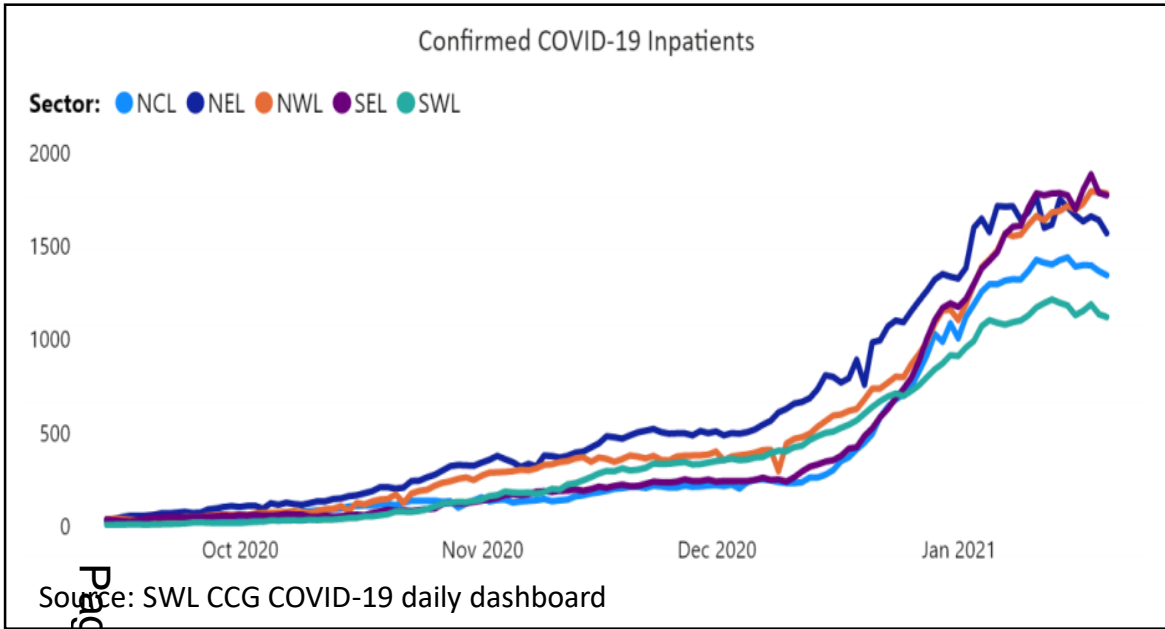
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Merton

Merton

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

22nd January 2021



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Local analysis: COVID-19 in Merton

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Number of deaths registered among Merton residents

22nd January 2021

Source: ONS

Cumulative number of COVID related deaths registered in Merton (04.01.2020 – 08.01.2021)

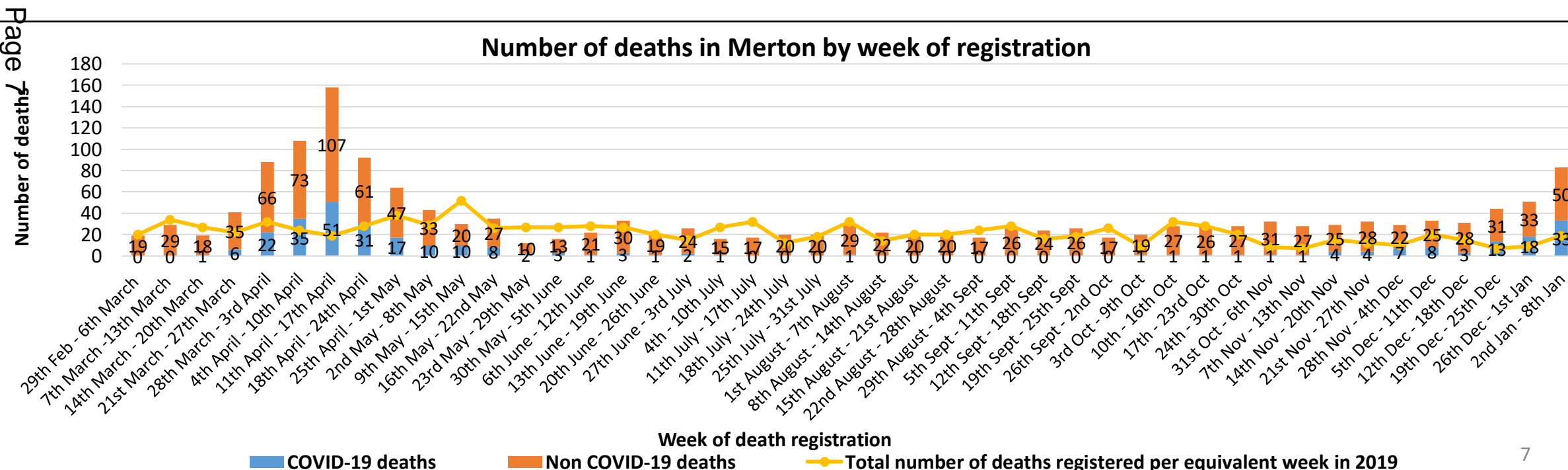
301

Key messages

- 33 registered COVID deaths in Merton week ending 8th Jan 2021 – 27 in hospital, 4 in care homes, 1 at home, and 1 in a hospice.
- 42 of the 301 cumulative deaths (14%) have been in care homes. 227 (75%) have been in hospitals. Please note that hospital deaths may include care home residents.
- Merton recorded 52.8 COVID deaths per 100,000 population (29th June - 12th January) and has the 9th highest COVID death rate among London boroughs, and 2nd highest in SWL.
- Increase in non-COVID deaths in Merton observed in recent weeks.

Place of death	Number of COVID deaths - last week (02.01.21 - 08.01.21)	Number of COVID deaths - cumulative (04.01.20 – 01.01.21)
Hospital	27	227
Care home	4	42
Home	1	25
Hospice	1	6
Elsewhere	0	1

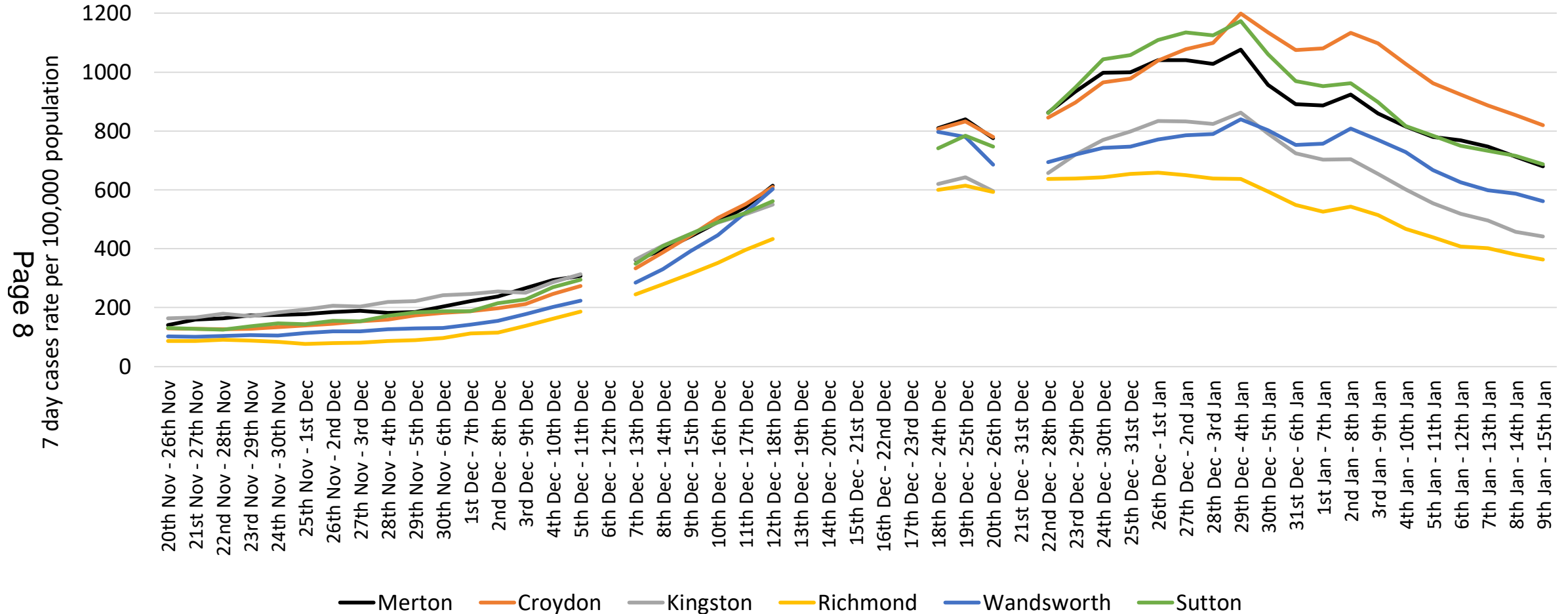
Number of deaths in Merton by week of registration



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

Source: London Covid 19 daily surveillance report
Reporting frequency: Daily

22nd January 2021



Note: Merton has the third highest rate in SWL boroughs

Due to reporting issues no data was available for 6th-12th December and 21st-27th December

Please note no data was released for weeks 13th – 19th December until 17th – 23rd December

