

Weekly note on COVID in Bolton – 6th January 2021

Local COVID Alert Level: National lockdown from 5th January

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 has been accelerating since shortly before Christmas, but this has become particularly marked in the most recent 7 day rates. There have been on average 115 cases per day in the week to 30^h December. Most positive cases are via Pillar 2 (community swab testing), with a small number of cases diagnosed via 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
- We are seeing cases across all age groups, including older age groups
- In the last fortnight the largest proportion of cases were found in people aged 25-34, 35-44, and 45-54.
- The largest number of cases are White British (60%), followed by cases among residents from Asian backgrounds (10%)
- The largest number of cases continue to be among those from the most disadvantaged parts of the borough, but in recent weeks residents from more affluent areas have been overrepresented although still smaller in number.

7-day rate of cases per 100,000 population

The current rate is estimated to be 260.5 for the 7 days ending 1st January, up from 155.1 last week. This rate is an estimate and may change. Case rates have been trending upwards, most sharply for the general population but also amongst those aged 60+.

Test numbers and Positivity

Testing rates reduced over the Christmas period but are now trending upwards approaching their previous levels. Proportion of tests reported as positive, known as 'positivity', remains high at 12.5% for the 7 days ending 1st January.

Community clusters and outbreaks

Situations investigated in the last week include a number of outbreaks/clusters in care homes.

Regional R

The R value for the North West is 0.9-1.1 as of Wednesday 23rd December. 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 continue to translate into hospital admissions. Data available to us internally indicate admissions to hospital for COVID-19 have begun increasing as have the number of patients requiring critical care for serious illness, while the number of people dying in hospital as yet remains steady.

Deaths with COVID-19 and deaths from all causes

Sadly, there have been a total of 552 deaths with COVID-19 amongst Bolton residents (registered up to 25th December 2020).

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 Deloitte

Ward level data

In the last week cases have been reported in all wards in the borough. From 21st- 27th December, Westhoughton North and Chew Moor ward saw the highest number of cases. Westhoughton South and Bromley Cross wards had a significant rise in case rates from the previous week.

Figure 1. Daily confirmed cases of COVID-19 for Bolton, with Pillar 1 and Pillar 2 cases inclusive (line indicates 7 day average)

