

Weekly note on COVID in Bolton – 20th January 2021

Local COVID Alert Level:

National lockdown: Stay at Home, 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 160 cases per day in the week to 15th January. Most positive cases are via Pillar 2 (community swab testing), with a smaller 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 16-24, 25-34 and 35-44. With increasing numbers in people aged 45-64.
- The largest number of cases are White British (64%), followed by cases among residents from Asian backgrounds (11%)
- 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 390.5 for the 7 days ending 15th January, up from 388.1 last week. This rate is an estimate and may change. Case rates have been trending upwards, although the rate of increase has slowed in recent days. Case rates amongst those aged 60+ remains high, despite reductions in the last 5 days.

Test numbers and Positivity

Testing rates reduced over the Christmas and New Year period and are now trending downwards but remain high. Proportion of tests reported as positive, known as 'positivity', remains high at 13.5% for the 7 days ending 15th January.

Community clusters and outbreaks

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

Regional R

The R value for the North West is 1.2-1.5 as of Friday 15th January. 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 are significantly increasing as are the number of patients requiring critical care for serious illness. The last week has also seen an increasing number of people dying in hospital from COVID-19.

Deaths with COVID-19 and deaths from all causes

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

Sadly, there have been a total of 589 deaths with COVID-19 amongst Bolton residents (registered up to 15th January 2021).

Ward level data

In the last week cases have been reported in all wards in the borough. From 4th January – 10th January, Brightmet ward saw the highest number of cases. Halliwell, Great Lever and Brightmet wards all 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