For internal use only. Not for wider circulation

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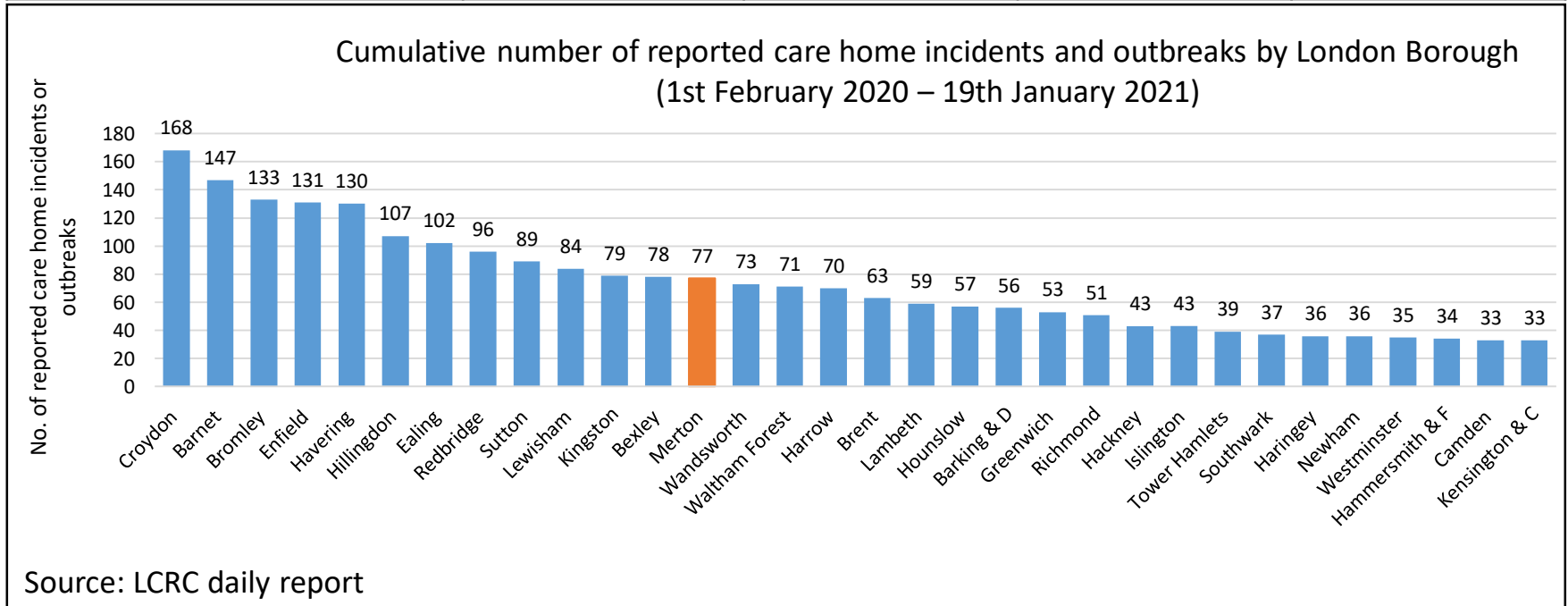
Local COVID-19 outbreaks

Merton

- New care home outbreaks:**
- 4 Symptomatic cases
 - (1 resident, 3 staff)
 - 6 Asymptomatic cases
 - (3 residents, 3 staff)

- Note on data**
- **Outbreaks reported locally:**
 - 16 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: LCRC	New confirmed outbreaks locally		New confirmed outbreaks via LCRC	
	Current (14 th – 20 th Jan)	Previous (7 th – 13 th Jan)	Current (14 th – 20 th Jan)	Previous (7 th – 13 th Jan)
Schools and nurseries	8	8	-	-
Care homes	2	2	3	5
Care settings - Supported living, sheltered living, extra care, and domiciliary care	3	6	1	1
Workplace (LBM and non-LBM)	3	4	0	1
Homeless accommodation	0	0	0	0
Other	0	1	0	0



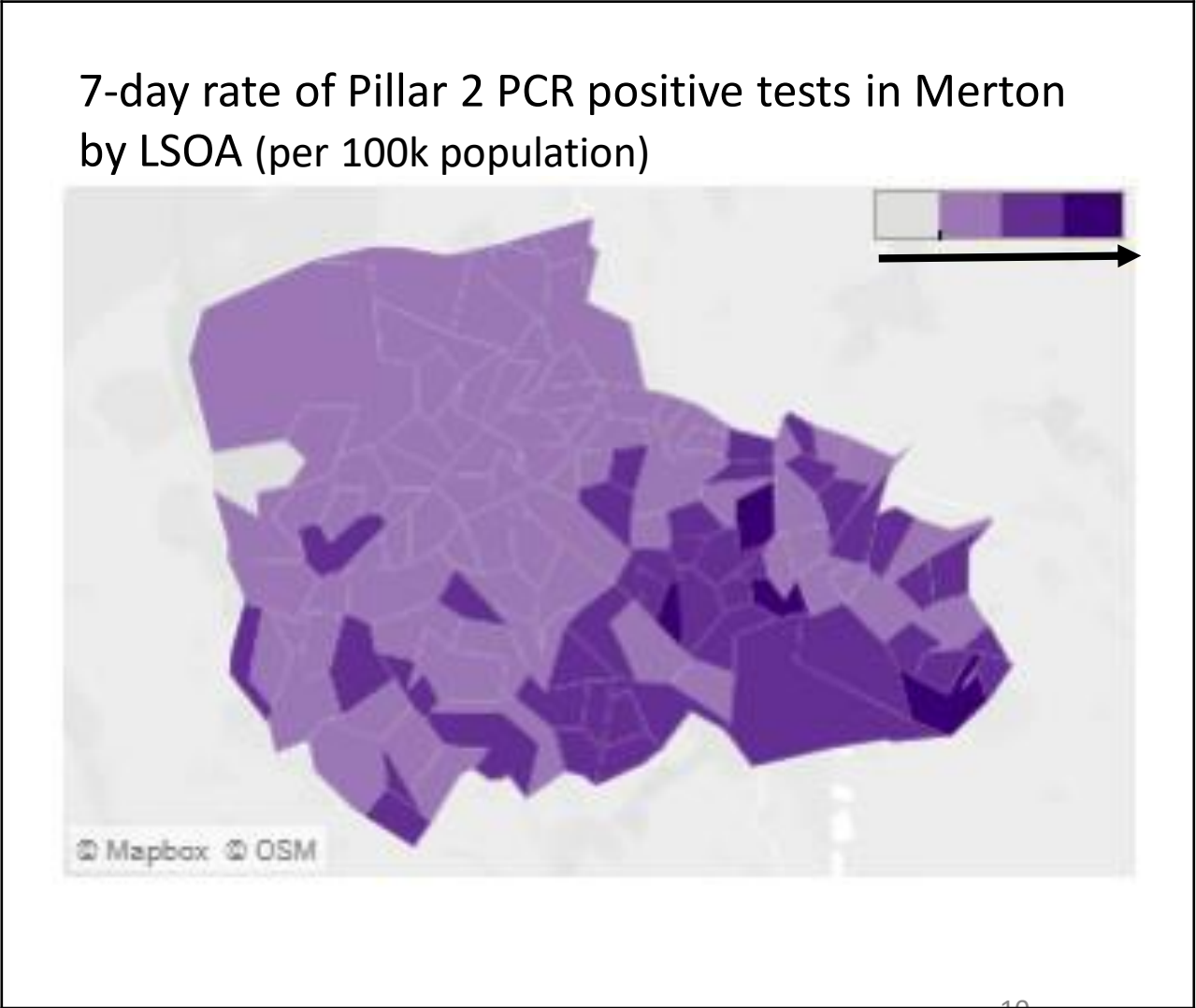
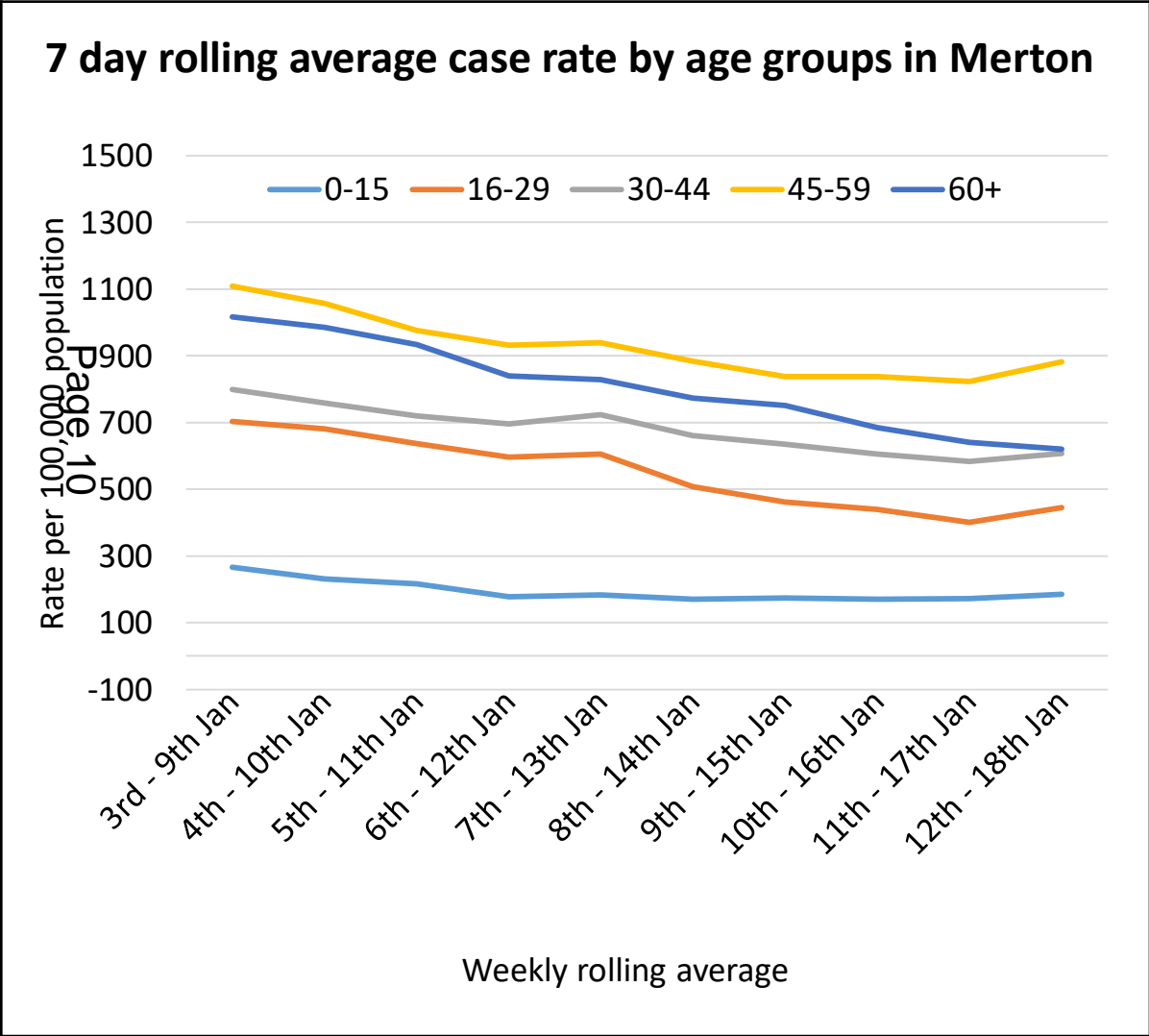
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COVID-19 cases rates in Merton by age group 7-day rolling total case rates per 100,000 and breakdown of cases by geography

