

Weekly note on COVID in Bolton – 28th October 2020

<i>Local COVID Alert Level:</i> Very High

This note brings together a summary of the information from a range of indicators of cases of COVID-19 amongst residents of Bolton. The information is based on data from official sources. It presents the picture of our understanding according to the latest available data on the date of the note's release. No single indicator gives the complete picture; counts and rates will vary from day to day and are interpreted alongside other indicators and contextual information including testing rates, positivity, our understanding of what's driving transmission locally and within neighbouring areas. The period to which the indicators apply may vary and are stated within the text. Data on COVID-19 in Bolton is available at <https://www.boltonjsna.org.uk/coronavirus>

Positive cases from swab testing (Pillar 1 and Pillar 2)

- The number of positive cases amongst Bolton residents remains high, with on average 229 cases per day in the week to 23rd October. Most positive cases are via Pillar 2 (community swab testing), though we are seeing an increase in the number of cases in Pillar 1 (NHS and PHE testing for those with a clinical need, and health and care workers)
- New COVID-19 cases remain widespread across the borough
- Cases remain fairly evenly distributed across the age bands between 16-54's
- We are seeing increases in case numbers and case rates across all age groups, including older age groups
- In the last fortnight the largest proportion of cases were found in people aged 45-54
- The largest number of cases are White British (57%). There is a disproportionate number of cases of Asian background (21%)
- There remains a disproportionate number of cases from the most disadvantaged parts of the borough, although this has become less marked

7-day rate of cases per 100,000 population

The current rate is estimated to be 556.8 for the 7 days ending 16th October. This rate is an estimate and may change.

Test numbers and Positivity

Testing rates are showing a downward trend, however proportion of tests reported as positive, known as 'positivity', remains high and on an upward trend at 18.3% for the 7 days ending 23rd October.

Community clusters and outbreaks

Situations investigated in the last week include a small number of workplaces and care homes.

Regional R

The R value for the North West is 1.1-1.3 as of Friday 23rd October. When there is a significant amount of variability across a region, for example due to a local outbreak, then a single average value does not accurately reflect the way infections are changing throughout the region.

NHS activity

The current levels of infection in the community are translating into hospital admissions. Data available to us internally indicate admissions to hospital for COVID-19 are continuing to be seen, and some patients require critical care for serious illness.

Deaths with COVID-19 and deaths from all causes

Sadly, there have been a total of 357 deaths with COVID-19 amongst Bolton residents (registered up to 24th October 2020). The number of deaths has increased in recent weeks.

Definitions:

Pillar 1: swab testing in Public Health England (PHE) labs and NHS hospitals for those with a clinical need, and health and care worker

Pillar 2: swab testing for the wider population, as set out in government guidance and delivered with Deloittes

Outbreak: two or more confirmed cases associated with a workplace, care home or educational setting with onset dates within 14 days

Ward level data

In the last week cases have been reported on all wards in the borough. From 16th October to 22nd October Rumworth ward continues to see the highest number of cases; Heaton and Lostock; Kearsley; Westhoughton South; Halliwell; Smithills; Westhoughton South and Chew Moor; Brightmet; and Tonge with the Haulgh saw significant increases since the previous week.

Figure 1.

Daily confirmed cases of COVID-19 for Bolton, with Pillar 1 and Pillar 2 cases inclusive