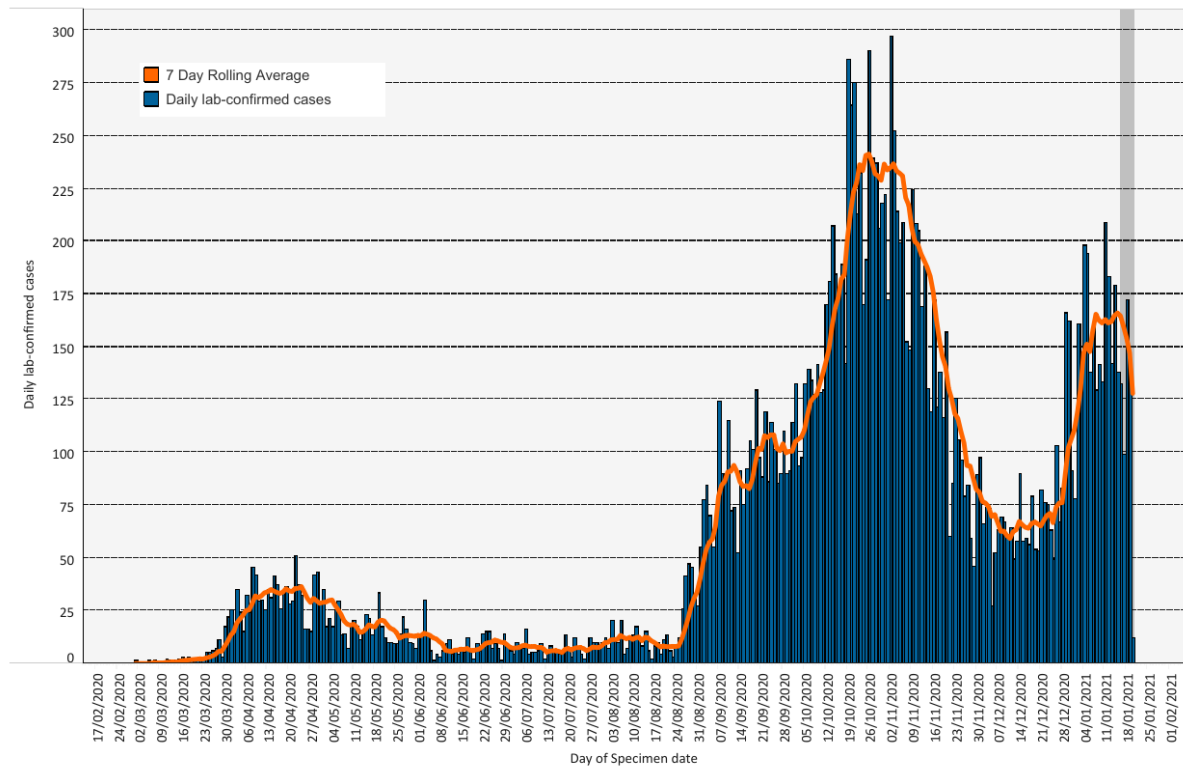
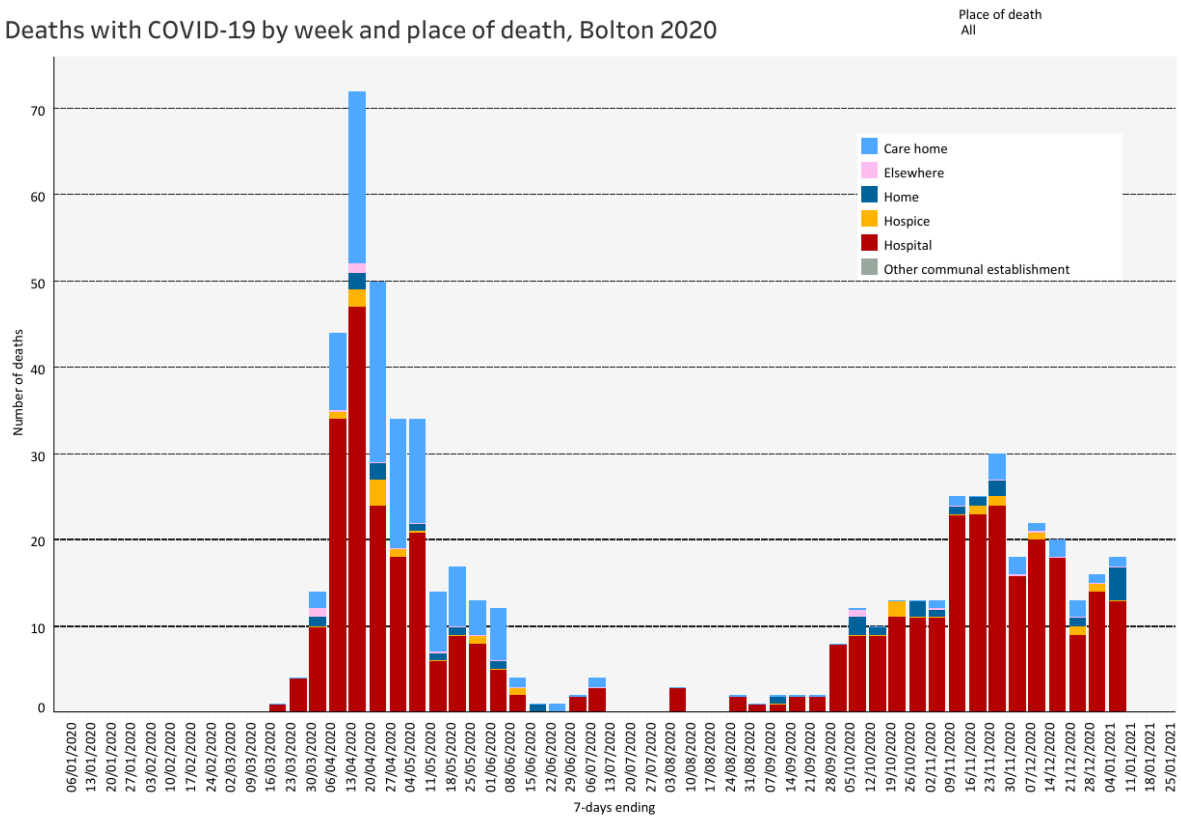


Figure 2.

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

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



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

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