22nd January 2021

Source: PHE/PHEC Daily Report

Reporting frequency: Daily

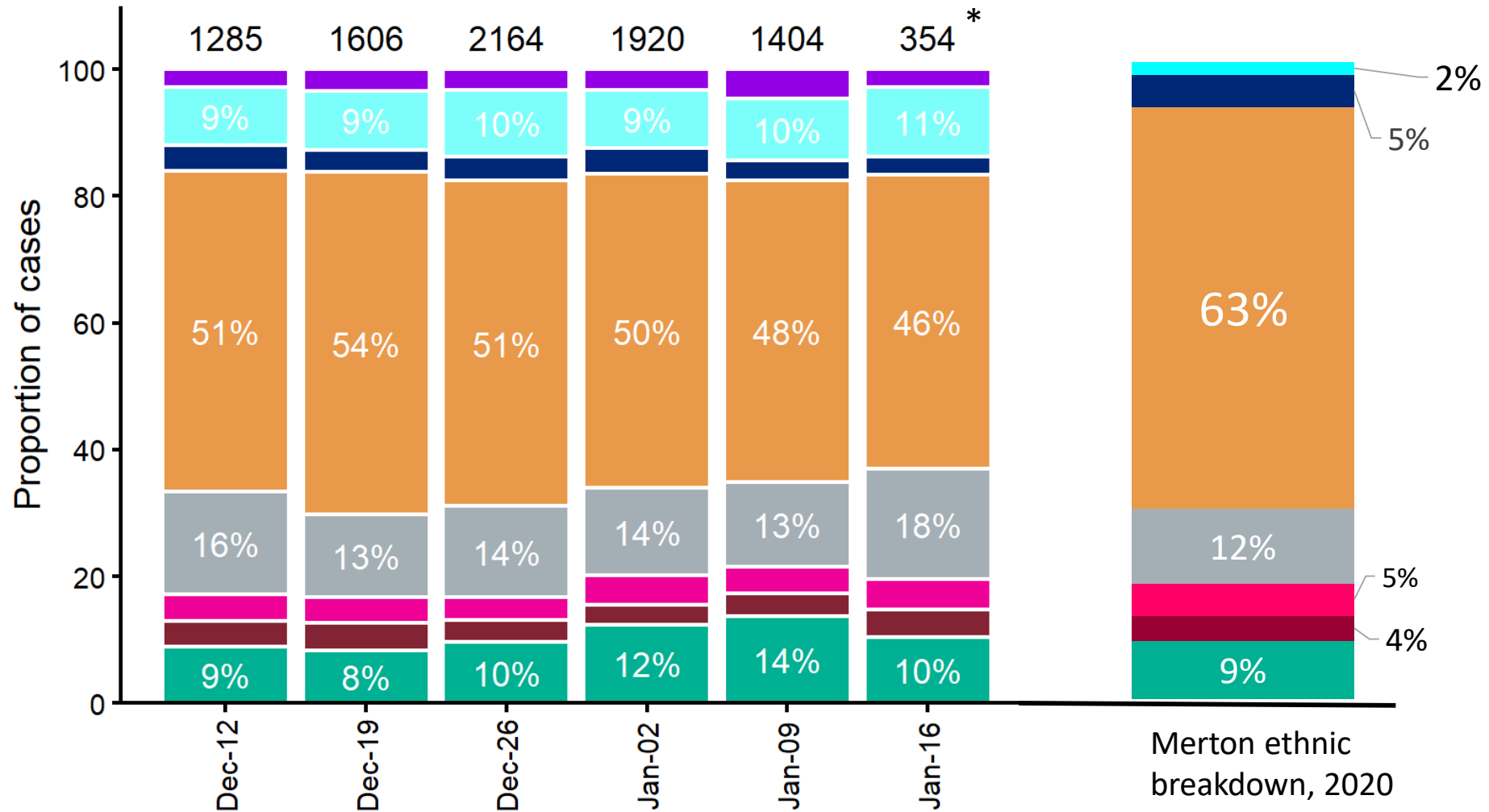


COVID-19 positive cases in Merton by ethnicity

22nd January 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 16th January is preliminary

Source: 2016 GLA housing-led population projections

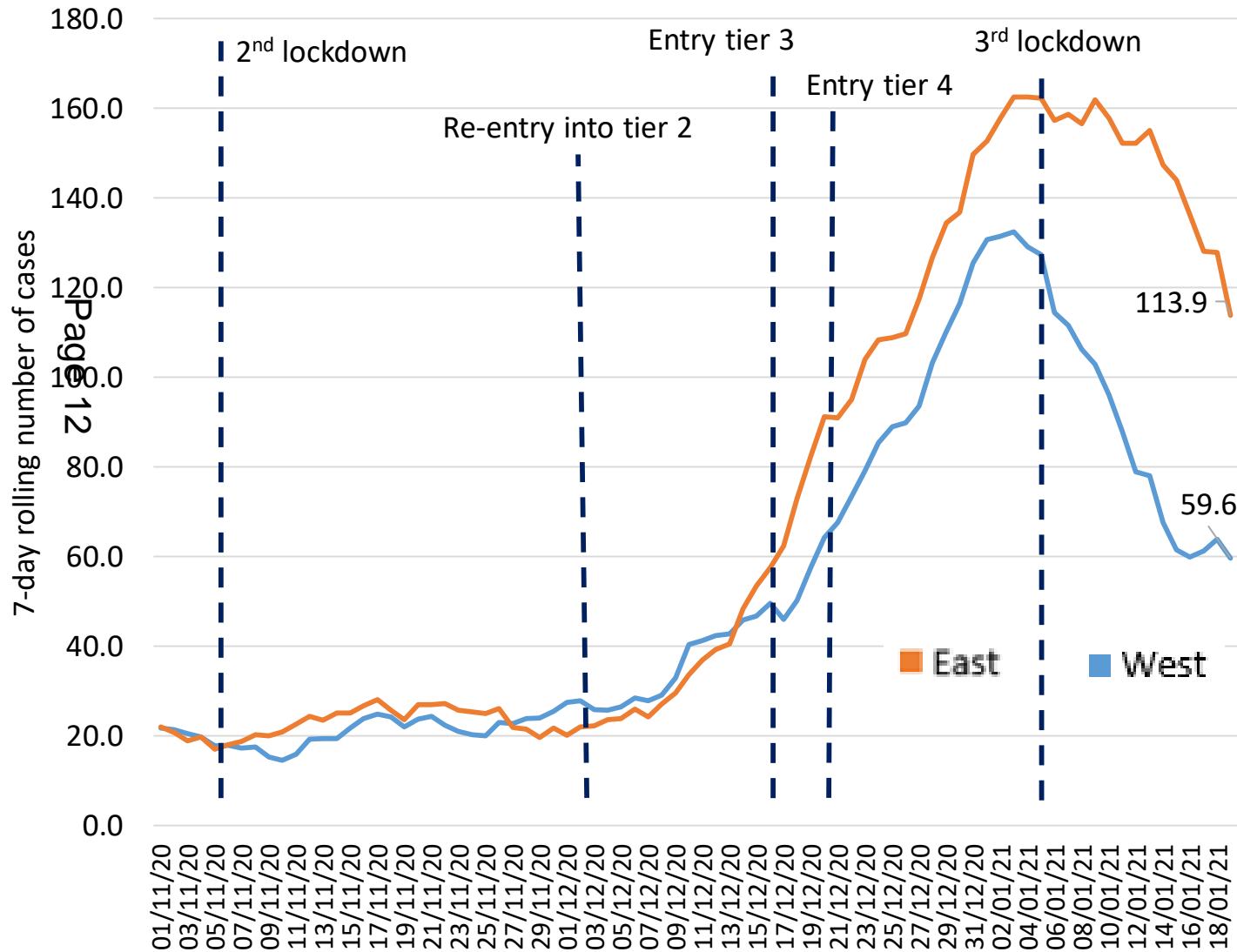
Enquiries ben.bezuidenhout@merton.gov.uk

COVID-19 cases in East and West Merton

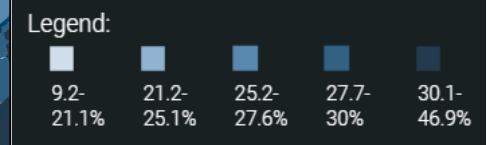
Source: LSAT daily line list

Reporting frequency: Daily

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

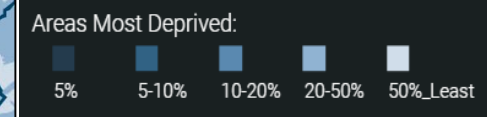


Percent in occupations at high risk of COVID-19



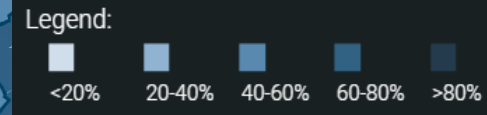
Source: 2011 census

Indices of multiple deprivation (IMD)



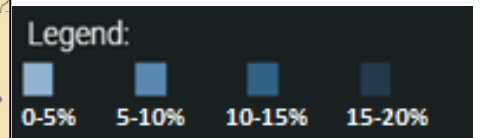
Source: MHCLG 2019

Percent black, Asian, and minority ethnic (BAME)

