



City of Westminster

Adult Social Care and Public Health

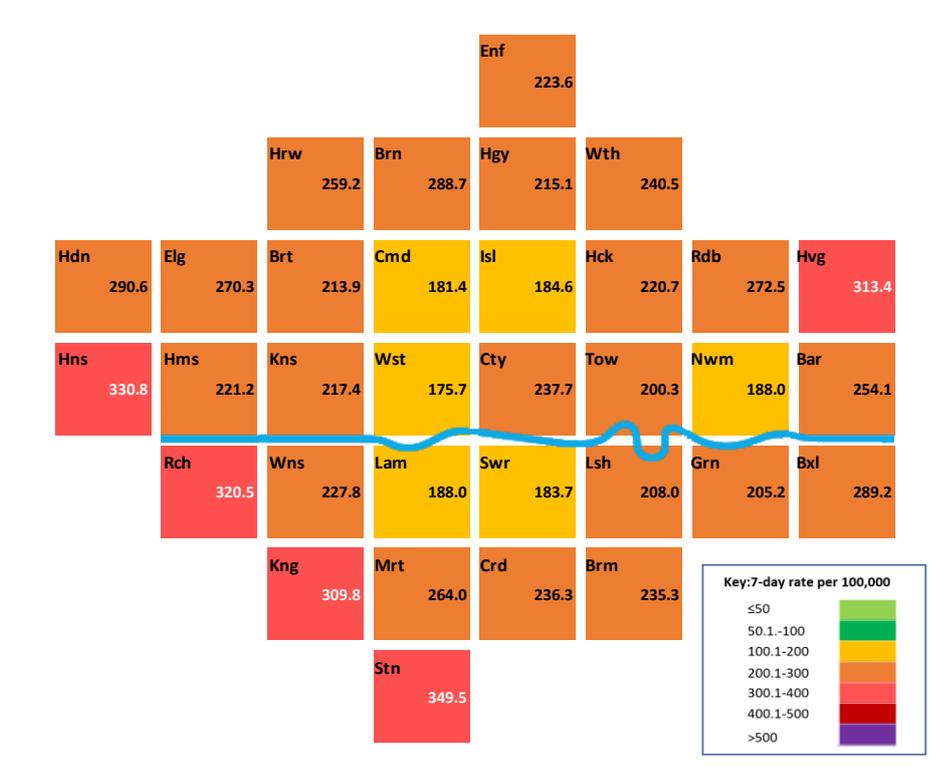
Title:	Westminster Scrutiny Commission
Division:	Adult Social Care and Public Health
Briefing Date:	22 November 2021
Purpose:	Update on COVID-19 Cases, Outbreak and Rollout of Vaccinations
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1. Cases / Epidemiology

1.1 Case rates have plateaued at a relatively high level from August onwards, with some slight variation from week to week. This is consistent with what has been observed at a London level. Currently, there are more cases in the 21-30 age cohort, with 363 being reported in October.

1.2 Geographical variation has been a feature of the London epidemic picture with Westminster generally below the London average. Indeed, significant variations can be noted within boroughs with more enduring transmission most notable in areas of deprivation from July to October 2021.

Figure 1: Case rate per 100,000 across London as of 11 November 2021:



1.3 Total number of COVID-19 cases (as of 11 November 2021) is 26,320. Westminster has the lowest rate of infection in London at 175.7 per 100,000 population which is up by 5% from the previous week.

1.4 Since the start of the pandemic, 418 Westminster residents have died with COVID-19 included on the death certificate; 334 of these were within 28 days of a positive test and 25 of those 334 were within the last 3 months.

2. **Outbreak Management**

2.1 The Westminster Local Outbreak Management Plan has been updated in light of recent changes to government guidance, particularly around the move to Step Four of easing lockdown, regulatory proposals and self-isolation changes.

3. **Supporting the CCG with the Rollout of COVID-19 Vaccinations**

3.1 The latest report from NHS England states 53% of Westminster residents over the age of 18 have received two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine. This figure rises to 66% within our residents aged 50+. Westminster remains the lowest in London for vaccination rates across the age cohorts. Vaccinations continue to be available through local clinics, pop ups and pharmacies. The latest offer is available on the [Westminster City Council website](#).

Communications and Engagement colleagues are promoting testing and vaccination uptake in the city by:

- Promoting the latest COVID-19 safety messaging across council channels including the importance of getting vaccinated, tested, including where and how and the latest advice around ventilation, using face coverings, staying at home if unwell, hand washing and using the NHS COVID app
- Promoting information around COVID-19 booster vaccines, including eligibility and information on waiting to be contacted
- Supporting schools communicating with the 12-15 age group on the COVID vaccination roll out, including key messages on consent, benefit and rollout
- Providing regular information and updates with 90 community champions, 180 Covid Health Champions and over 500 stakeholders in the voluntary, community and faith sector, through relevant forums and networks (e.g. Older People Providers' Network)
- Working with Health colleagues to improve COVID-19 vaccine access by supporting and promoting community-based vaccine pop-ups (e.g. Abbey & Stowe Centre, Little Venice), pharmacy clinics and the Vaccine Bus
- Engaging the Vaccine Bus and Covid Testing Ambassadors in neighbourhood Autumn events, such as Grand Junction Autumn Festival
- Community Champions & partners continue to support the families in deprived areas of Westminster, including Church Street, Westbourne Park, Queens Park, Churchill Gardens & Tachbrook with information, advice, reassurance and signposting around Covid safety and Winter messaging
- Findings on outreach activity via voluntary sector funding to be collated to develop an insight and recommendations report on COVID-19 vaccine attitudes and uptake.

- 3.2 WCC is responsible for booking schools in for the vaccination clinics. In collaboration with the Strategic Education Lead and NHS colleagues, the rollout of vaccinations among the 12-15 age group has rapidly gained momentum since it commenced 20 September 2021. Pop ups will then be available during this forthcoming half term for those who have yet to benefit from the vaccine.
- 3.3 Booster vaccinations, using either Pfizer or Moderna, are available for those who are 50 plus, carers, frontline health and social care staff or Clinically Extremely Vulnerable. Boosters within care homes commenced from 1 October 2021 with roving teams. The target is to vaccinate all care home residents and staff by the national deadline of 1 November 2021.