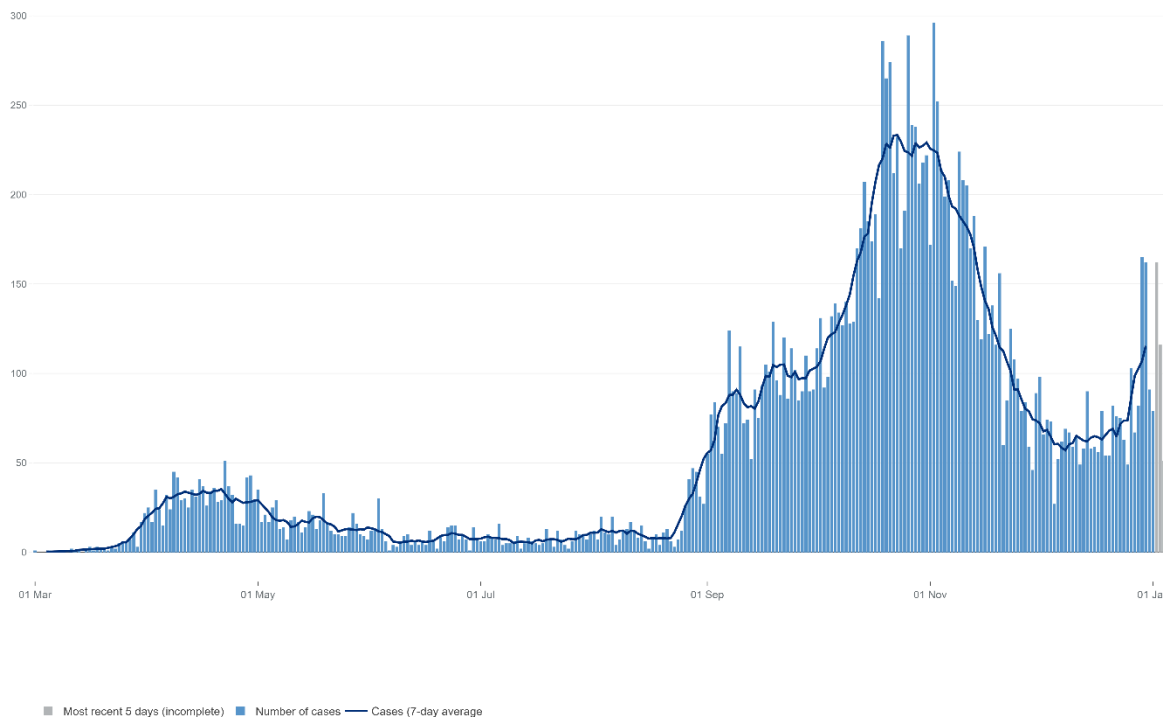
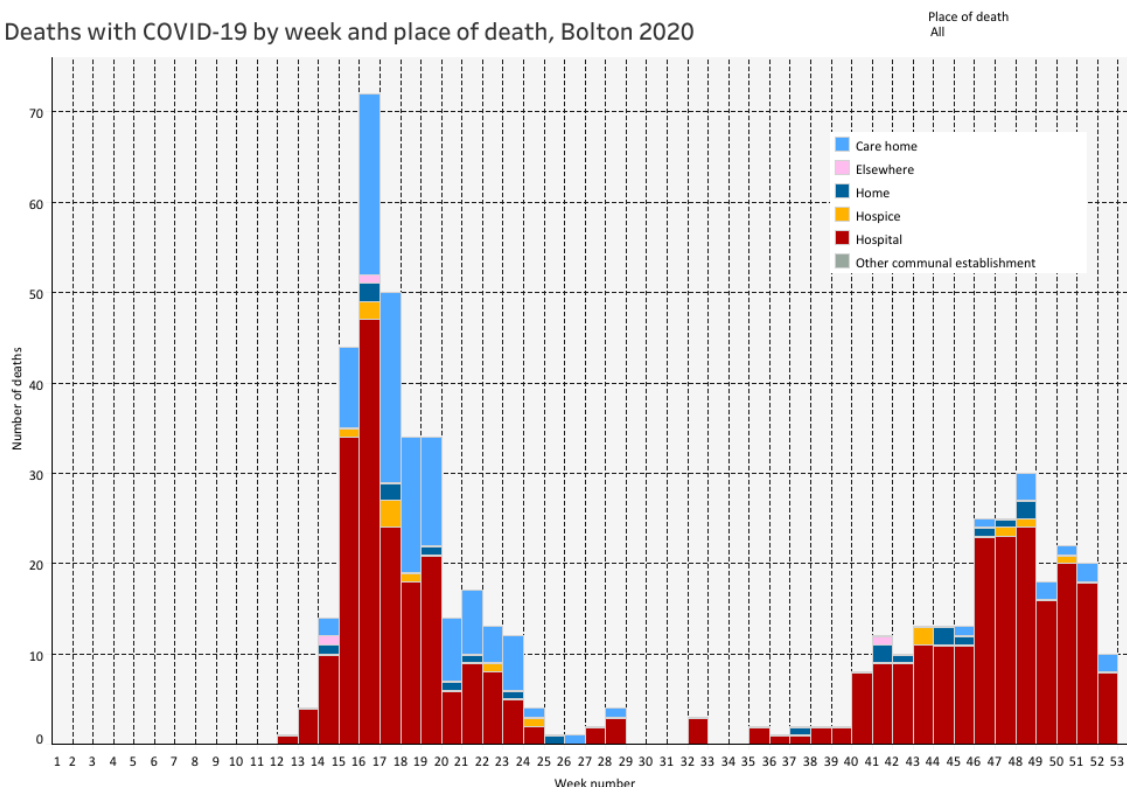


Figure 2.

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



Prepared by Shan Wilkinson, Public Health Principal, with support from Bolton COVID-19 Data Cell. Queries should be sent to: PublicHealthDirectorate@bolton.gov.uk

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