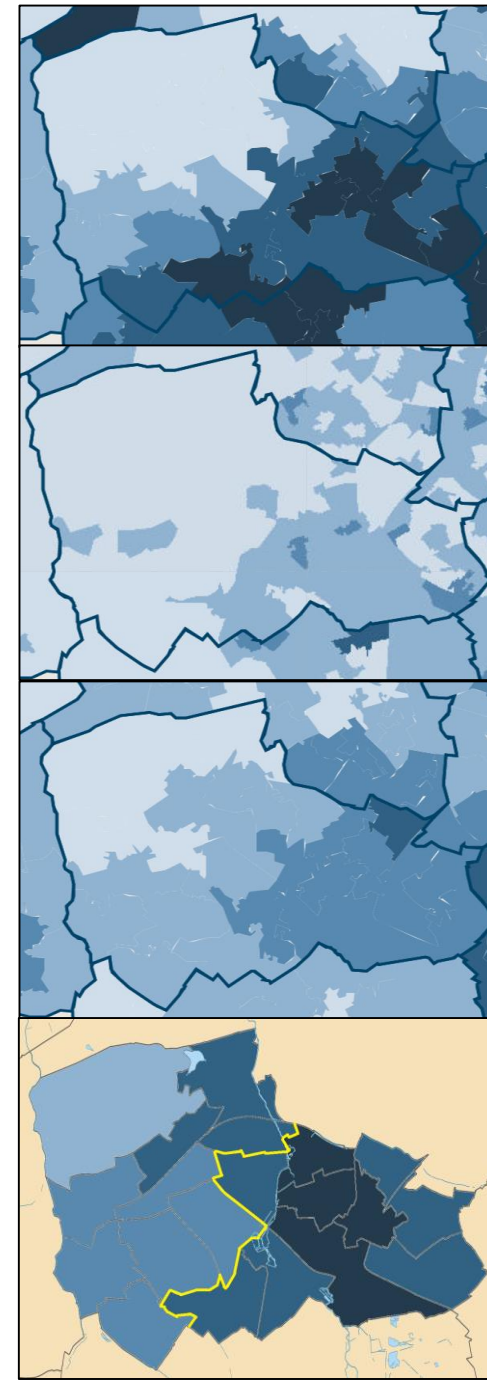


Source: 2011 census

Percent of households considered overcrowded



Source: 2011 census



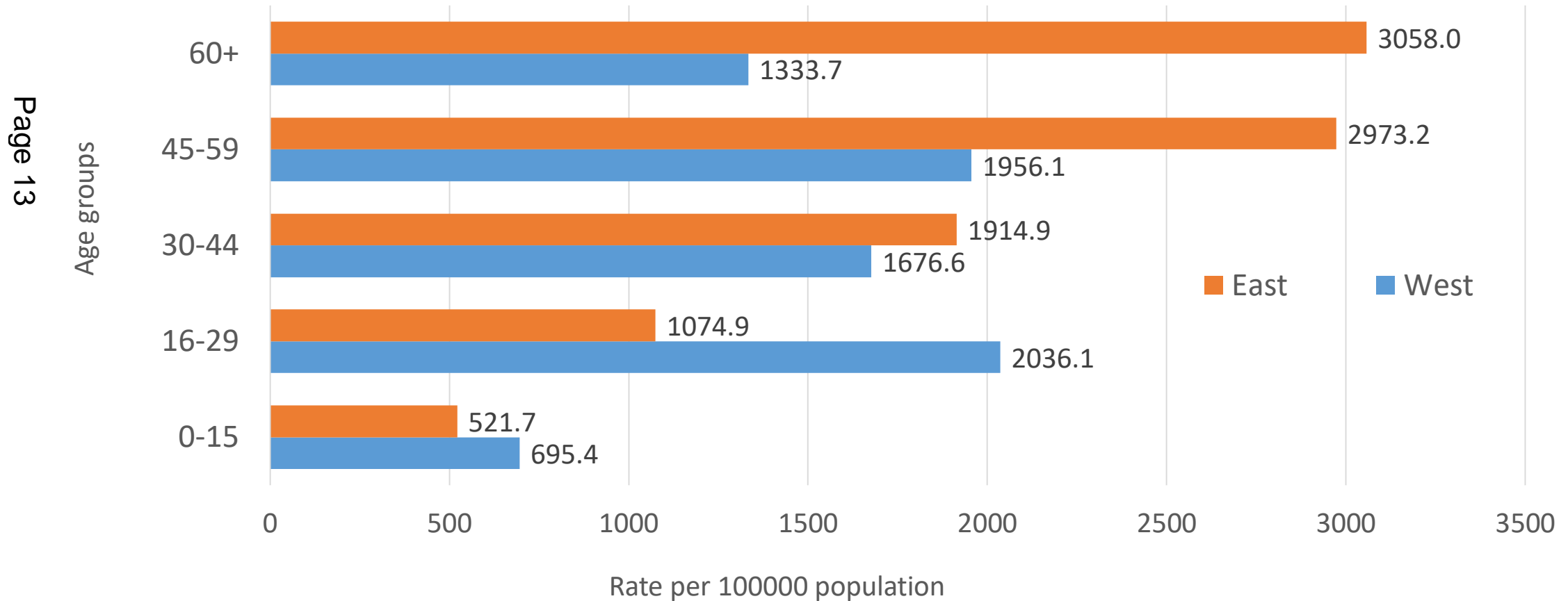
Rate of COVID-19 cases in East and West Merton by age group

Source: LCRC/LSAT Daily

Key Messages:

- East Merton has higher rate of cases in older age groups.
- West Merton has higher rate of cases in younger age groups.

Cases per 100,000 by age group between East and West Merton (1st Jan – 18th Jan)



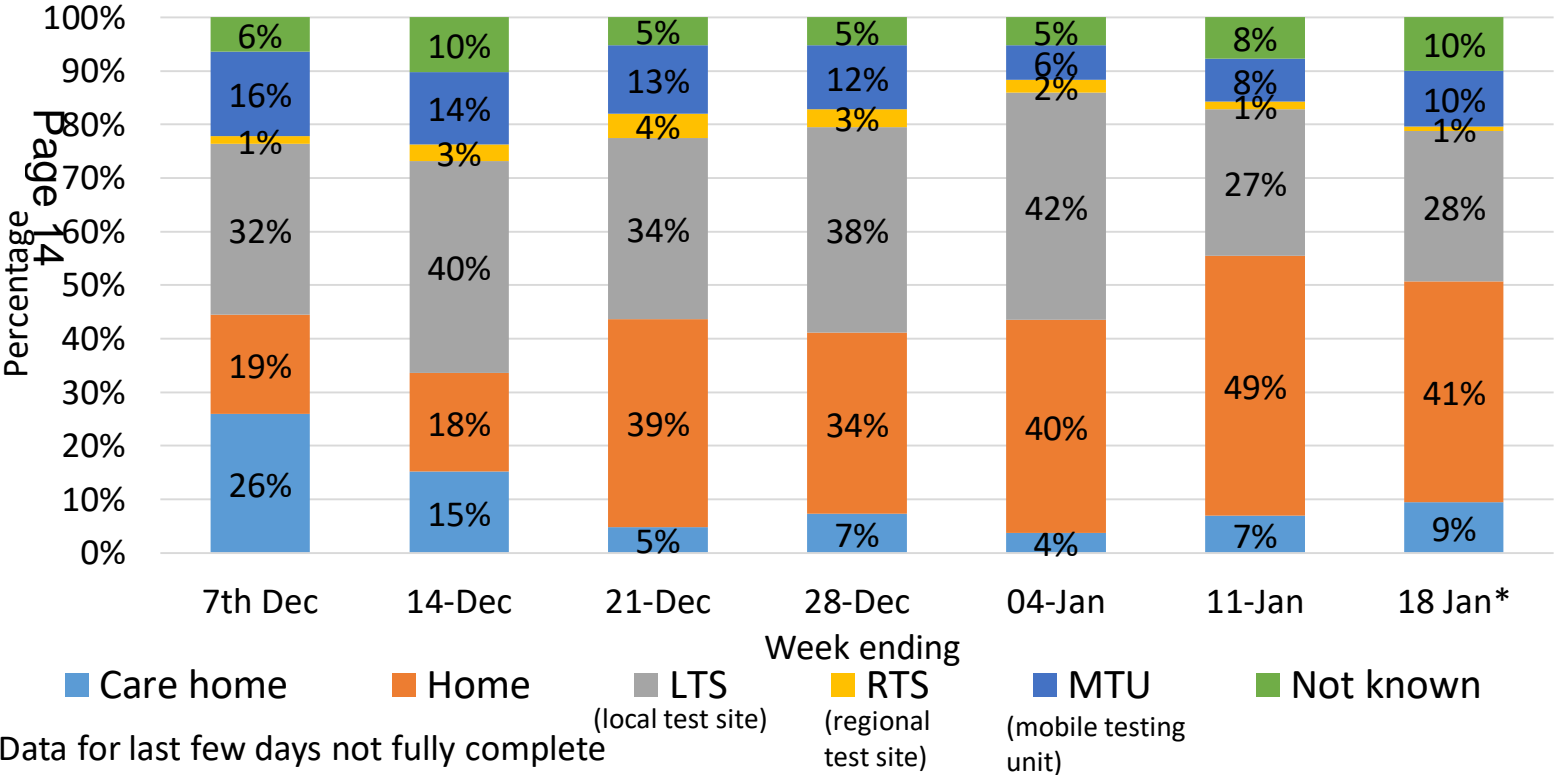
Covid-19 PCR Tests from Pillar 2 by Merton Residents overview

22nd January 2021

Key Messages:

- Local testing sites (LTS) ranged from 27% to 42% of Merton resident (7th Dec - 18th Jan). Overall 35% over this period - same as for home tests.
- MTU's account for 6-16% of Merton resident tests and 11% over the 7 week time period.
- RTS account for 3% of tests during the 7 week time period (n=903)

PCR tests among Merton residents by test setting (7th December 2020 – 18th January 2021)