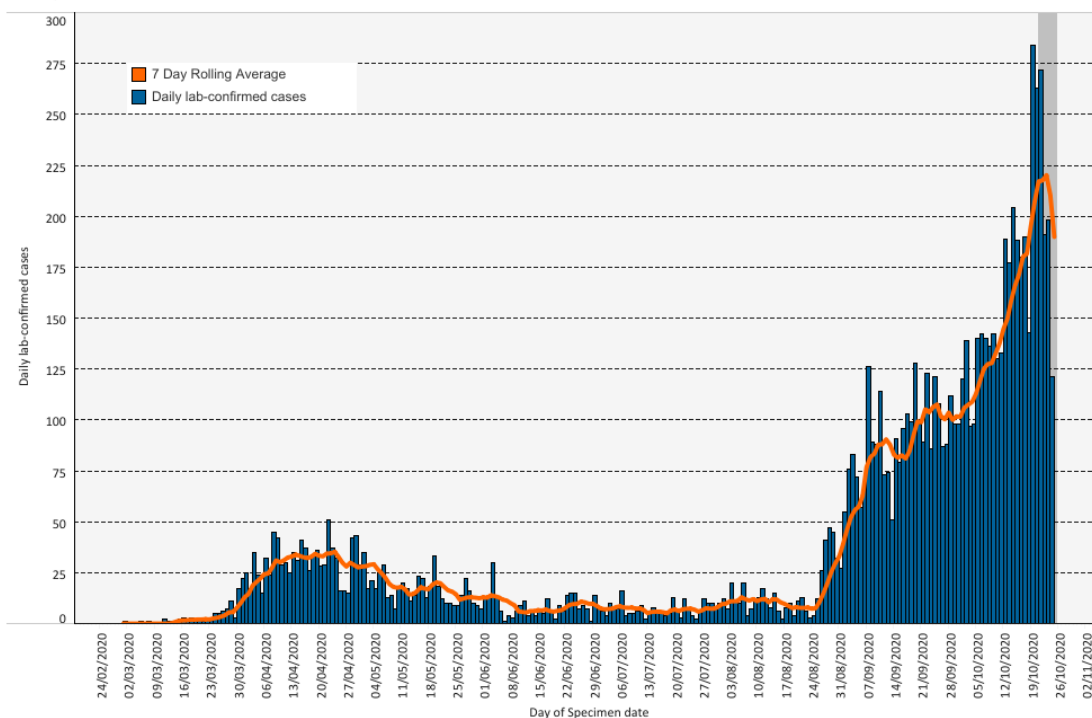
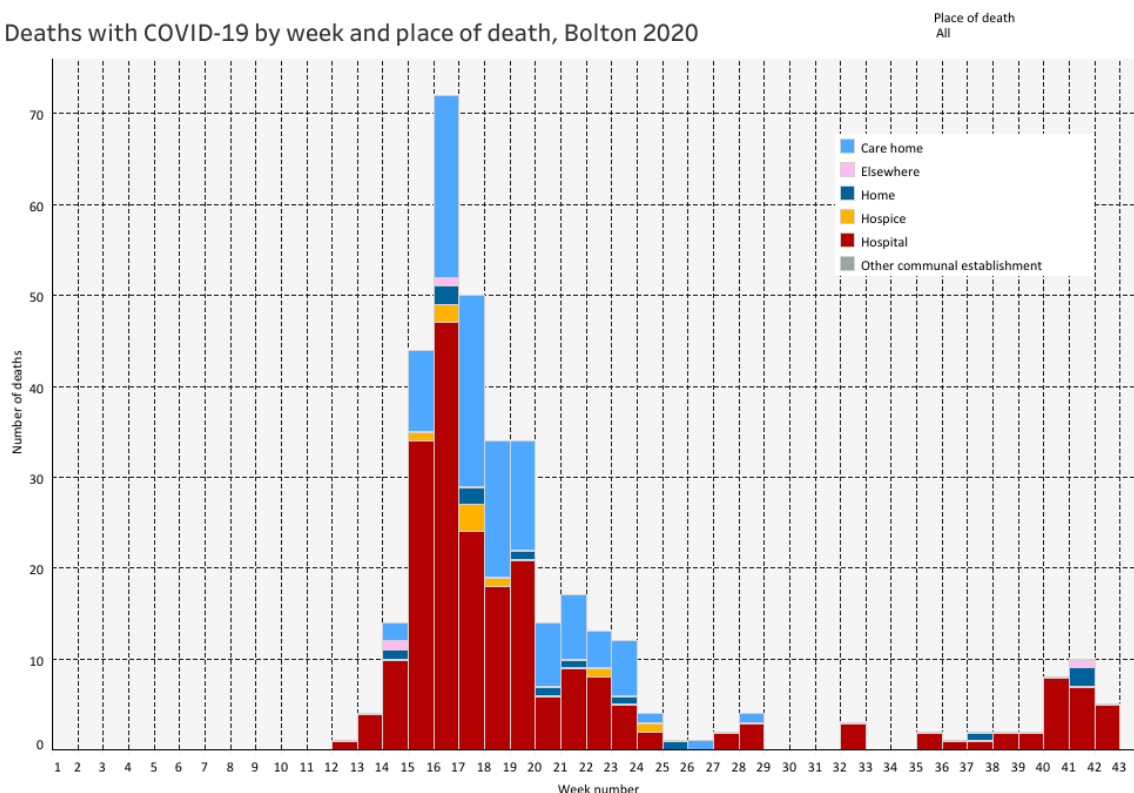


Figure 2.

Deaths with COVID-19 by week and place of death, Bolton 2020



Prepared by Lynn Donkin, Assistant Director/Consultant in Public Health with support from Bolton COVID-19 Data Cell. Queries should be sent to: PublicHealthDirectorate@bolton.gov.uk

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Pillar 1: swab testing in Public Health England (PHE) labs and NHS hospitals for those with a clinical need, and health and care worker

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Outbreak: two or more confirmed cases associated with a workplace, care home or educational setting with onset dates within 14 days