

# Weekly note on COVID in Bolton – 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2021

<i>Local COVID Alert Level:</i>	National lockdown: Stay at Home, from 5 <sup>th</sup> January
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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, although are showing a downward trend. There have been on average 113 cases per day in the week to 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 and 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 to 54 years
- The largest number of cases are White British (59%), followed by cases among residents from Asian backgrounds (17%)
- 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
- The new variant (B.1.1.7) is now the dominant strain circulating

## 7-day rate of cases per 100,000 population

The current rate is estimated to be 274.4 for the 7 days ending 28th January down from 332.1 last week. This rate is an estimate and may change. Case rates have begun to trend downwards in recent days, although the rate remains high and decreases have been small. Case rates amongst those aged 60+ remains high, despite reductions in the last 2 weeks.

## Test numbers and Positivity

Testing rates reduced over the Christmas and New Year period but have picked up again throughout January. Proportion of tests reported as positive, known as 'positivity', remains high at 11.9% for the 7 days ending 28<sup>th</sup> January.

## Community clusters and outbreaks

Situations investigated in the last week include a small number of outbreaks/clusters in care homes, schools, workplaces including offices and the hospital.

## Regional R

The R value for the North West is 0.8-1.1 as of Friday 26<sup>th</sup> 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 641 deaths with COVID-19 amongst Bolton residents (registered up to 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2021).

### Ward level data

In the last week cases have been reported in all wards in the borough. From 18<sup>th</sup> January – 24<sup>th</sup> January, Halliwell ward saw the highest number of cases. Both Halliwell ward and Westhoughton North and Chew Moore ward and Darcy Lever ward 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

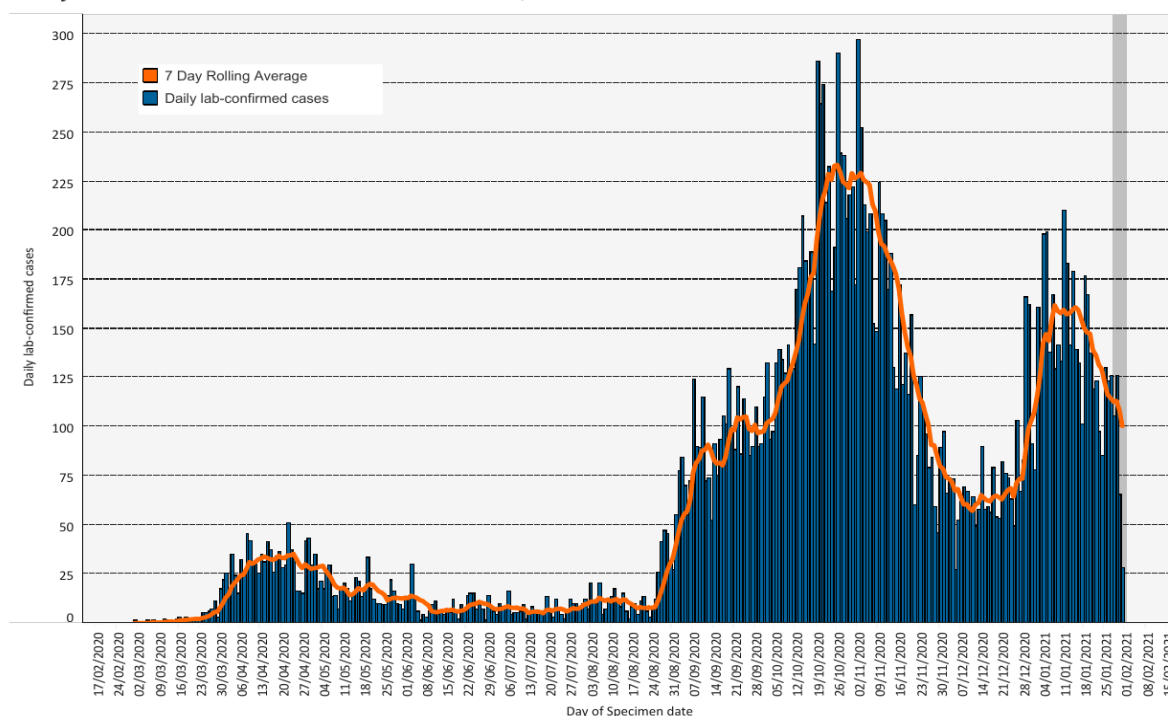
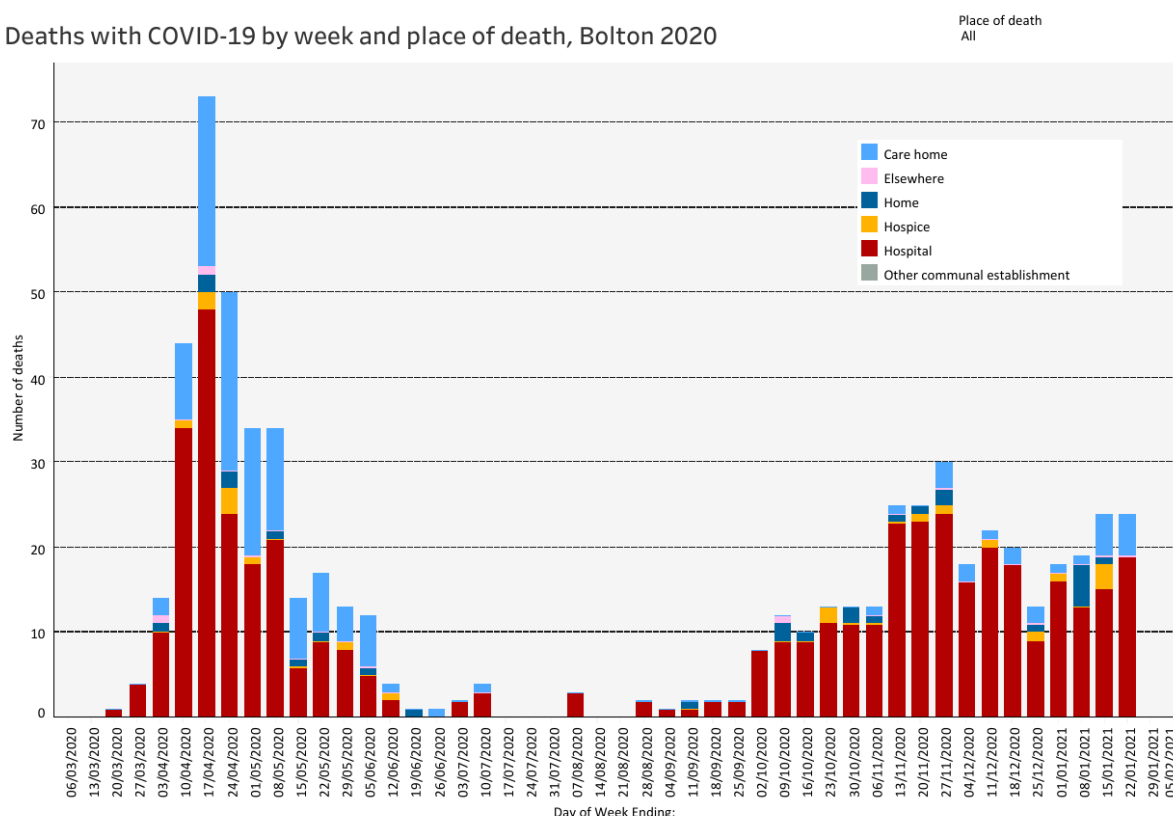


Figure 2.

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



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