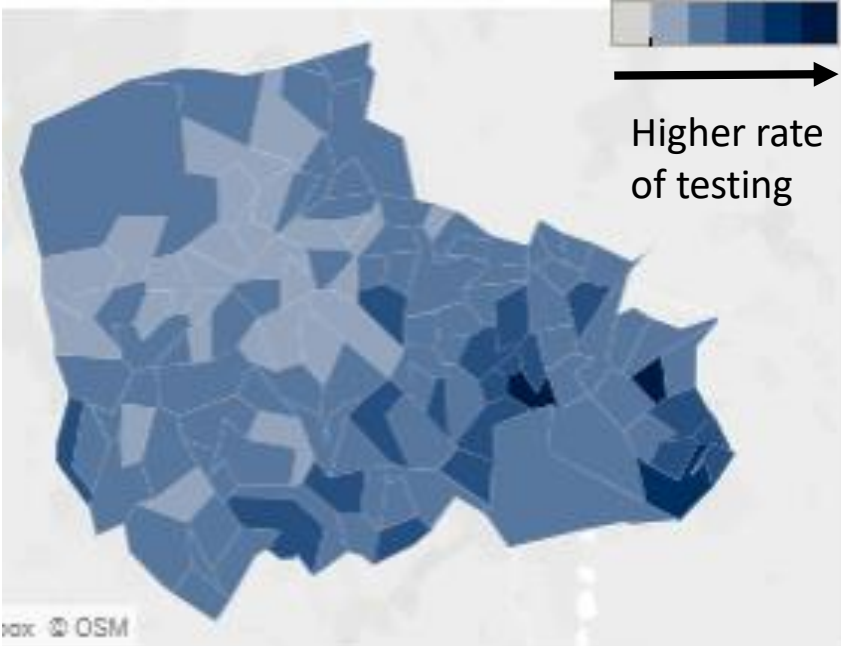


*Data for last few days not fully complete

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) (12th – 18th Jan)



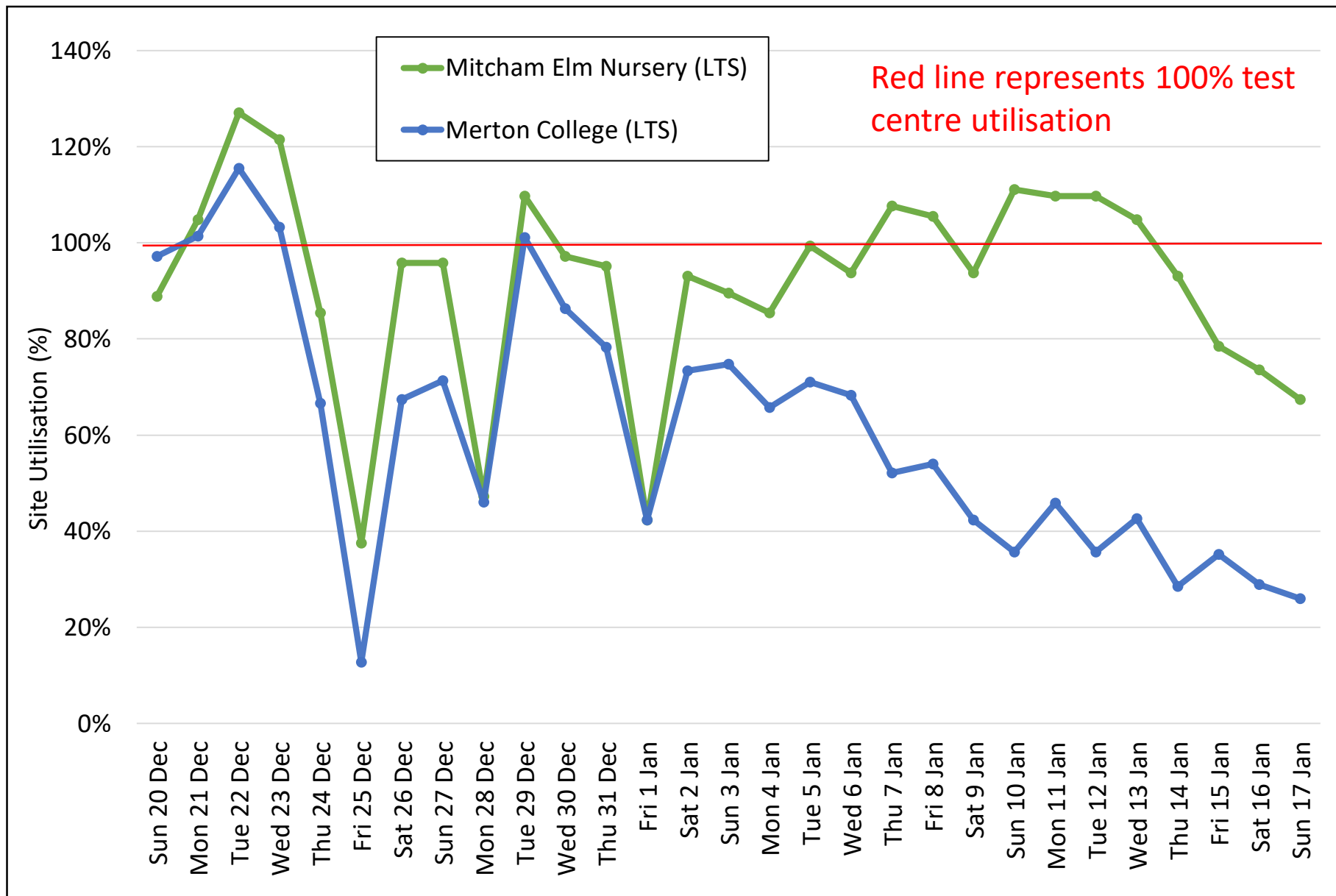
Source: NHS containment dashboard

COVID-19 test centre utilisation in Merton (20th Dec 2020 – 17th Jan 2021)

22nd January 2021

Key Messages:

- Local site capacity:
Mitcham Elm: 144;
Merton College: 432;
- Smaller Mitcham Elm Nursery site operating at higher capacity than Merton College site.
- Average for January:
Mitcham Elm (73%)
Merton College (30%)



Tests and positive tests by ethnicity

22nd January 2021

Source: NELCSU: COVID-19 dashboard PHE

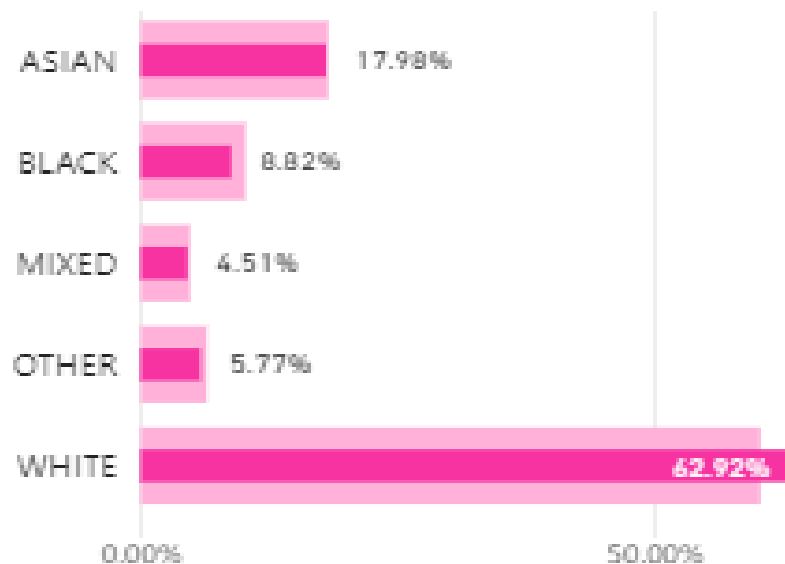
Key messages

- 2/3 of testing in the White population, which is higher than the general White population in Merton.
- Testing uptake in the Black population has been relatively lower
- 25% of testing has taken place in Black and Asian minority ethnic groups

Tests in Merton between 1st January 2020 and 12th January 2021 by ethnic group – compared to Merton ethnic profile

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● Tests by ethnicity ● Merton resident Profile

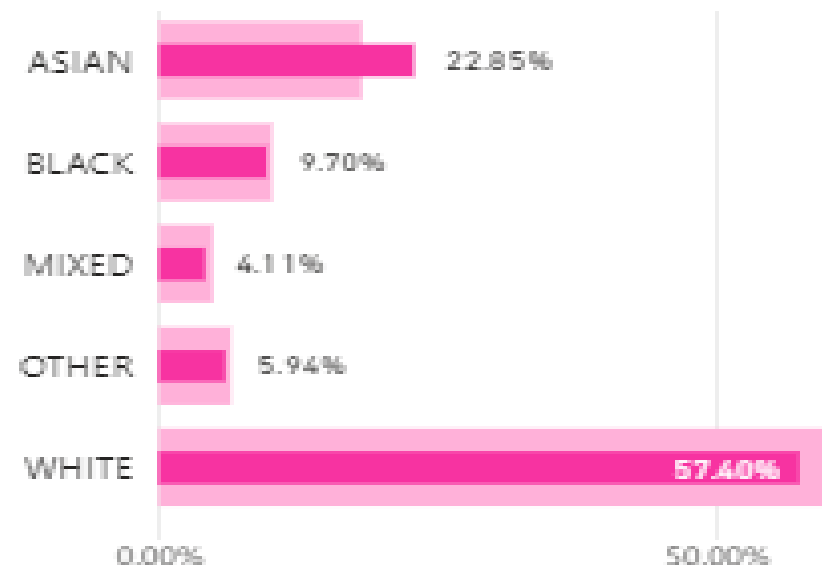


Key Messages

- Positive tests have been higher in Asian ethnic groups compared to the Asian population generally in Merton.

Positive tests in Merton between 1st January 2020 and 12th January 2021 by ethnic group – compared to Merton ethnic profile

● Positive tests by ethnicity ● Merton resident Profile



Asymptomatic Covid testing model in Merton

Dagmar Zeuner, January 2021

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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); regular targeted testing of front-line workers (at risk of Covid exposure) 2x week.
- **Test-to-enable** – confirm negative individuals in order to come out of self-isolation; this requires daily testing for 7d (also called: serial testing, daily contact testing); approval outstanding (apart from pilots); a single negative test in a close contact does not permit coming out of self-isolation.

Tests

- **Polymerase chain reaction (PCR)** - highly accurate but requires laboratory, 24-72 hour result turn-around, used nationally for asymptomatic testing in certain settings e.g. care homes. Nasal and throat swab. Site-based supervised self-swabbing and home kits available.
- **Lateral flow test/device (LFT/LFD)** - lower accuracy point-of-care test, results in 20-30 minutes; used for most asymptomatic testing. Nasal and throat swab. Home testing approved in principle by MHRA but not yet for widespread use (exception: primary school staff)

Merton model for asymptomatic testing

Focus

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

Service offer from LBM

1 Support for national programme– incl secondary schools, care homes, institutional-led such as police, fire service, TfL, businesses >250 employees

2 Local community pharmacists – standard and enhanced service (with health promotion and protection advice);

3 Devolved staff testing – to LBM teams, partner organisations and businesses not covered by national programme, incl public and private essential front-line workers;

4 Morden Assembly Hall – site-based LFT use; dual purpose for targeted regular staff testing and one-off resident testing; for use while national and devolved programmes are established; development of ‘roving teams’ for outreach.

5 Mutual aid to partners in national programme and SWL LAs – covering temporary stock issues, providing easy access across sub-region for all front-line workers



South West London
Clinical Commissioning Group

Merton Covid-19 Vaccination Programme Update

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Bringing together Croydon, Kingston, Merton, Richmond, Sutton and Wandsworth

Priority cohorts

- All our Merton GP led vaccination centres are now up and running, so that all our GP registered population is now covered. GP practices are working together at these sites in their Primary Care Networks to deliver the vaccine programme on top of their business-as-usual service caring for patients. This means that most primary care sites are vaccinating three or four days a week. We are also fortunate in Merton this week to have some support from the Army.
- A team of six Army vaccinators will be on hand at the Wilson on Friday, and the Nelson on Saturday, to help support the local teams' efforts at their clinics this week. You will have seen that this week the Government have asked us to add the over 70s to the groups of patients the NHS should prioritise.
- Each GP site will add the over 70s to the list of patients they call for appointments.
- The over 80s continue to be the first priority and because not all our vaccination sites went live at the same time, some over 80s have not yet been contacted.
- We expect the majority of over 80s to have been offered the vaccine by the end of January and those over 70 to have been offered the vaccine by 15 February 2021. Those over 70 will be able to come forward and receive the vaccine throughout the Covid-19 vaccination programme.



Vaccination data

- Localised data is not yet available, the information is held at a national level and is expected to be announced later today at <https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/covid-19-vaccination/>
- The NHS will continue to contact people directly to invite them to receive the vaccine when it is their turn. This may be via the phone, text message or letter from a Merton GP practice. We thank everyone who is waiting to be contacted by the NHS, the NHS is working flat out to offer it to as quickly and safely as we can. The NHS will let people know when it is their turn.
- You can also find information about the Merton Covid-19 vaccination programme on our website at <https://swlondonccg.nhs.uk/your-area/merton/merton-covid-19-vaccination-programme-update/>
- Please do refer local people to these pages which includes a full list of the practices which are covered by each GP led vaccination site.



Extract of data for London

Region of Residence	ICS/STP of Residence	1st dose		2nd dose		Cumulative Total Doses to Date
		Under 80	80+	Under 80	80+	
UK Total		1,871,910	1,685,937	104,076	319,522	3,981,445
London	East London Health and Care Partnership	40,972	27,886	2,438	5,821	77,117
London	North London Partners in Health and Care	40,375	28,226	3,026	8,850	80,477
London	North West London Health and Care Partnership	45,724	35,171	2,255	8,084	91,234
London	Our Healthier South East London	45,989	27,708	2,811	5,975	82,483
London	South West London Health and Care Partnership	53,007	31,295	3,720	7,561	95,583



Hospital hubs and mass vaccination sites

- St Helier Hospital is now operating seven days a week with a focus on vaccinating front line health and care workers and those over 70s who are visiting the hospital for outpatient appointments or in hospital and well enough to receive the vaccine.
- You will have seen the announcement in the national media about large vaccination centres, which are now operational. We are pleased that some Merton residents who are over 80 have received letters from the National Booking Services where they can book an appointment directly into one of these vaccination centres if they are available, our closest centres at the moment are the Excel Centre and Epsom Racecourse. Large vaccination sites will operate seven days a week. As more large vaccination centres come online there will be more choice for local people.
- We are also working hard to vaccinate care home residents and workers and hope to have offered all care home residents and workers the vaccination by Sunday 24 January 2021. We are also taking the vaccine to those patients who are housebound and require a home visit. If those people who are housebound are offered an appointment at a centre, they should talk to their GP at the point they are contacted.



JCVI priority groups for vaccination

Priority groups as set out in the [advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation \(JCVI\)](#).

Priority group	Risk group
1	Residents in a care home for older adults Staff working in care homes for older adults
2	All those 80 years of age and over Health and social care workers
3	All those 75 years of age and over
4	All those 70 years of age and over Clinically extremely vulnerable individuals (not including pregnant women and those under 18 years of age)
5	All those 65 years of age and over
6	Adults aged 18 to 65 years in an at-risk group (Table 3)
7	All those 60 years of age and over
8	All those 55 years of age and over
9	All those 50 years of age and over

Prime Ministers pledge

Groups 1 to 4 to be offered the vaccine by Monday 15 February 2021

All care home staff and residents to be offered the vaccine by Sunday 24 January 2021

All front line health and care workers to be offered by end of January 2021

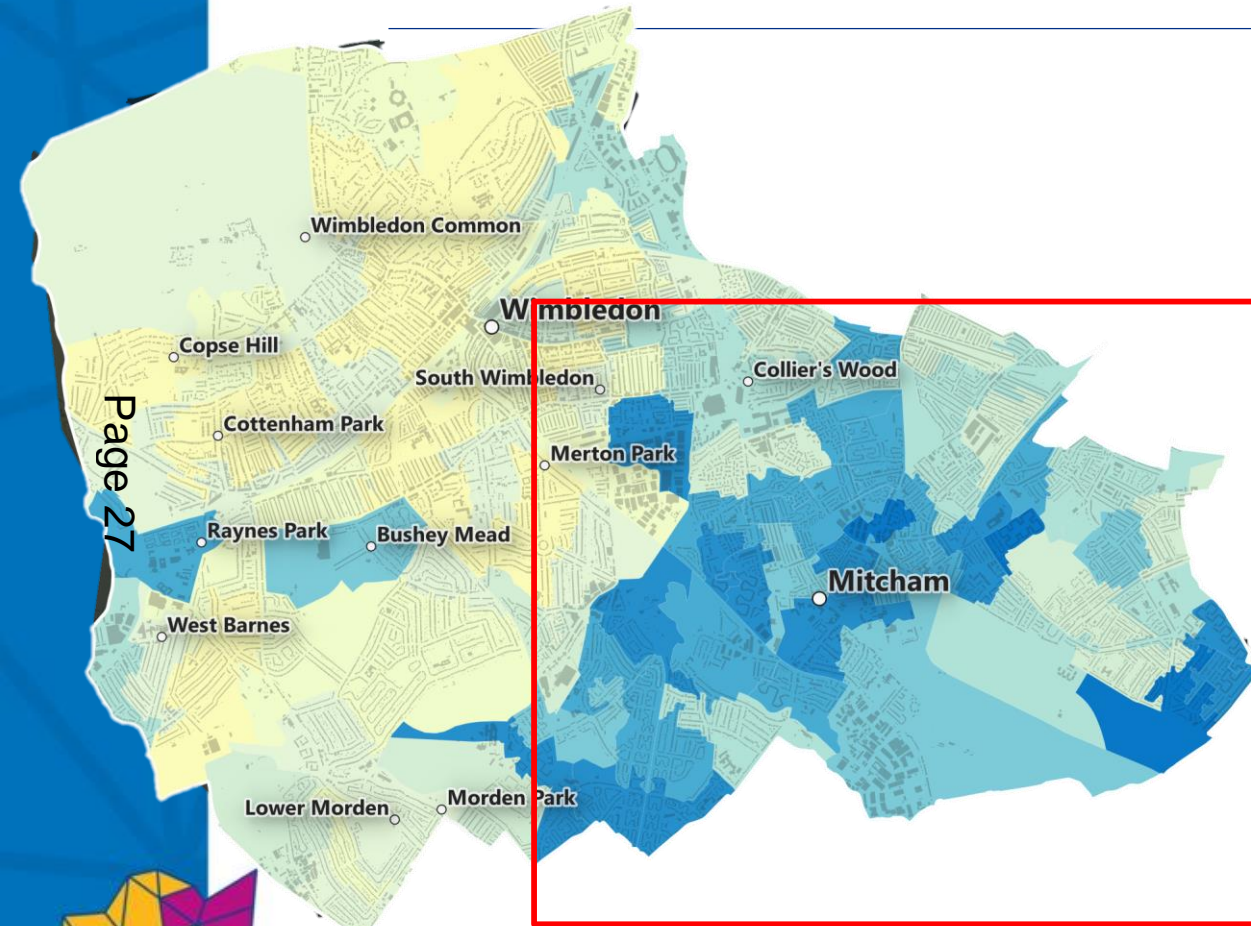
This is the first wave of priority groups set out by the JCVI – after all over 50s have been offered the vaccine, the programme will be extended to the under 50s. The JCVI will lay out the next priority groups in the coming weeks. Covid vaccines are not licensed for minors.



Covid vaccination – community engagement approach



Areas and populations of interest



Merton has an estimated population of 211,787 residents. Significant social inequalities exist within Merton. The eastern half has a younger, poorer and more ethnically mixed population, with more areas of high deprivation. The western half is whiter, older, and richer.

Populations of interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Communities in areas of deprivation• Communities with Ghanaian, Polish, Somali, Tamil, Gypsy, Roma and Traveller backgrounds
Focus wards	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• East Merton; esp. Figges Marsh, Pollards Hill, Lavender Fields, St Helier.• Gypsy, Roma and Traveller population in Wimbledon Park.

Source: English Indices of Deprivation
<https://imd2019.group.shef.ac.uk/> last accessed 10/09/2020



Local approach – being iterated with local partners

- We are focusing on strengthening the connections with formal and informal leaders in our populations of interest across the partnership
- We are attending existing meetings and setting up dedicated meetings – arranging for interpreters where necessary.
- We are also recruiting to a roster of local clinicians - whose backgrounds are reflective of our populations of interest – to join meetings.
- We are partnering with Public Health to support vaccine uptake through its Covid Champions.
- We are also working with the Local Authority and VCSE sector to support Community Response Hub advisers to promote vaccine uptake



Merton: work to date

Name or organisation	Date of session	Numbers attended	Type of community group
Ethnic Minority Centre	17/12/2020	24	Minority ethnic communities
Wimbledon Community Association	11/1/2020	7	All communities
Community Response Hub Team meeting	11/1/2020	7	All communities
Public Health's Merton Covid-19 Champions	13/1/2020 12-1pm and 7-8pm	12-1pm - 35 7-8pm - 19	All communities
Merton Patient Engagement Group	14/01/2021	20	All communities
Wimbledon Community Association #2	15/01/2021	4	All communities
Merton Mencap	19/01/2021	22	LD/carers

A further 9 sessions have been scheduled - reaching out to elderly communities, individuals with LD, carers, mental health, ethnic minority communities, deprived communities and young families.



Future sessions

Name of session	Date of outreach	Type of community group
Sunshine Recovery Café	21-Jan-21	Mental Health
Focus 4-1	26-Jan-21	Mental Health/BAME
Age UK	27-Jan-21	Older people
Wimbledon Guild (for customers)	28-Jan-21	Older people
Wimbledon Guild (for staff & volunteers)	28-Jan-21	Older people
Wimbledon Guild (for anyone)	02-Feb-21	Older people
Acacia centre families drop in #1	03-Feb-21	Families/pregnancy
Acacia centre - staff	05-Feb-21	Families/pregnancy
Acacia centre families drop in #2	04-Mar-21	Families/pregnancy



HWBB Community Subgroup Update

- Engaging our communities

Dr Dagmar Zeuner

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26 January 2021

HWBB Community Subgroup – future focus

- Subgroup established Aug 2020 to keep a focus on those **disproportionately impacted** by Covid-19 across Merton - in line with the HWBB key principle to work jointly with our community.
- Subgroup more hands on, more diverse membership; HWBB giving oversight and strategic co-ordination of partners.
- HWBB is asked to agree to **extend the Community Subgroup for six months** - to September 2021 (when it will be reviewed).
- The Subgroup will focus as a priority on **tackling vaccine hesitancy** – as a key element in the **exacerbation of inequalities*** - with those most vulnerable often being among the most hesitant.
- Subgroup will also continue to help **address misunderstanding and misinformation** - through building trust and working with peers to reach all communities, to help promote and actively share clear communications.

**Exacerbation of inequalities subject of Michael Marmot [Build Back Fairer](#) report*

Vaccine Hesitancy

Access

- Problems with access can be misunderstood as refusal; the ask is for local, trusted and familiar, i.e. in community, faith or settings.

Vaccine

- *Late adopters* – need to see others/peers to be vaccinated first
- *Never* – anti-vax, conspiracy theorists
- Queries/uncertainty/misunderstandings about specific issues:
 - Ingredients, including animal products, foetal products
 - Immune mechanism, including mRNA
 - Vaccine development & approval, including rushed, ethics (Pfizer history of African trials)
 - Side effects, including fertility; deaths in the very frail (Norway)

Consequences of vaccination

- Mortality reduction (JVCI priority group 1-9 >90%)
- Transmission unclear (likely to be some protection but unlikely to be complete)
- Could it mean a change to my job?
- Vaccination passports
- New vaccine escape virus variants

Tackling vaccine hesitancy

- Working **jointly with NHS** and partners – weekly briefing for Councillors.
- Established network of **133 Covid Community Champions** – growing all the time, Young Adult Community Champions and Under 18 Covid Champions network.
- **Working with VCS** and other trusted local organisations
 - Commissioned BAME Voice engagement and resilience programme –reports end of February.
 - Workshops with wider communities e.g. Polish and Eastern European Community.
 - Age UK work with older people / case studies.
 - Merton Mencap engagement and action programme– due to report phase one in March.
- Using the **insight we gain** to improve our communications, messaging and offer to communities and helping the **contacts we make** to influence their peers, families (including intergenerational) and networks to improve understanding.
- Supporting **accessibility to vaccinations** at trusted local sites (Government guidance expected)

Next steps

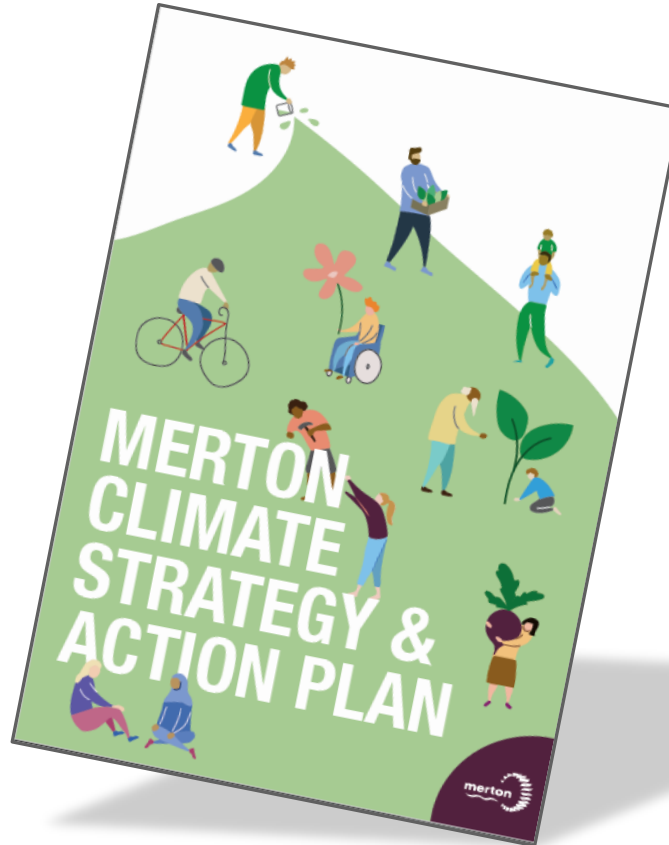
- Confirm HWBB is happy to agree to continuation of its Community Subgroup for six months to September 2021?
- Subgroup will work collaboratively to help **increase the reach of clear effective messaging on vaccination** across communities (where possible co-created with trusted local leaders and residents), particularly to those that are harder to engage.
- Also to improve accessibility to vaccination both through **tackling misinformation and supporting the use of further local vaccination sites** where possible within target communities.

Question to HWBB members:

- Suggestions and / or offers on how to extend the reach of engagement and take up of vaccination among harder to reach groups.

Merton's Climate Strategy and Action Plan

January 2021



Merton's Emissions

Tackling major sources of greenhouse gas emissions require three major transformations by 2050:

- 1) Working towards a green and circular economy.
- 2) A shift towards low carbon buildings and energy.
- 3) A transition in transport towards walking, cycling and electric vehicles.

Trees and other natural resources have a role to play in adapting to the impacts of climate change.

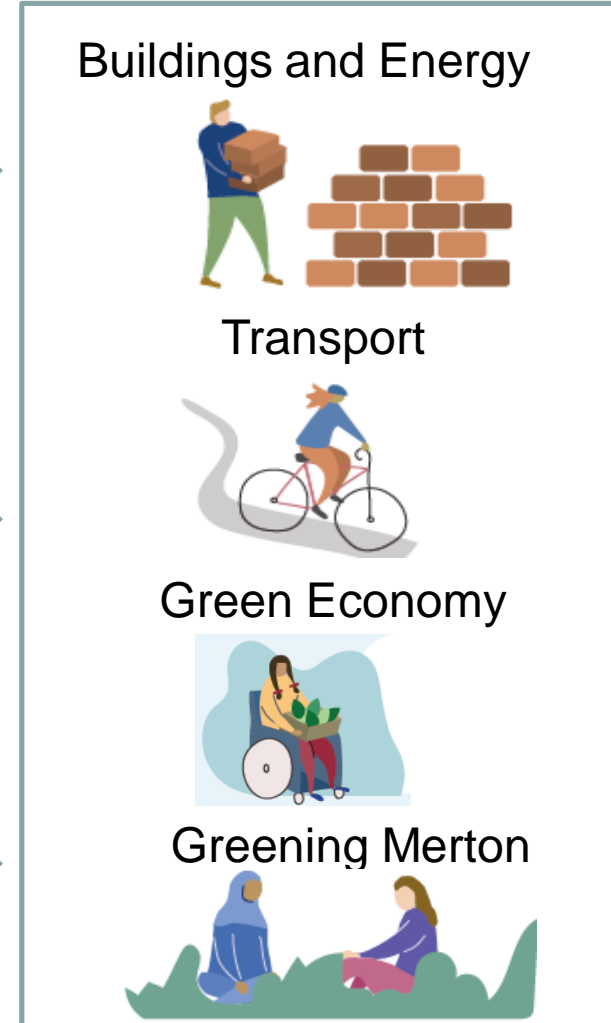
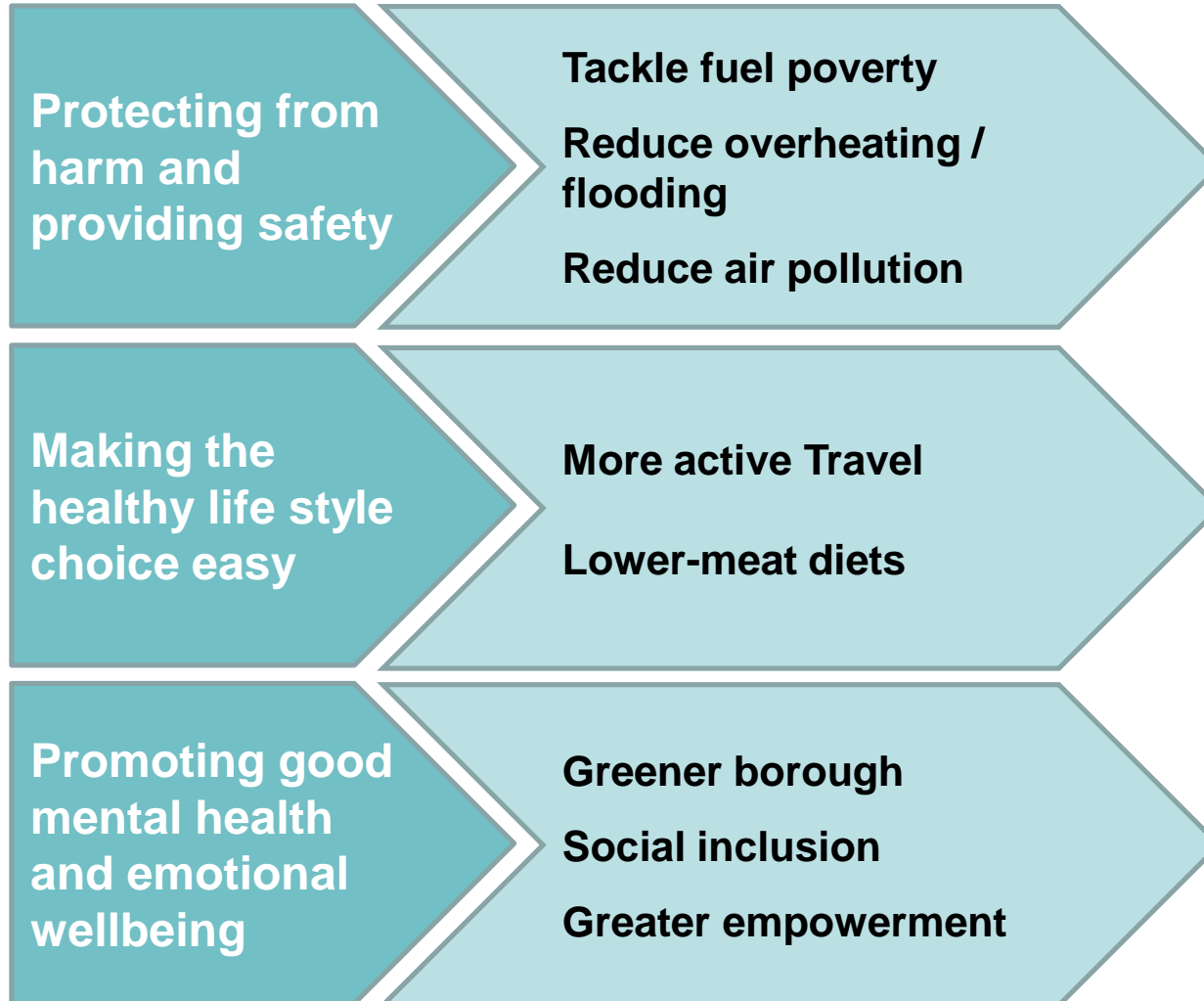


Health and Climate Links

Key Outcomes of Health and Wellbeing Strategy

Health/Climate common aims

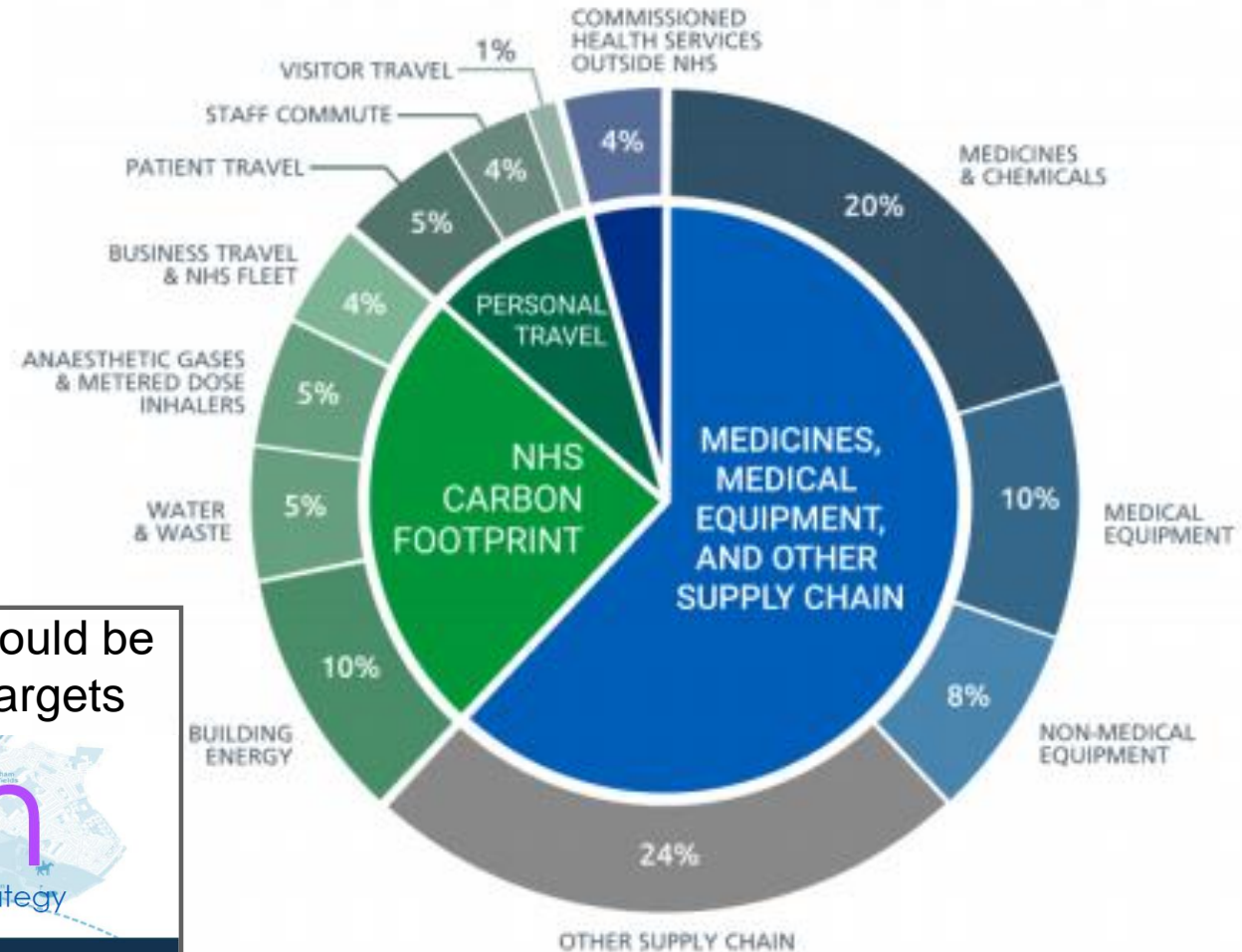
Action Areas in Climate Strategy



Organisational Emissions

The NHS produces over 1/3 of public sector emissions, and 1st October 2020 were the first health service to committed to a net-zero NHS


Figure 2: Sources of carbon emissions by proportion of NHS Carbon Footprint Plus



Merton's estate strategy should be consistent with Net-zero targets

Merton
Borough Health & Care Estates Strategy

Opportunities beyond the current Climate Delivery Plan



MERTON
GENERAL PRACTICES SAY

THE CLIMATE CRISIS IS A HEALTH CRISIS

POLLUTION, DROUGHT, FLOODS, INFECTIONS AND FOOD SHORTAGES WILL AFFECT EVERYONE'S HEALTH

MERTON
TRAINING HUB

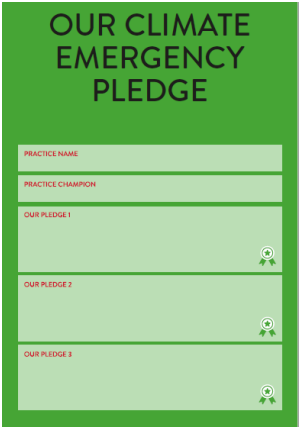
Quick wins:

Joint statement for healthy people and planet

Support NHS net-zero targets

Support Climate Action Group

Develop shared comms



OUR CLIMATE EMERGENCY PLEDGE


PRACTICE NAME

PRACTICE CHAMPION

OUR PLEDGE 1

OUR PLEDGE 2


OUR PLEDGE 3



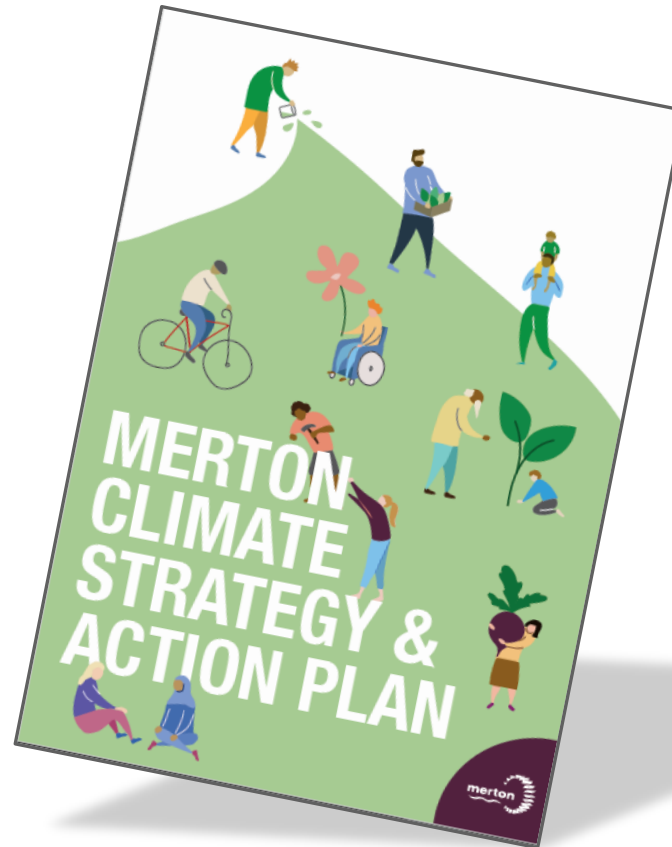
Fill gaps with longer term project development:

Deep retrofit for fuel poor

Behaviour change projects linked to diet and exercise for young people



End



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